

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

23, 25 February 2009

THE EU WORKING WITH UKRAINE TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS situation in Ukraine has turned into an epidemic. WHO/UNAIDS estimates over 500 000 people are already infected with HIV. This is equal to 1.4% of Ukrainians between 15 and 49 with 60% of them unaware that they have contracted the virus.

The EU is combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic both at the national and global level. At the global level, the EU works in partnership with international organizations, global partnerships, civil society organisations and research institutions. The EU is a founding member of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Collectively the European Community and EU Member States now represents the largest contributors to the Global Fund, which operates in Ukraine through a stewardship agreement with the International HIV/AIDS Alliance.

The EU aims to increase the national capacities of the health and education systems in partnership with countries such as Ukraine. The European Commission has been funding HIV/AIDS Prevention and Awareness in Ukraine since 2003. It began funding a joint EU-US programme in five pilot regions. This project introduced obligatory sex and drugs education in more than 60 per cent of all schools in the pilot regions and provided extensive training of teachers, social workers and psychologists.

In 2003, the EU provided the Ministries of Education and Health with €2 million strengthen the comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS prevention at the national level. The project, also aimed at young people, aimed to provide all-inclusive healthy lifestyle education – with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS prevention – in all educational and out-of-school institutions.

The €2.5 million worth of assistance to a project to support HIV and Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) prevention among uniformed services in Ukraine (see below) is the latest of the EU's projects in Ukraine to address HIV/AIDS.



ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

UN POPULATION FUND HOLDS PRESS-CONFERENCE ON HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AMONG UNIFORMED SERVICES

The press-conference within the framework of the UNFPA implemented component of the UNDP/UNFPA Joint EU-funded Programme on HIV/STI Prevention among the Personnel of the Uniformed Services of Ukraine took place on 23 February 2009 at the information agency UNIAN in Kyiv.

The key-speakers were: Dr. Borys Vornyk, Head of UNFPA Country Office in Ukraine, Mr. Martin Schieder, Head of Operations Section 1 of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, Mr. Valeriy Barkevych, Colonel of medical service, Head of Health Department of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine, Mr. Oleksiy Yaremchuk, Colonel of medical service, Head of Health Department of the State Border Service of Ukraine, and Mr. Volodymyr Yakymets, First Deputy Head of Medical Supply and Rehabilitation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

The overall objective of this EU-funded project is to support the development of effective mechanisms for comprehensive HIV/STI prevention measures in the uniformed services in Ukraine. The project aims to significantly reduce incidences of HIV/STI and other health risks, such as drug abuse and sexually transmitted infections among uniformed personnel. The 4-year project lasts until September 2009.

According to the UNFPA surveys conducted in 2006-2008 among the personnel of Uniformed Services, the overall level of knowledge on HIV/STI issues among respondents has increased by almost 10% (from 70% in 2006 to 79.3% in 2007) due to the series of activities in the Armed Forces and other Uniformed Services with a financial and technical assistance provided by UNFPA.

More information: www.unfpa.org.ua , www.zdorovavarta.org.ua



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU-FUNDED INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MIGRATION CONCLUDES A SERIES OF PILOT TRAININGS FOR INSPECTORS AT BORDER CROSSING POINTS

Under the EU-funded project on Strengthening capacities and co-operation in the identification of forged and falsified documents in Ukraine, being implemented since January 2007, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in cooperation with the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGSU) organised a final in a series of pilot training sessions on identification of forged and falsified travel documents for the document controllers at the border crossing points in Zakarpattia region on 27 January – 6 February 2009.



The training was conducted by two trainers from the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, who were trained as National Trainers by the European document security experts in the framework of the project in May 2008.

25 Inspectors from the border crossing points at the western borders of Ukraine with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania and three international airports (Lviv, Chernivtsi and Boryspil) were trained to conduct the second line document control. The participants were trained on substance in detecting document fraud, use of special technical equipment, including VSC 5000 and were familiarised with general EU practices in document security. The efficiency of the training was significantly increased due to the extensive practice in identification of different types of forgeries and falsifications of the documents that were brought for the training purpose by a Hungarian expert.

The training was highly appreciated by the participants and the administration of SBGSU. Many participants admitted that this was the first time when they participated in such a valuable for their work and well-organised training event. Though the project is mainly focused on the western borders of Ukraine, the representatives of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine expressed their hope to extend such trainings for the eastern part of the country.

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More information: www.icmpd.org

JOINT EU-UNDP PROJECT CONTINUES ITS ACTIVE CONSUMER CAMPAIGN



The joint EU-UNDP project on Consumer Society and Citizen Networks proceeds with the information campaign aiming at creating a more active Ukrainian consumer. A new wave of public outdoor advertising titled “Change your Future Now” is already being displayed on city-lights of Ukraine’s large cities. According to the ad’s plot, a young fighter for consumer rights addresses his mother and father with an appeal to return rotten sausage and fish back to the store. The kid’s forecast is negative – if you fail to return a faulty product, it is most likely to be sold to his children.

According to the latest research on consumer behaviour, the number of people claiming not to know their consumer rights has decreased twofold. Still, more and more emotional barriers come into play; Ukrainians are neither ready nor willing to take part in conflict situations when one tries to return a faulty product.

The task of this advertising campaign is to remind consumers that ensuring and protecting their rights today, now, and every time at the moment of purchase or return of goods they influence the consumer goods market of the future. This proves that low-quality goods exist as long as they are in demand.

The Consumer Society and Citizen Networks project is a joint initiative of the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme. Its goal is to promote access of citizens to information on product safety, consumer rights protection, and to results of independent testing, and encourage wide public dialogue on challenges facing the consumer society in Ukraine. The project has a €3 million contribution by the European Union.

Contact person: Maria Savchenko; e-mail: maria.savchenko@undp.org.ua

More information: <http://consumerinfo.org.ua>

NEW PUBLICATIONS ON EU ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE

The Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine has launched two new publications on EU Technical and Financial Co-operation with Ukraine.

The first is published only in Ukrainian and provides an overview of European Community assistance including TACIS projects and the switch over to ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Policy Instrument) and sector budget support. The second entitled "The European Union – The Largest Donor to Ukraine" is published in English and Ukrainian and focuses on Community (EC) assistance as well as projects by various EU Member States. Both publications are available on line:

- <http://www.delukr.ec.europa.eu/files/pages/947/1.pdf> (EU Assistance Programmes and EU-Ukraine Co-operation)
- <http://www.delukr.ec.europa.eu/files/pages/4493/3.pdf> (The EU – the Largest Donor to Ukraine: Technical and Financial Co-operation by the EU and its Member States)

Hard copies can be requested by email to delegation-ukraine-press@ec.europa.eu.



EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

27 February 2009, Ministry of Justice, Kyiv

Sixth Steering Committee meeting of the EU/CoE Project against Corruption in Ukraine (UPAC)

Representatives of the EC Delegation to Ukraine, Council of Europe and UPAC project as well as of all partner institutions will take part in this meeting.

Contact person: Mr Roman Chlapak, roman.chlapak@coe.int More information: <http://www.coe.int/upac>

27 February 2009, Kyiv

Workshop on Effective Ways of Consumer Rights Protection

This event is organised by the EU-UNDP Project on Consumer Society and Citizen Networks.

Contact person: Maria Savchenko, e-mail maria.savchenko@undp.org.ua

28 February 2009, Zvizdne, Crimea

Visit to EU-funded UNDP-implemented Community-Based Approach project site by Head of the EC Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira and the Ambassadors of the Czech Republic, Germany, Finland and the United Kingdom to Ukraine

Contact person: Ms Ganna Yatsyuk, ganna.yatsyuk@undp.org.ua More information: <http://www.cba.org.ua/>

5 March 2009, Kyiv

Launch Conference of the project "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector (SWAP)"

Contact person: Bohdan Drozdowskij, email: bd@swap-rural.org.ua

10 March 2009, Odesa

Third Regional Biodiversity Working Group meeting on approval of the Draft Management Plan

This event is organised by the EU-Funded Project on Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea.

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

10 March 2009, Conference Hall of Ukrainian Academy of Science, Kyiv

Media Launch and Kick off Meeting of Coal Sector Support Project

Contact Person: Ms. Galina Sidelkovska, tel: 044 239-40-53

March 2009, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Lviv

Surveys on corruption risks

Surveys on corruption risks will be conducted throughout Ukraine as part of the systemic study within the public administration, the judiciary and the bodies in charge of investigation and prosecution of criminal cases implemented in the framework of the EU/CoE Project against Corruption in Ukraine (UPAC).

Contact person: Mr Roman Chlapak, roman.chlapak@coe.int More information: <http://www.coe.int/upac>

31 March 2009, Kyiv

Fourth Steering Committee meeting of the EU-Funded Project on Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea

More information: Yulia Gunko, email: ecbsea@ecbsea.org

