

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

12, 10 September 2008



THE EU AND WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Gender equality is an important issue for the EU. It has been enshrined in EU legislation since the Treaty of Rome over 50 years ago. The EU has played a key role in eliminating inequalities and promoting equality between men and women and a coherent legal framework on gender equality forms part of the body of EU law (the "acquis") which must be respected by all existing and future EU Member States. Similarly children's rights are specifically addressed in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The European Commission has also managed the Daphne programme (http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/2004_2007/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm), with the goal of preventing and combating violence against children, young people and women. Daphne encourages NGOs to set up or reinforce European networks and helps them implement innovative projects, the results of which can be disseminated to other Member States and regions.

Last year the European Commission launched the European Forum on the Rights of the Child, bringing together stakeholders to exchange information and practice, and to take positive action for children and young people.

In Ukraine, a number of persistent problems linger. Violence against women remains a serious problem, especially spousal abuse. In the workplace, women receive lower salaries and have limited opportunity for career advancement. Few women hold top managerial positions in the government or in state-owned or private industry.

The European Commission has provided a number of small grants related to gender and children as part of European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The European Commission has recently allocated €14 million to support the protection and promotion of Women's and Children Rights in Ukraine. This allocation will be implemented in close cooperation with other donor agencies and international organisations in Ukraine, taking into account their specific expertise.

This month the European Commission launched three projects on Gender Equality and Women and Children's Rights in Ukraine with a total value of €7 million with a 90% financial contribution by the EC. The projects will be further supported by a communication campaign to be managed by the European Commission and worth a further €6 million (see more information below).

ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESENTS NEW PROJECTS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PROTECTION AND GENDER EQUALITY PROMOTION IN UKRAINE

The presentation of new EU-funded projects on gender and children's issues took place on 4 September in Kyiv. Laura Garagnani, Head of Operations at the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, Francis O'Donnell, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Vasyl Kostyrytsya, International Labour Organization's (ILO) National Correspondent in Ukraine, and Danuta Wisniewska-Cazals, Head of Unit in the Council of Europe, participated in the opening press conference.



The project on Women's Rights in Ukraine will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. This project will help Ukraine develop and introduce legislation on gender equality; develop educational materials free from gender stereotypes; and integrate gender equality principles in educational processes. The project has a budget of €5.7 million, €5.4 million of which is provided by the European Commission.

The project on Gender Equality in Labour will be implemented by the International Labour Organization in partnership with government agencies, employers and trade unions. The goals of the project include prevention of gender-related discrimination in labour relations; support for women-entrepreneurs; development of gender-sensitive programmes and services in the area of employment. The project has a budget of €1.2 million, with an EC contribution of €1.1 million. A separate project of the Council of Europe, also funded by the European Commission, will focus on the analysis and improvement of the Ukrainian legislation related to gender equality, children's rights, and prevention of sexual exploitation in accordance with such European mechanisms as the European Social Charter, the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and others. This project also has a budget of €1.2 million, with an EC contribution of €1.1 million.

EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU-UNDP CONSUMER RIGHTS PROJECT EXPERTS AND LVIV JOURNALISTS HOLD JOINT INFORMATION EVENT TO RAISE CONSUMER RIGHTS AWARENESS

On 28 August, 15 Lviv-based journalists joined the experts of the EU-UNDP Consumer Society and Citizen Networks (CSCN) project in a press tour to the Halytskyi market in Lviv. The journalists learned about the project and had an opportunity to walk along the shopping aisles and observe how the Ukrainian legislation on trade and consumer rights protection works in practice and find out from the market buyers how they protect their consumer rights.



During the press tour the CSCN project experts emphasized that the only effective way to fight a number of typical violations of consumer rights is through raising consumer awareness of their rights. The experts presented the project's manual on Legal Guide for Preparation of Cases on Consumers Rights Protection to Lviv mass media. They also discussed the newly developed educational course on Consumer Essentials for 1-12 forms of the Ukrainian secondary schools.

This press event received broad media coverage attracting consumers' attention to the issue of better protection of their rights.

The Consumer Society and Citizen Networks project is a joint initiative of the European Union and United Nations Development Programme. Its goal is to promote access of citizens to information on product safety, consumer rights protection, and to results of independent testing, and encourage wide public dialogue on challenges facing the consumer society in Ukraine. The project has a €3 million contribution by the European Commission.

Contact person: Maria Savchenko; e-mail: maria.savchenko@undp.org.ua

More info: <http://consumerinfo.org.ua>

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

12 September 2008, Zhuravychi (Volyn Oblast)

Dedication Ceremony and Opening of a Migrant Accommodation Centre

Distinguished guests include: Minister of Internal Affairs Yuriy Lutsenko, Acting Head of EC Delegation Dirk Schübel, and IOM Chief of Mission to Ukraine, Jeffrey Labovitz.

More information: <http://www.delukr.ec.europa.eu/calendar.html> and www.iom.org.ua

19 September 2008, Kyiv

Conference on Detection and Investigation of Corruption Offences and Identification and Seizure of the Proceeds from Corruption

This event is organised by the joint EU/CoE project against corruption in Ukraine (UPAC) in cooperation with the Embassy of France in Ukraine and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

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

September 2008, Donetsk

Regional presentation of the Community Based Approach to Local Development project

This seminar will conclude a series of regional CBA project presentations and close the project's launching phase.

For exact date and more information please contact Ganna Yatsyuk: ganna.yatsyuk@undp.org.ua

More info: www.cba.org.ua

October 2008, Lutsk

A workshop on Effective Programmes to SME support: Experience of Poland and others EU countries

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

For exact date and more information please contact Olga Gubareva: business@bsc.lutsk.ua, vrbi@vrbi.lutsk.ua



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