



EU-UKRAINE CO-OPERATION ON FOOD SAFETY

Ukraine's accession to the WTO brings with it requirements for the harmonisation and improvement of sanitary and phytosanitary standards and norms. At the same time, there is pressure from domestic consumers to improve food safety in Ukraine.

The EU-Ukraine Action Plan envisages co-operation in the "implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures upon Ukraine's accession to the WTO, including by nominating a central enquiry point and creating a rapid information system". Also opening up the EU market to Ukraine agricultural exports would be a valuable asset to Ukraine; Agriculture was the only part of the Ukrainian economy to have registered growth (1.5%) in the first quarter of 2009.

While there has been progress in the harmonisation of Ukraine's food safety legislation with the EU, there is still duplication and overlaps between state inspection and laboratory services as well as an outdated system of standards. The EU is helping to improve Ukraine's capacity in the food safety sector through the "Implementation of Ukraine's Commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural Sector". The EU has also raised awareness of food safety issues among consumers through the EU-UNDP Consumer Society and Citizens' Networks Project.

The recently launched Veterinary Twinning project (see below) also aims to improve food safety and veterinary control, thus increasing the competitiveness of Ukraine food products of animal origin on international markets.



EU TWINNING PROJECT CONTRIBUTES TO INCREASED FOOD SAFETY

On 21 October the EU-funded Twinning project "Support for the Ukrainian Veterinary Services in enhancing the Legal and Technical Aspects of Food Safety Control System" held its opening press conference. The project with a total budget of €1.26 million will be implemented over 21 months by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration in consortium with the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority of the Netherlands. Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of the EC Delegation as well as the Ambassadors of the Netherlands and Denmark took part in the event.

The project intends to contribute to the Ukrainian public health protection by strengthening the food safety control system. It will also help to improve the overall product quality in Ukraine and therefore facilitate the ability to export animal food products to the EU.

The project includes approximation of the Ukrainian national legislation to the EU legislation; improvement of the Ukrainian National Residue Control Plan; guidelines for food business operators as well as for relevant veterinary authorities; training programs on chemical laboratory examination, sampling, microbiological criteria, meat inspection, animal welfare and border inspection in Ukraine, Denmark, the Netherlands and Latvia; a review and assessment of progress in all Twinning food safety related areas.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU BORDER MANAGEMENT PROJECT HONOURED BY THE STATE BORDER GUARD SERVICE

On 24 September the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) recognised the "Improving Integrated Border Management: Follow-up to Reinforcing the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine Human Resources Management (HUREMAS 2)" project for its outstanding contribution to the Service.

Oleksandr Melnykov, Deputy Head of the SBGS conferred certificates for "Active Cooperation in the Improvement of the Human Resources Management System of the SBGS in Implementation of the International Technical Assistance Project Titled HUREMAS 2" to the project implementation team, and decorated the project manager with a medal for "Facilitation in Guarding the State Border".

The HUREMAS 2 project is funded by the EU and the US and has a budget of €1.4 million. The project is implemented from March 2008 to February 2010 by the International Organisation for Migration with the assistance of the Polish Border Guard and National Police of Hungary. It seeks to facilitate the SBGS' effort to transform itself by 2015 into a modern uniformed law enforcement service, a standard that Ukraine must fulfil if it wishes to be EU compliant in this area, meet current and future border management challenges, and become a full-fledged partner to the EU in maintaining open and secure borders.

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EU-COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEDIA PROJECT DISCUSSES NEW MEDIA REGULATION AND DIGITAL BROADCASTING IN UKRAINE

In September the EU-CoE Joint Project "Promotion of the European Standards in the Ukrainian Media Environment" organised an expert seminar on European standards in the new media sector and co-organised the Third Annual Forum on Implementation of Digital Broadcasting in Ukraine.

The seminar helped to introduce international approaches to new media regulation to some 50 representatives of the Ukrainian national media regulator, editors-in-chief of internet media, broadcasting and print press associations, journalists, local experts and media NGOs. Project experts shared exhaustive information about the current stage of new media debate in Europe and the instruments available for regulation and focused on policy issues in this field related to consumer protection, indecency, hate speech, copyright, taxation etc.

The "Third Annual Forum on Implementation of Digital Broadcasting in Ukraine" was co-organised by the Industrial Television Committee, the Independent Association of Broadcasters, EU-CoE media project, the International Media Support from Denmark, and the USAID-funded U-Media Project. The Forum gathered over 120 representatives of the government, broadcasting companies, sector associations, civil society and potential investors. The project experts presented the existing European models of interagency coordination in this area based on transparent strategies of joint efforts with the industry and consumer associations. More information about the forum is available on <http://www.dtvforum.org.ua>.

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EC AMBASSADOR VISITS EU-FUNDED PROJECTS IN KHARKIV REGION

On 8-10 October the Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of the EC Delegation visited EU-funded projects in Kharkiv region. He also met regional and local officials and took part in the EURO CITIES Network Meeting in Kharkiv.

Ambassador Pinto Teixeira met in Bliznyuki village with representatives of the EU-funded project "Support to Secondary Healthcare Reform in Ukraine". The Ambassador visited the Blyznyuky Regional Hospital where a modern documentation flow and management system has been provided by the project.

In the town of Izyum the Ambassador held a press conference with the city mayor and representatives of the EU-funded project "Sustainable Local Development in Ukraine", which has the task of infrastructure modernisation in Eastern Ukraine. He also visited the local school in the Studenok village where boilers have been installed as part of the project.

In Kharkiv the Ambassador met the city mayor and opened the EURO CITIES Network Meeting. He also held a meeting with the governor to discuss EU-funded projects in the oblast.

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EU CONTRIBUTES TO IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING STANDARDS IN RURAL AREAS

On 15 October the joint EU-UNDP project "Community Based Approach to Local Development (CBA)" held its 2nd Steering Committee. Key stakeholders from the government and national associations learned about the progress and results of the second year of project's activities aimed at mobilisation of 1000 local communities and improvement of the living standards in rural areas of Ukraine.



During the second year of activity the CBA project established partnerships with 24 regions and Crimea, 200 pilot districts and 1000 village councils. Over 650 trainings were conducted to teach local communities how to create and manage their Community Organisation; how to draft, mainstream and implement community development plans; how to prepare and implement their micro-project. More than 11,500 local activists and about 3,600 employees of local councils participated in these trainings.

The project approved 404 micro-projects co-financed by the CBA project (UAH 26 million), local budgets of different levels (UAH 26 million), Communities' membership fees (more than UAH 4.5 million) and funds of local sponsors (about UAH 1 million). Statistics shows that 55% of communities prioritised energy saving in local schools, kindergartens and medical institutions; 21% repaired local medical institutions and purchase new equipment; 17% opted for installing or repair of water supply system; 6% of projects - purchase of a school bus. At the moment about 600 pilot organisations are in the process of drafting their project documentation. It is expected that all 1000 community micro-projects will be completed within the end of the CBA project in 2010.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

27 OCTOBER, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, KYIV

Steering Committee of the Twinning project "Support to Transport Policy Design and Implementation in Ukraine"

Contact person – Gerd Kaschell, e-mail: twinning-policy@mtu.gov.ua, tel. 271-40-16

27 OCTOBER, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, KYIV

Steering Committee of the Twinning project "Support to strengthening of road freight and passenger transport safety in Ukraine"

Contact person – Eric Hoyrup, e-mail: eric_hoyrup@mtu.gov.ua, tel. 271-48-60

27 OCTOBER, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, KYIV

Steering Committee Meeting of the project "Support to the Ukrainian Insurance Sector"

Contact person – Maryna Malik, e-mail: m.malik@fs-euproject.org, tel. 425-14-43

27-28 OCTOBER, "RUS HOTEL", 4, HOSPITALNA STR., KYIV

Opening Seminar of the project "TRACECA Civil Aviation Safety, Security and Environment"

Contact person – Peter Cooper, e-mail: cooper105@btinternet.com, tel. (099) 484-06-14

28 OCTOBER, MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION, KYIV

Seminar on Harmonisation of Standards in the Construction Industry of the project "Technical Assistance to Ukrainian Quality Infrastructure"

Contact person – Oksana Sokour, e-mail: osokour@epukraine.com, tel. 583-07-75