



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU FUNDED PROJECT ORGANIZED THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN UKRAINE

On 8th December, 2010 a round table entitled "Public-Private Partnerships in Ukraine: A Practical Perspective" was held in Hotel Rus in Kyiv. The round table was jointly organised by the EU funded project 'Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector' together with the British Embassy in Kyiv.

The objectives of the round table were to understand the current legal aspects of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP's) in Ukraine, explore mechanisms for their effective development and operation, and gain an insight on how PPP's are structured and work in other countries.

Participants in the round table included representatives of Verhovna Rada, Government of Ukraine, diplomatic community in Kyiv, Ukrainian business and finance organisations, and other donors and projects. The round table was opened by welcoming speeches from the British Ambassador, Leigh Turner, the EU Ambassador, Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira, and the Deputy Head of the Verhovna Rada Committee on Industry, Regulatory Policy and Entrepreneurship, Ksenia Lyapina.

Project experts John Millns and Roman Korinets spoke respectively about establishing PPP's in Ukraine from scratch and PPP opportunities in agriculture.

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UKRAINIAN SMES TO BENEFIT FROM THE PARTICIPATION IN EU RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

On 6-7 December, 2010 the EU-funded project "Joint Support Office for Enhancing Ukraine's Integration into the European Research Area (JSO-ERA)" held two workshops for innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on new opportunities under the EU 7th Framework Programme (FP7) on Research and Technology Development in Uzhgorod, Ukraine.

The first workshop, on December 6, "Increasing Innovation Capacities of SMEs by Enhancing Cooperation between Research Organisations and Businesses" was about a step-by-step procedure for development of successful proposals for FP7, preparation of project budget, related intellectual rights, consortium agreements, and others. The following workshop on 7th December, "Ukrainian technological platform to promote participation in FP7: "Agro-Food Platform" was aimed at demonstration of benefits for innovative SMEs, research institutions and individual scientists from participation in the EU research programmes, particularly in the areas of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology (FAB), Health and Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials & New Production Technologies (NMP).

During the workshop the Ukrainian National Technological Platform (UNTP) "Food for Life" was presented as one of the most reliable instruments for enhancing innovation potential of Ukrainian SMEs and their participation in new calls of FP7.

The workshops participants included the Innovative SMEs, key European experts, Ukrainian scientists, universities, research institutions, decision-makers and opinion-leaders, gathered for making presentations on their research ideas and search for potential partners.

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EUROPEAN UNION AND BRITISH COUNCIL LAUNCHED A JOINT PROJECT ON DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIP FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE IN UKRAINE

On 8th December, 2010 British Council in Ukraine in partnership with the Association of NGOs "Socio-Economic Strategies and Partnerships" and NGO "Agency for Legislative Initiatives" have started implementation of the two-year project "The Citizen and the State: Developing Partnership for Good Governance in Ukraine" financed by the European Union.

The project aims at increasing transparency and good governance in Ukraine, through improved policy and strategy processes at local and regional levels, and enhanced accountability and citizen engagement with elected representatives. This project will be piloted in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts with the results being widely disseminated throughout Ukraine during the second year of the project lifetime.

To achieve the project goal there will be a Strategy and Policy Development Framework elaborated for local administrations and self-government bodies. The project will also deliver workshops and seminars to appointed and elected officials, on both citizen participation and achieving effective policy processes.

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<http://www.britishcouncil.org/ukraine-projects-citizen-and-state.htm>



THE EU PROJECT HAS CHOSEN FIVE BEST UKRAINIAN COMPANIES IN GENDER EQUALITY

On 9th December, 2010 over 90 companies and organisations in Ukraine across a range of sectors took part in a competition jointly organised by the EU-funded project "Women and children's rights in Ukraine – Communication component" and the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports to highlight best practice in providing gender equality at work.

Winners were selected in five categories according to the number of employees. Winners included: LLC "Victoria Veritas", British Council in Ukraine, All-Ukrainian rehabilitation Centre for Disabled of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine, "Obolon" and Galychfarm.

Vasyl Kostyrytsa, National Co-ordinator, International Labour Organisation in Ukraine made some comments by saying: "Only one in four companies in Ukraine support employees when it comes to childcare assistance and it is very rare to find short working days, flexible working schedule and paternal leave. Gender discrimination in job adverts, salaries, and career development is widespread and we strongly believe that this competition encourages public support for those employers trying to make a difference and at the same time reminding Ukrainian businesses how important it is to pay attention to gender equality at work".

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THE SECOND PARTNER SEARCH FORUM AND JOURNALIST FORUM WITHIN EU-FUNDED PROGRAMME.

On 14-15th December, 2010 the EU-funded Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Poland – Belarus – Ukraine 2007–2013" held the 2nd Partner Search Forum and the 1st Cross-border Forum of Journalists in Lviv.

There were over 270 representatives invited from the Polish, Belarusian and Ukrainian organizations and institutions to meet in Lviv in order to exchange ideas on the projects' development in the context of the forthcoming calls for proposals planned for the 1st half of 2011.

Potential partners also had a chance to meet the Project Managers from the JTS and experts from the Regional Capacity Building Initiative. The Partner Search Forum was organized well ahead the announcements of the calls in order to give applicants more time to work on the partnership.

On 15th December 2010, the local and regional media from the area covered by the Programme met in Lviv to discuss needs of the borderland. More than 30 journalists participated and shared their views on the role the Programme should play locally. Journalists expressed their readiness to support the information plan of the Programme.

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OSCE AND EU ASSESSED PROGRESS OF ELECTIONS ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE

On 15th December, 2010 a final conference of OSCE project was organised in Kyiv to review the results of a long-term election assistance project that established a state voter register, trained nearly 90,000 election officials ahead of 2010 presidential elections and supported drafting of a new unified election code.

The project was implemented from 2008 to 2010 by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the European Union, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency, Irish Aid and the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Strategic Programme Fund.

The participants – election experts, representatives of governmental bodies, political parties and the international community – discussed further international assistance to strengthen Ukraine's election system.

"We have achieved substantial progress in our efforts to assist in strengthening election processes in Ukraine, but there is still work to be done, and the OSCE will continue to support the authorities in this area." said Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

Jose Manuel Pinto-Teixeira, the Head of the European Union Delegation in Ukraine, added: "We expect that the electoral reform is conducted through a transparent and participatory process."

The conference was part of OSCE and EU efforts to provide election assistance in a project currently funded by the European Union and the Canadian International Development Agency.

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FINAL CONFERENCE OF THE EU-FUNDED PROJECT AIMED AT NEW GENERATION INTEGRATION SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT SOCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY PLANNING

On 16th, December, 2010 the Final Conference of EU-funded Project "Support to the Development of Mid-term Strategy for Improving the System of Social Benefits" was held in Hotel Rus, Kyiv. The main objective was to inform the participants on the outcome of the EU funded Project implemented during 2008–2010 within the framework of the Europe Aid Program.

The conference was attended by representatives of the beneficiary – the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine – and representatives of other ministries and departments – partners of the project. Mr. Jose Roman Leon Lora, Head of operation section II addressed the audience with a welcoming speech. In addition, he stressed the importance and urgency of projects aimed at improving social services in Ukraine.

The major task of the project was to develop the Integrated System of Social Benefits Monitoring and Forecasting, as well as to create the necessary conditions for its successful implementation in order to improve strategic planning in the social policy sphere.

Mr. Sergey Polyuk, Project Manager, congratulated the team with successful completion of the project and thanked all those representatives of Project beneficiary, who took an active part in the project implementation. The certificates were awarded to all the participants, who had taken part in the training.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT HELPING UKRAINE DEVELOP A MODERN FOOD SAFETY CONTROL SYSTEM

The Food Safety Component of the EU-funded project "Implementation of Ukraine's Commitments Under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural Sector" is helping to raise awareness amongst the key Ukrainian State food safety control institutions about the steps that need to be taken. Part of these awareness and capacity-building activities include the preparation and delivery of training for inspectors and managers of the State Veterinary, Sanitary and Epidemiological, as well as Animal Identification and Registration Services.

The project has just completed the second year of its 38 month programme during which the Food Safety Component, headed by the project's UK Food Safety Key Expert Mr. Tony Wheale, has prepared and presented a series of seminars, workshops and study visits. The purpose of these activities is to establish, within the project's eight food safety pilot regions (Cherkasy, Chernigiv, Dnipropetrovs'k, Ivano Frankivsk, Kiev, Lviv, Poltava, and Sumy), groups of specialists with extended knowledge of the EU requirements for HACCP and traceability systems, animal identification and registration, and official controls. The most recent of these seminars and workshops were held in Lviv and Kyiv on 2nd, 3rd and 7th December.

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION PRESENTED THE MOST RECENT FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE INTERNATIONAL AND LABOUR MIGRATION

On December 17, 2010 International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) representatives in Ukraine on the eve of the International Migrants Day invited media to a press conference to discuss the most recent facts and figures of global migration and the international labour migration.

The world celebrates International Migrants Day on 18 December. The UN General Assembly announced that date as International Migrants Day following the Economic and Social Council's recommendation (resolution No 2000/288, July 28, 2000).

ILO National Coordinator in Ukraine Vasyl Kostrytsa and the IOM Chief of Mission in Ukraine Manfred Profazi presented the latest figures, facts and trends of migration described in the IOM's biannual World Migration Report, ILO Report "World of Work" and ILO Global Wage Report 2010/2011.

Anticipating the increased interest in contemporary migration processes IOM offered a series of pro bono lectures on migration for the students of 26 academies and secondary schools of Ukraine that were read by 42 IOM staff members during the last three months. The lectures were attended by more than 1,225 students within the age range of 17–22 years.

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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
The next issue will come out in January 2011.**