

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

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EU-UKRAINE TWINNING CO-OPERATION

Twinning is a joint initiative by the European Commission, the EU Member States and partner countries, including Ukraine. Twinning offers institution building support for Ukrainian authorities through civil servant exchange with Member States. Within the frame of the ENP policy and the ENPI instrument of cooperation, Twinning supports institutional reform based on solutions that have proven successful in Central and Eastern European countries.



Twinning offers direct technical co-operation between public bodies of EU Member States and partner countries' administrations giving civil servants the opportunity to exchange best practices and experiences in a given field of expertise. It mobilises significant human and financial resources to stimulate progress in Ukraine.

Twinning, as a technical assistance delivery modality, is demand-driven; as such it is constantly adapting to the environment to ensure that the demand for the reinforcement of administrative and judicial capacity in beneficiary countries is appropriately met.



The extension of the Twinning instrument to Ukraine, the first among the CIS countries, is therefore a development that shows the importance attached to increased integration between Ukraine and the European Union. Twinning will be a powerful tool of EU assistance to Ukraine. It will become the main instrument to “support legislative approximation to meet EU norms and standards” in Ukraine as provided by the EU-Ukraine Action Plan and the EU-Ukraine Partnership and Co-operation Agreement. In this context, twinning provides a comprehensive and ambitious framework for work with Ukraine, identifying key areas of reform.

Twinning projects will act as a catalyst in setting the country's public administration reform in motion, bringing together specialists from EU Member States and Ukraine's administrations, and promoting the effective adoption of Community legislation. There are currently seven Twinning projects in the implementation phase with more than twenty further projects in the pipeline. The following twinning projects are currently being implemented with the following Member States:

- Harmonisation with EU norms of the legislation and standards of Ukraine in the field of Civil Aviation (France, Poland)
- Regulatory and Legal Capacity Strengthening of Energy Regulation in NERC (Italy, Austria, Czech Republic)
- Strengthening the enforcement of competition law and policy in Ukraine (France, Hungary)
- Strengthening of Standardisation, Market Surveillance, Metrology and Legal Metrology, Conformity Assessment and Consumers Policy in Ukraine (France, Germany)
- Boosting Ukrainian space cooperation with the European Union Ukraine (France, Germany)
- Assistance to the State Control and Revision Service in introducing Public Internal Financial Control (Sweden)
- Strengthening of the National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine (Netherlands, Sweden);

<http://www.naaau.org.ua/Twinning.htm>

More information can be found from the web site of the Implementation of Twinning Operations in Ukraine project: <http://twinning.com.ua/>

ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

TWINNING AS A NEW FORM CO-OPERATION BETWEEN EU MEMBER STATES AND UKRAINE

On 8 and 9 July participants of the first two groups of the English / Professional Skills Training received certificates for successful completion of the 140-hour training organised by the EU-funded project on Implementation of Twinning Operations in Ukraine. The participants came from Ukrainian public administrations – ministries, agencies, committees – which are involved in EU Twinning projects.



In addition to improving participants' language skills, the training course has improved the participants' skills in networking, partnership building and negotiating which are essential for successful Twinning operations. The organisation of such a programme was regarded as necessary by all Twinning stakeholders Ukraine. The third group will complete the training course in November 2008.

The Implementation of Twinning Operations in Ukraine is a technical assistance project funded by the European Union. The overall objective of this 30-month project is to support the capacity of Ukraine to make the best use of the EU assistance, in particular the Twinning tool.

More information: <http://twinning.com.ua>; Contact person: Olena Troschynska, email: troschynska@twinning.kiev.ua

EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ASSISTS UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT IN IMPROVING MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

On 7 July the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine organised the 9th Steering Committee for the Capacity Building in Migration Management project to provide an opportunity for the main stakeholders to discuss project activities and progress made towards accomplishing the project goals as well to discuss outstanding issues and identify future steps. This project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Organisation of Migration.



Over the past eight months, major refurbishment works have been conducted by the EU-funded project at the Volyn Migrants Accommodation Centre. The project has also procured specialised equipment for five Temporary Holding Facilities. Comprehensive EU-compliant trainings, focusing on protection of migrants' human rights and based on the manual produced by IOM on EU best practices for migrant accommodation, were provided to the Ministry of Interior and State Border Guard Service personnel from seven migrant accommodation facilities throughout Ukraine.

IOM continues to support five Centres for Migrant Advice (CMAs) in the framework of the EU-funded project. The centres provide advice on safe migration and to help people of Ukraine make informed choices in this respect. As of May 2008, 42,856 people have been consulted over the course of the project; over 50,000 people participated in trainings, seminars, roundtables and fairs organized by CMAs; and CMAs continue to consult approximately 2,500 clients per month.

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

EU-FUNDED PROJECT RELEASES TWO PUBLICATIONS FOR MILITARY AND LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

A presentation of two books entitled "Strategic planning and policy for healthy lifestyle among uniformed personnel" and "Formation of leadership and commitment to healthy lifestyle among uniformed services in Ukraine" took place in Kyiv on 24 June 2008. The presentation was attended by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which implements the EU-funded project, Ukraine's Ministry of Interior and State Board Guard Service, authors of the books and the mass media.



The presentation was organised by the EU-funded project on HIV/STI (Sexually Transmitted Infection) prevention among uniformed services in Ukraine, implemented by UNDP. The overall objective of this project is to support the development of effective mechanisms for comprehensive HIV/STI prevention measures in the uniformed services in Ukraine. The purpose of the project is to significantly reduce incidences of HIV/STI and other health risks, such as drug abuse and sexually transmitted infections among uniformed personnel. The European Union provided €2.5 million for the implementation of the project from November 2005 till December 2008.

More information: <http://www.undp.org.ua>; Contact email: vlad.ostryanskiy@undp.org

CROSS BORDER CO-OPERATION WORKSHOP IN IZMAIL

An international workshop 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 took place in Izmail, Odesa Oblast, on 9-10 July 2008. Representatives of the State Committee of Ukraine for Water Management, Odessa Regional Council, Tulcea County Council (Romania), and project staff participated in the workshop.

The main topics covered during the workshop included international co-operation in the field of water management; first meeting of the Danube Basin Parliament in the Ukrainian Danube region; and results of the first year of implementation of the EU-funded project.

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

More information: <http://www.crs.org.ua>; Contact person: Igor Studennikov, e-mail: crs@crs.org.ua



EU-FUNDED PROJECT CONDUCTS SURVEY ON CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR IN UKRAINE

On 15 July the joint EU-UNDP initiative on Consumer Society and Citizen Networks Project presented the results of a survey on consumer rights. This survey has been conducted for the second time to measure the level of awareness among Ukrainian consumers of their rights and mechanism for their protection.

The survey shows that the overall activism of Ukrainian consumers and their desire to protect their rights have decreased compared with the year before. The majority of people have chosen in the long run to remain passive in regard to protecting their consumer rights.

A reassuring trend is that the Ukrainian consumers have become more thorough in purchasing so-called fast moving consumer goods (FMCG). In particular, the percentage of men involved into buying consumer goods has somewhat increased. Another positive tendency is that the number of people unaware of their consumer rights has decreased by half.

In order to improve the situation, the project plans to conduct a new outdoor consumer information campaign.

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

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



EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 2008, Lutsk

Publication of a Ukrainian-Polish Book on Business Ideas for Border Territories and Rural Areas

This publication is developed by the Volyn SME Support Foundation within the EU-funded project on *Development of Co-operation between Volyn and Liublyn regions on Entrepreneurship Support*.

More information: business@bsc.lutsk.ua; Contact person: Olga Gubareva, e-mail: vrbi@vrbi.lutsk.ua.

29 August 2008, Kyiv

Training on Quality and Safety of School Supplies

A training for journalists will be organised by the EU-UNDP Consumer Society and Citizen Networks project.

Contact person: Maria Savchenko; email maria.savchenko@undp.org.ua

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