



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

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THE EU HELPING TO UKRAINE TO MAINTAIN OPEN BUT SECURE BORDERS

Co-operation between the European Union and the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) has been in progress now for eight years, with the European Union supporting the SBGS' objective of becoming Schengen-compliant by 2015.

The first HUREMAS (Human Resources Management) project ran from January 2006 to December 2007. Its objectives were to help the SBGS build an infrastructure to select good professionals, to provide training to help the SBGS meet the challenges faced by Ukraine today on its borders and to introduce EU-compliant systems.

The €4.3 million project, co-funded by the EU and US Department of State and implemented by the International Organization for Migration, led to the adoption of the EU-compliant human resource management system for non-officers and provided for the refurbishment of a dormitory for the SBGS which was opened by President Yushchenko last year.

After the positive results of the first HUREMAS project, HUREMAS II was launched in 2008. It is worth EUR 1.1 million and will run until February 2010. The project covers training needs, equipment procurement, and policy recommendations to foster an EU-compliant recruitment, training, and career development system for officers within the SBGS.

Other EU projects to aid the SBGS include the BOMUK (border management improvement) project. Under the BOMUK 3 project, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine recently took part in a ceremony to hand over a batch of thermo-imaging binoculars to the SBGS.

The 65 thermo-imaging binoculars, worth €3.5 million are the first batch out of 287. The total value of all the binoculars is over €15 million. The SBGS will be the first law-enforcement service world-wide having available such powerful and efficient equipment for the purpose of border guarding.



ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

STATE BORDER GUARD SERVICE OF UKRAINE MOVES FORWARD TO NEW EU-COMPLIANT SYSTEM OF PERSONNEL TRAINING

On 22 January the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) in partnership with the European Union, the US Department of State, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Mission in Ukraine held a Steering Committee meeting to highlight achievements in reforming the SBGS' human resources management system in 2008 and to discuss the forward calendar for reforms in 2009.

In an effort to ensure a more economical means of training personnel, the SBGS in co-operation with its partners is transforming its Soviet-era four-year officer training system into a modern, short-term training programme for civil university graduates.

With support from the project titled "Improving Integrated Border Management: Follow-Up to Reinforcing the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine Human Resources Management (HUREMAS 2)," the SBGS launched a nine-month officer training course for civilians with bachelor's degrees and a three-month officer training course for active duty warrant officers. The latter course successfully matriculated 23 commissioned officers at the end of December 2008; the next wave of the course is to start in March 2009.

Increasing English language proficiency is an important step in the SBGS' effort to transform itself into an EU/ Schengen-compliant law enforcement service, a standard that Ukraine must fulfil if it wishes to be compliant in this area. In this context, an international English language consultant and four SBGS Academy instructors spent the past three months developing an intensive English language course for officers serving in border areas. This working group assessed the Service's English language needs and developed the course curriculum, testing materials, and two sets of English textbooks for professional purposes. These border guard-specific textbooks will be published by the SBGS; the first course is to start in February 2009.

The European Union and the US Department of State committed €1,140,000 for this project. The International Organisation for Migration implements the project with the assistance of the Hungarian Police and Polish Border Guard.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU, UNDP AND SIDA LAUNCH NEW PROJECT ON GENDER EQUALITY

The official opening meeting of the new joint project on gender equality and women's rights funded by the European Union, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Ukrainian Government took place on 21 January in Kyiv. The official ceremony was held with the following keynote speakers: Yuriy Pavlenko, Minister of Family, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, Joanna Kazana-Wisniowiecka, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Ukraine, Martin Schieder, Head of Operations Section 1 at the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, Mirja Peterson, Country Director for Ukraine at the SIDA Department for Europe, and Larysa Kobelynska, Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights Project Manager.



The three-year project called "Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights in Ukraine Programme" will be implemented by the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports. The project includes five main components: introducing national mechanism for ensuring gender equality; introducing gender standards in education; fighting and preventing domestic violence; improving qualification of civil servants; and harmonising the legislation.

The project is aimed at ensuring not only women's rights but also equal rights for both men and women. The project closely cooperates with nine ministries and has signed memoranda of understanding with regional state administrations and regional councils in eight regions of Ukraine. It aims to further expand the network of partners, create new gender resource and educational centres and promote new directions for work in Ukraine.

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For more information see: <http://gender.youthministers2008.org/>

EU-UNDP PROJECT ON COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISES LOCAL COMMUNITY TRAININGS

On 19 December 2008 the Community-Based Approach to Local Development (CBA) project organised two training sessions on effective management and participatory planning for newly created Community Organisations (COs) in Lohvytskyi rayon (Poltava oblast). The 22 participants included representatives of community organisations (chairpersons, secretaries, treasurers and other activists), heads of village councils and representatives of rayon authorities.

Training sessions are organised in order to help define the place and role of community organisations in the social-economic context of the region and to provide basic knowledge about management of community organisations, book-keeping, defining priorities and planning of organisation's activities.

At these trainings, communities learned to identify strengths and weaknesses of their CO, to analyse perspective challenges and opportunities, to define general directions of the organisation's development. Particular attention is paid to developing the skills of effective conflict resolution within an organisation.

Mr Sobolyev, the CBA coordinator from Lohvytska Rayon State Administration, noted: "Such trainings are important not only for communities, but also for local authorities as they allow to better understand local problems and find solutions together with communities. The trainings also provide us with a much clearer vision for civil society development."

Launched in September 2007, the CBA project is financed by the European Union and co-financed and implemented by UNDP in Ukraine, with the support of the government of Ukraine.

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For more information see: <http://www.undp.org.ua>



EU PROJECT ON SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES PROGRAMME OF PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MISSIONS

The EU-funded project contributes to the development of small and medium sized enterprise (SME) competitiveness through institutional capacity building to the main SME policy institutions, technical assistance to SMEs in export and investment promotion, attracting foreign investments, and through the increase of awareness of business internationalisation in the country. Within the framework of the Project, six partnership development missions for selected pilot SMEs will be conducted: three inward missions and three outward missions. Inward missions will include a buyers' mission and an investment forum. Outward missions will include trade fair attendance; a trade mission for exporters; and a trade mission for companies seeking investors. The main purpose of these missions is to help SMEs to find potential customers, investors and to establish business links between Ukrainian and EU companies.

The programme of the events is as follows:

- 31 March - 3 April 2009 – Business forum for Machinery and Equipment companies, linked to *INTERTOOL trade show* (Kyiv, Ukraine)
- 20 - 23 April 2009 – Trade mission for Machinery and Equipment linked to *Subcontracting/Hannover Messe* (Hannover, Germany)
- 27 - 30 April 2009 – Trade mission for IT companies linked to *Internet World UK* (London, UK)
- 9 - 12 June 2009 – Business Forum and matchmaking event for IT companies (Kyiv, Ukraine)
- 18 - 22 May 2009 – Trade mission for Woodworking and Furniture companies linked to *Ligna Fair* (Hannover, Germany)
- 26 - 29 May 2009 – Business forum for Woodworking & Furniture companies linked to woodworking trade show (Lviv, Ukraine)

Ukrainian and foreign companies operating in the three sectors: IT services, wood-working/furniture, machinery/equipment and other SME development organisations are invited to participate in the project's missions in Ukraine and abroad.

For further information, please contact: Ken Nachbar, Team Leader, email: ken.nachbar@sme-int.com.ua or Alexander Kirilkin, Business Development Expert, email: akirilkin@gmail.com

More information about the project: <http://www.sme-int.com.ua/>

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

30 January 2009, Kyiv

Launch of EU-funded Nashe Radio project "Europe in the Hearts of Ukrainians"

On 30 January at 13:30 a press conference to launch the new EU-funded radio project "Europe in the hearts of Ukrainians" will take place in the press centre UNIAN (4 Khreschatyk St.). The press conference will be given by Mr. Bogdan BOLKHOVETSKIY, general director of the radio station Nashe Radio; Mr. Dirk SCHUEBEL, Head of Political, Press and Information Section of the EC Delegation to Ukraine, and Ruslana, Ukrainian singer and winner of the Eurovision Song Contest for Ukraine 2004.

The programme started broadcasting on 26 January. Programmes can be heard at approximately 08:20, 14:20 and 18:20 on weekdays, with a one-hour talk show on Sundays at 18:00. Nashe Radio is broadcast on 107.9 FM in Kyiv. See website for other regions or to listen online: <http://www.nasheradio.ua/>

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February 2009, Kyiv

Two Workshops within the Framework of the EU/Council of Europe Project on Promotion of European Standards in the Ukrainian Media Environment

- Workshop on the rights management in distribution of audiovisual content (in co-operation with the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine and Internews Ukraine)
- Workshop on business models for modern newspapers (in co-operation with the Ukrainian Association of Periodicals Publishers, PressNow, Journalists' Associations and the National Union of Journalists)

For exact dates and more information please contact Olga Bigun, email: Olga.Bigun@coe.int

February 2009, Kyiv

Training and Workshop within the Framework of the EU-Funded Project on Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea

- Training on Management Plan for the Small Phyllophora field marine protected area.
- NGO workshop "NGO Platform with regard to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and the Regional Ministerial Conference."

For exact dates and more information please contact Yulia Gunko, email: ecbsea@ecbsea.org

