



THE EU AND UKRAINE DEFENDING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The EU has established a comprehensive approach towards children's rights in third countries. Two documents – the EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child and the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict – support the mainstreaming of the rights of the child into EU policy and its relations with third countries. The EU has also signed a number of agreements with third countries to promote the ratification of and compliance with the ILO conventions on child labour.



The EU works closely with UN agencies, especially UNICEF, including in Ukraine. The launch of the new project "Development of Gatekeeping Policies and Systems for Institutionalised and Other Vulnerable Children", funded by the European Union and implemented by Child Protection Programme, which is a constituent part of cooperation between UNICEF and the Government of Ukraine (see below) is the latest such co-operation. The project, worth €465,000 and will operate in the pilot oblast of Khmelnytsky.

Another major children's rights projects launched by the EU in Ukraine this year was the project "Strengthening National Mechanisms and Capacities for Elimination of Trafficking in Children in Ukraine". This project aims to contribute to the eradication of trafficking in children in Ukraine by strengthening national mechanisms and capacities of respective organisation and collaborating with them in the areas of Protection and Reintegration, Judicial and Criminal Persecution and Prevention, Lobbying and Capacity Development. The €600,000 project will run until June 2011 and is implemented by NGO Suchasnyk with the International Organisation for Migration as a partner.

EU LAUNCHES A PROJECT ON PREVENTION OF INSTITUTIONALISATION OF CHILDREN

On 17 September the EU-UNICEF project "Development of Gatekeeping Policies and Systems for Institutionalised and Other Vulnerable Children" held its official presentation at Khmelnytsky Oblast State Administration. Representatives of the EC Delegation, UNICEF and Oblast Administration took part in the event.



This joint initiative will be implemented in Khmelnytsky oblast during 2 years and aims to develop mechanisms for transformation of the institution-based system of state care of children without parental care into a family-based system.

The project is implemented in partnership with Ukrainian and international civic and charitable organisations. During the presentation representatives of international organisations "Hope and Homes for Children" and "Every Child" shared their experience of social work with vulnerable families and children in Ukraine.

The participants also presented information on specific project objectives and analysis of institutionalisation of children in Ukraine. Besides, contribution of the EU, UNICEF and other international organisations to solving urgent problems of Ukrainian children were discussed. As part of the project launch the participants visited the Khmelnytsky Social Mother and Child Centre.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

NEW EU-FUNDED COAL SECTOR SUPPORT OFFICE OPENED IN DONETSK

On 11 September a new Coal Sector Support Office was inaugurated in Donetsk within the framework of the EU-funded project "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme". This is the third project branch office with the other two offices already working in Luhansk and Lviv.

At the opening press-conference Mr. Dirk Schübel, Head of Political, Press and Information Section of the EC Delegation stated that the EU project is a significant part of EU-Ukraine cooperation in the issues of coal industry.

The project with an overall budget of €9 million runs from August 2008 through December 2010. It has already established cooperation with central and regional authorities, other donors and funded projects, academic institutions and NGOs; completed analysis of the legislation on occupational health and safety in mines; advanced preparing of international study tours and workshops for the Ministry of Coal Industry of Ukraine experts, promoting of investment opportunities in Ukrainian coal sector.

The project will continue to support Ukraine's stakeholders in further development and restructuring of the coal-mining industry in a socially-responsible and cost-effective manner.

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EU LAUNCHES A PROJECT ON SUPPORT TO THE ACADEMY OF JUDGES

On 22 September a new EU-funded twinning project "Support to the Academy of Judges of Ukraine" was launched during a press conference at the State Court Administration. The project with a budget nearly €1 million started in July 2009 and will last 24 months.

Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of the EC Delegation introduced the project to be implemented by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Austrian Centre of Legal Competence and the Academy of Judges of Ukraine.

The project will support the creation of a national system of judicial training in order to establish an efficient, transparent and predictable justice, as well as an effectively functioning court system. It includes training for candidate judges, testing and examination, and ongoing training for judges.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 OCTOBER, 35, URITSKOGO STR., KYIV

Press conference to present and share the experience of 2 years of work in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine of the EU-funded project "Regional Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea"

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6 OCTOBER, MAIN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE, 15, PRORIZNA STR., KYIV

Official closing event of the Twinning project "Assisting the Main Control and Revision Office (KRU) in implementing a new system of Public Internal Control"

Contact person – Vilhelm Reutersward, e-mail: vilhelm.reutersward@esv.se

7 OCTOBER, NATIONAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION, KYIV

Kick off meeting of the EU-funded twinning project "Regulatory and Legal Capacity Strengthening of Energy Regulation in NERC"

Contact person – Lemlem Said Issa, e-mail: nerctwinninglsi@nerc.gov.ua

8 OCTOBER, 22, GRUSCHEVSKOGO STR., KYIV

International conference on "The Enlargement of the Energy Community: What's in it for Ukraine?"

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8-9 OCTOBER, KHARKIV

Visit of Head of Delegation to Kharkiv oblast

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