



EU-UKRAINE CO-OPERATION ON LEGAL APPROXIMATION

The current project "Ukrainian-European Policy and Legal Advice Centre" (UEPLAC), which held its closing ceremony on 24 June, is the fourth phase of EU assistance to Ukraine in the field of legal approximation. In Partnership and Cooperation Agreement of 1994 Ukraine has committed to approximate its legislation in 16 key sectors, banking law, company accounting, taxation, energy, labour protection, health care, freedom and security.



The first UEPLAC, with a budget of €5.3 million, ran from 1997 to 1999. The second phase ran from 1999 to 2002 (a further €5.6 million) and the third phase (€4.7 million) from 2002 to 2005.

UEPLAC IV introduced a systematic approach to legal approximation issues with particular emphasis on developing implementation mechanisms and monitoring tools. The project works closely with the Ukrainian government including the Ministry of Justice, the Secretariat of Cabinet of Ministers and the Verhovna Rada.

These successive projects have served to assist Ukraine in approximating its legislation with the European Union. The third phase of the project also specifically helped to facilitate the accession of Ukraine to WTO and then to help Ukraine to deal with its rights and obligations.

UEPLAC is the first time that the European Union has initiated special project in an European Neighbourhood country devoted exclusively to the process of approximation of the national legislation and its monitoring. As such, Ukraine is a leader among the countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy in approximation of its legislation to the legislation of the European Union.

UEPLAC SUMS UP ACHIEVEMENTS OF PHASE IV

Representatives the European Commission, EU Member States, international organisations, EU-funded projects, NGOs and Ukrainian government attended the closing ceremony of the UEPLAC IV project.



During Phase IV, UEPLAC has been supporting the understanding, implementation and ownership by the Ukrainian authorities of the whole process of approximation of the national legislation to the EU acquis. Over three years, UEPLAC IV charted every development in the legal approximation process and established sustainable co-operation with all the major "players" dealing with the approximation of the Ukrainian legislation. Particular efforts of the UEPLAC team were devoted to prioritisation, annual planning for the Plans of Measures on implementation of the National Programme of Legal Approximation, developing a model for regulatory impact assessment of approximated legislation applicable in the Ukrainian context. A number of legal studies were also undertaken and finalised by the UEPLAC experts within Internal Market related matters, including a perspective of setting up the Free Trade Agreement as a core component of the future Association Agreement. Over one hundred various project events have also been held abroad and in Ukraine that concerned all spheres of the UEPLAC competence.

The Management Information System for Legal Approximation has also been set up under UEPLAC IV. It has become the only accessible source of systemised public information documents with examples of the Member States' best practices.

Contact person: Anzhela Markova, e-mail: office@ueplac.kiev.ua



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU LOWER DNIESTER RIVER BASIN PROJECT SCOOPS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The EU-funded project “Technical Assistance for the Lower Dniester River Basin Management Planning” has won the prestigious 2009 World of Difference Award from the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM).

The overall objective of the Lower Dniester river basin project, which began in 2006, was to improve management of the river basin, including water quality and protection and restoration of ecosystems, based on the Water Framework Directive. Studies conducted by the project were used to help secure the future of the River Basin with a decision by the Ukrainian government to turn the region into a National Park.

The World of Difference Award was established in 2004 to reward the leading proponents of the practical application of innovative science and engineering for environmental improvement. CIWEM is an independent professional body and a registered charity, advancing the science and practice of water and environmental management for a clean, green and sustainable world.



Contact person: Emily Doyle, e-mail: emily@ciwem.org

EC AMBASSADOR OPENS INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT CONFERENCE IN ODESA

Head of the EC Delegation José Manuel Pinto Teixeira opened on 11 June in Odesa the VIII International Conference “The Black Sea Area: Transport Complex Communications between Europe, Asia and Other Countries”. The conference took place in the framework of the VIII International Transport Week “InterTransPort”.

Ambassador Pinto Teixeira gave a welcome speech to the conference delegates underlining that “the European Commission is proud to support the Eighth International Transport Week, renewing its commitment to work with Ukraine to improve its transport systems”. Afterwards Ambassador Teixeira attended the “InterTransPort” Exhibition and made a tour of Illichevsk Port, where he met the Port Administration and experts from the EU-funded projects.



Contact person: Nataliya Balayan, e-mail: nm@expo-odessa.com

EU PROJECT HOLDS MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE ROUND TABLE

On 12 June the EU-funded project “Implementation of Ukraine’s Commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector” held a round table at the Agro 2009 Exhibition and Fair in Kyiv.

Given the current government’s focus on the development of wholesale markets in Ukraine, the project chose to conduct a round table on the pertinent subject of “The Role of Public and Private Partnerships (PPP’s) in the Development of Wholesale Markets in Ukraine”. The subject matter ranged from the current plans of the Ukrainian government on wholesale market development to the advantages of PPP’s, recent development in PPP enabling legislation development in Ukraine, and practical alternatives for PPP structures.

The EU project “Implementation of Ukraine’s Commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector” aims at assisting close co-operation between the Ukraine and the EU, as well as harmonisation of Ukrainian standards according to WTO requirements. The project was launched in March 2009 with total budget of €4.7 million.

Contact person: Olesya Kravchenko-Fisun, e-mail: okravchenkofisun@gmail.com



JOINT EU-UNDP-UNFPA HIV/STI PREVENTION AMONG UNIFORMED SERVICES PROGRAMME SUMS UP ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

On 16-17 June the EU-UNDP-UNFPA programme on HIV/STI prevention among uniformed services in Ukraine held its final conference.

The joint programme, funded by the EU and implemented in partnership with UNDP and UNFPA, comes to its end in September 2009. Established in 2005, it was aimed at prevention of HIV/STI (sexually-transmitted infections) and other health risks, such as drug abuse and sexually transmitted infections and formation of commitment to healthy lifestyle and safe behaviour among the uniformed services in Ukraine. The overall programme budget is €2.5 million.

Over this period the programme experts conducted 35 training sessions on leadership and commitment to healthy lifestyle for more than 1,000 officers of partner-ministries. The programme also produced three books for the staff of military and law-enforcement authorities. Also, the programme paid special attention to work with contracted military personnel (more than 100,000) and family members of military personnel in remote military settlements (more than 30,000).



Contact person: Olga Bulygina, e-mail: olga.bulygina@undp.org

EU AND IOM WELCOME POLISH BORDER GUARD COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Polish Ambassador Jacek Kluczkowski in partnership with International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Chief of Mission Jeffrey Labovitz held on 17 June a reception to welcome Polish Border Guard Commander-in-Chief Leszek Elas to Kyiv.

Vasyl Marmazov, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Oleksandr Melnykov, Deputy Head of the State Border Guard Service, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of EC Delegation and other Ambassadors and Embassy officials were present at the reception and thanked the Polish Border Guard service for its assistance to Ukrainian law enforcement services in developing a modern and efficient administration and the human resources management skills needed to meet EU standards.



Contact person: James Dasney, e-mail: jdasney@iom.int

JOINT EU-COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT SETS UP CHILD HELPLINE IN UKRAINE

On 17-18 June the EU-Council of Europe project "Women and Children's rights in Ukraine" held a workshop in Yalta to discuss setting up a child helpline in Ukraine.

Some sixty participants from the State Social Service and social services from all over Ukraine, telephone line operators, lawyers, and government officials participated in the workshop, along with NGOs and international experts.

The objective of the workshop was to set up the mechanism to strengthen the protection of children and children's rights from abuse and trafficking through building up an effective child helpline mechanism.

In order to achieve this goal the project worked with Child Helpline International (CHI) and presented at the workshop the legislative framework and best practices in Europe within the Electronic Communication Committee recommendation. It will prepare the ground for including Ukraine within the CHI network and make proposals for research and future co-operation in the field.



Contact person: Danuta Wisniewska-Cazals, e-mail: danuta.wisniewska-cazals@coe.int



EU-ILO PROJECT HELPS MAKE GENDER AUDITS

On 22 June the joint project of the EU and International Labour Organisation (ILO) "Gender Equality in the World of Work" launched a participatory gender audit training in Kyiv. The training targeted the main partner organisations of the project representing the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, public institutions (State Labour Inspection, Public Employment Service), and the associations of employers' and employees'.



The gender audit seeks to promote learning at the individual, work unit, and organisational levels on how to mainstream gender practically and effectively in the policies, programmes and structures of the partner organisations. Facilitated by ILO gender experts, over the four-day training session

the participants learned how to make gender audits within their own respective organisations. The audits help promote organisational learning at all levels on how to integrate gender in the organisations' policies, programmes and structures in a systematic and sustainable manner.

The gender audit training is part of the EU-ILO project launched in April 2009, which aims to enable key state bodies and social partners to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the world of work by developing, implementing and monitoring gender-sensitive employment policies and programmes.

Contact person: Sergiy Savchuk, e-mail: savchuk@ilo-dp.kiev.ua

UKRAINIAN LEGAL PROFESSION MOVES CLOSER TO EUROPEAN STANDARDS

On 23 June the EU-Council of Europe Joint Programme "Transparency and efficiency of the judicial system of Ukraine" held a conference on "The future of legal profession in Ukraine". The conference gathered representatives of legal associations, Council of Europe and Ukrainian government who discussed the current situation of advocacy and the legislative proposals to regulate it.

The legal profession remains largely unregulated under Ukrainian law. Four different draft laws on advocacy, which have been recently submitted to the Parliament attempt to remedy this situation.

The aim of the conference was to exchange views on possible solutions to the challenges faced by the Ukrainian practicing lawyers and on bringing the legal profession in conformity with European standards.

Contact person: Oleksiy Gotsul, e-mail: oleksiy.gotsul@coe.int

EU PROJECT IMPROVED IDENTIFICATION OF FALSIFIED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

On 23 June the EU-funded project "Strengthening capacities and co-operation in the identification of forged and falsified travel documents in Ukraine" hosted a press conference to present project results. This conference gathered some 30 high-ranking participants from project partner countries, Ukrainian authorities and international organisations involved in the field of document security.



The project with a budget of over €750,000 was implemented over a period of 30 months by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, together with its partners from the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces in Kyiv and the western regions of Ukraine.

A total of 40 core project activities were undertaken under the project: workshops, working group meetings, study tours to Hungary and the Netherlands, intensive training etc. Moreover, three specialised 10-day training sessions for document control inspectors from international border crossing points with Poland, the Slovak Republic and Hungary and Ukrainian international airports (Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Boryspil and Chernivtsi) equipped the border guard personnel with necessary skills and knowledge in the identification of forged and falsified travel documents, and enabled them to train their colleagues in the future.

Contact person: Olena Rodionenko, e-mail: olena.rodionenko@icmpd-ua.org



EU SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITION IN UKRAINE

On 25 June the EU-funded project "Harmonisation of competition and public procurement systems in Ukraine with EU Standards" organised the launch conference. The project is aimed at contributing to the development of three important sectors of the Ukrainian economic policy: competition (antitrust), state aid and public procurement.

The project will help the Ukrainian Government to strengthen competition as a driving factor in a functioning market economy and ensure compatibility of the legal framework and enforcement mechanisms with the EU standards. Harmonisation of the rules in these three sectors with the EU standards is viewed as a precondition for effective implementation of the future Association Agreement and Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Ukraine.

The project's duration is 30 months with a budget of € 4.3.



EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

9 JULY, STATE STATISTICS COMMITTEE, KYIV

Press conference of the EU-funded Statistics project

The EU has funded a project in Ukraine with the aim to have an official statistical system at the same standard as in the Member States of the EU.

The results from the project will be presented at the press conference by the representatives of the EC Delegation and State Statistics Committee.

Contact person: Olena Aleksandrova, e-mail: o.aleksandrova@ukrstat.gov.ua

9 JULY, HOTEL "RUS", KYIV

Final conference of the project "Strengthening Regional Vocational Education and Training Management"

The EU-funded project is implemented to assist in assuring compliance of the organisation and the content of vocational education and training (VET) with social, economic, and labour market needs.

Contact person: Agnes Wollschlaeger, e-mail: agnes.wollschlaeger@inwent-vet.org.ua

10 JULY 21/12 LUTERANSKA ST. OFFICE 15, KYIV

Steering Committee meeting for the project "Sustainable Integrated Land Use of the Eurasian Steppe"

The EU-funded project is implemented in the territories of steppe ecosystems of the three countries – Ukraine, Russian Federation and Moldova, which embraces Lugansk and Odessa oblast in Ukraine, Manych valley in Russia, steppe plots in Cahul rayon and on the west bank of Dnester in Moldova.

Contact person: Galina Poshtarenko, e-mail: gposhtarenko@mottmac.com.ua