

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

10, 9 July 2008

EU-UKRAINE CO-OPERATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

The European Union is committed to working with its partner Ukraine to improve the development of the country's healthcare system. Healthcare in Ukraine is currently facing a number of serious challenges with mortality and morbidity rates more than twice the EU average; in the case of men the rate is even higher. Ukraine is also facing the rapid spread of poverty-related diseases such as TB and HIV/AIDS.

Since 2000, the EU has provided substantial technical assistance in the field of healthcare through the TACIS programme. Four EU funded projects related to the reform of the health sector were implemented during the last six years with a total value of 14 million euro.

The Primary Healthcare Support project developed a model for the introduction of an effective network of family doctors. The system has been tested in several pilot oblasts with a recommendation to introduce the system developed during the EU-funded project countrywide. A second EU funded project, Health Financing and Management, developed a set of 35 recommendations for the further development of the legal and administrative framework. The project on Support to the Development of the System of Medical Standards supported the Ministry of Health in setting up of a centre for standards development where key health care providers were trained.

Together with World Bank and the Swedish International Development Agency the EU funded a project to develop a mid-term strategy for the development of the healthcare sector. The plan that was produced by the project was that was approved by the Ministry.

The latest EU-funded project in the healthcare sector is entitled "Support to the secondary health care reform" (see below). It is implemented together with the Ministry of Health and active participation of Zhitomir, Kharkiv and Poltava state oblast administrations. In addition to these major technical assistance projects, healthcare also forms an important element of the EU's support for local and regional development in Ukraine, including the Community-Based Approach project (see below).



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU PROJECT ON SUPPORT TO SECONDARY HEALTHCARE REFORM INVOLVES MASS-MEDIA IN A DISCUSSION OF HEALTHCARE REFORM ISSUES

On 25 June the Support to the Secondary Healthcare Reform in Ukraine project organised a national press club meeting on Reforming Secondary Healthcare: Current State and Further Steps.

Held at the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, the event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Health, Delegation of the European Commission, project staff and 12 journalists from national media.

The participants discussed the current state and problems of healthcare sector in Ukraine and the role and objectives of the EU-funded in this context.

Dr. Greta Ross, the project team leader, described various strategic approaches to the provision of healthcare currently developed in the project's pilot regions. One of the models will examine the establishment of hospital networks across two or more administrative districts with improved management at secondary and primary care levels. Lozova and Blyzniuky districts in Kharkiv region have already signed a memorandum to create an inter-district territorial medical facility.

More information: <http://www.eu-shc.com.ua/en/>; Contact email: Natalia.Loochsheva@epos.de



KYIV REGIONAL STATE ADMINISTRATION SIGNS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR EU-UNDP PROJECT

The Agreement was signed on 25 June by Vira Ulyanchenko, Head of Kyiv Regional State Administration, and Francis O'Donnell, UN System Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative. The event was attended by Volodymyr Maybozhenko, Head of Kyiv Regional Council and Rémi Duflot, acting Head of Operations of the EC Delegation to Ukraine.



During the signing ceremony, the officials announced 8 districts selected for participation in the Community Based Approach to Local Development project. Each of them will get a possibility to jointly define priorities in improving their living conditions and apply for financing of one of their initiatives. Priority areas for funding include: healthcare, energy, environment, transport and water supply systems.

The CBA project is funded by the EU and co-funded and implemented by UNDP in Ukraine. The project's budget is Euro 13,3 million, with Euro 12 million provided by the EU side.

More info: www.cba.org.ua; Contact email: ganna.yatsyuk@undp.org.ua

MEDIA IN ODESA LEARN

ABOUT THE EU-FUNDED STEPPE LAND USE PROJECT

On 25 June 18 Ukrainian journalists visited the EU-funded project on Sustainable Integrated Land Use of Eurasian Steppe. The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the steppe conservation and steppe ecosystems restoration and their sustainable management as part of living land tenure system of the region. The project is implemented from June 2007 to December 2009 in Odesa and Luhansk Oblasts in Ukraine, Cagul rayon in Moldova and Rostov Oblast in Russia.



The project's specific objectives include:

- coordination of the efforts of international and regional experts in the field of environment-friendly rural economy, biodiversity preservation, ecological tourism development;
- development of the principles and mechanisms of sustainable steppe resource management for the implementation and testing at certain areas;
- promotion of economically effective and spare for biodiversity methods of the steppe resource management;
- activities which aim to raise awareness of involved partners and experts regarding changes in laws, international experience exchange etc.

The press tour ended with a press conference given by Rieks Bosch, the project team leader, at the former military facility in Tarutino. The conference demonstrated a substantial economic potential and prospects of rural development of steppe regions in Ukraine.

More information: <http://www.steppe.org.ua>; Contact e-mail: gposhtarenko@mottmac.com.ua

EU-FUNDED PROJECT HOLDS CONFERENCE ON THE PREVENTION OF POLITICAL CORRUPTION

On July 1-2 the Support to Good Governance: Project against Corruption in Ukraine (UPAC) organised a conference on prevention of political corruption. Its goal was to analyse the effectiveness of the Ukrainian system on funding of political parties and electoral campaigns in the light of European standards and in the perspective of the third round of the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) evaluation.

The participants analysed the current system of immunities and compliance with relevant GRECO recommendations.

Other issues included conflicts of interest of elected representatives and lobbying. The conference gathered over 50 representatives of the Parliament, political parties, Central Electoral Commission, other government agencies and NGOs. Co-funded by the European Commission and the Council of Europe, the UPAC project aims at strengthening Ukrainian institutions' capacities in their anti-corruption efforts.



More information: <http://www.coe.int/UPAC>; Contact email: roman.chlapak@coe.int

“SOMETHING FISHY?” – EU-UNDP ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN FOR CONSUMERS

As summer sets in, cases of purchase of foul, past-sale date products become more and more frequent. The problem is reinforced by the buyers' unwillingness to take an extra step to return a faulty product and claim a refund when the money amounts are not large. This calls for a more thorough pre-purchase examination of the product, its packaging and conditions in the sales outlet, which can often spare consumers' extra time, money and effort.

To this end, the EU-UNDP project on Consumer Society and Citizens' Network launched the fourth wave of consumer outdoor advertising called “Something fishy?” encouraging consumers to request more information about a product which causes doubts and refrain from buying a product if sellers fail to provide more information or documents certifying its origin.

More information: <http://www.undp.org.ua/cscn>;

Contact email: maria.savchenko@undp.org.ua



BRITISH PARLIAMENTARIANS BRIEFED ON EU-FUNDED MIGRATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT

On 13 May a delegation of nine UK MPs from the Home Affairs Select Committee learned how IOM's EU-funded project on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Ukraine and Moldova supports Ukrainian Government and civil society to improve efforts in protection, prevention and advocacy.

After touring the clinic where the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) conducts migrants' health assessment and provides assistance for victims of trafficking and discussing the types of care that victims of trafficking receive through IOM, Mr. Keith Vaz, the Chairman of the British Parliament's Home Affairs Committee, said: “We learned a great deal that will assist us as we continue our inquiry into human trafficking.”

The UK MPs also discussed EU-funded IOM-Ukraine co-operation to support the readmission agreement and migration issues in general focusing on the Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme and its work with the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.

More information: www.iom.org.ua; Contact email: jdasney@iom.int

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

10-11 July 2008, Kyiv

International Conference on European Commission's Support to Civil Society in Ukraine

Contact person: Volodymyr Kondrachuk, e-mail: volodymyr.kondrachuk@ec.europa.eu

14-18 July 2008, Kharkiv

Summer school for professors of healthcare management

Training will be organised by the EU project on Support to Secondary Healthcare Reform in Ukraine.

Contact person: Natalia Loochsheva, e-mail: Natalia.Loochsheva@epos.de

August 2008, Makiyivka

Public hearing on accessibility of sports and culture for local children

This event is organised by the EU-funded project on Centre for Forming Public Policy in Makiyivka.

For exact date and more information please contact Denys Vasyliuk; e-mail: martin@martin-club.org



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