

EU Co-operation News

Bi-weekly newsletter of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine
Project on Information and PR Activities for the EU and its Programmes in Ukraine

4, 17 April 2008

EU-UKRAINE ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION

The EU is a major actor on the international environmental scene. Increasingly, it is shaping the international environmental agenda and seen as a model in environmental law.

The joint EU-Ukraine Action Plan sets out objectives including, taking steps to set conditions for good environmental governance, preventing the deterioration of the environment, and enhancing EU-Ukraine co-operation on environmental issues.

The EU and Ukraine work closely together on issues such as Climate Change. An EU-Ukraine Working Group on Climate Change was established in 2002 with the last meeting held in Brussels in November 2007.

The working group looks at ways in which the EU and Ukraine can enhance co-operation in areas such as the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, the development of the post-2012 framework, emissions trading and research into climate change.

The EU and Ukraine are also working closely together on energy efficiency, one of the stated objectives of the EU-Ukraine Memorandum of Understanding on Energy. The memorandum also proposes increased cooperation in the promotion of renewable energies and measures to tackle climate change.

The EU has funded a number of assistance projects to Ukraine in the field of environmental protection including a number of projects related to river basin management financed by cross-border co-operation funding. Phase II of the Pripyat and the Seversky – Donets River Basins Management projects was completed in December 2007. About €4 million worth of funding was allocated to support the regional authorities as well as the State Committee for Water Management of Ukraine in complying with the EU Water Framework Directive.

The EU also has funded and continues to fund projects related to the Black Sea (see article below on the Tacis programme *Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea*)



ANOTHER STEP IN CO-OPERATION

ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATION FOR THE BLACK SEA GEORGIA, MOLDOVA, RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

One of today's most acute challenges - the environmental degradation of the Black Sea and its main contributing rivers – evokes major concerns in the basin countries and the wider international community.

One of the recent projects initiated by the EU under the Tacis programme is the project *Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea* in Georgia, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Moldova. This 30-month, Euro 2.2 million project was launched in March 2007, is funded by the European Union and is being implemented by the Consortium of Euroconsult Mott MacDonald (The Netherlands) in association with Mott MacDonald Ltd (UK) and Milieu Ltd. (Belgium).

The project seeks to improve regional co-operation and regional agreements for protection of the Black Sea, most importantly the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (the Bucharest Convention). The four main components of the project activities are: legal issues; integrated coastal zone management; water quality monitoring; and biodiversity.

The stakeholders, including national and local government authorities, civil society, academia, and private sector, are involved in consultations and discussions of the project documents.

The first project biodiversity workshop will be held on 18 April 2008 in Odesa.

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For more information see: <http://ecbsea.org>



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGANIC FOOD SECTOR DEVELOPMENT HELD IN KYIV

The organic food sector is strongly developing around the world with strong consumer demands for organic food. The conference held in Kyiv for 228 participants from 25 countries on April 10-12 became a venue for presenting experiences, ideas, solutions, recommendations and practical examples on how to develop the organic sector. The main topics covered during the conference were:

- Approaches and experiences of organic sector development;
- Regulatory frameworks for the organic sector like international policy setting/organic regulations, national organic laws and organic action plans;
- Impact of existing international organic regulations on organic sector development.



The conference was supported by TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) – an instrument introduced by the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) framework. TAIEX aims to help foster political and economic cooperation in a number of areas, primarily regarding legal approximation. It is an effective tool for the dissemination of know-how and good practice. For this, TAIEX delivers public short-term technical assistance and expertise, helping users to understand and draft legislation. It also identifies possible issues for future joint action between the EU and its neighbours, including Ukraine.

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For more information see: <http://organic.com.ua/conference-2008.html>

DONETSK: A CITATION FOR TACIS PROJECT

Mr. Anatoliy Blyzniuk, the Chairman of the Donetsk Oblast Council awarded a citation to Mr. Benoît Plaige, the team leader of the Tacis project on Capacity Building in Waste Management in Donetsk Oblast. This award marked the completion of the project and the important input it has made in the improvement of the environment of the region.

The project was based on a new approach to solving the waste management problem following the EU principles already incorporated in relevant Ukrainian legislation.

During the second phase, the local government received support to introduce changes in waste management in cities and industries such as separated collection in a pilot zone, development of local waste action plans, and disseminate information for the public and specialists.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT HELD CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION



On 3-4 April 2008, the conference on restorative approach in the juvenile crime prevention was held in Kyiv. The goal of the conference was to publicise the Community Restorative Justice Centres (RJC) model aimed at the prevention of juvenile crime.

The conference was organized by the Ukrainian Centre for Common Ground jointly with its partners in the EU-funded project on Development of the Community Restorative Justice Centres Network as well as with the partners on the Police Strategies on the Juvenile Crime Prevention in Ukraine project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.



► The conference agenda included presentations of the successful RJC experiences, review of the international experience on the juvenile crime prevention community models, and discussions on co-operating with the local authorities for RJC development. About 110 participants had an opportunity to get acquainted with different methods aimed at juvenile crime prevention and capacity building for the social support system in communities, particularly such as mediation in criminal cases, school mediation, “support circles” in communities, family group conferences etc.

Restorative Justice (RJ) is a new approach to the conflict resolution aimed at justice reparation and making amends caused by crime. Unlike within the judicial system, where the court identifies the extent of the harm done, during participation in the RJ programme victims can identify the level of their interests violation themselves.

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ADDRESSING QUALITY, GOVERNANCE AND FINANCING OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN UKRAINE

A joint World Bank / European Commission workshop on this topic took place 10-11 April 2008 in Kyiv. The objective of the workshop was to discuss with Ukrainian stakeholders the WB and EC experts' findings and recommendations on education reform policies in order to ensure their relevance to the demands of the economy and labour market.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

22 April 2008, Kyiv

Roundtable on prevention and counteraction of corruption in Ukraine

The joint project of the European Commission and the Council of Europe on Support to Good Governance: Project against Corruption in Ukraine (UPAC) and the OECD project on Strengthening Capacity for Investigation and Prosecution of Corruption in Ukraine will organise a roundtable on System of bodies for prevention and counteraction of corruption in Ukraine: seeking for the optimal model for Ukraine. Representatives of the government of Ukraine, NGOs and the international organisations are invited.

Contact person: Roman Chlapak, UPAC Project Manager, roman.chlapak@coe.int, www.coe.int/upac.

30 April 2008, Lutsk

Workshop on business etiquette

The workshop is organised by the EU-funded Volyn' SME Support Foundation. Its objective is to present business etiquette for Lutsk entrepreneurs and university students.

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April 2008, Izium, Kharkiv Oblast

Three training workshops

The EU-funded project on Sustainable Local Development in Ukraine will conduct three training workshops for representatives of local self-governments and non-governmental organizations in Izium:

- Protection of Consumer Rights in Communal and Housing Services (in cooperation with the Consumer Society and Citizen Networks project)
- Restorative Justice Programmes as a Community Tool to Fight Crime (in cooperation with the Development of the Community Restorative Justice Centres Network project)
- Institutional and Legal Aspects of Associations of Apartment Owners.

For exact dates and more information please contact Svetlana Timshina, e-mail: svetlana.timshina@sld.org.ua

