



Key events of the EU-Ukraine cooperation. July, 2015

GIVING HOPE: IDPS LAUNCH NEW CAREERS

We met Yulia in Druzhkivka, a small industrial town in Donbas. She's wearing a pink t-shirt, big earrings in her ears, and her hair is pulled back in a ponytail.



Julia (on the left) with other IDPs

She now lives in a centre for IDPs, where she sleeps in a bunk bed. Hers is the top bunk.

Yulia is from Spartak, a once-peaceful village near the Donetsk airport. Today the town is nearly completely destroyed, as is **Yulia's house**.

When, in August 2014, the first shots were fired in Spartak, her parents sent her away from the village; the few belongings she hastily grabbed as she left, "fit into one bag." As for her parents, they stayed another five days in their home.

"One of our neighbours was killed by shrapnel as he closed his basement doors. In the evening before the incident my parents spoke with him. And in the morning we heard he was dead." The next day her parents left the village. *"The only means of transportation they had were bicycles."*

"When I finished the academic year in the spring and said 'goodbye' to my classmates, they said a phrase I remembered: 'we'll meet in September, everything will be fine.' But I didn't end up seeing any of them," Yulia says.

Today Yulia lives in **the centre for IDPs in Druzhkivka**, a two-storey building on Liberty Street. The building was repaired by two volunteers: **Vasylyna**, who was held captive for 120 hours by separatists, and her colleague **Larysa**. Now international organisations, particularly the **UNHCR** and **EU**, support the centre. As a result of these efforts, IDPs have a place to live and receive humanitarian aid when they need it including food, household cleaning products, and clothing.

But now it is becoming clear that humanitarian aid cannot solve all the problems IDPs face. It will never be enough for everyone. An international organisation may distribute several hundred blankets, but 3000 IDPs need them; it can give out diapers for one hundred children, but in Kramatorsk alone there are about 1000 displaced children under one year old.

That is why there is a dire need for new solutions, including supporting IDPs in finding employment. There are few job opportunities to go around and it is very difficult to find job in a new place, especially for IDPs living in centres far from big cities.

In April Yulia participated in a training opportunity organised by the **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)** and the NGO, **"Ukrainski rubezhi"** with the support of the **EU**. The training is designed to help IDPs acquire new the skills and knowledge they need to get into a new profession or launch a start-up.

"We put together training sessions on how to find oneself," says **Iryna Drozd**, one of the instructors. *"It was a short course on business management and product promotion."* There was also training on how to change specialisation and acquire new a profession.

Read the full text at <http://euukrainecoop.com/2015/08/05/idp-trainings/>



EU BANK LENDS €400 MILLION TO UPGRADE MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN UKRAINE

The European Investment Bank has provided a loan of €400 million to finance projects devoted to the modernisation of public infrastructure in Ukrainian cities.

The aging infrastructure of many Ukrainian municipalities requires substantial modernisation. *“Up to 80% of municipal infrastructure networks are in lousy condition,”* says **Hennadiy Zubko**, vice prime minister and minister of regional development.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) loan is allocated toward **some 25-40 projects fostering improvements in the energy efficiency of large and medium-sized municipalities**. These improvements include modernisation of district heating, implementation of energy saving measures in public buildings, upgrading of municipal lighting, etc. Overall, the loan is expected to contribute to Ukraine’s energy security, a reduction in water loss, improvements to solid waste management, and the safety and quality of municipal services.



“Modern and reliable municipal infrastructure will contribute to increasing the quality of life of people living in Ukrainian cities,” says **László Baranyay**, the EIB Vice-President responsible for lending operations in Ukraine. He asserts that the EIB loan, *“will help to save energy, provide better and more economical services, and help to protect the environment.”*

The EIB loan will finance **up to 50% of the total costs of the suite of energy efficiency projects**. The remaining costs will be covered by parallel financing from other international financial institutions, investment grants, and out of the pockets of the projects’ final beneficiaries.

Background

The EIB – the official bank of the European Union – finances projects in Ukraine on the basis of an EU Council and European Parliament mandate for Eastern Neighbourhood countries. The mandate enables the Bank to support projects of significant interest to the EU and its Eastern Neighbours in the areas of local private sector development, social and economic infrastructure, and climate change.

In March 2014, the European Commission announced a **comprehensive assistance package amounting to €11 billion** for 2014-2016 to support Ukraine under certain conditions. For its part, the EIB is contributing to this package by lending up to €3 billion over the next three years, should political and operational conditions allow. **The EU bank will focus on energy and infrastructure investment as well as access to financing for SMEs.**

The Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund (EPTATF) is a funding mechanism for technical assistance to ensure more successful project implementation in Eastern Partnership Countries. The EPTATF is conceived as a multi-donor, multi-sector fund whose main objective is to enhance the quality and development impact of the EIB lending operations in the Eastern Partnership countries. It focuses on four priority sectors: **energy, environment, transport, and telecommunications, with climate change and urban development as cross-cutting issues.**

The Municipal Project Support Facility (MPSF) is a technical assistance facility funded by the Neighbourhood Investment Facility. The facility aims at providing support to municipal projects in the Eastern Partnership countries. It focuses on support to investments projects in all municipal sectors (including district heating, energy efficiency in buildings, municipal lighting improvements, as well as projects related to the water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management).

Read the full text at <http://euukrainecoop.com/2015/07/31/eu-loan-400mln/>



THE EU HELPS PUT ROOFS OVER THE HEADS OF IDPs

“This is a family of four from Horlivka. They received flour, pasta, buckwheat, peas, rice, bread, vegetables, and diapers. The child also got a backpack for school.”

Olha Krasikova, director of the centre for collective accommodation of internally-displaced persons (IDPs) in **Kostyantynivka**, an industrial town in Donbas, shows us a big registration book. In it she records the names of IDPs who received humanitarian aid, what they received, and when. Since spring 2014 she has registered **over 3,000 people**.



Olha Krasikova, director of the centre for collective accommodation of internally-displaced persons in Kostyantynivka

At the beginning, in the spring and summer of 2014, people mostly arrived from Slovyansk. Then, after Slovyansk was freed and the war moved on to other parts of Donbas, people started to come from Horlivka, Donetsk, Avdiivka, and Yenakievo.

The centre for collective accommodation of IDPs was once a shelter for homeless people. When the war broke out and people started to arrive in Kostyantynivka fleeing conflict-affected areas, the city administration designated the building for IDP accommodation. At that time it had no insulation, large blankets serving as doors, no sanitary ware, and no showers.

“Beds were set up anywhere people could find an empty corner. They were separated with curtains. There was even a bed near the toilet. People were grateful even for this, because they didn’t have the money to rent an apartment,” recounts Krasikova.

Local citizens brought blankets, bed linens, clothes, shoes, and food to the centre. From summer to autumn the centre fed about 130 people per day: 40 litres of soup was brought in a milk churn from another part of the town every day. The main dishes were cooked at the centre.

In autumn 2014, international organisations also started to provide support to IDPs. The Czech NGO, **People in Need**, opened an office in Slovyansk in September 2014. Thanks to EU financial support, the NGO provided the centre in Kostyantynivka with sanitary ware (toilets and wash-basins), repair materials (drywall, doors, and wires), food, and blankets.

To provide humanitarian aid, organisations visit IDP housing centres and speak with the managers, conduct focus groups, and speak with the IDPs themselves. Step-by-step, these people explain what they need. There is often also a mechanism in place for aid recipients to provide feedback. For example, People in Need has a general hotline for complaints and suggestions. After the project is implemented, the NGO surveys a portion of those who received aid.

To date, the EU and its member states have allocated **millions of euros in humanitarian aid for Ukraine**. The EU provides its support via international organisations like People in Need, Save the Children, UN agencies, the Danish Refugee Council, and the Norwegian Refugee Council. These organisations work most often with Ukrainian volunteers, believing that these citizens and humanitarian workers understand the needs of IDPs better than officials.

Read the full text at <http://euukrainecoop.com/2015/08/06/eu-pin/>



KINDERGARTEN IN VINNYTSIA OBLAST MODERNISED WITH ENERGY-SAVING TECHNOLOGIES THANKS TO THE EU AND UNDP

A Kindergarten in Vinnytsia oblast saves over 6,000 cubic metres of gas annually thanks to the support of the UNDP project, Community Based Approach to Local Development, which is co-funded by the EU. The kindergarten is now equipped with energy-saving technologies acquired with the help of EU and UNDP grants.

Sonechko (Sun, in English) Kindergarten in the village of Tomashpil in Vinnytsia oblast shines like a new pin with brand new energy-saving windows and rooftop solar panels. The kindergarten's director and the village residents, however, can attest to the dramatic transformation the upgrades represented.

In 2013, the Tomashpil community came together in an effort to repair the local kindergarten. At that time, the building had a broken roof and old windows and had no water heater. *"If you saw pictures of our kindergarten three years ago, you would be impressed by the difference,"* says *Maryna*, a mother of two boys who attend Sonechko kindergarten.

There was a lot of work to be done, so the community applied for a grant through the Community Based Approach to Local Development (CBA) project.



"We repaired and insulated the roof in 2013, which cost UAH 366,000. The EU and UNDP allocated UAH 80,000 to support that project," explains *Olena Hodna*, director of the Tomashpil kindergarten. Motivated by the success of the first initiative, the community implemented a second project totalling about **UAH 400,000** in 2014 to **install eaves and solar panels and to upgrade the building's heating system**. At this time the EU and UNDP granted us **UAH 229,000**. The rest of the cost was covered by the local budget and by the citizens themselves.

"We save over 6,000 cubic metres of gas per year, and 300 kilowatts of electricity per month," Hodna says. With the savings, the kindergarten was able to buy new furniture for the children and make repairs to the kitchen and laundry room. Now the kids wash their hands with warm water, which is also important.

Background

The Community Based Approach to Local Development (CBA) project launched its activities in 2007, aiming to promote sustainable socio-economic development at the local level.

The third phase of the CBA project will be implemented from 2014 to 2018 with a total budget of **€23.8 million** provided by the **European Union (€23 million)** and **UNDP (€800,000)**.

With CBA support, local communities establish and maintain partnerships with central and local governments, as well as the private sector and international donors and work together toward improving local infrastructure, encouraging self-employment, promoting entrepreneurship, and providing vital social services (e.g. education, health care, water supply, etc.).

Get more information about the CBA project at www.cba.org.ua, or UNDP in Ukraine – www.undp.org.ua, and Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/UNDPUkraine>

Read the full text at <http://euukrainecoop.com/2015/08/06/kindergarten-in-vinnytsia/>



UNDP AND EU SUPPORT BUILDING REPAIRS TO HOUSE IDPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, CHILDREN AND LARGE FAMILIES

Vitaliya Masliy lived in Slovyansk city in Donetsk oblast. This beautiful and graceful, yet strong and brave woman was forced to leave her home with her husband and young son during military operations. Masliy's family faced considerable hardship as a result of the conflict when the supply of water and heat to their flat was cut off. "This war has brought me disaster, uncertainty in the future, fear of what will come tomorrow, and fear for future of my family," says Masliy, who is confined to a wheelchair and struggled to find alternative housing that could accommodate her.



Opening ceremony of the Donbas Interregional Centre for Professional Rehabilitation of People with Special Needs

Together with many other internally displaced persons (IDPs) with special needs, Vitaliya finally found shelter at the Donbas Interregional Centre for Professional Rehabilitation of People with Special Needs. The Centre, located in Kramatorsk city, was renovated thanks to the support of the joint **EU/UNDP Community Based Approach to Local Development (CBA) project** in cooperation with the oblast, rayon, and municipal authorities and community organisations. As a result of the project, every floor in the building was outfitted with the necessities of life. A new elevator was installed, a hot water supply system was established, and bathrooms were renovated and equipped. The EU, in conjunction with the UNDP, **contributed 660,000 UAH** of non-repayable finance assistance to make this happen.

Background

The UNDP, together with the European Union, has allocated **a total budget of more than one million dollars** in support of **23 different construction projects in seven Ukrainian regions** (Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Poltava, Zaporizhzhya, Odesa, Donetsk and Luhansk) to create new homes for people in need. The Joint EU/UNDP Community Based Approach to Local Development (CBA) project, in partnership with local authorities, helps local communities to renovate temporary lodgings and social care centres for the most vulnerable, including mothers with children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. When all the reconstruction initiatives are complete, **more than 3000 internally displaced persons** will have found shelter at one of these locations.

Read the full text at <http://euukrainecoop.com/2015/07/21/cba-undp/>



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/>