

UKRAINE AND TRANS-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT NETWORKS



The Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) are part of the Trans-European Networks (TEN) which were created by the Maastricht Treaty (1992) to reinforce the internal market and economic and social cohesion. The Trans-European Transport Networks complement similar networks related to telecommunications (eTEN) and energy (TEN-E).

Allowing goods and people to circulate quickly and easily between Member States, is a key element in the re-launched Lisbon strategy for competitiveness and employment in Europe. The Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency (TEN-T EA) was created in 2006 to implement and manage the TEN-T programme on behalf of the European Commission.

30 priority axes form the basis of the Trans-European Transport Networks. The EU launched last year a € million project entitled "Support to the Integration of Ukraine in to Trans-European Transport Network TEN-T" (see below). This sector wide transport project helps Ukraine to develop a comprehensive long and medium term transport strategy.

In 2007, a report recommended the extension of the major trans-European transport axes to neighbouring countries, including Ukraine. The communication recommends extending the geographical coverage of the ten so-called Pan-European corridors, defined at the second Pan-European transport Conference in Crete in 1994. The Central Axis, one of the five axes identified by the communication, is centred largely on Ukraine.

For more information see: <http://ec.europa.eu/ten>

ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ON SUPPORT OF THE INTEGRATION OF UKRAINE'S TRANSPORT SYSTEM INTO TRANS-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT NETWORKS (TEN-T) TO DEVELOP LONG-TERM STRATEGY

The press conference on the occasion of the first steering committee of this project took place on 16 December in Kyiv. Mr. Igor Urbanskiy, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications of Ukraine and Mr. Hans Rhein, Head of Operations Section 1, Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine introduced the project and its planned outcomes to the media.

The overall objective of the project is to improve the transport sector in Ukraine through assistance to the Ministry of Transport and Communications for developing and implementing a coherent and comprehensive transport sector policy and strategy covering all modes of transport and such cross-cutting issues as logistics, inter-modals, border crossing, etc.

Within this project the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Ukraine will be supported in elaborating medium to long-term transport sector policy and strategy, making the necessary assessments, defining and prioritising the required investments, conducting the required pre-feasibility studies, and identifying and documenting the related funding mechanisms.

The 25-month project started in August 2008 and has a total budget of € million.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ON STRENGTHENING AND PROTECTING WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS TO TACKLE ABUSE

A new joint EU-Council of Europe project on strengthening and protecting women's and children's rights in Ukraine was launched on 4 December in Kyiv. This new project aims at improving the compatibility of existing laws and practices in Ukraine in the fields of gender equality and children's rights and contributing to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of children in line with the Revised European Social Charter, the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, and other relevant instruments. One of its main objectives is also to promote the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. ➔

➔ The conference was hosted by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and was attended by the representatives of the Ukrainian Parliament, presidential administration, Ministry for Family Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, EU Member States Embassies, EC Delegation to Ukraine and numerous NGOs working in this area. The project with a total budget of €1.2 million will run until August 2010. It is an integrated part of a larger programme (€4 million) launched by the European Union in Ukraine to support the government and civil societies in the country to address such issues like:

- discrepancies between Ukraine's national legislation and its international commitments in the area;
- gender bias in educational and career orientation;
- hidden as well as open discrimination in job selection process and during employment;
- high incidence of domestic violence.

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PROJECT ON COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FOSTERS DIALOGUE THROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FORUMS IN SUMY OBLAST

On 11-12 December a series of Local Development Forums were held in Trostianetskyi, Okhtyrskyi and Lypovodolynskyi rayons of Sumy oblast in the framework of the EU-UNDP Community Based Approach to Local Development Project (CBA project). These joint meetings of local communities, authorities and business were initiated by local communities.

The forums have been designed as mechanisms to provide support for implementation of the CBA project and to create favourable conditions for local sustainable development, in particular through establishing dialogue between local communities, authorities, business and non-governmental organizations.

Among participants of the forums were heads and officials of rayon state administrations and councils, heads of village councils and representatives of communities of Trostianetskyi, Okhtyrskyi and Lypovodolynskyi rayons, as well as employees of regional Community Resource Centre created within the framework of CBA Project.

It was decided during the meetings, that UAH 250,000-300,000 will be allocated from rayon-level budgets in 2009 to finance community initiatives within the framework of the CBA project. It is planned that community projects on improvement of living conditions will be co-funded by the CBA Project (50%), local budget (45%) and communities (5%). In the long-term perspective, regular organisation of the local development forums will contribute to elaboration of transparent and efficient mechanisms of participatory governance and planning.

The CBA project is funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine. The project's budget is €3.3 million, with €2 million provided by the EU.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR RURAL POPULATION BRINGS CHANGE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The conference was held on 11 December 2008 at the National Academy of Science of Ukraine. The goal of the conference was to present the results of the project that was implemented in Vinnitsa oblast (Bar rayon), Ivano-Frankivsk oblast (Kolomyia rayon), Odesa oblast (Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyy rayon) and Volyn oblast (Rozhyschy rayon) by the Counterpart Creative Center in partnership with the Civil Society Institute during 2006-2008. This project had a budget of €445,000 provided by EU.

The conference was opened by representatives of the Delegation of the European Commission, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction and Higher Court of Appeal of Ukraine.

Mr. Volodymyr Kupriy, the project director, made a presentation of the project results achieved over the three-year period: a number of public awareness actions were conducted in the rural communities of Ukraine; 44 training sessions were delivered to the community activists and local government representatives; three manuals on how to improve access to justice for rural population were produced; two arbitration courts and two school-based services for conflict resolution were established.

The project implementers dedicated their efforts to developing legislative initiatives. To date, three draft laws on improving access to justice for rural population are being considered by the Ukrainian Parliament.

The project has brought positive change to the communities participating in the project. The people learned more about the mechanisms for rights protection and are able to apply new knowledge in their everyday life. Government authorities and non-governmental organisations increased their capacity to develop arbitration and community justice.

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LUHANSK OBLAST MEDIA LEARN ABOUT EU-FUNDED PROJECT ON STEPPE LAND USE

On 19 December eleven Ukrainian journalists of Luhansk oblast media visited the EU-funded project on Sustainable Integrated Land Use of Eurasian Steppe. The project experts presented to journalists the map of steppe territories where ecosystems need restoration. This unique map will become a useful tool for local government officials, researchers and farmers. Ten representatives of the Luhansk oblast state administration and experts of the Luhansk Steppe Nature Reserve took part in this event.

The overall objective of the Steppe Land Use project is to contribute to the steppe conservation and steppe ecosystems restoration and their sustainable management as part of living land tenure system of the region. The project is implemented from June 2007 to December 2009 in Odesa and Luhansk oblasts in Ukraine, Cagul rayon in Moldova and Rostov oblast in Russia.

The project's specific objectives include:

- coordination of the efforts of international and regional experts in the fields of environment-friendly rural economy, biodiversity preservation, and ecological tourism development;
- development of the principles and mechanisms of sustainable steppe resource management for the implementation and testing at certain areas;
- promotion of economically effective and spare for biodiversity methods of the steppe resource management;
- activities which aim to raise awareness of involved partners and experts regarding changes in legislation and international experience exchange.



More information: <http://www.steppe.org.ua>; Contact e-mail: gposhtarenko@mottmac.com.ua

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

16 January 2009, Izmail, Odesa Oblast

Ukraine- Romania experts working group meeting on harmonisation of hydrometeorological monitoring systems

The meeting will be held by the EU-funded project on Improving Cross-Border Cooperation in Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Lower Danube Euroregion.

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21 January 2009, Kyiv, Club of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

Presentation of the Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights in Ukraine Programme

The presentation of this UNDP-led project co-financed by the European Union, SIDA and UNDP will be attended by Yuriy Pavlenko, Minister for Family, Youth and Sports, Mr. Francis O'Donnell, UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Laura Garagnani, Head of Operations at the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, representatives of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

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January 2009, Mykolaiv oblast

Four seminars on Effective Management for Local Community Organisation for government authorities of pilot rayons selected for participation in the EU-UNDP project on Community-Based Approach to Local Development

The events will take place as follows:

- 20 January – Berezniguvate rayon
- 21 January – Ochakiv rayon
- 23 January – Yelanets rayon
- 20 January – Kryve Ozero rayon

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