



EU EXTERNAL ACTION ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

On the eve of the International Women's Day, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission Catherine Ashton said:

"International Women's Day provides a great opportunity for each one of us to reflect on our responsibility for working towards the eradication of gender inequality. This is very much true also in international relations, where all must play their part in reaching this common goal.

Sustainable peace and security cannot be achieved without the full participation of women. Unfortunately, the persistence of constitutions and laws that blatantly discriminate against women still undermines the development of countries around the world.

Violence against women has direct negative consequences on women's access to education, job and on to their participation in the public life. The impact of the marginalisation of women is not only at the expense of women, but runs counter to the overall empowerment of local communities. There remains a huge amount to do in all parts of the world.

This is a global challenge of the highest order, to deliver gender equality and empower women, within Europe and beyond. That is why the EU will continue to put pro-active work in this field at the heart of our policies, both internal and external. Heads of EU Delegations throughout the world have just received clear instructions in this respect."



EU PROJECT SUPPORTS EMPOWERMENT OF UKRAINIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

On 3 March the EU-funded project "Women's and children's rights in Ukraine – communication component" organised the signature of the "Declaration of Respect" between the EU Delegation and the Ministry for Family, Youth and Sports. The document supports equal rights and opportunities of women and men as well as children rights protection in Ukraine and was signed by the Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira and the Deputy Minister for Family, Youth and Sports Ms Lyudmyla Volynets.

Ambassador Pinto Teixeira said at the ceremony: "The EU supports the empowerment of Ukrainian women and children. The EU is working with Ukraine to combat violence and discrimination against women and children through the programme on Women's and Children's Rights with a total budget of 14 million euros. The information campaign on the signing the "Declaration of Respect" is a simple but important gesture underlining the EU's commitment to respect the rights of women and children".

This event marked the beginning of a sustained information campaign aiming to ensure equal opportunities and rights for both men and women. The event was a joint initiative of the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports, and the European Union, jointly with the EU-funded projects implemented by the UNDP, UNICEF, the Council of Europe and the International Labour Organisation. The event was devoted to International Women's Day promoting the principle of "Equal rights, equal opportunities: progress for all" with the support of "National network of men-leaders against violence".



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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU PROJECT PROMOTES EUROPEAN STANDARDS IN THE UKRAINIAN MEDIA

On 26-27 February the EU-funded and Council of Europe-implemented project "Promotion of the European Standards in the Ukrainian Media Environment" organised a conference on self-regulation for media and advertising sectors and conducted a training course on digital television. The conference was co-organised with the National Commission for Freedom of Speech and Development of the Information Sector and Anatolii Moskalenko's Journalism Development Fund.

The conference participants analysed the current situation in Ukrainian media and advertising sectors and learned about existing European practices in the areas of regulation and self-regulation for broadcast media, print press, new media and the advertising industry. More than 80 representatives of the Ukrainian media and advertising sectors discussed the challenges to establishment of self-regulation in Ukraine and developed a set of recommendations for the new President of Ukraine in the fields of media and self-regulation development.

Earlier that month, the project, in partnership with the Industrial Television Committee, organised the Digitology course for 18 journalists selected through an open call for applications. This press course aimed at informing the media about the transition to digital television and exposing them to the experiences and practices of Western and Eastern European countries which have gone through similar processes.

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EU HOLDS SEMINAR ON UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE FOR EASTERN EUROPE

On 1-2 March the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission (EACEA) held in Kyiv the Tempus Regional Seminar on University Governance in Eastern European countries. The event was organised by the EU Delegation and the National Tempus Office, and brought together 70 experts and academia from seven states of the Eastern Europe: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

During the first plenary three European experts from Austria, Sweden and France spoke on the changes in university governance in their countries from a university and ministry perspectives. The results of the Tempus study "Changing rules – A review of Tempus support to university governance" were presented by one of the authors from the United Kingdom.

The work of the seminar was organised in parallel workshop sessions where participants discussed different topics, particularly the shift from a regulatory state to a supervisory state; the transfer to university autonomy and responsibility; designing, implementing and evaluating national development strategy plans for Higher Education; university governance structures; engaging students, academics and external stakeholders; the role of external governance in curricula development and awarding for degrees; the role and responsibilities in recruitment, retention, rewarding, developing and evaluating academic, technical and administrative staff.

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EU PROJECT DISCUSSES THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE RURAL SECTOR

On 3 March the EU-funded project "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the rural sector" held an international conference on the development of civil society in the rural and agricultural sectors in Ukraine. The event was organised by the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX). Representatives of the EU Delegation, main stakeholders in the agrarian sector in Ukraine, local authorities, agrarian chambers, NGOs, professional associations took part in the event.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the institutional and legal development of civil society in agricultural and rural sector of Ukraine on the basis of experience of the EU Member States. The participants discussed the initiation of a wide public discussion of institutional and legal development of NGO sector in rural areas; delivering of the EU experience in institutional development of agricultural and civil society; development of the institutional and legal model drafts for NGO sector in Ukraine based on EU experience.

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EU PROJECT OPENS NEW MODEL BORDER DIVISION

On 4 March the EU-funded and IOM-implemented project "Reinforcing the Human Resources Management of Ukraine's State Border Guard Service" (HUREMAS) held the opening of model border division at the Field Training Facility of State Border Guard Service (SBGS) Academy in Khmelnytskyi. After the opening ceremony, representatives of the EU Delegation, IOM, American and Polish Embassies, visited the new premises.

The project focuses on reform of human resources management in SBGS, apart from capacity building elements, provides different supplies for the Field Training Facility such as local area network, telephone subsystem, video surveillance subsystem, furniture, computers, printers, scanners, specialised training equipment.

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EU PROJECT ORGANISES DISCUSSION ON FUTURE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

On 9 March the EU-funded and Council of Europe-implemented project "Transparency and efficiency of the judicial system of Ukraine" organised a roundtable on the future of the legal profession in Ukraine. European experts, representatives of EU Delegation, Council of Europe, Ukrainian lawyer associations, Government and Parliament took part in the discussion.

Experts underlined during the event that the legal profession remains largely unregulated under Ukrainian law and views of its future form differ greatly between practising lawyers. Four different draft Laws on the future Ukrainian Bar have been submitted to the Parliament in an attempt to remedy the situation.

At the request of the Members of the Parliament, European experts in the framework of the project prepared an opinion on the draft of one of the Law on the future Ukrainian Bar to assess its conformity with European standards. Experts presented their opinion at the roundtable. The participants had also the opportunity to discuss the future shape of the advocacy in Ukraine and to bridge the differences.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

15 MARCH, MAIN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE, KYIV

Closing event of the EU-funded Twinning project "Boosting Ukrainian Space Cooperation with EU"

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17 MARCH, MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, KYIV

Closing conference of the EU-funded and France-implemented Twinning project "Introduction and Development of Quality Management within the Ukrainian Police"

Contact person: Bernard Cateau, e-mail: rta.berbrucateau@yahoo.fr, tel: (044) 278 03 21

18 MARCH, UKRAINKA, KYIV REGION

Opening of the EU-funded CIUDAD project "Sustainable Urban Development"

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18-19 MARCH, ZAPORIZHIA

Information Day of the EU-funded and UNDP-implemented project "Community Based Approach to Local Development"

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22-23 MARCH, CHERNIVTSI

Visit by Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira to Chernivtsi, closure of CBC culture project and rural investment projects; visit to Khotyn Castle project

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