



EU INCREASING THE CAPACITY FOR INNOVATION IN UKRAINE

Innovation is a key driver for a prosperous future. It is the precondition for the creation of a knowledge-based economy. It not only enables companies to be more competitive but also creates more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.

The EU recently launched "Europe 2020 - a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". One out of three priorities of this new strategy is about "smart growth" through developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation.

The policies and instruments of the new strategy "Europe 2020" may prove a positive inspiration for Ukraine. At present the competitive position of Ukrainian economy is low and worsened over recent years. The competitiveness of Ukrainian economy can not be based on excavation of raw materials or on processing and production of low value added products. Thus the process of transformation of the Ukrainian economy into an innovative and knowledge-based economy should be hastened. It should be a key strategic goal for Ukraine.

Ukraine possesses a highly developed scientific human potential, capable of solving actual problems of social development and modern innovative tasks. Taking that into account the level of innovation could be higher. To this end, the European Union is funding four projects aimed at increasing the capacity for innovation in Ukraine.

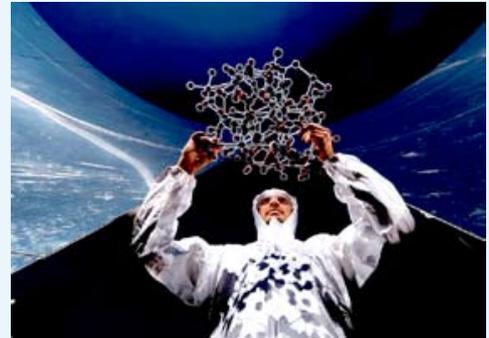
"Enhance Innovation Strategies, Policies and Regulation in Ukraine" is a project which aims at the improvement of the innovation policy on the governmental and regional level in order to bring the Ukrainian policy in the sector of Research and Innovation in compliance with European best practice.

"Development of Financial Schemes & Infrastructure to Support Innovation in Ukraine" is a project which aims at improving the financial environment for research and innovation in Ukraine through the creation of financial instruments: a Venture Capital Fund targeting innovative and technology-oriented businesses and two Loan Guarantee Funds.

"Support to Knowledge-based and Innovative Enterprises and Technology Transfer to Business in Ukraine" is a project which helps to establish structures such as Technology Transfer incubators, Science Centres and TechnoParks that support innovative business development.

"Joint Support Office for Enhancing Ukraine's Integration into the European Research Area" is a project which raises public awareness of the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development, assisting to Ukrainian research organisations in the preparation of competitive proposals.

More information at: <http://jso-era.org.ua/>



EU-FUNDED PROJECT DISCUSSES THE TOPICAL ISSUES OF INNOVATION SPHERE

On 16-17 June the EU-funded project "Enhance innovation strategies, policies and regulation in Ukraine" held in Kyiv an International Symposium, entitled "Topical issues of scientific, technological and innovation policy in the context of pan-European research area formation: experience and perspectives". The event was organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Economy, State Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation Development, and the National Academy of Science.

The objective of the Symposium was to sum up the experience of development and implementation of scientific and technological and innovation policies in the European Union, EU Member States, the NIS Region, Ukraine, and to discuss the possibilities of using the international experience in the context of Ukraine's integration into pan-European Research Area. Over 150 experts from various countries have shared their views on the stated issues.

The Symposium was organised in the form of plenary sessions, thematic conference sections and round tables addressing the main issues in the innovation sphere.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT DISCUSSES INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION

On 30 June-1 July the EU-funded project "Enhance Innovation Strategies, Policies and Regulation in Ukraine" held in Kyiv an International Conference, entitled "Topical issues on intellectual property rights protection in Ukraine and the European Union in the context of European integration".

The objective of the event was to discuss the experience in intellectual property rights protection in Ukraine and the EU, to consider the practice of intellectual property rights (IPR) protection, legal and economic issues of IPR objects commercialisation. Over 150 experts from various countries share their views on the stated issues.

In her opening speech at the event, the Head of Operations Section II of the EU Delegation Claudia Fischer stated: "Intellectual property protection and enforcement is not only a priority for the EC, it is a worldwide issue. The protection of intellectual property goes to the heart of any country's ability to compete in the global economy. It is a key element of competitiveness".

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

FUTURE ERASMUS MUNDUS STUDENTS MEET FOR PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION

On 7-8 June the EU Delegation to Ukraine held in Kyiv the first joint Erasmus Mundus pre-departure orientation (PDO) for students from Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova. This event was performed following the initiative of the EMA CIS & Mongolia Regional Chapter of Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association, in close cooperation with the EU Delegation. Last year three separate PDOs were held in July in Kyiv (Ukraine), Chisinau (Moldova) and Moscow (Russia).

This year more than 30 students and alumni were present at the meeting and had an opportunity to interact and communicate. These students have won scholarships grants, funded by the European Commission, to study at one of the Erasmus Mundus courses at universities in the EU Member States. The event was an opportunity for them to meet the staff of the EU Delegation as well as to get a first-hand advice from Erasmus Mundus alumni.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT SHARES INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN RURAL SECTOR

On 18 June the EU-funded project "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector" held in a workshop in Kyiv within the 22nd International Agricultural Exhibition-Fair AGRO 2010, entitled "International experience on promotion of rural sector development through implementation of the Sector Wide Approach: advantages and difficulties".

The event was organised in co-operation with the Department of Foreign Economic Relations of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy (MAP) for official from the Ministries of Economy, Finances, Agrarian Policy, and representatives of non-government organisations. The participants discussed the main aspects of the Sector Wide Approach and shared the international experience of its implementation in the EU (Great Britain, Ireland) as well as countries with transition economy (Bolivia, Mali, Republic of Moldova).



More information at: <http://www.swap-rural.org.ua/>

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EUBAM REVIEWS ITS LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS

On 21 June the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) held in Odesa the 14th meeting of the Advisory Board to review the Mission's recent achievements supporting the development of EU standards in border management with the Moldovan and Ukrainian border guard and customs services, law enforcement agencies and government institutions. The meeting was chaired by the Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira.

The Advisory Board took note of the EUBAM Annual and Activity Report and highlighted the good cooperation between EUBAM and the partner services in a number of areas, including implementation of the Joint Customs Declaration, the upgrading of information exchange, implementation of joint border control operations, common analytical work, capacity building, training programmes and public communication.

The Board welcomed the developments in supporting the implementation of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) concept in Moldova and Ukraine, particularly the systematic involvement of EUBAM in the creation of the Ukrainian and Moldovan IBM strategies as a result of the joint EUBAM and State Border Guard Service of Ukraine International Conference on "Integrated Border Management: achievements and Way Ahead" on 14–15 of April in Kyiv.

More information at: <http://www.eubam.org/>
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EU-FUNDED PROJECT HOLDS A SEMINAR ON MINE SAFETY IN LUHANSK

On 23 June the EU-funded project "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme" held in Luhansk. The purpose of the seminar was to facilitate the discussion between Ukrainian and EU mining specialists on the importance of effective occupational safety management systems (OHS) based on international standards. More than 70 participants representing the EU Delegation, Ukrainian national and local authorities, scientific organisations, including experts on occupational safety from Poland attended the event.

This seminar provided the participants with the opportunity to gain the knowledge about international standard of OHS management systems and to discuss the occupational risk assessment in the Ukrainian coal mines. In addition, the experts from Poland shared their experience on managing occupational risks in Poland.

The Ukrainian mining sector, which employs approximately 300,000 people, has one of the highest fatality rates of any industry. The level of safety in coal mines is strongly dependent on the efficiency of the OHS management system.

More information at: <http://www.eu-coalsector.com.ua/>
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EU-FUNDED REPORT ON HARMONISATION OF UKRAINE'S TRANSPORT SYSTEM WITH THE EU NORMS

On 30 June the EU-funded and UNDP-operated Blue Ribbon Analytical and Advisory Centre presented the report "Ukraine's Transport Policy and its Harmonisation with EU Norms". The Report aimed to facilitate public discussion on the reforms of transport sector of Ukraine making special emphasis on potential application of EU directives.

The Head of Operations of the EU Delegation Laura Garagnani commented on the report: "Transport is a key policy area for EU co-operation with Ukraine. There is a pledge in the EU-Ukraine Association Agenda to elaborate a concept for a national sustainable transport policy for the development of all transport modes, coherent with the EU's White Paper on transport."

The Report argues that the benefits of Ukraine's transport reform and integration with the EU system would provide better access to foreign markets, growth of carriage and export of transportation services, inflow of capital, and modernisation of infrastructure.

The Report focuses on three key areas – railroad transport, roads and automobile transport, and air transport. The results of the study show that Ukraine's transport sector is heterogeneous in terms of competition: while automobile and river transport is fully privatised, the railroad, road infrastructure and maritime ports are state-owned. It makes difficult to attract investments for modernisation.

More information at: <http://brc.undp.org.ua/>
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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

2-3 JULY, IRPIN, KYIV REGION

Workshop on coordination of Ukrainian media legislation with European standards within the EU-Council of Europe project "Promotion of European Standards in the Ukrainian Media Environment"

Contact person: Olga Sedova, e-mail: olga.sedova@coe.int, tel.: (044) 278 8948

4-11 JULY, GERMANY

Study tour to Germany on "Restructuring the hard coal and lignite industry" within the training component of the EU-funded project "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme"

More information at: <http://www.eu-coalsector.com.ua/>
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5 JULY, PRESIDENT HOTEL, KYIV

Council of Europe and European Union launch mediation week in courts across Ukraine within the programme "Transparency and Efficiency of the Judicial System of Ukraine"

Contact person: Oksana Farbota, e-mail: oksana.farbota@coe.int

6 JULY, IRPIN, KYIV REGION

Workshop on assessing risks for media pluralism in Ukraine within the EU-Council of Europe project "Promotion of European Standards in the Ukrainian Media Environment"

Contact person: Olga Sedova, e-mail: olga.sedova@coe.int, tel.: (044) 278 8948

6-8 JULY, UKRAINKA, KYIV REGION

International seminar for representatives of municipalities participating cities of the EU-funded project "Sustainable Urban Development" within the EU programme "Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue" (CIUDAD)

More information at: <http://www.ciudad-programme.eu/> and the Delegation's website
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