

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

22, 12 February 2009

THE EU HELPING UKRAINE TO UPGRADE ITS BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE

When the European Commission's Head of Delegation handed over 9 mobile X-ray scanners worth € 13.4 million to the State Customs Service of Ukraine on 30 January (see below) it was just the latest stage in the EU's support to improving the infrastructure of Ukraine's border crossings.

The handover ceremony took place at the Rava-Ruska border crossing. This border crossing point was reconstructed with assistance from the EU amounting to some €9 million. The major works of this re-construction were completed last year and Laura Garagnani, Head of the EC Delegation's operations section, officially inaugurated what is one of the biggest and newest check points in Europe in October.

In addition to Rava-Ruska, EU-funded projects have improved of border and transport infrastructure in Jagodyn, Chop and Uzhgorod border crossings.

At Jagodyn, the EU provided € 2.85 million for the reconstruction of the border crossing which was completed in 2006. It also contributed €5.25 million alongside €1.65 million from the Polish government to build access roads to the border crossing and a new road bridge between Poland and Ukraine across the Western Bug River.

The EU reconstruction of the Chop border crossing was undertaken at a cost of €2.9 million. The EU-funded border crossing is located on a branch of the European Corridor No. 5 forming a direct link between Budapest and Lviv/Kyiv. The EU also provided €3 million worth of funding for the reconstruction of the Uzhgorod border crossing which was completed in December 2007. EU-Ukraine co-operation in improving border management has two main goals, namely facilitating the movement of people and goods and combating arms and drug smuggling, counterfeiting, revenue fraud and other cross-border criminal activities. Co-operation in the fields of migration, preventing and fighting against money laundering, trafficking in human beings, drugs and the smuggling of goods are enshrined in the EU-Ukraine Action Plan.



ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

HEAD OF EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S DELEGATION'S TO UKRAINE HANDS OVER EU-PROCURED EQUIPMENT TO UKRAINIAN CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES

On January 30 at a handover ceremony at the Rava-Ruska border crossing the State Customs Service of Ukraine received modern X-ray scanning equipment to perform customs inspection. The ceremony was attended by José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, and Ihor Pikovskyi, First Deputy Head of the State Customs Service of Ukraine.

Nine modern mobile X-ray scanners to perform non-destructive inspection of cargo and vehicles were procured for the Ukrainian border crossings at the expense of the European Union. This equipment is assigned to the following border crossing points: Rava-Ruska, Krakovets, Yagodyn, Kuchurgan, Odesa, Porubne, Bachivsk, Uzhgorod and Chop. The total value of this project is €13.4 million, including training.

Procurement of such equipment for the Ukrainian customs service is the largest technical assistance project during the entire history of its co-operation with international bodies.

Mobile X-ray inspection systems will improve the capacity of customs officers to perform in-depth non-destructive inspections of vehicles and contained cargo, thus contributing to the identification of customs law violations and facts of illegal transfer of cargo, as well as acceleration of customs clearance processes.

The equipment hand-over ceremony was covered by over 20 national and local mass media.



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU-FUNDED SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES SUPPORT PROJECT GAVE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO UKRAINIAN WOODWORKING & FURNITURE SMES HOW TO PREPARE FOR EXPORTING TO THE EU

On 29 January a workshop on Marketing Strategies in Time of the Global Financial and Economic Crisis – Recommendations for Small Woodworking and Furniture Companies was held in Lviv for 17 SME owners/managers selected from woodworking and furniture pilot sector of the project.

The workshop focused on enhancing knowledge on woodworking and furniture markets in the EU, providing participants with practical advice on how to run business in time of global financial and economic crisis, explaining the content and giving practical advice on how to develop company strategy and marketing plans to establish business in the EU market, and providing tools for export planning.



→ The workshop participants learned about the EU market developments and business opportunities; worked on preparing strategic and marketing plans to combat the effects of the global economic and financial crisis, and received recommendations on how to improve their effectiveness.

Workshops on Key Success Factors for EU Market Entry for SME managers from machinery and equipment project priority sector are planned for March 2009.

One of the main objectives of the EU-funded Project on Support to the Development of Business Capacity of Ukrainian SMEs – International Dimension is to help companies to establish business links with EU companies.

The project helps small and medium sized enterprises to find potential customers, investors and other partners. An important step in this process is to become familiar with EU market developments and business opportunities.

For further information please contact: Ken Nachbar, Team Leader, email: ken.nachbar@sme-int.com.ua

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



RUSLANA AND S.K.A.I. HELP LAUNCH EU-FUNDED NASHE RADIO PROGRAMME

On 30 January a press conference to launch the new EU-funded radio project on Europe in the Hearts of Ukrainians took place in the UNIAN press centre in Kyiv. The press conference was given by Mr. Bogdan Bolkhovetsky, general director of the Nashe Radio station; Mr. Dirk Schuebel, Head of Political, Press and Information Section of the European Commission's Delegation to Ukraine, Oleg Sobchuk from the Ukrainian S.K.A.I band, and Ruslana, Ukrainian singer and winner of the 2004 Eurovision Song Contest.

The goal of the project is to disseminate current information about the European Union and activities of the European Commission in Ukraine, inform younger audiences about EU-Ukraine relations and EU technical and financial co-operation with Ukraine. Working closely with the Delegation of the European Commission, the radio station broadcasts up-to-date information about various aspects of EU-Ukraine relations.

The duration of the project “Europe in the Hearts of Ukrainians” is six months (through August 2009). Daily radio programmes are broadcast at 08:20, 14:20 and 18:20 on weekdays, and a one-hour talk show is broadcast at 18:00 on Sundays.

Nashe Radio is broadcast on 107.9 FM in Kyiv. The programming is also available online at <http://www.esua.info>.

Contact person: Inna Stasyuk, stasyuk@nasheradio.ua

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 2009, Kyiv

Expert survey of the media situation in six regions

This survey will be carried out within the framework of the EU/Council of Europe Project on Promotion of European Standards in the Ukrainian Media Environment in compliance with Council of Europe and UNESCO indicators, in cooperation with the Equal Access Committee.

For more information please contact Olga Bigun, email: Olga.BIGUN@coe.int

25 February 2009, Kyiv

Final conference of the EU-funded Programme of Assistance for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova (BUMAD Programme)

For more information please contact Igor Konopatskiy, Communication Specialist, email: igor.konopatskiy@undp.org.ua

12 March 2009, Kyiv

Press conference on the Black Sea NGO Platform

The press conference will be held by the EU-Funded Project on Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea.

Contact person: Yulia Gunko, email: ecbsea@ecbsea.org

