

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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CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

Cross border co-operation was launched under the TACIS technical assistance programme in 1996. It aimed to support of the development of cross border cooperation between Ukraine (as well as other TACIS countries: Belarus, Russia and Moldova) and the then candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The total funding for TACIS CBC during the period 1996-2003 amounted to €257 million.

TACIS CBC complemented PHARE CBC which aimed to increase co-operation between neighbouring countries and provide support to the cross border regions among accession countries (2004 accession) and between these countries and existing Member States.

During 1996-2003, CBC assistance to Ukraine was provided through 3 priorities: (1) Border infrastructure; (2) Environment and (3) Development of border regions. Under this phase of CBC, border points Yagodyn and Rava-Russka were modernised, projects monitoring cross-border rivers were launched and support was given to the Lviv, Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi Oblasts which make up the Carpathian Euroregion.

From 2004-2006, Ukraine also participated in the joint TACIS- INTERREG programmes, a continuation of an EU-wide initiative to promote interregional cooperation in the European Union which began in 1989. CADSES (Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space). CADSES was fully integrated with the Neighbourhood programmes which provided €75 million worth of assistance to the Eastern regions between 2004 and 2006.

Drawing on earlier CBC experience under TACIS, PHARE and INTERREG, a new policy and implementation framework for CBC has been incorporated in the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

The core objectives of Cross-border Cooperation remain to support sustainable development along both sides of the EU's external borders, to help decrease differences in living standards across these borders, and to address the challenges and opportunities following on EU enlargement or otherwise arising from the proximity between regions across our land and sea borders. In particular CBC is intended to help:

- promote economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders;
- address common challenges, in fields such as environment, public health and the prevention of and fight against organised crime;
- ensure efficient and secure borders;
- promote local cross-border "people-to-people" actions.

From 2007-2013 the EU will provide around €1.1 billion to reinforce cross-border co-operation. Ukrainian local authorities as well as NGOs and other institutions will have access to funds under 3 Land and Sea Border Crossing Programmes: (1) Poland, Belarus, Ukraine (€186 million), (2) Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine (€68 million) and (3) Romania, Ukraine and Moldova (€126 million). Ukraine will also have access to funds as part of the Black Sea Basin Programme (€17 million) as well as successors of CADSES Central Europe Programme and South East European Space.

For more information on how to participate see: <http://www.rcbi.info/>



INFORMATION DAY OF EU-FUNDED PROJECTS TAKES PLACE IN UZHGOROD

On 1 October the EC Delegation to Ukraine conducted an information day on EU-Ukraine co-operation. Held at the Uzhgorod National University the event brought together representatives of 19 EU-funded projects including a number of cross-border cooperation initiatives and several nationwide projects. Attended by students, journalists, NGO activists, local government representatives, and local community members, the information day raised public awareness of specific EU-Ukraine assistance and co-operation programmes focusing on the concrete benefits and change they bring to communities.

In his video address to the guests of the information day, Dirk Schuebel, Acting Head of the EC Delegation to Ukraine, noted: "*This Information Day has gathered a large number of diverse projects working in Ukraine with the support from the European Union. But what's very important is that these projects are interactively presenting their activities and results not only to their direct beneficiaries and everyday clients but to a much broader audience attending this Information Day here today.*"

This issue of the newsletter presents some of the projects that participated in the Uzhgorod Information Day.



MEET PROJECTS PARTICIPATING IN EU INFORMATION DAY IN UZHGOROD

Project on FLOOD PROTECTION IMPROVEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION ON THE UKRAINIAN-ROMANIAN TYSA RIVER BORDER

This two-year project works to reduce the negative impact of floods and of human development on the environment of the Ukrainian-Romanian Tysa river border area. The project's tasks include the development of a complex scheme for Tysa river stabilisation at the Ukrainian-Romanian border; establishment of the Flood Information Centre in Tiachiv; various EU-compliant examinations for ecological status assessment on the Ukrainian-Romanian Tysa river section; development of flood protection projects in Bedevlia and V. Bychkiv villages and others.

The project with a budget of €891,936 is implemented by the Transcarpathian Regional Industrial Enterprise of Melioration and Water Management of the Ukraine State Committee on Water Management.

A visitor to the Information Day said of the project:

- "This year the problem of floods for Zakarpattia region was especially acute. That is why this project has attracted probably the greatest attention of journalists and guests. It is great that EU interests coincide with interests of hundreds of thousands residents of our region." (*Iryna Breza, the head of Zakarpattia Press Club*).

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Project on CROSS BORDER CO-OPERATION IN INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT FOR RURAL REGIONS

The main goal of the project is to increase the quantity and quality of financial services provided by the relevant financial institutions in Chernivtsi oblast. Specific objectives are aimed at raising professionalism of financial staff in the region; intensifying economic activity in rural areas through creating local economic activity centres; increasing the number and diversification of financial services; and involving regional municipal administration in the extensive development of the financial market.

The project is implemented by the Bukovyna Reconstruction and Development Centre. The project is being implemented from August 2008 through January 2010 with a total budget of €738,000.

Yaroslav Kyrpushko, the project manager, said: "For me it was very useful not only to tell Zakarpattia residents on how we are going to improve the economic situation in Bukovyna with EU assistance, but also to share and exchange experience and ideas. I was happy to speak with the students from the economic department of the Uzhgorod National University – these highly motivated young people tomorrow will be working hard on further development of Ukraine's economy."

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Project on PROMOTION OF JOINT CULTURAL HERITAGE IN CROSS-BORDER REGION OF CHERNIVTSI AND SUCEAVA

This project presents a series of cultural events to promote traditional art in the multiethnic Bukovyna community. They include joint concerts of folk groups from neighbouring countries, craft exhibitions and master-classes, meetings and conferences on ethnic minorities issues, as well as a media campaign. The creation of the international tourist route on Joint Cultural Heritage: Ukraine and Romania will become the main project outcome. The goals of the project include:

- preservation, extension and promotion of joint cultural heritage, traditions of tolerance and peaceful co-existence of neighbouring nations in multicultural environment;
- renovation of old folk and crafts events, their strengthening and development;
- development of cultural tourism as a new business in the cross-border region.

The project is implemented by the Chernivtsi City Council. Project duration: August 2008 – January 2010, total cost: €261,000. The project is integrated into the 600th anniversary of Chernivtsi.

A visitor to the Information Day said of the project:

- "This is an amazing project! I was very happy to learn that thanks to European Union's support it has become possible to practically implement such useful ideas and initiatives. I hope to discuss it with my colleagues who also attended this Information Day – we will definitely prepare a similar project to implement it in Zakarpattia!" (Maria Velychko, student of Uzhgorod department of Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts)

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MEET PROJECTS PARTICIPATING IN EU INFORMATION DAY IN UZHGOROD

Project on SUPPORT OF MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS, DEVELOPMENT OF NGO NETWORK IN WESTERN UKRAINE

The project was implemented in 2006-2008 by the non-governmental organization “Zakarpattya Development and Consultation Centre "Advance". Its total budget was €250,000.

The primary goal of the project was to provide assistance to unemployed, disabled and young Roma people in Zakarpattya region. As a result, 82 unemployed persons have successfully completed IT training courses; 72 persons have completed basic computer courses; 60 young women have mastered the basics of housekeeping. Over 3,000 citizens received free legal, psychological and social consultations. The project also supported the establishment of the “Accord” network consisting of 20 NGOs from Western Ukraine.

- During this Information Day we demonstrated to many Zakarpattya residents how small communities can resolve their problems. We are proud of what we have achieved. Our work can serve as an example for many other national communities of the region. The main thing here is never to give up and try to find partners who care. (Ivan Gerevych, the project manager)

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU LAUNCHES NEW TWINNING PROJECT WITH UKRAINIAN POLICE



On 6 October, the EU-funded Twinning Project: "Introduction and Development of Quality Management within the Ukrainian Police" was launched at the Ministry of the Interior. The project has a value of €2 million and the twinning counterpart is the Ministry of Interior of the French Republic.

The project will run until 2010 and will assist structural and police-specific reforms of the Ukrainian Ministry of Interior. It will also convey European knowledge and procedures of better recruiting, training and disciplining of police and interior troops personnel in Ukraine.

The opening was attended by Acting Head of Delegation Dirk Schubel, French Ambassador Jacques Faure and Deputy Interior Minister Mykhaylo Verbensky.

UKRAINIAN BORDER GUARDS OPEN EU-FUNDED ACCOMMODATION CENTRE FOR MIGRANTS IN IZMAIL

On 2 October, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine opened a Temporary Holding Facility for irregular migrants in Izmail, Odesa Oblast. The facility can hold 14 irregular migrants and has been established in compliance with best European standards and practice.

The facility forms part of EU co-operation with Ukraine on setting up adequate accommodation facilities for irregular migrants in Ukraine and is funded by the European Commission's "Capacity Building of Migration Management" programme implemented by the International Organization for Migration. Two further temporary holding facilities will be opened this month in Lviv and Chernivtsi Oblasts.

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



ANOTHER AGREEMENT SIGNED WITHIN THE PROJECT ON COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

On 1 October the EU-funded Community-Based Approach to Local Development project signed an agreement with the Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration and Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council.

The agreement focuses on co-operation in developing the decision-making mechanisms in community involvement, as well as in the mobilisation of resources to fund projects aimed at social integration, restoration and sustainable development. The agreement also stipulates for the joint funding of community-based projects. It is expected that the project will allocate up to \$400,000 within this agreement, while the funding of community-based projects from the local budget will amount to \$360,000.

The EU-funded CBA project is co-financed and 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 project runs from September 2007 to February 2011 and has a budget of €13.3 million.

Contact person: Ganna Yatsyuk: ganna.yatsyuk@undp.org.ua More information: www.cba.org.ua

ROUND TABLE ON IDENTIFICATION, SEIZURE AND CONFISCATION OF PROCEEDS FROM CORRUPTION

On 19 September, the EU/CoE joint project "Support to Good Governance: Project against Corruption in Ukraine" held a roundtable organised jointly with the Embassy of France in Ukraine and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

The roundtable presented an opportunity for representatives of relevant Ukrainian authorities and institutions as well as international experts to discuss the need for legislative and institutional reforms to enhance the current system of identification, seizure and confiscation of proceeds from corruption in Ukraine in line with European standards and relevant GRECO and Moneyval recommendations.

The participants called for the improvement of the current legal framework and draft law on confiscation procedures prepared by the Ministry of Justice. Based on the French and Belgian models presented at the roundtable, the participants underlined the necessity to establish specialised, adequately funded bodies in charge of detection and investigation of corruption offences as well as of the seizure and confiscation of proceeds from crime. The discussions also pointed out the lack of specialisation of the prosecutors, judges and law enforcement authorities in corruption cases and lack of coordination within the law enforcement authorities.

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For more information, see: <http://www.coe.int/UPAC>



EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

16 October 2008, Kyiv

Roundtable on Effectiveness of the National Anti-Corruption Policy, Role of the Civil Society and Private Sector

The event will be organised by the joint EU/CoE Project against Corruption in Ukraine.

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23 October 2008, Kyiv

Press-conference on the Launch of Consumer Awareness Advertising Campaign

This media event will be organised by the EU-UNDP Consumer Society and Citizen Networks project.

Contact person: Maria Savchenko; e-mail: maria.savchenko@undp.org.ua; <http://consumerinfo.org.ua/>

30 October 2008, Chisinau, Moldova

Stakeholders meeting of the EU-funded Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea project (Ukraine, Russia, Georgia and Moldova)

The meeting will be held for government and NGO representatives, project's working group members, local and international experts.

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