



## EU-UKRAINE CO-OPERATION IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

**The agricultural sector in Ukraine makes up a significant portion of the country's GDP (16%). The sector is a major employer (about 20% of the national labour force) and is the main source of income for the majority of Ukraine's rural population.**

The EU-Ukraine action plan commits the EU to assist Ukraine in the implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures following its accession to the WTO. The EU is currently funding a major sector-wide project in the agriculture sector (see below) which aims to support Ukraine in putting into action its commitments under WTO.

€5 million project, "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector", has four components: Institutional development of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine, food safety, wholesale market infrastructure and rural development. The project will operate in Kyiv and five pilot regions. It has a duration of 38 months, ending in December 2011.

The sector-wide project follows on from a series of successful projects in the agricultural and rural development sectors. The "Support to SMEs in the Rural Sector" project (December 2003 – August 2006) built up an effective cooperative system for rural SMEs based on existing credit unions and developed the tools and instruments, necessary for the establishment of cooperative banking.

The "Improvement of Logistics Services and Marketing Channels for SMEs in Agriculture" project (March 2005-December 2006) promoted the rationalisation of marketing channels, in particular for small farms.

The "Improvement of Risk Management Capacity of Farmers and SMEs in Agriculture" project (May 2005-May 2007) improved insurance services provided to farmers and SMEs and to enabled private Ukrainian agricultural enterprises to minimize their risks and improve financial sustainability.

Mariann Fischer Boel, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development visited Kyiv this week and held meetings with her Ukrainian counterparts underlining the importance of Agriculture and Rural Development for the EU-Ukraine Partnership.



## EU PROJECT IMPROVES MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE

**On 4 June the launch presentation of the EU-funded project "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector (Sector Wide Approach)" took place in Odesa.**

The project covers several pilot regions, including Odesa, where project activities will centre around market infrastructure development in line with European standards and support in the preparation of a wholesale market feasibility study.

The market infrastructure component foresees the creation of favourable conditions for the promotion of international trade in agricultural produce. However, in Ukraine there is an absence of well organised wholesale and retail market systems for fruit and vegetables. Many operating markets remain unlicensed and seasonal in nature with outdated packing and storage facilities.

Under the Odesa pilot activities, project experts will assist the local state administration, private investors and farmers in developing a realistic feasibility study for an agricultural wholesale market in the region. Know how in best practices in European wholesale market operation will be presented in a series of practical trainings and through a study tour to several successful wholesale markets in the EU. It is envisaged that this feasibility study will go towards the creation of a model wholesale market for dissemination and replication in other parts of Ukraine.

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## EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

### EU-IOM PROJECT ENHANCES THE MANAGEMENT OF MIGRATION IN UKRAINE

On 26 May the EU-funded project "Technical cooperation and capacity building of Ukrainian and Moldovan governments for implementation of readmission agreements with the European Union" (GUMIRA) held its Steering Committee meeting. The project is implemented by the International Organisation of Migration.

The GUMIRA Steering Committee focused on essential humanitarian assistance that would increase the standard of irregular migrants' stay in Government-administered facilities. Through trainings, seminars, work-study tours, and expert advice, the GUMIRA project advocates for Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) as a priority, and highlights the rights based issues related to accommodation. The Government of Ukraine has expressed interest in taking concrete steps to establish a legal basis for AVR, and possibly to allocate partial funding. GUMIRA has been also mentioned in the EU-Ukraine Justice, Freedom, and Security Sub-committee and in the EC-Ukraine Joint Committee on Readmission and will be included in the relevant sections in the Scoreboard. The Scoreboard is a monitoring tool for the EU-Ukraine Action Plan, through which Ukraine's progress in the sphere of Justice, Freedom and Security has been noted.

The GUMIRA project enhances the humane and orderly management of migration and the effective respect for the human rights of migrants. The European Union has committed approximately €2 million, the Italian Republic committed €400,000, and the Federal Republic of Germany committed €100,000.

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### EU AMBASSADORS MEET WITH COMMUNITY ORGANISATION IN VODIANE VILLAGE

On 30 May the Head of Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Hungarian Ambassador András Bãrsony and a group of EU Member State officials visited Vodiane village in Sofiiivskiy rayon of Dnepropetrovsk oblast. The Ambassadors met with the community organisation "Agency of Community Development and Renewal" which was formed as part of the EU-UNDP project Community Based Approach to Local Development Project (CBA).

With support of the CBA Project, community has defined the list of priorities for local development and adopted it as Community Development Plan. It was recognised by the majority that repair of local health post is the top priority and should become the first project to be implemented by the community organisation jointly with CBA Project and with co-financing from the local budget. Constructed in 1923, the building of local health post has neither water nor gas supply. The Ambassadors visited the existing health post and looked at the premises where the new EU-funded health post will be completed within the course of this year.

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### EU HELPS COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN IN UKRAINE

On 1 June the EU-funded project "Strengthening National Mechanisms and Capacities for Elimination of Trafficking in Children in Ukraine held a presentation of its activities.

The project has a budget €600,000 for 2009–2011 and is implemented by the Chernivtsi-based NGO "Suchasnyk" in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), government agencies and civil society organisations in five oblasts of Ukraine: Chernivetska, Zakarpatska, Mykolayivska, Kharkivska, and Luhanska.

At the press conference Elvira Mruchkovska, Head of the NGO "Suchasnyk" told that the expected goal of the project is strengthening of the co-operation between civil society and public authorities in combating trafficking of children, providing rehabilitation assistance to 150 children victims of trafficking, and medical assistance to 70 children, as well as improving skills and capacity among civil society practitioners. Since 2000, the IOM Mission in Ukraine in cooperation with 30 local NGOs, Suchasnyk among them, was able to identify 285 child victims of trafficking, mainly girls of 16-17 years, deceitfully taken out abroad, mostly to Russia, as well as to Turkey, United Arab Emirates.

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## EU-FUNDED NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAMMES HELP ROMANIA AND UKRAINE IMPROVE CO-OPERATION

**On 4-5 June an international conference “Neighbourhood Programme Romania-Ukraine: a catalyst of cooperation between two countries” took place in Odesa, Ukraine. This event was organised by the Country Contact Point for the Neighbourhood Programmes Romania-Ukraine and CADSES in order to mark the end of its 2 years of activity in Ukraine.**



The conference was attended by some 100 participants from nine regions of Ukraine as well as from Romania, Hungary, Germany and Poland. The participants had an opportunity to learn about the achievements of the Neighbourhood Programme Romania-Ukraine in 2007-2009, to find out about the results of cross-border cooperation at the regional level from the representatives of the Regional State Administrations of Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Odesa and Zakarpattia. Furthermore during the conference the representatives of the Romanian Ministry of Regional Development and Housing and of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova delivered presentations regarding the opportunities for the Ukrainian organisations in the framework of this new programme, which is the successor of the Neighbourhood Programme Romania-Ukraine.

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## UKRAINIAN AVIATION LEGISLATION CLOSER TO EU REQUIREMENTS

**On 5 June the Final Steering Committee of the Twinning project “Harmonisation with EU Norms of the Legislation and Standards of Ukraine in the Field of Civil Aviation” took place in the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Ukraine.**



The project which started in autumn 2007 had the main goal to support the implementation and adaptation of EU legislation and standards to aviation field of Ukraine. Over this period 12 inspectors of the State Aviation Administration of Ukraine took part in seminars in the French Civil Aviation University (ENAC); 21 inspectors of the State Aviation Administration of Ukraine twice took part in workshops in France and Poland; 23 seminars about Joint Aviation Requirements, airports and environment were held for representatives of the State Aviation Administration of Ukraine and aviation industry; 3 working seminars about aviation security, economic issues and aeronavigation were held along with a seminar about harmonisation of the legislation of Ukraine with EU norms for representatives of airlines, producers and designers of aviation equipment.

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## EU AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE SUPPORT PREPARATION OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION PACKAGE OF LAWS

**On 11 June the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the anti-corruption package of three laws tabled by the President of Ukraine.**

The jointly funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe “Project against corruption in Ukraine” has continuously supported the Ukrainian Parliament in the preparation of the package. The project closely cooperated with the Parliamentary Committee on Combating Organised Crime and Corruption assisting its relevant working groups and supporting two parliamentary hearings.

Project expert opinions were also prepared on the draft laws of the package in 2006 and 2008. The adoption of these laws represents an important step in the reform of domestic legislation in line with European standards and should enable the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention and the United Nations Convention against Corruption to enter into force in Ukraine. In addition, the adoption of the package contributes to the implementation of several Group of States against corruption (GRECO) recommendations. The EU-CoE project will continue to assist Ukraine in reforming its anti-corruption legal framework in line with European standards. In the next stage, it would be of particular interest to adopt legal provisions to regulate conflicts of interest and financial declarations by public officials.

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## EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 23 JUNE 2009, HOTEL "KYIV", KYIV

#### Steering Committee of the EU-funded project "Promotion of European standards in the Ukrainian Media Environment"

The overall objective of the project is to raise standards of journalism with a view to ensuring that the Ukrainian public is better informed about political and social processes in Ukraine and provide continuing support to the process of enhancing the media legislative framework.

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### 23 JUNE 2009, HOTEL "KOZATSKY STAN", KYIV

#### Closing press conference of the EU-funded project "Strengthening capacities and cooperation in the identification of forged and falsified travel documents in Ukraine"

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to an increased effectiveness in the fight against illegal migration by the Ukrainian authorities.

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### 24 JUNE 2009, HOTEL "HYATT", KYIV

#### Closing event of the EU-funded Ukrainian-European Policy and Legal Advice Centre (UEPLAC)

The overall objective of the project was to strengthen understanding, implementation and ownership by the Ukrainian authorities of the whole process of legal approximation to the EU acquis in all the areas foreseen in the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and in the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan.

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### 25 JUNE 2009, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, KYIV

#### 7th Steering Committee meeting of the EU/CoE joint project against corruption in Ukraine

Representatives of the Council of Europe, European Commission, and the anti-corruption project and all beneficiary institutions will take part in this meeting.

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### 25 JUNE, 2009, HOTEL "LYBID", KYIV

#### Opening conference of the project "Harmonisation of Competition and Public Procurement Systems in Ukraine with EU Standards"

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### 25-26 JUNE, 2009, STATE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMITTEE OF UKRAINE

#### Workshop on International Atomic Energy Agency requirements preparedness and responses for a nuclear radiological emergency

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### 26 JUNE 2009, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, KYIV

#### Presentation of the results of the system study on corruption risks within the judiciary and the law enforcement bodies in Ukraine

The study has been conducted in the framework of the EU/CoE joint project against corruption in Ukraine since December 2008. Its results and recommendations will be presented and discussed during a roundtable followed by a press conference on June, 26.

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### 30 JUNE 2009, HOTEL "RUS", SECTION 'F', KYIV

#### Seminar of the EU Twinning Project "Strengthening Activities of the National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine (NAAU)"

The seminar will be conducted for government agencies and other stakeholders on accreditation in the area of certification of persons.

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