

# 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

# 18, 3 December 2008

## EU-UKRAINE CO-OPERATION ON THE JUDICIARY

An independent, impartial, efficient and professional judiciary is a cornerstone of any democracy. Reinforcing administrative and judicial capacity is a priority of the EU-Ukraine Action Plan, and already a number of projects are underway to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

A €2.2 million project entitled "Judicial Selection and Appointment Procedure, Training, Disciplinary Liability, Case Management and Alternative Dispute resolution Methods" ended in December 2007. Its aim was to assist further development of an independent, impartial, efficient and professional judiciary in Ukraine, to support the selection and disciplinary procedures for judges and to ensure that judges are provided with proper initial and continuous training. The European Union provided €1 million of the project budget which was co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe.



The European Union has recently launched two new major projects to support to the Ukrainian judiciary. The first "Transparency and Efficiency of Judicial System of Ukraine" is also implemented by and co-funded by the Council of Europe with a value of €5 million (see below).

The EU has also launched a second project "Accountability and Effectiveness of Ukrainian Judiciary Functioning (civil service component)" worth €5 million. The objectives of this project are support the improvement of personnel management of the judiciary, to improve the organisation of court workflows and improve education and training of State Enforcement Officers.

A twinning project to support Administrative Judiciary of Ukraine worth approximately €1.5 million is also in the preparatory stage.

## ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

### EUROPEAN UNION AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE LAUNCH A NEW PROJECT TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF UKRAINE



On 20 November in Kyiv the joint EU-Council of Europe Programme on Transparency and Efficiency of Judicial System of Ukraine conducted a press conference followed by a kick-off steering committee meeting.

The press conference to present the new programme was given by Ms. Laura Garagnani, Head of Operations at the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine and Ake Peterson, Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for the Co-ordination of Co-operation Programmes with Ukraine. ➔

➔ The Joint Programme on Transparency and Efficiency of the Judicial System of Ukraine is aimed at assisting in establishing of independent, impartial, efficient and professional judiciary in Ukraine, as well as at ensuring that the Ukrainian judiciary is transformed into a transparent and fair judicial system accessible to all citizens and working effectively and transparently vis-à-vis citizens and civil society.

The programme is co-funded by the European Union (€5.4 million) and the Council of Europe. It is implemented by the Council of Europe in partnership the High Council of Justice of Ukraine, the Supreme Court, Ministry of Justice, State Court Administration, High Commercial and High Administrative Courts, General Prosecutor's Office, Committees of the Parliament on Legal Policy and Judiciary, Council of Judges, High Qualification Commission of Judges, National Commission on Strengthening of Democracy and Ascertain the Rule of Law, Academy of Judges, National Prosecution Academy of Ukraine, Union of Advocates, Ukrainian Bar Association and other Ukrainian agencies. The programme will operate till December 2010.

The Programme has four main goals:

- establishment of the legal framework for a transparent, accessible and efficient judiciary;
- promoting access to the judiciary system for the citizens;
- strengthening efficiency of the judicial system and quality of judicial decisions in line with the European standards;
- increasing transparency and accountability of the judicial system.

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

#### **EU-FUNDED PROJECT ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR RURAL POPULATION HELD ROUNDTABLE ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

**On 12 November a roundtable “Mechanisms of prevention, stopping and combating children’s rights violation and violence towards children: experience of citizens’ initiatives implementation” was held in Kyiv. The roundtable was organised by the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports in cooperation with the EU-funded Project “Improving Access to Justice for Rural Population”.**

Representatives from different regions of Ukraine were able to present their experience in conducting informational and educational campaigns in rural areas and attracting attention to children’s rights and the prevention of violence towards children. They also discussed mechanisms of the authorities and community interaction to provide for the protection of children’s rights.

As a result of campaigns conducted, schools and non-governmental organisations created a number centres in schools to solve conflicts and clubs for children’s rights. In addition, the co-operation among different organisations and community has been set up to prevent and combat the consequences of violence towards children.

The two-year project on Improving Access to Justice for Rural Population is implemented by the Counterpart Creative Center, Civil Society Institute and funded with a €445,000 grant from the European Union. The project objective is to improve access to justice for the rural population. The project activities focus on educating rural citizens from four districts in Vinnytsia, Odesa, Ivano-Frankivsk and Volyn regions about resolving public-legal and civil disputes and creating appropriate organisational and legal conditions to introduce the courts of justice and arbitration courts for rural population.

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### **JOINT EU-COUNCIL OF EUROPE ANTI-CORRUPTION PROJECT HOLDS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting of the joint EU-Council of Europe project against corruption in Ukraine (UPAC) took place on 21 November and brought together representatives from all partner institutions, the European Commission and the Council of Europe.**

The participants positively assessed the progress made in the implementation of the project, identified priorities and agreed on future activities to be held before the end of the project in June 2009. ➔



➔ The project will particularly focus on specialisation of law enforcement officials and judges in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating corruption offences as well as on the completion of system studies on corruption risks within various state institutions. The issue of the anti-corruption legislation, in particular the anti-corruption package of laws and civil service legislation (including the code of ethics for public officials and provisions on conflicts of interest) as well as the issue of specialised anticorruption bodies will also be addressed.

The joint three-year project of the European Union and the Council of Europe on Support to Good Governance: Project Against Corruption in Ukraine aims specifically at contributing to the prevention and the control of corruption in the political, judicial and administrative systems in Ukraine and reinforcing the public confidence in these systems.

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## **EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**4 December 2008, Kyiv**

### **Start-up Conference on Women's and Children's Rights Project**

The start-up conference of the project on Strengthening and Protecting Women's and Children's Rights in Ukraine will take place at the Ministry of Justice. This €1.2 million project is funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe

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**5 December 2008, Odesa**

### **Workshop on Steppe Pasture-Land Management**

This event is organised by the EU-funded Project on Sustainable Integrated Land Use of Eurasian Steppe. 25 local officials, farmers and agronomists will participate in the workshop.

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**5 December 2008, Kyiv**

### **Roundtable on Legislation on Civil Service and Conflicts of Interest**

This event is organised by the joint EU-Council of Europe project against corruption in Ukraine (UPAC) in cooperation with the Main Civil Service Department of Ukraine and SIGMA (joint OECD/EU initiative "Support for Improvement in Governance and Management").

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**12 December 2008, Dnipropetrovsk**

### **Information Day on EU-Ukraine Co-operation, 10:00-17:00**

Student Palace, 1 Shevchenka Sq., Dnipropetrovsk

Representatives from nine different projects in Dnipropetrovsk and other eastern oblasts of Ukraine will present the results of technical assistance in the fields of Business and Industry, Local Communities and Civil Society and Health and Education. Officials from the Delegation of the European Commission, local authorities and the Dnipropetrovsk National University will take part in the opening session.

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**12 December 2008, Kyiv (Hotel Rus)**

### **Final Steering Committee of Capacity-Building of Migration Management Project**

Final conference of EU-funded, IOM-implemented project; participants will include Deputy Minister of Interior, Mr. Marmazov, Deputy Head of the SBGS, Mr. Melnikov, Delegation of the European Commission representative and the IOM Chief of Mission, Mr. Labovitz. A press conference will precede the Steering Committee Meeting.

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