



THE EU EQUIPPING THE STATE BORDER GUARD SERVICE

The handover of 24 units of car-mounted thermo-imaging surveillance equipment worth €12 million to Ukraine's State Border Guard Service (see below) is just the latest stage in EU projects to better equip the SBGS, to establish open and secure borders between Ukraine and its neighbours and to support the service's objective of becoming Schengen-compliant by 2015.

In November last year, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira handed over 65 thermo-imaging binoculars worth €3.5 million to SBGS. The 65 thermo-imaging binoculars were the first batch out of 287, the remainder of which have now already been delivered and are in use. The total value of all the binoculars is over €15 million.

The SBGS will be the first law-enforcement service world-wide having available such powerful and efficient equipment for the purpose of border guarding. As Ambassador Pinto Teixeira said at the handover ceremony, "I am proud to announce that the thermo-imaging equipment which we hand over today is the most modern available on the world market."

Previous projects have provided the SBGS with document verification devices, night vision goggles and telecommunications equipment. In the near future the EU will deliver 20 passport readers with biometrics function to the SBGS.



EC AMBASSADOR AND UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT HAND OVER THERMOVISION EQUIPMENT TO THE BORDER SERVICE

On 4 September in Kyiv at the Main Communication Centre of the SBGS a ceremony was held to transfer of 24 mobile "Volkswagen" vehicle based thermovision border surveillance sets with the participation of President Viktor Yushchenko and the Head of the EC Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira.

Today the thermovision equipment – both portable and mobile – is actively and well used in the process of Ukrainian state border control. Future officers and contracted servicemen are trained in how to operate this equipment at the National Academy of the SBGS and the Training centre for Junior Staff.

Following the equipment handing over ceremony the high-level participants were invited to get acquainted with the operation activities and performance capabilities of the Main Communication Centre. This unit is an important element of state border control forces management system. It is destined to ensure radio-, wire and satellite communications, data transmission over the closed channels etc.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU-FUNDED PROJECT LAUNCHES ADVERTISING AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On 30 July the EU-UNDP project "Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights in Ukraine" presented new images of social advertising against domestic violence. In late July within the framework of the national campaign to combat domestic violence and violence against women entitled "Stop Violence!" a number of big-boards and city-lights were placed in Kyiv, Simferopol, Yalta, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Lviv, Odesa and Kharkiv.

The Minister for Family, Youth and Sports Yuriy Pavlenko presented at the press-conference the new images which call upon women to break the silence, especially, if they suffer from domestic violence, by dialling a "hot line" phone number 8-800-500-33-50 for assistance.

The national campaign "Stop Violence!" was launched in May 2008 to back the initiated by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon international campaign to end violence against women until 2015 "Unite to End Violence against Women".

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CLOSING EVENT OF THE EU-FUNDED SME PROJECT

On 3 August the EU-funded project "Support to the Development of Business Capacity of Ukrainian SMEs – International Dimension" held its closing event. The project with budget of more than €2 million started in September 2007 and lasted until August 2009. During two years it supported 62 Ukrainian pilot small and medium enterprises (SME) from three priority regions: Kyiv (IT sector), Lviv (woodworking and furniture sector) and Kharkiv (machinery and equipment sector).



Experience of pilot SME companies from three sectors, lessons learnt and recommendations were presented at the closing event by the project team, State Committee for Regulatory Policy and Entrepreneurship, project stakeholders and beneficiaries.

One of the important objectives of the project was to help SMEs to expand their business with EU partners through provision of practical information, advice and useful tools related to exporting and attracting investment as well as to raise awareness about the benefits of internationalisation. An important step in this process was to become familiar with EU market developments and tools for efficiency improvement and export planning.

Within the framework of the project six partnership development missions to EU countries for selected pilot SMEs for each of three sectors were conducted; a series of seminars on "Strengthening SME competitiveness – policy development and implementation" and "Strengthening SME competitiveness through Innovation" and two SME policy roundtables were held.

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EC AMBASSADOR OPENS COAL SECTOR SUPPORT OFFICE IN LVIV

On 2 September a new Coal Sector Support Office was inaugurated in Lviv within the framework of the EU-funded project "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme". The Office was officially opened by the Head of the EC Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira. This is the second project branch office to be opened. The first was opened in Luhansk on 14 July; a third will be opened in Donetsk on 11 September.



The Coal Sector Support Office will become a base for experts for their field work within the project in Lviv region. They will research ecological, social and economic problems of the region and examine resources and perspectives of the coal industry in western Ukraine.

The Coal Sector Support project runs from August 2008 to December 2010. It is geared towards creating a reliable and sustainable basis for the comprehensive coal sector policy support framework as part of the coal sector transformation process in Ukraine. Its overall budget is nearly €9 million.

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EC AMBASSADOR OPENS TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE IN LVIV

On 2 September a Tourist Information Centre was inaugurated at Rynok Square in Lviv within the EU-funded project "Development of Tourist Information Infrastructure in Lviv". The Office was officially opened by the Head of the EC Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira and Head of the City Administration Andriy Sadovy. It provides professional information services to tourists and tourist organisations in Lviv region.



The project on building tourist information infrastructure aims to improve accessibility to UNESCO World Heritage objects in Lviv. High-quality tourist information support and communication accessibility to the Lviv cultural heritage will be provided by marking places of interest and tourist routes with signs and name plates.

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EU-FUNDED RADIO PROJECT HOLDS CLOSING PRESS CONFERENCE

On 3 September the EU-funded radio project "Europe in hearts of Ukrainians" conducted a closing press conference. The project was held during six months on "Nashe Radio". The Head of the EC Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Ukrainian singer and winner of the 2004 Eurovision Song Contest Ruslana, 1996 Gymnastics Olympic Champion Lilia Podkopayeva took part in the event.



The goal of the radio project "Europe in hearts of Ukrainians" was 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.

The Ambassador Pinto Teixeira underlined at the press conference that "most Ukrainians know and understand that EU is an area of peace, stability and prosperity. But Ukrainians know too little about the functioning of the European Union and development and integration perspectives of Ukraine to Europe".

Working closely with the EC Delegation, "Nashe Radio" broadcast up-to-date information about various aspects of EU-Ukraine relations. Three daily radio programmes were broadcast on weekdays, and a one-hour talk show was broadcast on Sundays. The programming is also available online at <http://www.esua.info>.

The on-air project was supported by outdoor ads and events for Ukrainian youth. The project also held a photo contest "My city is European city" aimed to popularise Ukraine as a modern and beautiful European country.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

11 SEPTEMBER, DONETSK

Branch Office Opening in Donetsk, Coal Sector Policy Support Programme

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16-17 SEPTEMBER, KHMELNISTKY

Opening of EU-UNICEF 'Development of Gatekeeping Policies and Systems for Institutionalized and Other Vulnerable Children' project

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22 SEPTEMBER, KYIV, ACADEMY OF JUDGES

Opening of Twinning project "Support to the Academy of Judges of Ukraine"

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