

## **EU-UKRAINE TRANSPORT CO-OPERATION**

One-fifth of all development assistance managed by the European Commission in the world is spent on supporting infrastructure policies. Improving transport systems by ensuring good quality roads, railways, ports and airports is an important part of the European Union's policy on infrastructure.

Transport is a key policy area for EU co-operation with Ukraine. There is a pledge in the EU-Ukraine Action Plan to elaborate a concept for a national sustainable transport policy for the development of all transport modes, coherent with the EU's White Paper on transport. The Action Plan also commits the EU and Ukraine to work in partnership on measures and reforms in the road, railway, aviation, and maritime and inland waterway transport sectors.

The importance of the trans-European corridors is a key element of EU-Ukraine transport co-operation. Four of the nine transit corridors defined by the European Union as part of the Trans-European Transport Networks (see <http://ec.europa.eu/ten/>) go through the territory of Ukraine making the country a potential import transit country for Europe and other parts of the world. One of these transit corridors is Corridor VII – more commonly known as the Danube – now connected to Ukraine through the opening of the Danube-Black Sea canal. The EU has funded a 6 million euro assistance programme to support the integration of Ukraine into the Trans-European Transport Networks

The Ukraine has also benefited from assistance as part of TRACECA (Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia) projects. (<http://www.traceca-org.org>). TRACECA support aims to improve the political and economic development in the Black Sea Region, Caucasus and Central Asia including Ukraine by means of improving international transport and at increasing freight flows. Support for Ukraine has included initiatives on trade facilitation, infrastructure improvement, transport regulation improvement and maritime training.

Transport is also a key component of the European Union's Twinning programme. Twinning is an instrument that aims at increasing a partner country's administrative and judicial capacity through targeted administrative co-operation. Twinning projects in the field of transport include civil aviation safety, road transport safety and transport policy design.



## **ANOTHER STEP IN CO-OPERATION**

### **SUCCESSFUL EU-UKRAINE TRANSPORT COOPERATION: ESTABLISHMENT OF AVIATION EMERGENCY TRAINING CENTRE**

A three-year TEMPUS TACIS project "Aviation emergency training Centre in Ukraine" has concluded its activities with an international conference on 17 April 2008 in the National Aviation University in Kyiv. The conference brought together 70 participants from four countries. The conference participants learned about the main project outcome – a new aviation emergency training centre to train aircraft crews and specialists of ground emergency rescue services and search teams.

Project partners – representatives of Lund University (Sweden), the Swedish Civil Aviation Administration, fire and rescue school at Arlanda airport (Sweden) and fire and rescue security service at Kastrup airport (Denmark) – took an active part in the conference activities.

Established with the support of European Union, modern training centre will provide education to aviation and rescue service specialists from both Ukraine and other Eastern European countries. Even though the centre has just opened, it received training applications for Azerbaijan and Lithuania specialists. ►



► During the project implementation groups of Ukrainian professionals participated in international internship programs with Swedish and Danish emergency rescue services. In co-operation with the State Aviation Search and Rescue Service of Ukraine (Ukraviaposhuk) of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Ukraine, the project experts developed and approved a training program for airborne search and rescue teams to provide search and rescue support of the Ukraine's aviation.

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### **EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS**

#### **THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF EU PROJECT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS ON TRANSPORT IN UKRAINE**

Ukraine's membership in international transport organizations, ratification of a number of international agreements, conventions and treaties has become the first step on the way to integration of the Ukrainian transport sector into the international transport corridors defined within the framework of the extension of the Transport trans-European network.

The project on Accession to and Implementation by Ukraine of International Agreements and Conventions on Transport also aims to contribute to the overall objective to support Ukraine's aspirations to upgrade its competency and gain larger recognition internationally by means of adoption of international norms and standards in the field of transport.

The third steering committee of the project took place on April 17 where the consortium, consisting of *Scott Wilson* and *KLC Law Firm* presented the proposals for the action plan with regards to Ukraine's accession to international transport conventions, agreements, *acquis communautaire* and international transport organizations in the field of aviation, maritime and inland water, road and railway.

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#### **ROUNDTABLE IN IZMAIL: NEXT STEP IN EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION IN LOWER DANUBE REGION**

**On April 17-18 the city of Izmail (Odesa oblast) hosted a Ukrainian-Romanian roundtable. Its participants discussed perspectives of the establishment of a basin council in the Danube region of Ukraine. This event was organized within the framework of the EU-funded project on Improving Cross-Border Co-operation in Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Lower Danube Euroregion.**

This 24-month project was launched last year. It is directed at the implementation of a comprehensive approach towards water resources management through the co-operation between Ukraine and Romania, their coordination to achieve sustainable development and improvement of the quality of life at cross-border regions, including the Lower Danube region. The project is being implemented by the Centre of Regional Research from Odesa.



65 roundtable participants agreed to establish a basin council which will strengthen co-operation between government authorities, stakeholders and the public in the Lower Danube region.

Roundtable received broad media coverage. Regional Odesa journalists participated in a special press tour to Izmail. During the press conference representatives of Ukrainian and Romanian sides emphasized the importance of the establishment of trans-boundary hydro-meteorological monitoring and the necessity to improve information sharing between water management authorities in both countries.

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## **PROJECT OPENING MEETING FOR THE TWINNING PROJECT ON STRENGTHENING ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION AGENCY OF UKRAINE**

**On 23 April 2008 a presentation of the Twinning project on Strengthening Activities of the National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine was held in National Academy of Science of Ukraine in Kyiv. The project is one of the first Twinning projects launched by the European Commission in Ukraine to facilitate implementation of the ENP EU-Ukraine Action Plan. The project started in February 2008 and will last for 27 months.**

Launched in May 1998, Twinning is one of the principal tools of 'Institution Building' assistance. Twinning aims to help beneficiary countries, including Ukraine, in the development of modern and efficient administrations, with the structures, human resources and management skills needed to implement the *acquis communautaire*. Twinning provides the framework for administrations and semi-public organisations in the beneficiary countries to work with their counterparts in the EU. Together they develop and implement a targeted project aimed at supporting the transposition, enforcement and implementation of a specific part of EU *acquis*.

The EU Member States' partners of the above project are the Dutch Ministry of European Affairs and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The implementing bodies for the project are the Netherlands Standardization Institute (NEN), the Netherlands Metrology Institute (NMI), the Dutch Accreditation Council (RvA) and the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC). The Ukrainian partner is the National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine.

The purpose of the project is also to build up the knowledge among the Ukrainian conformity assessment bodies, testing and calibration laboratories, representatives of industry and national authorities about the importance of accreditation and conformity assessment requirements, and to increase the competence of accreditation specialists in fields such as food and agriculture, environmental protection, medical care, occupational health and safety, information security, automotive industry, inspection and personnel certification, and oil.

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### **EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1 May 2008**

**Makiyivka, Donetsk Oblast**

**Public hearings on Rights and Opportunities for Children with Developmental Problems"**

During the discussion the public, local authorities and representatives of the civil society will be presented with new methods for working with children with developmental problems.

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**May 2008**

**Sverdlovsk, Luhansk Oblast, and Iziom, Kharkiv Oblast**

**Training seminars "Fundraising – Attraction of Additional Resources to Support Local Initiatives"**

The project "Sustainable Territorial Development in Ukraine" will hold these events for representatives of local self-governments and NGOs to study the following topics:

- Fundraising: key concepts and principles
- External sources of funding, available to Ukrainian communities
- Theoretical and practical aspects of drafting project proposals.

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**15-16 May 2008**

**Kherson**

**Fourth International Conference on Informatisation of Education in Ukraine**

The conference will take place in Kherson State University.

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