

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

19, 17 December 2008

INFORMATION DAY OF EU-FUNDED PROJECTS TAKES PLACE IN DNIPROPETROVSK



On 12 December the EC Delegation to Ukraine conducted an information day on EU-Ukraine co-operation. Held at the Students' Palace of the Dnipropetrovsk National University the event brought together representatives of nine different EU-funded projects from Dnipropetrovsk and other, primarily eastern oblasts of Ukraine. The information day focused on three main areas: EU support to the health and education sectors; support to local communities and civil society; and support to Ukrainian business and industry. Attended by local government representatives, education and medical professionals, students, NGO activists, journalists, 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.

The information day was opened by Ms. Laura Garagnani, Head of Operations at the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, Mr. Volodymyr Tiurin, Deputy Mayor of Dnipropetrovsk, and Mr. Mykhailo Diachenko, Vice-Rector of the Dnipropetrovsk National University. In her greeting remarks Ms. Garagnani noted: *“Over the past four years over €2 million has been allocated to projects in Dnipropetrovsk oblast. When we take into account neighbouring oblasts such as Poltava and Kharkiv, the figure is much greater underlining the EU's commitments to all oblasts of Ukraine, including those in the East. I hope that you will take the opportunity to find out more about the EU-funded projects that are active in your area and discover how the European Union is co-operating closely with Ukraine through its projects in the east of the country”.*

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

MEET PROJECTS PARTICIPATING IN THE EU INFORMATION DAY IN DNIPROPETROVSK

Project on Strengthening Regional Vocational Education and Training Management

The EU project on Strengthening Regional Vocational Education and Training (VET) Management in Ukraine started in September 2005 and will finish in September 2009.

The overall objective of the project is to bring Ukraine's VET system in line with social, economic and labour market needs, both in terms of structure and content. The specific objectives of the project include: development and implementation of a strategy for the decentralisation of the VET governance, management and administration; development and establishment of a management information system for VET; development of a national funding and quality assurance system in support of the decentralisation of the vocational education and training; improvement of the training provision for the agricultural sector.



Olena Hurska, the director of Dnipropetrovsk technical school No. 55, a visitor to the Information Day:

- We came here today as if we visited our old good friends, because we have been working with this project for a long time. Thanks to this project we are actively improving our approach towards professional and technical education and implementing various curricula, approximating them to European standards.

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Web-site: <http://www.inwent-vet.org.ua>

Project on Coal Sector Policy Support Programme

The EU-funded Coal Sector Support Programme runs from August 2008 to December 2010. Through its individual components the programme is geared towards creating a reliable and sustainable basis for the comprehensive coal sector policy support framework as part of the coal sector transformation process in Ukraine. Its overall budget is nearly € million.

The overall objective of the project is twofold:

- support Ukraine's stakeholders to advance substantially the development and restructuring of the coal-mining industry in a socially-responsible and cost-effective manner. ➔



- ➔ A socially responsible approach comprises, among other aspects, the careful handling of environmental issues and the gradual elimination of ecological damage caused by mining activities and the closure of unprofitable mines.
- support the Ministry of Coal Industry and other stakeholders to improve safety standards substantially by developing a pilot scheme functioning as a model for further development of occupational safety standards and providing a grant scheme to finance innovative proposals in the field of mine safety.

Oleksiy Garanin, a student of the Dnipropetrovsk Academy of Mining:

- I am a senior student and in just six months I will be working on my own. That is why my conversation with Mr. Krzysztof Pitel, the project director, was very important to me. Perspectives of in-depth renovation of Ukrainian mines and approximation of all technologies to European standards currently is the main area of interest for me.

Contact person: Galyna Sidelkovska, e-mail: gsidelkovska@eu-coalsector.com.ua

Project on Support to Sustainable Regional Development in Ukraine

The project on Sustainable Regional Development in Ukraine is part of a sector-wide approach to sustainable regional development, complementing a series of ongoing EU-funded local development projects in Sumy, Chernigiv, Kharkiv and Lugansk oblasts.

Regional development is a core policy for the EU. In Ukraine the problem of socio-economic disparities between regions is becoming acute. The project activities focus on strengthening the Ukrainian authorities' capacity in policy formulation and decision-making process for sustainable regional development, establishing a national financial instrument for regional development, and assisting the Ukrainian authorities in implementing the plan of activities for sustainable regional development.

The four-year project started in July 2008 and has a total budget of €15 million.

Oleksandr Fesyk, the head of Synelnykovo rayon council:

- My colleagues and I had an opportunity to learn about this project, its activities and plans. Of course, we cannot influence decisions, made at the national level, however, we would like to co-operate with the project at our local and regional levels. We hope that such co-operation will be very fruitful.

Contact person: Tanja Zabukovec, team leader; e-mail: tanjaz@siol.net



Project on Support to Secondary Healthcare Reform in Ukraine

The overall objective of EU-funded project is to support the government and the Ministry of Health in their determination to create an effective and equitable healthcare system in Ukraine, wherein the secondary healthcare sector will play an essential role. The project is implemented from August 2007 to December 2009 in Zhytomyr, Poltava and Kharkiv oblasts and targets health sector government officials, executive managers of secondary healthcare institutions, postgraduates and undergraduates representatives of medical schools, and medical staff. The project's objectives also include development of a national long-term human resource strategy for secondary health care provision. The overall project budget is over €4 million.

Yuriy Pysmennyi, the head physician of Novomoskovsk city hospital (Dnipropetrovsk oblast), a visitor to the Information Day:

- As a medical worker, I was very curious to learn about the first results of the project implementation in other oblasts of Ukraine. Today we have exchanged contact information with the project staff members, and I hope that our hospital will actively participate in project activities as soon as it covers our region.

Contact person: Natalia Loochsheva, e-mail: Natalia.Loochsheva@epos.de

EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

ROUNDTABLE ON LEGISLATION ON CIVIL SERVICE AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

On 5 December the joint EU-Council of Europe project against corruption in Ukraine (UPAC) organised a roundtable on "Legislation on civil service and conflicts of interest". This event was one of the UPAC activities aimed at supporting the "anticorruption mainstreaming" in the civil service reform in Ukraine.

Its objective was to review the Ukrainian legislation on civil service, discuss the issue of the legal regulation of conflicts of interest in line with International and European standards and formulate recommendations for improvement. ➔

➔ In assessing the draft law on civil service, the participants pointed out the necessity to adopt a framework law on civil service that would regulate the distinction between political and administrative position, a merit-based selection, salary scheme as well as trainings for public servants in order to ensure their professionalism, stability and competences.

Moreover, the participants called for the adoption of regulations regarding conflicts of interest that will include provisions on prevention, management and resolution of conflicts of interest as well as on protection of rights of persons reporting conflicts of interest and liability.

Detailed recommendations developed by the participants will be available shortly.

Contact person: Mr Roman Chlapak, roman.chlapak@coe.int More information: <http://www.coe.int/upac>

EUROPEAN UNION LAUNCHES PROJECT TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF UKRAINE

The EU-funded Programme on Accountability and Effectiveness of Ukrainian Judiciary Functioning: Civil Service Component was launched on 16 December in the Supreme Court of Ukraine.

The Programme was introduced at a press conference by Mr Vasyl Gumeniuk, Judge of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, Mr Dirk Schuebel, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, and Ms Edi Fracassini, Programme Team Leader.



The Programme will support the formation of an accessible, effective, transparent and professional judiciary in Ukraine which will comply with relevant European standards. The Programme will operate until December 2010 with the total budget of EUR 5 million. The Programme has the following main goals: improved personnel management in the courts; improved court efficiency through the enhanced organisation and training of court personnel; improved education and training of state enforcement officers; compliance of the Ukrainian judicial system with relevant European standards.

The Programme will be implemented by a consortium led by WYG International in partnership with the Supreme Court of Ukraine, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, the Council of Judges of Ukraine, the State Enforcement Service at the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, the State Court Administration of Ukraine, the Centre for Professional Development of the Ministry of Justice and the Academy of Judges of Ukraine.

In his remarks during the press conference, Mr. Schuebel noted: "The EU stands by the side of Ukraine to support its reform efforts, including in the area of improved administrative and judicial capacity. The EU encourages Ukraine not only to improve its legislation but to implement it effectively in line with European standards."

More information: Mrs Anna Lebedeva, Programme Expert in Communication and Visibility, anna.lebedeva@ujfp.org.ua

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

19 December 2008, Luhansk

Press Tour on Steppe Nature Reserve Management

This event for local journalists is organised by the EU-funded Project on Sustainable Integrated Land Use of Eurasian Steppe.

Contact person: Galina Poshtarenko, e-mail: gposhtarenko@mottmac.com.ua

19-20 December 2008, Simeiz, Crimea

Expert workshop on transparency of political funding

The event is organised in the framework of the joint EU/Council of Europe project against corruption in Ukraine (UPAC) to work out relevant amendments to Ukrainian legislation.

Contact person: Mr Roman Chlapak, roman.chlapak@coe.int More information: <http://www.coe.int/upac>

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