



EU-UKRAINE CO-OPERATION IN STATISTICS

Reliable statistics and statistical information have a central role in market economies, and in particular when the transition from central planning to market economy is taking place.

Ukraine has received assistance in this field from the European Union since 1993. The signature of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCA), which came into force in 1998 between Ukraine and the European Union, has enhanced statistical cooperation. This agreement identifies the long-term objectives of statistical cooperation between the Ukraine and the European Union, namely the adaptation of the Ukrainian statistical system to international standards, methods and classifications; statistical data exchange; and the provision of necessary statistical information to carry out reforms.

The latest European Union project to support the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine (SSCU) (see below) is called "Statistics 10" and, as the name suggests, is the tenth such project in the field of statistics. Significant past projects include "Statistics 8" which produced a Global Assessment of the SSCU, and identified its strengths, weaknesses, and areas where further development was needed.

The main aim of "Statistics 10" is to provide assistance to the SSCU in order to have a system of official statistics capable of providing data meeting EU and international standards. The project focuses on 11 key sectors: Investment, Sample survey in Labour market, Labour productivity, Regional statistics, External trade, Innovation statistics, Capital account, Development of a strategy, Structural business statistics and Price statistics.



EU PROJECT ON STATISTICS SUMS UP ACHIEVEMENTS

On 9 July the EU-funded project "Statistics 10" held its final press conference. The results of the project activity were presented by high-level representatives of the EC Delegation and SSCU. The project which started in 2007 has had the main objective to develop the capacity of the official statistical system to provide data meeting EU and international standards in Ukraine. The focus has been on economic and labour market statistics.

The project developed a new system for dissemination of regional statistics, used in the EU. Ukrainian users will be able to have regular, convenient, and free access to the latest statistical data via the Internet.

The project experts have also identified a model for the estimation of employment and unemployment for small areas. Methodological provisions for productivity factor estimation (labour, capital, etc) have been developed.

A sample of small enterprises has been used for the first time in the Structural Business Survey for 2008. The response burden on enterprises and the cost of survey have decreased due to this. The project also conducted a "mirror analysis" with Germany of mutual statistics on foreign trade. It was discovered that the largest discrepancies are observed in trade with third countries.

During the implementation of the project 22 statistical experts from different European countries have visited the SSCU for advising and training the personnel, and study visits of the SSCU experts to 12 EU countries have been carried out. In the framework of the project the Strategy of state statistics development till 2012 has been developed and agreed following a conference with key stakeholders.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU AND IOM SUPPORT UKRAINE TO SET UP VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAMME

On 23 June the joint project of the EU and International Organization for Migration "Technical cooperation and Capacity Building for the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova for the Implementation of Readmission Agreements with the EU (GUMIRA)" held a workshop.

The event was aimed to call attention to the imminent full utilisation of the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) budget and facilitated contact among countries of origin and destination to further discuss possible sources of supplementary funding for a state AVR programme.

Representatives of the EC Delegation, Embassies of the United Kingdom, Poland, Romania, Afghanistan, and Pakistan positively evaluated the Ukrainian Government's efforts towards the establishment of a state AVR programme, including steps to developing a legal framework through crafting draft legislation and pledges to allocate partial funding.

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EU AND IOM MONITOR MIGRANT ACCOMMODATION CONDITIONS

On 24-25 June the joint project of the EU and International Organization for Migration (IOM) "Technical cooperation and Capacity Building for the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova for the Implementation of Readmission Agreements with the EU (GUMIRA)" organised the second Observatory Mechanism (OM) monitoring visit to the IOM-administered Migrant Accommodation Centre (MAC) in Zhuravychi, Volyn Region.

The OM is a tool for conducting joint assessments of standards compliance and quality control at the MACs and Temporary Holding Facilities (THF) for irregular migrants in Ukraine. Ukraine, as a party to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture, is obliged to "set up, designate or maintain" detention monitoring mechanisms at the national level. In this respect, the IOM established the OM to facilitate humane migration management and the effective respect for the human rights of migrants in accordance with Ukrainian and international law.

Representatives of the MOI, State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine, State Committee on Nationalities and Religions (SCNR), Security Service of Ukraine (SSU), international organisations and NGOs met with migrants, monitored accommodation conditions and discussed findings with the MAC's administration. More than 20 bags (approximately 100 kg) of clothing contributed by multinational staff members of NGOs, international organisations, Kyiv-based embassies and the IOM were delivered to the Volyn MAC and distributed amongst the accommodated migrants.

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JOINT EU-COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT PRESENTS SYSTEM STUDIES ON CORRUPTION RISKS

On 16 and 26 June the joint EU-Council of Europe project against corruption in Ukraine (UPAC) presented the results of two studies on corruption risks within the public administration and the judiciary and the law enforcement bodies.

These studies focused on identifying corruption risks within the fields of administrative services, control and supervision, on one hand, and within the criminal (pre-trial and trial stages), civil, administrative and commercial proceedings, on the other hand. The purpose of the studies was to support the enhancement of the preventive capacities against corruption in the public administration, the judiciary and the bodies in charge of investigation and prosecution of criminal cases in Ukraine.

These studies represent pilot studies as they combined for the first time in Ukraine both analytical reviews of legislation and practices as well as sociological surveys. They also include recommendations for improvement to support the ongoing reforms of the public administration, judiciary and criminal justice system in Ukraine.

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YOUTH FORUM ON EDUCATION IN THE EU

On 30 June a Youth Forum on education in the EU took place within the framework of the EU-funded "Nashe Radio" project "Europe in the hearts of Ukrainians". The main objective of the Forum was to inform Ukrainian youth about the opportunities of EU-funded education programmes. The Forum speakers included representatives of the EC Delegation, National Tempus Office in Ukraine and Erasmus Mundus alumni.



The Forum participants attended a presentation on EU funded education initiatives, particularly the TEMPUS programme and scholarships and grants for Ukrainian students through the Erasmus Mundus programme. Since 2004 134 students and 27 scholars from Ukraine have already received Erasmus Mundus scholarships to live and study in the EU.

An Erasmus Mundus scholarship amounts to €21.000 per year for students and €13.000 per month for scholars. There are 28 students and 8 scholars selected for 2009-2010 academic year to continue their study or research in the EU universities.

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LARGEST DONOR EU ATTENDS CHERNOBYL SHELTER FUND ASSEMBLY OF CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. Gerhard Sabathil, Director for Strategy, Coordination and Analysis in the European Commission's External Relations Directorate-General and Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine and represented the European Commission at the Chernobyl Shelter Fund Assembly, held in Kyiv on 7 July, 2009.



The Chernobyl Shelter Fund is managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and was established in 1997 to fund the Shelter Implementation Plan (SIP). The European Union, leading player in addressing the problems caused by the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in 1986, has been the largest contributor to the fund, provided €240 million of funding with an agreement to provide a further €9.7 million in 2009.

The EU has also contributed €22.5 million to the Nuclear Safety Account (NSA), which is also a fund managed by the EBRD. The NSA supports a number of projects at the Chernobyl site including two major radioactive waste management projects. The status of the NSA was presented in the afternoon session of the assembly meeting.

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EU PROJECT ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING MANAGEMENT SUMS UP ACHIEVEMENTS

On 9 July the EU-funded project "Strengthening regional vocational education and training (VET) management in Ukraine" held the final conference. The project due to be completed in August 2009 has worked in 6 pilot regions (Cherkasy, Crimea, Kharkiv, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv city). Representatives of the EC Delegation and the TACIS monitoring team as well as representatives from Ukrainian central and local authorities took part in the final conference.



Among the key results of the project presented at the conference is the equipment delivery for 5 pilot regions, the creation of five Regional and one All Ukraine information analytical centre, development of the Management Information System for VET, of a regional VET strategy for decentralisation and for social partnership, a glossary of essential terms in the VET sphere, a new internal and external procedure for the VET school assessment, methodological guidelines and the mechanisms for calculation of the VET school teaching costs, training for 902 teachers and masters in using of new agricultural machinery, development of 2 standards on the on the basis of learning outcomes, creation of a new profession and the development of training materials in the agricultural sector.

During the project time 139 events with more than 2500 participants took place. Two study tours were organised to Germany and France, 31 trainings and 53 workshops took place.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

20-21 JULY, ANTIMONOPOLY COMMITTEE

Seminar on regulatory agency/electricity sector within the framework of the twinning project "Strengthening the enforcement of competition law and policy in Ukraine"

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21 JULY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Steering Committee of the twinning project "Support to the strengthening of Road Freight and Passenger Transport Safety in Ukraine"

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29 JULY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Steering Committee of the twinning project "Support to Transport Policy Design and Implementation"

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