



EU AND UKRAINE WORK TOGETHER TO HARMONIZE STATISTICS STANDARDS

Kyiv, Dec. 12. The EU-funded € 1 million Twinning Project on Statistics was officially launched. With Over a period of 18 months, the Project will provide assistance to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU) to implement the relevant actions foreseen in the forthcoming EU-Ukraine Association Agreement,

This Twinning Statistics Project aims to develop Ukraine's macroeconomic statistics, statistics of enterprises, capital investments and business statistics through development of new and improvement of the existing methodologies and indicators in alignment with EU standards. The project furthermore aims to decrease the administrative response burden and improve the human resources management of SSSU. The compliance of activities of the SSSU with the European Statistics Code of Practice is the main goal of the project. The European Code establishes the standards of production and dissemination of independent and reliable statistical information of high quality.

The partner of the Project is Statistics Denmark. Leading experts from Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Spain, Lithuania and the Slovak Republic will work together with Ukrainian statisticians.

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PROGRAMME OF FOOD SAFETY TRAINING COMPLETED

KYIV, DEC. 9. As part of the EU Project "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector" a three-year food safety training programme has been completed for State veterinary, sanitary-epidemiological, animal identification and registration and laboratory specialists.

The series of 89 seminars, workshops and study visits, aimed at raising awareness of the EU food safety control system, was presented by the project's food safety and legislation experts. These training events, which were attended by a total of 1627 officials from the four Ukrainian State services, took place in the project's 8 food safety pilot regions, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Ivano Frankivsk, Kyiv, Lviv, Poltava and Sumy. Attendance certificates were prepared and presented to participants at the end of the training programme.



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EU COMPLETES PROJECT TO SUPPORT UKRAINE ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

KYIV, DEC. 7. The EU-funded € 1.4 million Twinning project to support the State Agency of Investment and National Projects presented its achievements. Implemented by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency, the two-year project, aimed at developing an institutional infrastructure to service foreign investors.

Despite the challenging external (world's economic crisis) and internal (administrative reform) environment, the project managed to increase the Ukraine's organisational capacity by supporting a process of market development, IT and regional level tools to better service foreign investors.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ON COMMUNICATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN RIGHTS SUMS UP ACHIEVEMENTS

KYIV, DEC. 6. The EU-funded project "Women and children rights in Ukraine – Communication component" held its final conference, entitled "Creativity, cooperation and efficiency in social communication." During the conference, the participants from public authorities, NGOs, charities and social centres exchanged experiences gained in the implementation of social information campaigns during the past 2,5 years.

During the event the project team officially transferred the communication tools developed by the project. The Toolkit includes: the web portal <http://vsirivni.com.ua/>, visual elements of the "Stay Human" Campaign, the photo and video library, and other materials for national information campaigns that have been developed by the project.

During the conference, Rick Flint, project team leader, summed up the project achievements and solemnly presented to the beneficiary – the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine – communication tools developed by the project as symbolic crimson box.

For more information: <http://vsirivni.com.ua/>



EU COMMISSIONER OPENS ERASMUS TO THE WORLD IN UKRAINE

Kyiv, 5 December. The EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Ms. Androulla Vassiliou, opened the large regional conference on the Tempus and Erasmus Mundus programmes. Part of Eastern Partnership (EaP)'s "Contact between People", about 300 higher education (HE) stakeholders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine attended to hear more about the programmes and increased opportunities resulting from significant increase to the programmes' budgets for 2011–2013 period.

In her opening speech Commissioner Vassiliou spoke about the importance of the region and the EaP as indicated in latest Communication on Neighbourhood policy; the importance of education for growth and development; EU's strategy and targets in education and training; the need for further modernisation of HE and for all Bologna signatories to implement reforms; the assistance that the EU provides to the EaP countries via HE programmes and policy dialogue; and finished with an indication of the future HE programme for the period 2014–2020, stressing its international dimension which will have an integrated approach to cooperation with the EU's neighbours and re-group all existing programmes under one roof.

The Commissioner also visited a very reputable and progressive university, National University Kiev Mohyla Academy, where she gave a public speech, met with faculty, students and staff, answered questions to the local press and had short interview with BBC as well as private lunch with the university students and alumni from Erasmus Mundus and College of Europe scholarships.

The most pressing issues which came out from these meetings as well as from briefings with the Delegation were: increasing corruption; lack of employment opportunities for even youth with EU experience; visa obstacles to mobility; lack of recognition of qualifications/credits gained during mobility experience; lack of transparency in government's financing HE institutions; lack of recognition of degrees obtained outside Ukraine but also of PhD degrees obtained in Ukrainian institutions which had reformed their programme according to Bologna; the lack of university autonomy; no accreditation procedures with international standards; lack of reforms in HE explained to be due in part to resistance from academic community on the one hand but also due to support of Ministry to ex-Soviet system on the other.

The Commissioner was sympathetic to the difficult situation expressed and promised that Commission will continue to support Ukrainian institutions which wished to converge with European standards through the HE programmes, policy dialogue and possibly other support via the Delegation. She also stressed that as a Bologna signatory Ukraine had committed itself to the decisions taken in the Bologna ministerial meetings.

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CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME HOLDS INFORMATION SESSIONS UNDER THE SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

UKRAINE, DEC. 5-15. Ukrainian local and regional authorities and non-profit making organisations took part in information sessions held by the Technical Secretariat of the Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 financed within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

The CBC Programme announced on 28 November the second Call for Proposals for CBC projects between Romania, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova with a total financial allocation of €27,535,879. Following the announcement of the second Call, the Technical Secretariat of the CBC Programme holds information sessions for potential applicants in Chernivtsi (5 and 15 December), Ivano-Frankivsk (6 December), Vinnytsya (8 December), and Odessa (12-13 December). Experts of the EU-funded Regional Capacity Building Initiative will provide additional information sessions in Termopil (15 December) and Khmelnytsky (16 December).



Applicants from Ukrainian eligible regions may present CBC projects meeting the following three priorities: competitive border economy, environmental challenges and emergency preparedness, and people to people cooperation.

Deadline for submission of concept notes is 30 January. Only applicants whose Concept Notes have been preselected will be invited to submit a Full Application. The official language of the Programme is English.

Fore more information: <http://www.ro-ua-md.net/>

WORKING TOGETHER AGAINST DISASTERS: UKRAINE HOSTS INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON CIVIL PROTECTION

KYIV, DEC. 5-9. Disaster managers and civil protection exercise planners from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine gained a better understanding of the EU's civil protection mechanism and shared their national experiences at a seminar with the support of the €6 million EU-funded project for prevention, preparedness and response to man-made and natural disasters in the ENPI East Region (PPRD East).

The event familiarised participants with the EU's methodology as regards the planning, conduct and implementation of table-top scenarios and field exercises, including four table-top and one field exercise involving civil protection assets from all six Partner Countries.

Disaster managers from Partner Countries presented their national civil protection exercise systems and learned how to organise exercises in the framework of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. They discussed and agreed common elements to the simulated scenarios and field exercises due to be held during the implementation phase of the PPRD East project, starting in the summer of 2012.

The seminar was followed by an initial planning conference for all four table-top exercises, which were played between pairs of neighbouring Partner Countries (Georgia-Armenia, Georgia-Azerbaijan, Ukraine-Belarus, Ukraine-Moldova). Each of these exercises focused on the most likely disaster in four areas including earthquakes, floods, forest fires and chemical accidents.



Fore more information: <http://euroeastcp.eu/>



A 15-YEAR MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE ZAKARPATTYA OBLAST

UZHGOROD, 30 November. The EU-funded regional project "Waste Governance – ENPI East" presented to municipal authorities, representatives of the rayon administrations and NGOs its 15-year municipal solid waste management strategy for the Zakarpattia oblast, selected last year as pilot area in Ukraine. This strategy sets the basis for quality municipal waste collection services for the entire oblast at affordable costs, for a maximization of recycling and other forms of resource recovery and, as a result, for a significant reduction of land filling.

The strategy proposes to divide the oblast into four distinct sub-regions to facilitate economies of scale. An inter-municipal association will be formed to manage four new regional landfills in Uzhgorod, Mukachevo, Vinogradiv and Tiachiv rayons. Two transfer stations will be built in Mijgirya and Rahiv rayons, whereas separate collections of recyclable waste will be organized in settlements with more than 3000 residents. Sorting facilities will be established in the four rayons. An additional glass sorting line is envisaged to be built in Uzhgorod. The strategy was warmly welcomed. The European Union and the "Waste Governance – ENPI East" project team will work further with the international donor community to gather the funds necessary for its implementation.



For further information: www.wastegovernance.org

INNOVATIONS FOR REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS DISCUSSED IN CRIMEA

SIMFEROPOL, NOV. 25. About 100 representatives of Crimean local authorities, academic circles, NGOs and business discussed the role of innovations for regional competitiveness at an international conference, organised by the EU-funded project "Support to the Regional development agency of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea".

The main goal of the event was to introduce international and national experience in infrastructure establishing to support innovative regional development.

Opening the event, Olga Krivenko, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Crimea said: "This event will become a new stage for investment and innovative model reflected in socio-economic development strategy of Crimea. I believe that certain measures for achieving transparency and establishing innovative oriented businesses will make Crimea to 100% investment-attractive region".

The participants of conference discussed successful EU and Ukrainian experiences in establishing innovation platforms, their role in regional competitive recovery, support to innovative activities in Ukraine at national level. Also participants received information regarding international donor project supporting innovative activities in Crimea, the role of Regional Development Agency in establishing of effective regional innovation strategy.



For more information: <http://www.ard.crimea.ua/>



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

KYIV, NOV. 25. The world marked the International Day of the Elimination of Violence against Women with the annual worldwide campaign "16 days of activism against gender violence". In Ukraine the campaign started with the double exhibition of the best caricatures on gender stereotypes and best posters on prevention of violence against women. The exhibition took place at the Museum of Modern Art of Ukraine.

The exhibition was organised by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine together with the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine with the support of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

Opening the exhibition, Maria Jurikova, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, said that the European Union and its Member States strongly support all fundamental human rights principles, one of each is to build the world without violence.

"We all are here today to support this world wide campaign," stressed Maria Jurikova. "By doing this we would like to break the wall of silence that surrounds this topic."

The exhibition have been opened at the Museum of Modern Art since 25 till 30 November.

For more information: <http://gender.undp.org.ua/>



RE-ANALYSIS OF SOCIOLOGICAL SURVEYS ON FOREST SECTOR ISSUES IN UKRAINE

KYIV, NOV. 15. Sociological attitudinal surveys on forests carried out among different population groups indicate the existence of pressing issues in the forest sector in the Ukraine.

This is confirmed by the "Re-analysis of sociological surveys on forest sector issues in Ukraine (2005-2011)" prepared by Oleksandr Stegnyy, Doctor of Sociology, World Bank Consultant under the framework of the EU-funded project "Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighbourhood Policy East Countries and Russia".

The report summarises the results of 12 different sociological surveys carried out among forest sector experts, the general public and business representatives during the past seven years. In particular, the surveys focused on the public interest in the forest sector, the assessment by the respondents of the current general status of the forest sector, the identification of the key issues and the assessment of forest legislation, as well as ways forward for forest sector development. The majority of the respondents, including experts and ordinary people, gave a negative opinion on the current state of the forest sector in the Ukraine and called for forest legislation and forest governance systems to be improved.

Fore more information: <http://www.enpi-fleg.org/>



Dear readers!

**We congratulate you with the coming New 2012 Year and Merry Christmas,
and inform you that next issue of informational e-bulletin will be
published on 19.01.2012.**