



Key events of the EU-Ukraine cooperation. July, 2013

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK REVEALS UKRAINE'S HUGE ENERGY SAVING POTENTIAL



A solar stove made out of an aquarium and aluminum foil

Building a solar collector for a family can be easy and cheap, biofuel cars can save the environment and money, and children can easily learn how to conserve energy at home. These and other ideas were promoted during *European Sustainable Energy Week* (EUSEW) in Ukraine. The event is part of a pan-European initiative and was held by the EU Delegation to Ukraine and its partners between June 22 and 30 across Ukraine.

"It is very encouraging for us to see the active participation of Ukraine in this initiative," said **Walter Tretton**, head of *EU Delegation's* infrastructure and transport section, during the EUSEW opening ceremony in Zhytomyr. This participation shows that, *"Ukraine is waking up to the enormous potential of the 'hidden fuel' of energy saving,"* he adds.

The **City of Sun**, an exhibition of energy efficient technologies and activities, attracted children and adults alike to the EUSEW opening in Gagarin Park in Zhytomyr on June 24. Citizens could discover, for example, that building a solar collector by themselves is easy and fun: a small model of a collector was on display at the exhibition. This technology can be easily constructed at home and used seven or eight months a year according to **Oksana Mayboroda**,

leader of the EU-funded project, *Switch to Sun, Live with Comfort* organised by *Ecoclub*, a Ukrainian NGO. Constructing a solar collector will cost a household only about UAH 3,000 (€250) and the investment will pay for itself in energy savings after about three years. *Ecoclub* created [detailed instructions](#) and regularly holds training sessions to teach groups of citizens how to construct a collector.

Read the full article: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2013/07/02/eusew/>

EU AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ADVISE UKRAINE TO ADOPT ELECTORAL CODE



Jan Tombiński, Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine (left), Peter Paczolay, member of the Venice Commission and the President of the Constitutional Court of Hungary (right)

An Electoral Code can be a tool to provide a solid regulatory framework for all types of elections and ensure protection of voting rights of Ukrainian citizens. This opinion was expressed by representatives of the EU, US, Venice Commission and OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) at a round table hosted by the EU Delegation in Kyiv on June 20. They also stressed that the reform of electoral legislation is one of the benchmarks set by the EU on the way to the signature of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

Opening the roundtable, Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, Ambassador **Jan Tombiński** said that electoral legislation should be adopted in "large consensus between different political forces, and between government, political parties and civil society." He adds that the aim of the electoral legislation is to "ensure that the votes of all the voters are respected and reflected."



US Ambassador **John Tefft** called Ukraine to ensure an “open and inclusive” electoral legislative process, involving the government, opposition, the civil society, and media. He reminded that Ukrainian 2012 parliamentary elections were criticised for the lack of the level playing field, caused by the abuse of administrative resources, non-transparent campaign and party financing, and the lack of balanced media coverage. The best way to resolve these drawbacks will be to adopt the Electoral Code building upon the draft developed in 2010, which “might be a good place to start,” the Ambassador said. Speaking about the referendum law, he stressed that constitutional amendments “must be adopted pursuant to the procedures of the existing constitution, and not by popular initiative.”

Read the full article: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2013/06/21/electoral-legislation/>

ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WOULD BE A “MAJOR LEAP” IN EU-UKRAINE RELATIONS, SAYS EU-UKRAINE COOPERATION COUNCIL



Stefan Füle, EU Commissioner for enlargement and ENP, and Mykola Azarov, Ukraine's Prime Minister

The sixteenth EU-Ukraine Cooperation Council was held on 24 June in Luxembourg. The EU was represented by Eamon Gilmore, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Ireland and Mr Stefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Neighbourhood Policy. Prime Minister Mykola Azarov led the Ukrainian delegation. Read below the key points of its conclusions.

On EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. The signature and the implementation of the Agreement would represent a major leap in EU-Ukraine relations. Re-enforced efforts by Ukraine to demonstrate determined action and achieve tangible progress on all benchmarks will be critical for preparing for the assessment and comprehensive debate by the Foreign Affairs Council in early autumn on the possible

signing of the Agreement.

On Commission's proposals adopted on 15 May. These proposals represent an important technical step to enable the EU to sign the Agreement, but do not prejudge the final political decision.

On selective justice in Ukraine. The EU put particular emphasis on addressing the outstanding case of selective justice and preventing any recurrence of selective justice by a comprehensive judicial reform in line with European standards.

On elections. Prime attention needs to be given to the consideration of an Election Code as a means to ensure that uniform procedures in line with the European standards are applied to all types of elections. The electoral reform needed to be prepared on the basis of open and inclusive discussions with the political parties, NGOs and experts.

On business climate. The EU stressed its expectations as regards the improvement of the business climate in Ukraine. In this context, the EU reiterated its concerns about recent protectionist measures and expressed its confidence that Ukraine will eventually be able to deliver a satisfactory solution to trade and investments irritants.

On energy. The EU continues to support the modernisation of the Ukrainian Gas Transmission System and underlined the need for energy sector reforms to continue in line with Ukraine's Energy Community commitments.

On public finances. The EU insisted on the importance of adopting a public finance management reform strategy and reversing the backsliding on public procurement.

[Read the full text of the Conclusions](#)



EUROPE-INSPIRED IDEAS TO HELP ZHYTOMYR SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY



More than 400 children in Zhytomyr will study in a warm kindergarten, and city dwellers will feel safer walking on well-lit streets thanks to initiatives funded by the *Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)* and presented on June 25 during the European Sustainable Energy Week, an EU-wide initiative in which more than hundred European cities participate. Being held in Ukraine for the third time, the annual eco-awareness event opened in Zhytomyr on June 24.

The project, run by Zhytomyr authorities with *NEFCO* support and inspired by EU energy saving ideas, saw the city's 1,700 old-fashioned incandescent lamps replaced with LED light bulbs. Furthermore, the project made large-scale renovations to Kindergarten No 21, the municipality's biggest day-care centre, aimed at reduction of energy consumption and the costs of heating. Both initiatives were made possible thanks to municipal funds and a loan from the *NEFCO* Facility for Energy Saving Credits.

The kindergarten, "is the right place to show how our children can live in the future and how not to waste energy," said **Walter Tretton**, head of the Energy, Transport and Environment section of the *EU Delegation to Ukraine*, during his visit to this childcare centre.

Before the renovation, energy saving experts who visited the kindergarten, "were shocked at how much energy has been lost," says the kindergarten's director, **Kateryna Tomashevych**. Constructed 32 years ago following a construction plan designed for southern regions, the kindergarten was vulnerable to the cold winters, she says.

The heat-retaining renovations funded by *NEFCO* started from the attic; improved the facade and foundation, replaced windows with energy efficient ones, upgraded the heat exchange and temperature measuring units and established an automatic heat supply regulation system.

"All of us have felt the changes," says **Oksana Khrystiuk**, one of the heads of the kindergarten's parents' committee. "It was warm and cosy this winter in the kindergarten, and I had no fear that my child would get sick," she says. Before the renovations, the temperature inside the building rarely exceeded 18 °C ; this winter, it never fell below 21 °C, according to **Tomashevych**.

Read the full article: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2013/07/02/zhytomyr/>

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK: ENERGY SAVING HELPS HEALTH OF COMMUNITY

Residents of Studenytsia village in Zhytomyr oblast now have better access to healthcare thanks to energy efficiency upgrades and renovations in the local ambulatory care clinic. Presented to media within the context of European Sustainable Energy Week on June 24, the initiative was inspired and partially financed by the *Community-Based Approach to Local Development (CBA)*, a programme funded by the EU and run by UNDP. The programme covered half of the cost of the project while the community and local authorities collected the other half.

"It is a small project but it has a big value," says **Walter Tretton**, the head of the *EU Delegation's* infrastructure and transport section, commending the initiative's success. He adds that the EU would like to see these micro-projects implemented across Ukraine become "models for other villages" in the country.



Walter Tretton, the head of the EU Delegation's infrastructure and transport section, talks to Anatoliy Kryvopanchuk, ambulatory's chief doctor



The two-phase initiative in Studenytsia began with improving energy efficiency in the local ambulatory. It installed energy saving windows and coal boilers, helping the building to save money previously spent on expensive gas. *"Before, 15% of the ambulatory's budget – about UAH 80,000-100,000 annually (ca. € 7,000-9,000) - was spent on energy,"* says **Anatoliy Kryvopanchuk**, its chief doctor. Now the coal boiler has decreased energy spending to just UAH 20,000 per year. In three years, savings reached more than UAH 150,000 (more than €3,600), matching the community and local administration's contribution to the initiative.

After a successful energy saving upgrade, the project repaired the ambulatory's roof and purchased dental and physiotherapy equipment. In both phases the CBA initiative covered 50% of the costs (about UAH 150,000 or €3,600) while 5% of the funding was collected by residents themselves (almost UAH 15,000), and the remaining 45% was provided by the local authorities, says **Denys Poltavets**, the CBA project's community development specialist.

Local residents were skeptical about the initiative at first, admits **Nadiya Kotenko**, head of Korostoshyv rayon state administration in Zhytomyr oblast. But gradually people started to believe they could do things together, created an NGO and turned the idea into the reality, she says. **Vasyl Matviychuk**, mayor of Studenytsia, agrees, saying the CBA project, *"boosted the community's solidarity, creating confidence that if people do things together, they will succeed."*

Read the full article: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2013/07/02/studenytisia/>

EUBAM ANNOUNCED A COMPETITION FOR JOURNALISTS 'BORDER AND REFORMS'



EUBAM together with border and law enforcement agencies of Moldova and Ukraine is delighted to announce an open competition for journalists 'Border and reforms'.

The goal of the competition is to raise public awareness of the reforms that Moldovan and Ukrainian border agencies are going through, how these reforms affect citizens and help to fight cross border crime, and how the EU supports these reforms in Moldova and Ukraine.

The competition is open for representatives of printed, TV, radio, and on-line media from Moldova and Ukraine. The media reports, including photo reports, eligible for the competition should be published/aired before the application is submitted. Journalists participating in the competition should submit their works in the form of articles/reports or internet publications covering one or all of the topics [mentioned in](#)

[the detailed information about the competition.](#)

The application should be submitted by 18:00 **1st September** 2013 to the e-mail borderandreforms@eubam.org.

To learn more about the competition [please click here](#).

NEW HORIZONS: RESOURCE CENTRE HELPS LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO GET MORE FUNDING

The success of the EU-UNDP programme, "Community-based Approach to Local Development" (CBA), inspired citizens of Nova Ushchytsia rayon in Ukraine's Khmelnytskyi oblast to look for more funding opportunities. Encouraged by the programme's impact, citizens established a new resource centre, which now co-operates with EU-UNDP projects and provides information and advice to NGOs and active citizens keen to develop their communities.



Resource centre in Nova Ushytsia, Khmelnytska oblast, Ukraine

We met with community representatives of Nova Ushytsia rayon on the day when a new water pipeline was officially unveiled in Otrokiv village. Over one hundred village households are now supplied with clean spring water. *"The water is soft and agreeable,"* says **Viacheslav Tretiak**, the project coordinator, after drinking from the water valve. *"The village community co-financed the project, covering half of its cost,"* he says, adding that people themselves collected UAH 130,995 (about €2,000): the biggest contribution by a community to a micro project implemented in Khmelnytskyi oblast.

The CBA project not only helped people in the Nova Ushytsia rayon get clean water to their homes but also encouraged citizen self-organisation. After the project was completed, the community established its own resource centre in partnership with rayon authorities and the EU-UNDP CBA project.

Oleg Shynkarenko, the resource centre leader, says that the centre will investigate assistance programmes created by different donor organisations, and disseminate this information to the community. *"NGO leaders often lack experience, and some villages even don't have internet,"* he says, adding that the resource centre can fill this information gap. *"Recently, for example, we received information about the new call for proposals launched by the EU on regional policy,"* Shynkarenko says, adding that although it is difficult to write the project proposal, *"we have to do our best to be successful."*

Read the full article: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2013/07/02/resource-centre/>

MEP PAWEŁ ZALEWSKI: ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WILL BE JUST THE BEGINNING OF UKRAINE'S EU INTEGRATION



MEP Paweł Zalewski talks to Ukrainian students at EU Study Days

On May 26, Ukrainian students participating in **EU Study Days** (an education project launched the EU Delegation to Ukraine) heard a first-hand analysis of EU-Ukraine relations from **Paweł Zalewski**, a member of the European Parliament representing the European People's Party and vice-chair of the European Parliament Committee on International Trade. The MEP focused on the role of the upcoming EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and discussed bilateral relations between Kyiv and Brussels by situating them within the broader context of the EU's foreign policy. MEP Zalewski highlighted the following:

On the key issues of EU-Ukraine relations. The EU is focused first and foremost on standards. These are vital for Ukrainian integration into the European Single Market following the signature of the Association Agreement, including the creation of a deep and comprehensive free trade area.

On the Polish pre-accession experience. The upcoming EU-Ukraine Association Agreement is more ambitious than the Polish equivalent that Warsaw negotiated with Brussels before launching the official accession process. The Polish Association Agreement was focused on economics and mainly benefitted European businesses. As a result, the first years following the signature of the

deal were difficult for the Polish economy, which suddenly faced tough competition from European producers. These challenging years, however, were necessary for the country's economic modernisation. After undergoing comprehensive reforms stimulated by the Association Agreement, the Polish economy became competitive at the European level as it began to function based on European norms and standards. If Kyiv signs the Association Agreement in 2013, it will be just the beginning of Ukraine's European integration.

Read the full article: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2013/07/02/zalewski/>



UKRAINIAN BORDER GUARDS GAIN FIRST-HAND SKILLS THANKS TO EU PROJECT



More than 1000 representatives from customs and border authorities from six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries benefited from the EU-funded project, "Eastern Partnership – Integrated Border Management Flagship Initiative Training."

Martijn Pluim, *director of Eastern Dimension at the International Center for Migration Policy Development*, presented the results of the 30-month project at the closing conference on June 12 in Kyiv.

The project dealt with a wide range of issues: document security, detection of drugs and smuggled cigarettes, protection of intellectual property rights, the fight against corruption and combating human trafficking. The participants got an opportunity to learn about the EU's good practices and strengthen their expertise in a number of areas related to border management, Pluim emphasised.

He also added that the knowledge acquired through the project will contribute to Ukraine's progress in meeting its obligations under the visa liberalisation action plan agreement with the EU.

Oleksandr Panchenko, *deputy head of the Department of International Co-operation of State Border Service of Ukraine*, added that Ukraine is now on the brink of launching a new programme to provide all interested parties with the knowledge and skills acquired through the project.

The overall objective of the training project was to facilitate the movement of persons and goods across borders in the six EaP countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) while maintaining secure borders. This goal was achieved through the enhancement of inter-agency and bilateral/multilateral co-operation among the partner countries, EU member states and other international stakeholders. With a budget of €2 million, the project started in January 2011 and lasted for two and a half years.

For further information: www.eap-fit.eu

Useful links:

For more information on EU-Ukraine relations, consult the following resources <http://euukrainecoop.com/useful-links/>

Calendar of past and future events: <http://euukrainecoop.com/calendar/>