

# 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

# 13, 24 September 2008

## EU-UKRAINE CO-OPERATION ON CONSUMERS' RIGHTS

Protecting consumers as well as informing consumers about their rights are key policy objectives for the European Commission. The European Commission's Consumer Policy Strategy for the years 2007-2013 is built around the three objectives of empowering consumers, enhancing their welfare and effectively protecting them.

Increased consumer welfare is a tool to deliver better competition. Consumers are the watchdogs of the market, using their power to switch and the option to choose to make the market more efficient. This is the case in both the European Union and in Ukraine.

The EU supports consumer rights in Ukraine as part of the EU-Ukraine Action Plan's special emphasis placed on the modernisation of the technical regulation system.

The slogan for 2008 European Consumer Day was "know your rights, use your rights". Consumers have more rights than they are aware of. They have a right to choose, a right to fair deals, a right to clear information. The European Commissioner for Consumers, Ms Meglena Kuneva, repeated this message when she visited Kyiv last year.

In Ukraine the Consumer Society and Citizen Networks aims to support Ukrainian consumers in an increasingly complicated marketplace. Too often consumers can't see prices clearly, can't compare offers easily and they are faced with an information overload. The project, funded by the European Commission to the tune of €3 million, is implemented by UNDP (see more information below).



## ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

### **EU-UNDP CONSUMER SOCIETY PROJECT TAKES STOCK OF ITS RESULTS AND PRESENTS NEW EDUCATIONAL COURSE ON CONSUMER RIGHTS**

**On 17 September representatives of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine and the United Nations Development Programme met leaders of non-governmental consumer organisations to discuss the state of consumer movement in Ukraine and the impact of the Consumer Society and Citizen Networks (CSCN) project aimed at its strengthening.**

CSCN, a joint EU-UNDP project, aims to increase the civil society role in sound economic governance in Ukraine according to the European standards. Specifically, the project targets promotion of access of citizens to information on product safety, consumer rights protection, and to results of independent testing, as well as promotion of wide public discussion of challenges facing the consumer society in Ukraine.

Coming into the final implementation stage, the project gathered its stakeholders and national partners to discuss the results of its work and proposals to engage civil society organizations into further development of the consumer movement in Ukraine.

*"Consumers have more rights than they are aware of. The mission of this project, as we see it, is to increase the awareness of consumers, to give them information for their everyday decisions. And, last but not at all the least, to help consumers' organisations to navigate their clients through an increasingly sophisticated market",* – emphasised Ms. Laura Garagnani, Head of Operations at the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine.

Mr. Yuriy Shyrko, the Deputy Head of the State Committee of Technical Regulation and Consumer Policy acknowledged the work done by the CSCN project in the areas of knowledge and information sharing which among other things includes development of the Consumer Portal and consumer education courses, facilitation of co-operation between civil society organisations in Ukraine and the EU; introduction and promotion of the Consumer Satisfaction Index Methodology, and promotion of consumer-friendly business practices.

From now and until summer 2009, the project will organise a nationwide consumer awareness campaign, conduct a capacity-building programme for civil society organisations, and facilitate transfer of experience and main project outcomes to other organizations with similar expertise and strong development potential. →



➔ Earlier this month, CSCN together with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine presented a handbook and a course for distance learning on Consumer Essentials for higher educational establishments. The handbook and the distance learning course on Consumer Essentials were developed as an optional course for higher education students. The aim of this course is to familiarise students with European and international practices of consumer rights protection, origin of the consumer movement and activities of civil society organisations. The project published 1500 copies of the handbook for those universities that have introduced the course this year. The electronic versions of the handbook and the course will be placed on the Consumer Portal: <http://www.consumerinfo.org.ua>

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

#### **COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TRAINS STAFF OF COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES ON CONSUMER ISSUES**



**On September 3-4 the joint EU-UNDP project on Community Based Approach to Local Development conducted a training session for staff members of its regional offices. The training brought together 46 coordinators from all 25 regional project offices which are to become regional community resource centres in the future.**

The training was organised together with the EU-UNDP project on Consumer Society and Citizen Networks to make resource centres' staff familiar with issues on protection of consumer rights and to discuss coordination of both projects' activities. In addition to this, regional coordinators shared their best practices and experience on the implementation of the project initiatives in their regions since the offices in five oblasts have already selected partnership rayons and village councils and started to work directly with communities. Participants also discussed the strategy and action plan for the future.

The CBA project is co-financed by the EU and UNDP and is implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in every oblast of Ukraine. Its overall objective is to create an enabling environment for long-term self-sustaining social-economic and community development at local level by promoting local self-governance and community-based initiatives throughout Ukraine. The EU's contribution to this project is €12 million

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#### **EU AND UKRAINE LAUNCH €6 MILLION PROJECT TO SUPPORT REGIONAL POLICY PLANNING AND TO FUND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

**On 22 September, the Ministry for Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine and the European Commission held a press conference to launch the EU-funded project "Support to Sustainable Regional Development in Ukraine".**

The €6 million project aims to support Ukrainian authorities in upgrading regional development policy and strengthening the effective management of regional growth.

Regional development is a core policy for the EU. This four-year project aims to help the Ukrainian authorities develop a comprehensive regional policy and to support this policy by developing a new fund to support measures to carry out this new strategy. It also intends to design adequate instruments for regional development, build capacities and provide mechanisms for the implementation of strategically identified actions.

This project is part of a sector-wide approach to Sustainable Regional Development and will complement a series of ongoing EU-funded local development projects in Sumy, Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Luhansk oblasts. An additional €9 million worth of funding will be provided by the EU to a pilot region in one of these oblasts.

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#### **MINISTER LUTSENKO OPENS EU-FUNDED ACCOMMODATION CENTRE IN ZHURAVYCHI**



**On 12 September the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in partnership with the European Commission officially opened a Migrant Accommodation Centre in Zhuravychi, Volyn Oblast. Distinguished guests included Yuriy Lutsenko, Minister of Internal Affairs, Dirk Schuebel, Acting Head of the EC Delegation to Ukraine, and Jeffrey Labovitz, IOM Chief of Mission to Ukraine.**

The new accommodation facility for migrants was refurbished and fitted with furniture, computing equipment in order to increase the standard of irregular migrants' stay in Ukraine. EU-compliant training and study tours to EU Member States, focusing on protection of migrants' human rights, were provided to the personnel of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. ➔

→ These activities were one component of the EC-funded project titled “Capacity Building of Migration Management: Ukraine (Phases I & II),” through which the European Commission committed approximately 7.2 million euros. In the framework of EU-funded projects, the IOM has been assisting the Ministry of Internal Affairs to align with the Government of Ukraine’s stated intention to meet EU best practices on rights and privileges of stranded migrants: race, religion, religious creed, political opinion, colour or ethnic, national or social origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disabilities. Over the past three years, EU-funded, IOM-implemented projects have focused on giving the issue of rights and privileges of stranded migrants the high-level governmental attention it deserves, increasing international co-operation in this area, and promoting EU best practices and actions.

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

## **SECOND MEETING OF REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP TAKES PLACE IN ODESA**

On 4-5 September the EU-funded Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea Project (ECBSea) held the second meeting of the Regional Biodiversity Working Group in Odesa to discuss the Draft Guiding Principles for Establishing Marine Protected Areas in the Black Sea. The ECBSea project experts, representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection in Ukraine, the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission and Advisory Group on Biodiversity Conservation participated in this meeting.



The document describes the current situation of the Black Sea Marine Protected Areas (MPA), provides legal and methodological background for development of the Black Sea MPA network and presents recommendations for its effective establishing. As a result of the meeting, its participants concluded that the Guiding Principles for Establishing Marine Protected Areas was a useful tool for the next steps on biodiversity conservation in the Black Sea region countries.

The third and the final regional biodiversity working group on marina protected areas will take place in February 2009. Its participants will review of the methodologies for MPA identification and establish and endorse of the final Management Plan for the MPA in Karkinitzky Bay.

More information: [www.ecbsea.org](http://www.ecbsea.org) or write to [ecbsea@ecbsea.org](mailto:ecbsea@ecbsea.org)

## **EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**25-26 September 2008, Kyiv**

### **Second Annual Conference for the Black Sea Region Countries on EU-funded Twinning Operations**

The conference is organised by the Main Department of the Civil Service of Ukraine, Twinning Programme Administration Office of Ukraine with the support of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the European Commission.

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More information: <http://www.delukr.ec.europa.eu/calendar.html>

**1 October 2008, Uzhgorod**

### **Information Day on EU-Ukraine Co-operation**

Nineteen EU-funded projects will participate in this event organised by the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine. The event offers an opportunity for the citizens of Uzhgorod as well as local government officials, the media and civil society to find out more about EU Financial and Technical Assistance in their local area.

Venue: Uzhgorod National University, 3 Narodna Sq. Time: 10:30 – 17:00

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### **2 October 2008, Izmail (Odesa Region); 8 October 2008, Mostyska (Lviv Region); and 9 October 2008 Chernivsti Opening ceremonies of three temporary holding facilities in Ukraine**

Distinguished guests will include State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and European Commission officials. The events are organised by the Capacity Building of Migration Management: Ukraine project funded by the EU and implemented by the International Organization of Migration (IOM).

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

