



EU COOPERATION COUNSELLORS SHARE EXPERIENCES IN IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Representatives of European Union embassies and cooperation institutes witnessed first hand how the EU is working together with its partners to help develop communities in Ukraine. Headed by Laura Garagnani, Head of Operations at the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the group of diplomats visited, on 7 June, two social projects in the oblast/region of Kyiv: 1) the German-Polish-Ukrainian "OUR KIDS", which protects children in need and 2) the community-based approach (CBA) micro-project to improve the water supply system in the village of Yerkiivtsi.

The visit came at an important moment. The last week of May, First Deputy Prime Minister Andriy Klyuyev, and Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle signed an agreement for a second phase of the successful Community Based Approach (CBA) Programme. "Deepening co-operation with the Ukrainian authorities is a top priority for the EU, but this has to extend beyond Kyiv and to touch the lives of Ukrainian citizens at large," Commissioner Štefan Füle stated at the signing ceremony in Brussels.



The visit is also another example of regular coordination between the EU Delegation and Member States when delivering their development work in Ukraine. EU Cooperation Counsellors' meet every month in Kiev to coordinate programme activities and share experiences and best practices in their work.

During the visit, EU representative Laura Garagnani stated: "By supporting civil society and helping communities identify and address their own needs and priorities, we can help facilitate practical and sustainable improvements to living conditions at the local level. I would like to congratulate the non-governmental centre "Our Kids", the people of Yerkiivtsi and the local authorities on their impressive results thus far, and wish them every success with their next endeavour."

COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH IN YERKIIVTSI VILLAGE

In Yerkiivtsi, the EU Counsellors saw how the entire 1060 person village has benefitted from joint EU-UNDP support through the Community Based Approach to Local Development (CBA) programme. Thanks to CBA, Yerkiivtsi's community organisation "Vira-2008" (which means "faith" in Ukrainian) set the village's priority needs and agreed to reconstruct their water supply system. Through two micro-projects, they replaced the pumps and pipes and installed a control unit. Both projects cost UAH 301'482 of which over UAH 17'000 was contributed by the community. The remaining funds were provided by the EU / UNDP CBA Programme, local authorities and business.

Ricarda Rieger, Country Director of UNDP Ukraine, who joined the cooperation counsellors in the visit, said: "CBA project's experience demonstrates that empowering Ukrainian communities to take charge of their own destinies enables them to use their collective strength to help themselves. We are glad to see that our partner state authorities and local self-government bodies are increasingly supporting local communities' initiatives. This is a good example of mutual cooperation and development synergy."

"OUR KIDS"

The first project developed and managed by the German-Polish-Ukrainian society, and funded by Poland and Germany, «OUR KIDS» is constructing three homes for children with special needs. The EU Counsellors met with the project managers and the 15 children who now have a new home and family. Two of the three houses will serve as homes for eight „families“, with "social parents" and one social worker looking after up to six "kids". The third building will house an office for a psychologist, a doctor's surgery and other rooms to accommodate experts, social workers, and volunteers. The spacious gardens covering 14,000m² will provide room for sports, games, and introduce children to plants, animals, gardening and growing their own food.

Barbara Monheim, Founder of the German-Polish Ukrainian Society and Chairman of the Board of Directors for 'Our kids', greeted the EU Counsellors: "We are delighted to welcome the EU to "Our Kids". We believe that the European Union could serve as an excellent partner in enhancing the social situation of children in neighbouring Ukraine".

Bianca Bäumlér, Communications Manager, EU Delegation to Ukraine



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU PROJECT TEAM PARTICIPATES IN WIRE 2011 – WEEK OF INNOVATION REGIONS

The project “Joint Support Office for Enhancing Ukraine’s Integration into the European Research Area (JSO-ERA) sent a delegation from Ukraine to WIRE 2011 7–9 June in Debrecen, Hungary.

6 people participated in the “Week of Innovation Regions”, including representatives of the Ministry of Education and Sciences, Youth and Sport of Ukraine, regional contact points and national contact points on Infrastructure and ICT.

More than 400 people passed by the JSO-ERA stand. They were provided by consultations and got answers to all questions and received materials on the JSO-ERA project. WIRE 2011 became an excellent possibility to gain new contacts for international cooperation in future.



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EU HELPS TO PREPARE UKRAINIAN MANAGERS FOR EU RESEARCH PROJECTS

On 3 June, in Kharkiv the Institute for Single Crystals of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine hosted a workshop on the EU 7th Framework Programme on Research and Technology Development (FP7).

The FP7 National Contact Points (NCPs) from Poland and Ukraine, Regional Contact Points, the EU and Ukrainian JSO-ERA experts provided case studies of successful projects. The participants will discuss the Ukrainian experience and practices of the implementation of FP7 projects. The typical mistakes, difficulties and barriers the Ukrainian organisations have faced in the past will be deeply analysed. Specific attention was paid to financial issues, including budget development, financial management, and the requirements of financial reporting.

The workshop was organised by the EU-funded project “Joint Support Office for Enhancing Ukraine’s Integration into the European Research Area (JSO-ERA)” in cooperation with the FP7 NCP of Ukraine for financial and legal issues, FP7 National Contact Point of Ukraine (NIP Ukraine) and the Kharkiv Technologies Centre for Small Business Development.



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HALF A MILLION UKRAINIANS MAKE A STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE

On 3 June, a national information campaign calling for Ukrainians to join together to say no to violence started. The campaign is funded by the European Union, with the support of the Ministry for Family, Youth and Sports of Ukraine.

The campaign aims on the distribution of 500,000 magenta bracelets across the country with the slogan "Stay Human" ("Zalyshays'a Ludynoju"). In Kyiv, the campaign kicked off on Kreshchatyk street with the unveiling of a monument to respect and love, with joined hands as a symbol of Ukrainians uniting against violence.

Over the summer a network of more than 300 volunteers across the country are distributing the bracelets in cities and towns to passers-by. By wearing a bracelet, each Ukrainian is showing their support for the idea behind the campaign, and demonstrating to their friends and family that violence is unacceptable.

The campaign will run until the end of August, features outdoor and radio advertising, distribution of information for victims of violence, press events, on-line actions, and a range of public outreach events in more than 15 Ukrainian cities.

As team leader of the EU Project "Women and children's rights in Ukraine – Communication component", Rick Flint explained, "Our main message is - wear this bracelet and be a part of this campaign. We want to unite half a million people across the country under the slogan 'Zalyshays'a Ludynoju'. By joining us, you are showing respect to those you love and sending out a powerful signal that there are other ways of resolving conflicts."

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WORKSHOP FOR FINANCIAL MANAGERS AND BOOKKEEPERS OF EU RESEARCH PROJECTS

On 1 June, a practical workshop on financial and legal issues of the EU 7th Framework Programme on Research and Technology Development (FP7) was held in Kiev.

The workshop targeted financial managers and bookkeepers of the Ukrainian organisations that currently take part or willing to participate in the FP7. The workshop was focused on budget development of the FP7 projects, financial management, requirements of financial reporting to EU, and others.

Barbara Trammer, the FP7 National Contact Point (NCP) from Poland and Olena Koval, the FP7 NCP of Ukraine for financial issues delivered a training session. The Ukrainian experience and practices of the implementation of FP7 projects, including financial, administrative and legal issues were discussed at the Workshop.



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COMMISSION SIGNS FINANCING AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE A FURTHER €17 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY-BASED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE

On 31 May, in Brussels, First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine Andriy Klyuyev, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle signed a financing agreement providing a further allocation of €17 million to support community-based local development in Ukraine.



Community Based Approach
to Local Development

The European Commission has allocated these additional funds to complement €12 million already dedicated to the Community Based Approach's (CBA) successful first phase. The aim of the second phase of CBA is to promote sustainable socio-economic development at local level by strengthening participatory governance and community-based initiatives throughout Ukraine.

CBA Phase II will also allow for the development of local microprojects, notably in the areas of energy efficiency, health, water supply and the environment. CBA is implemented through joint management with UNDP, but is based on a "bottom-up" approach to project design.

At the signing ceremony, Commissioner Füle noted the successful outcome of the first phase of the Community Based Approach, including very concrete outputs (such as the funding of over a thousand micro-projects).

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EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK PROVIDES €450 MILLION TO UPGRADE ROADS IN UKRAINE

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing the largest loan to date in the Eastern neighbourhood: €450 million for the rehabilitation and quality improvement of roads in Ukraine. EIB funds will help to improve some 350 km of five sections of highways branching out from the Ukrainian Capital Kiev, representing crucial European and national transport corridors largely on the extended Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)".



The project is being co-financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), also with a loan of €450 million. The works, predominantly covering the road corridors interconnecting Dresden-Katowice-Lviv-Kyiv and Moscow-Kyiv-Odessa as well as key national corridors in Ukraine, will be implemented in two phases by Ukravtodor, the State Roads Administration of Ukraine.

EIB Vice-President Eva Srejber stated: "The current project is significant for the further development of the economic cooperation between the European Union and the Eastern Partner Countries. It will upgrade Ukraine's priority transport links with the neighboring EU Member States and the adjacent Belarus and Russia".

This is the second EIB loan provided for the rehabilitation of the Ukrainian road network. The previous loan of €200 million financed the upgrade of the M-06 road linking Kiev with EU Member States Hungary, Slovakia and Poland.

For more information, please visit: http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id_type=1&id=25358&lang_id=450



UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES` SEMINAR ON GOOD JUDICIAL PRACTICES FOR JUDGES, LEGAL OFFICERS AND PROSECUTORS

On 25–27 May, under the EU-funded Regional Protection Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) organized a three-day seminar for judges, legal officers, prosecutors, as well as NGO and UNHCR representatives from the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Some 65 participants attended the seminar which was held in Koncha Zaspa in Kyiv region and then, followed by a discussion session in Kyiv for UNHCR and NGO staff, Ombudsman's and the General Prosecutor's office from Ukraine on 28 May.

The invited judges from the International Association of Refugee Law Judges and the European Court of Human Rights delivered presentations on judge's checklist during reviewing appeals on refugee claims and the jurisprudence related to 1950 European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) respectively. In their feedback, the participants stressed the need for continuation of such seminars and training for judges in the sub-region with particular focus on good judicial practices related to refugee appeals, and in addition for Moldova and Ukraine participants, on the jurisprudence of ECHR.



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183 TRAFFICKED CHILDREN ASSISTED THROUGH A EUROPEAN UNION-FUNDED PROJECT

As Ukraine celebrates the Child Protection Day, 183 children – former victims of human trafficking are being assisted by the project “Strengthening National Mechanisms and Capacities for Elimination of Trafficking in Children in Ukraine”, an initiative launched on 1 June 2009, with financial support from the European Union.

The project is implemented by the Chernivtsi-based NGO Suchasnyk in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Ukraine and aims to assist the Government of Ukraine in its efforts to eliminate human trafficking and implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

With the project ending in October 2011, Suchasnyk and IOM are looking for ways to continue assisting child victims in Ukraine. Meanwhile, Mruchkovska and Profazi point to ways the public can help: “On the Child Protection Day, we call upon every citizen of Ukraine to take an active stand against exploitation of children either through reporting any such suspected cases to the authorities or supporting the NGOs who stand up against trafficking in children.”

The two and a half-year project “Strengthening National Mechanisms and Capacities for Elimination of Trafficking in Children in Ukraine” is implemented in five pilot Oblasts of Ukraine (Chernivtsi, Zakarpattia, Mykolayiv, Kharkiv, and Luhansk) in the framework of the European Union's Thematic Programme “Investing in People”.

Since 2000, IOM in cooperation with its partner NGOs around Ukraine identified and assisted over 7,540 victims of trafficking, among them 473 children.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

22 JUNE, KYIV

Final Conference for Coal Sector Policy Support Programme.

Contact person: Iryna Chernysh, ichernysh@eu-coalsector.com.ua

24 JUNE, KYIV

Final conference of Twinning on Support to National School of Judges of Ukraine.

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25 JUNE, RAHIVSKY RAYON, ZAKARPATSKA OBLAST

Danube Day in Ukraine.

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29 JUNE, KYIV

Selection and Award Ceremony of Student Competition on EU-Ukraine Cooperation.

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29 JUNE, KYIV

Selection and Award Ceremony for Winning Students of Competition on EU-Ukraine Cooperation.

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29 JUNE, SIMFEROPOL

Final workshop on Cultural Heritage.

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30 JUNE

JCIC Ambassadors meet VPM Andriy Kluyev.

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