



EUROPEAN STANDARDS IN CENTRAL BANKING PROMOTE FINANCIAL STABILITY

Central banks play a crucial role in devising and implementing sound macroeconomic policies, ensuring price stability and fostering the growth and welfare. Today, more than ever, we need independent, credible institutions with the capacity to take fully into account longer-term considerations.

The EU-Ukraine Action Plan of 2005 puts emphasis on strengthening the independence of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU). A new practical document to replace the EU-Ukraine Action Plan, the Association Agenda, identifies priorities, which require urgent action in anticipation of the entry into force of the Association Agreement. These actions include strengthening the independence of the National Bank of Ukraine and sharing the experience of the EU on monetary and exchange rate policies.

The recently launched EU-funded Twinning project "Strengthening National Bank of Ukraine potential through the approximation to EU standards of central banking" will help advance of the NBU's core central banking functions. This includes monetary and exchange rate policies, management of reserves, monetary and credit statistics and oversight of payment and settlement systems. Knowledge and practice, accumulated in the EU context, will also be used by the NBU to address the important challenge of price stability.

The project is also expected to assist in the institutional strengthening of the NBU, by fostering its independence through the review of and proposals to improve the relevant legislation, and through streamlining the NBU's internal procedures, such as the operational planning. The project will assist in designing of sound communication policies, both in-country and international.



EU PROJECT STRENGTHENS THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE NATIONAL BANK

On 10 February the EU-funded Twinning project "Strengthening NBU potential through the approximation to EU standards of central banking" was launched during an official event. The Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira and first Vice-Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) Anatoly Shapovalov opened the event.

The project has a duration of 21 months and a budget of €1.1 million. Its aim is to enable NBU to obtain expertise and information on standards and best practices used by German and Polish central banks within the European System of the Central Banks. The project will be implemented in partnership with the German Bundesbank and the National Bank of Poland. The main activities of the project will focus on crucial aspects of central banking and aim at strengthening the institutional capacity of the NBU.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU PROJECT SUPPORTS CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISTS ON THEIR RIGHTS PROTECTION

On 12-31 January the EU-funded project "Citizen Initiative for Economic and Social Rights Protection" organised a series of events for civil society activists from Odesa, Ternopil and Khmelnytsky regions of Ukraine.

In Odesa and Ternopil the project held two information sessions for over 40 representatives of local civil society organisations. The meetings dealt with a new grant competition on public monitoring of planning community areas and land use.

The project also conducted 5 training sessions in Kamyanets-Podilsky and Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi. The events were attended by over 50 representatives of local authorities and community activists and focused on development of action plans and their implementation, proposal writing and budget planning. In addition, the project held a consulting seminar for representatives of rural communities from Dunaevetsky, Gusyatytsky and Bilhorod-Dnistrovsky districts pre-selected for funding to develop territorial planning documentation.

The Citizen Initiative for Economic and Social Rights Protection is a two-year project implemented by the Counterpart Creative Centre and funded through the EU's European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

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EU-IOM PROJECT FACILITATES EU-UKRAINE COOPERATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF READMISSION AGREEMENT

On 26-28 January the EU-funded and IOM-implemented project "Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building for the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova for the Implementation of Readmission Agreement with the European Union (GUMIRA)" held a seminar on readmission for representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), State Border Guard Service (SBGS), and law enforcement agencies from the EU Member States.

The aim of the seminar was to develop recommendations for the practical realisation of the EU-Ukraine readmission agreement and to discuss potential challenges related to co-operation between practitioners from Ukraine and the EU related to readmission of own and foreign nationals in humane and orderly manner. The main topics discussed included: authorities responsible for readmission procedure, means of transfer of readmission applications, time limits, evidence and documents required. The participants agreed that such a seminar was highly useful and relevant since the provisions of the readmission agreement related to third country nationals had just entered into force. The project plans to conduct similar seminars in Ukraine's border regions.

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EU AND UKRAINE SHARE INFORMATION ON DRUGS

On 28 January the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, which will allow the European Union and Ukraine to share more systematically information on drugs. The signatories were the Ukrainian Minister of Health Vasyl Knyazevich and EMCDDA Director Wolfgang Götz. The Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, also took part in the signing ceremony.

Commenting on the MoU, Wolfgang Götz said that the "accord lays the foundation for a new working relationship between the EMCDDA and its Ukrainian counterparts and is an important step towards building an evidence base on the Ukrainian drug situation in the European context".

The Ukrainian Medical and Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Alcohol (UMMCDA) of the Ministry of Health has been appointed the national centre to collect and analyse data on the Ukrainian drug and alcohol situation. The MoU, signed for an initial period of five years, will help the parties develop joint methods of monitoring illicit drug use. It also allows for a regular exchange of information on new drug types and psychotropic substances appearing on the illicit drug market, as well as the technologies used in their production. Under the agreement, the EMCDDA will facilitate training and the exchange of experts and scientific research results related to illicit drug trafficking, monitoring the drug situation and other issues of common interest.



EU SUPPORTS MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE ON DEMARCATION OF COMMON BORDER

On 29 January the official ceremony of installation of the first border sign on the central (Transnistrian) part of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border took place in Velyka Kisnytsia village in Vinnitsia region. The ceremony was attended by the Moldovan and Ukrainian Ministers of Foreign Affairs Iurie Lianca and Petro Poroshenko. The EU was represented by the EU Delegation's Head of Operations Laura Garagnani. The acting Head of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) Udo Burkholder also attended.

The event marks the first milestone in joint border demarcation efforts regarding the central segment of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border.

EUBAM has held observer status on the bilateral Moldovan-Ukrainian border demarcation commission since March 2008. EUBAM will shortly deploy a number of experts in support of the commission. The EU Mission supports good quality border and customs services for the people and companies of Moldova, Ukraine and the EU across the entire Moldovan-Ukrainian border.

More information at: <http://www.eubam.org/>

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EU PROJECT TO HELP PROMOTE INWARD INVESTMENT TO UKRAINE

On 4 February the EU-funded Twinning project "Enhancing performance of InvestUkraine: the Ukrainian Centre for Foreign Investment Promotion in line with the best European practices" organised a launching conference in Kyiv. Among the participants of the event were representatives of the EU Delegation, state institutions of Ukraine, Poland and Germany, as well as representatives of regional organisations on investment attraction and business community.

The Head of Trade and Economic Section of the EU Delegation Urike Hauer stated during the event, that "Foreign investors provide know-how, introduce new technological standards and facilitate access to international markets for domestic companies but they expect friendly, predictable, more transparent rules-based markets and stable institutional and legal environments".

The project with a budget of €1.4 million will be implemented during 24 month and aims to enhance capacities and improve performance of the Ukrainian Centre for Foreign Investment Promotion (InvestUkraine) to fulfil promotion functions in accordance with the leading European practices.

It is expected to strengthen the operational and marketing abilities of the InvestUkraine as the central authority for development and implementation of the new Foreign Direct Investments promotion strategy in order to emphasise Ukraine's competitive advantages as one of the biggest European markets.

More information at: <http://www.investukraine.org/>

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EU-FUNDED TWINNING PROJECT HELD ROUND TABLE ON CIVIL SERVANTS' TRAINING

On 4 February the EU-funded Twinning project "Support to the Civil Servants Training in Ukraine" held the first roundtable to discuss an assessment report that has identified the strengths and weaknesses of the current training system of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) and the Main Department of the Civil Service (MDCS). Representatives of the EU Delegation, Secretariats of the President and the Cabinet of Ministers, Verkhovna Rada, relevant ministries, higher education institutions and partner organisations took part in the event.

The assessment report takes into account previous studies and gives a special attention to important changes in the legislative and regulatory framework of the civil service system, their influence on civil servants' training; availability and quality of the ongoing strategies in the field of civil service training; how civil servants training is reflected in the new draft law on civil servants' training and the priorities for civil servants' training.

The roundtable also provided an opportunity to present four reference studies about the relevant experience of some EU Member States (France, Poland, Spain, Latvia) in order to compare countries with different civil service systems and identify best practices, focusing on the following indicators: legislative framework, training institutions, central administrative

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EU-IOM PROJECT PRESENTS A LEGAL STUDY ON READMISSION

On 4 February the EU-funded and IOM-implemented project "Technical Co-operation and Capacity Building for the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova for the Implementation of Readmission Agreement with the European Union (GUMIRA)" presented a legal study on "Readmission in Ukraine: Legal-Institutional Analysis and Lessons from EU Experience". The study is aimed at analysing the normative groundwork in Ukraine encompassing issues relevant to readmission, such as detention, expulsion, treatment of vulnerable groups, and impartial review of pertinent mechanisms which are binding in EU Member States.

In their presentation the authors of the study have covered the strengths and weaknesses in the current legislative and practical framework for the implementation of the readmission agreement in Ukraine, the beneficial use of the EU best practices related to the implementation of readmission agreements, provided recommendations on addressing crucial legislative gaps, as well as suggested steps for the improvement of the relevant normative, administrative and technical framework.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 new Screening Centre in Seredina Buda in Sumy region.

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16 FEBRUARY, CHERNIHIVSKA 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" holds the official hand over ceremony of a modern security system established at the Detention Centre in Rozsudiv (Chernihiv region). The event will be attended by EU Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira.

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18 FEBRUARY, RUS HOTEL, 4 HOSPITALNA STREET, KYIV

The EU-funded Twinning project "Strengthening activities of the National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine" will hold its closing event.

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