



EU AND UKRAINE WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFER ROADS

Road safety is an important sector of EU and Ukraine co-operation. Although a number of measures were implemented to improve the situation, the death and injury rate in Ukraine remains extremely high. In 2009 there were 113 road deaths per million inhabitants, which is one of the highest rates in Europe, and 710 deaths per million vehicles, which is 9 times more than the same indicator in such countries as the Netherlands, Sweden or the United Kingdom.



In Lviv, the EU-funded project "Support to the integration of Ukraine in the Trans-European Transport Network" recently launched with the Lviv City Government a pilot road safety project. The project was prepared with the close co-operation of non-governmental organisations and the local community. The pilot project focuses on reducing speeding and increasing the use of seat belts. More than a half of deaths in traffic accidents in Lviv are caused by speeding. This is the most critical for the least protected – pedestrians and cyclists. Also, the proportion of drivers not using seat belts in Lviv is even higher than the national average. Global practice shows that use of seat belts is one of the most effective measures to prevent injuries and traumas on the roads – it reduces the risk of death in case of car accidents by approximately 60%.

An EU-funded twinning project on Road Safety has also just completed its activities (see below). This project has helped the Main State Road Transport Inspectorate at the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Ukraine become a more powerful unit. The project has also helped to develop a Road Safety programme according to the best EU practices. Additionally, several legal texts have been harmonised with respective EU laws.

In order to achieve these results, the Project focused on legislation, its enforcement, penalties for road traffic infringements, institutional aspects, and the accident data base. These elements were used to draft a Road Safety Programme.

ROAD SAFETY TWINNING PROJECT COMPLETES WITH SUCCESS

On May 13, the EU-funded Project "Support to Strengthening of Road Freight and Passenger Transport Safety in Ukraine" completes nineteen-month programme of activities. Its results were discussed at the closing event in Kyiv.



The road safety project started in September 2008 and aimed to contribute to the improvement of Road Safety in Ukraine, with the mid-term target to reduce the number of fatalities by 50 % in 2012. It was funded by the European Union and implemented by a consortium gathering French, Austrian and Polish administrations in charge of Road Safety and Road Transport, with a value of €1 million.

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ENP COUNTRY REPORT 2009 – UKRAINE

On May 12, the European Commission has published its neighbourhood package, consisting of an overall assessment of five years of implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which includes a report specifically on Ukraine.



According to it, after years of steady progress in many areas covered by the Action Plan, Ukraine witnessed a slowing in the pace of reform in 2009, as a result of global economic and financial crisis and domestic political and constitutional difficulties.

Key reform priorities in 2010 include: efforts to enhance macro-financial stability, reform of the constitution in order to enhance political stability while maintaining the pace of democratic development, energy sector reform (in particular as regards gas), public administration reform, the fight against corruption notably through judicial reform as well as measures to improve the business and investment climate.

More information at http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/documents_en.htm
http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/ukraine/index_en.htm
http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

TWO REGIONAL PROJECTS FOR REFUGEES IN MOLDOVA, BELARUS AND UKRAINE HELD MEETINGS IN KYIV

On April 28-29, two EU-funded and UNHCR-implemented projects for Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus "Regional Protection Support" and "Local Integration of Refugees" held their 2nd meetings in Kyiv.

The meeting of Regional Steering Committee of "Regional Protection Support" project brought together border, asylum and law-enforcement authorities from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as the Delegation of the European Union, the UN Refugee Agency and project partners, including the civil society and the International Organization for Migration. The Regional Steering Committee meeting was aimed on evaluation activities undertaken in three countries in the framework of the project within the last year. The Regional Steering Committee also reviewed and adopted the work plan for the next project year to ensure its sound impact and build on synergies with other projects implemented in the same thematic and geographic areas. The meeting included the presentation of the UNHCR Resettlement Programme and a round table discussion on implementation of UNHCR 10 Point Plan of Action for Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration. Since the project commenced in April 2009 the contribution of the European Union into it was €1 mln. Its total cost for the three countries is €2.586 mln, to which the European Union contributed about 77% and UNHCR – 23%.

On the next day, April 29 at the conference of "Local Integration of Refugees" project the team leaders discussed activities on helping refugees under this two-year regional initiative (2009-2011) covering three countries Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Its total cost for the three countries is €2.586 mln, to which the European Union finances about 77% and UNHCR – 23%.

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EU PROJECT HOLDS TRAINING ON AVIATION SAFETY

On 11-14 May the EU funded project "Support to the Integration of Ukraine in the Trans-European Network TEN-T Project" held a four day aviation training programme to provide "Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft" (SAFA) training to 13 senior managers employed by the Ukraine State Aviation Authority (SAA). This will allow the managers to be accredited to test foreign aircrafts that will land in Ukraine in the future, to ensure they meet approved minimum safety standards set by European Aviation Standards Association (EASA).

This course was run by the Dutch company "Joint Aviation Authorities Training Organisation" and the training was given by Mr Bent Ole Nielsen – a former flight engineer and Mr Victor Konrad – former Antonov pilot.

The course consisted of 3 days in Kyiv on the theory of inspection and 1 day of practical application of this theory at Borispol airport, testing a Boeing 737 cargo plane kindly provided by Ukraine International Airlines.

More information at: <http://www.ten-t.org.ua/>

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EU EXPERTS TRAIN MINING SPECIALISTS

On May 18 the EU funded project "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme" started a series of trainings in Kyiv and Donetsk for executive staff of the Ministry of Coal Industry of Ukraine as well as for the management of mining companies and representatives of the regional and local authorities in charge of the coal industry reorganization.

The first training took place in Kyiv for four days and was mainly focused on executive staff of the ministry. Trainings are designed to deliver in a modular form to comprise presentations, group discussions working group activities as well as time for self-study. The session program will provide more than 60 mining management specialists with theoretical and hands-on information on methodological approaches towards restructuring of the coal industry, preparing privatisation and issues of modern business management. The main objective of the training programme is to improve the current skills and qualifications of the above specialists to enable them to lead and supervise the complex and ambitious reorganisation process. Upon successful completion of the training programme, the participants will be provided with an EU-certificate.

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

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EU HOLDS CONFERENCES ON COOPERATION INITIATIVE IN CRIMEA

On May 20, launch conferences of the new EU-funded project "Joint Cooperation Initiative in Crimea" were held in Simferopol and in Sevastopol. Under this initiative the EU and its Member States will fund projects in Crimea worth about €12 million.

The Joint initiative on Cooperation in Crimea (JCIC) is the project of EU and its several member countries, which are planning to provide the Autonomous republic with assistance on various issues. Such EU-members like Estonia, Finland, France, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and UK are participants of this initiative. In the same time, EU already supports to create a special Regional Development Agency of Crimea, improve social infrastructure, increase Crimean tourism capacity and strengthen ability to attract direct foreign investments. The Head of EU Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, as well as Ambassadors of EU Member States in Ukraine attended these events.



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AGE ADVOCACY PROGRAMME "TOGETHER WE CAN" PRESENTS RESULTS OF ITS 1.5-YEAR WORK

The EU-funded project on age advocacy "Together We Can" held its final conference in early April in Chernihiv. Representatives from Vinnytsya, Zhytomyr, Kirovograd, Lviv, Chenigiv and Chernivtsi regions shared their experiences and results achieved over the 18-month project.

The conference participants discussed the success of the multi-level training programme for senior NGO leaders and social workers; results of the mini-projects implemented by local non-governmental organisations and of the public awareness campaign to combat age discrimination of older people; and improvement of social assistance and services for senior citizens. The participants noted that training sessions for older people, roundtable discussions on issues relevant for senior citizens, and associations of older people that provide legal and psychological counsel and promote communication and dialogue were particularly effective in the course of the project. Project participants have also agreed to continue their lobbying campaign to adopt a law on prevention of age discrimination of senior citizens in Ukraine. The project "Together We can" was implemented by the Human Rights Foundation in November 2008 – May 2010 and funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. Its purpose was to combat age discrimination of older people through supporting regional NGOs in human rights advocacy and education, and to provide older people with consulting support and regular opportunities for active communication and leisure. The Foundation will continue these activities, initiated by the EU-funded project, and will work with the established partnership network by attracting local government and private sector resources.



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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

27 MAY, SVERDLOVSK

Visit of the Head of EU Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, as well as Ambassadors of EU Member States in Ukraine to "Dolzhanskaya-Kapitalnaya" coal mine to see the impact of the EU-funded "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme"

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28 MAY, SVERDLOVSK

Visit of the Head of EU Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, as well as Ambassadors of EU Member States in Ukraine to see infrastructure improved under the EU-funded projects "Sustainable Local Development in Ukraine" and "Support to Sustainable Regional Development".

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15-18 JUNE, KYIV

The 2nd round of courses for executive staff of the Ministry of Coal Industry of Ukraine under the EU project "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme"

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