



YOUTH IN ACTION

The Youth in Action Programme is a European Union-funded programme which promotes the development of contacts and cooperation between young people in the EU and neighbouring partner countries. The six Eastern Partnership partner countries as well as the Russian Federation can participate in the programme in the framework of Action 2 (European Voluntary Service) and Action 3.1 (Youth in the World).

Young Ukrainians participate in youth exchanges, volunteering, training and networking, with young people from the EU coming to Ukraine to take part in similar activities.

Examples of Youth in Action activities in Ukraine include the "There is a sun inside everyone" project which brought together 30 young people in Lviv in October 2007 for intercultural dialogue and to discuss anti-discrimination.

Also in Vinnitsa, two Polish volunteers spent 12 months in the Vinnitsa Centre for European Information, where they prepared seminars, role-playing games and discussions. They also organised a Polish Club for those interested in Poland, Polish language and culture.



For more examples and further information please see the website: <http://www.yia.org.ua/>.

EU DELEGATION AWARDS BEST YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHS

On 11 January the EU Delegation to Ukraine presented the winner of the nationwide photography competition "Youth in Action" with their prizes. The competition was organised September–November 2009 by the Network of informational representatives of the EU-funded Youth in Action Programme in partnership with the SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre. The main objective of the competition was the promotion of international youth co-operation, especially in the framework of the Youth in Action Programme.

The selection committee received 55 photographs from young people, who are taking part or participated in projects of the Youth in Action Programme (youth exchange, European Voluntary Service, trainings etc.). On the local website of the Youth in Action Programme all Internet users had the possibility to vote for the best photo.

The selection committee composed of representatives of the EU-funded Youth in Action Programme and officials of the EU Delegation chose the best photographs taking into account the results of the online voting. The winners of the competition received from the EU Delegation and the SALTO Centre pocket personal computers and promotional materials of the Youth in Action Programme.



More information at: <http://photo.yia.org.ua/>
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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU PROJECT AWARDS JOURNALISTS ON AWARENESS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

On 15 January the EU-funded project "Support to the Secondary Health Care in Ukraine" gave prizes to the Ukrainian journalists of the national contest "Changes in you may change the world". The contest lasted 5 months from 30 July 2009 till 30 November 2009 and was aimed at raising awareness among the general population of the project recommendations on health care reform in Ukraine. The contest strived to increase the understanding of the role of the local authorities in organisation of the health care services and assuring the quality of health care.

The jury composed of leading journalists, health professionals and representatives of the Ministry of Health and EU Delegation evaluated in total 159 articles in the print media, 15 TV programmes, 10 radio programmes and around 50 articles published in internet and submitted for the contest. The winners in each nomination received a prize of UAH 10,000, whereas runners-up received from UAH 6,000 to UAH 8,000. Several publications in the print media were awarded for raising critical issues in health care.



More information at: www.eu-shc.com.ua

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EU-UNDP PROJECT PRESENTS A NEW SURVEY ON VIOLENCE IN UKRAINIAN FAMILIES

On 15 January the EU-funded and UNDP-implemented project "Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights in Ukraine" held a press conference on "10 Unknown Facts about Domestic Violence". During the event the project experts presented a survey carried out by GfK Ukraine on violence in Ukrainian families, with its scope and in-depth analysis being conducted for the first time over the past 10 years in Ukraine.

The Head of Operations of the EU Delegation Laura Garagnani expressed confidence that "the financial support the European Union has provided to programmes focused on women's and children's protection will encourage the Ukrainian Government to put in place prevention strategies and strategies for the protection and support of victims of violence at all levels", she said.

The public poll suggests that nearly half of Ukrainian population suffered from domestic violence in their lives, and 30% were subjected to violence in their childhood age. Women more often suffer from domestic violence in their adult life, while men – in their childhood.

An additional task of the survey was to assess the level of public trust in the institutions that provide assistance in domestic violence cases, in particular, bodies of interior affairs, shelters, social service and crisis centres, hospitals, and courts. The survey also exposed certain facts of violence committed against elderly people, widows and widowers, and disabled people.



More information at: <http://gender.undp.org.ua/>

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EU PROJECT HELDS A SEMINAR ON APPROXIMATION OF MINING LEGISLATION

On 21 January the EU-funded "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme" held in Luhansk a seminar on approximation of Ukrainian mining legislation with EU regulations. 60 participants from the Ministry of Coal Industry, State Committee on Industrial Security, Occupational Safety and Mining Supervision and research institutions took part in the event.

The seminar focused on occupational health and safety mining legislation. The participants had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with EU occupational health and safety standards, relevant EU legislation in the field and Polish experience of approximation of mining legislation with the relevant EU regulations. Although some practical measures in improvement of occupational health and safety mining standards have been made, the issue remains of utmost importance for Ukraine.

The "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme", with a budget of €8.9 million, is the EU's biggest single current investment in Ukraine and aims at development and restructuring of Ukraine's coal mining industry in a socially responsible and cost effective manner, including providing assistance to the Ministry of Coal Industry in improvement of occupational safety standards.

More information at: <http://www.eu-coalsector.com.ua/>

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EU TWINNING PROJECT SUMMARISES ACHIEVEMENTS

On 21 January the EU-funded Twinning project "Implementation of Twinning Operations in Ukraine (ITO)" held its closing conference. This event became a key final gathering of Twinning stakeholders in Ukraine in the framework of this project. The conference summarised 3½ years of intensive cooperation and was attended by 150 invitees including senior representatives of the EU Delegation, embassies of EU Member States, key Twinning projects, Ukrainian ministries and agencies, as well as numerous other civil servants who participated in different activities organised by the ITO project.

Within its 42 months of intensive work the ITO project with its partners has been able to lay down solid foundation for the continuation of Twinning work in Ukraine and reforming its agenda. The way of communication the ITO project has established created a friendly and sustainable learning and development environment for every participating civil servant linking institutional and individual interests and putting a strong emphasis on interaction and dialogue with and amongst all the related stakeholders and groups.

As emphasised by the conference participants, the project was able to achieve its purpose of supporting the preparation and management of the Twinning programme in Ukraine in line with EU rules and procedures and boosting significantly the institutional capacity of Twinning stakeholders. Very importantly, the activities have a wider overall effect on a large number of people in the public administration. Nevertheless, the project team learned and emphasised that Twinning works only in those countries where serious reforms and changes are happening.

Twining is an institutional building tool which aims to help beneficiary countries in the development of modern and efficient administrations and organisations at central, regional and local level, with the structures, human resources and management skills needed to implement the EU legislation to the same standards as EU Member States. While the ITO project may have come to a close, Twinning will continue in Ukraine; three new projects started work at the end of 2009, with official openings in the near future (see upcoming events below). Three more projects will start work in 2010 with a further 7 under preparation.

More information at: <http://twinning.com.ua/>

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

28-29 JANUARY, CRIMEA

The EU-funded project "Implementation of Ukraine's Commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural Sector (Sector-Wide Approach)" holds four workshops on support to farmers' producer groups for the Crimean pilot areas of Saki and Nizhnegorsk.

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4 FEBRUARY, PREMIER PALACE HOTEL, KYIV

The EU-funded Twinning project "Enhancing Performance of InvestUkraine: the Ukrainian Centre for Foreign Investment Promotion in line with best European practices" holds the launch event.

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4 FEBRUARY, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, KYIV

The EU-funded and IOM-implemented project "Technical cooperation and capacity building for the governments of Ukraine and Moldova for the implementation of readmission agreements with the European Union" (GUMIRA) presents a legal research on "Readmission in Ukraine. Legal-institutional analysis and lessons from the EU experience".

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5 FEBRUARY, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, KYIV

The EU-funded and Council of Europe-implemented project "Transparency and Efficiency of the Judicial System of Ukraine" organises a round table on "Presentation of expert opinion on the draft Law on Judiciary and Status of Judges of Ukraine".

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15 FEBRUARY, SUMSKA OBLAST

The EU-funded project "GDISC Ukraine – Capacity Building and Technical Support to Ukrainian authorities to Effectively Respond to Irregular Transit-Migration (ERIT) – A comprehensive and complementary approach to migration management support in Ukraine" opens a Screening Centre of the State Border Guard Service in Seredina Buda, Sumska Oblast.

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