



## EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

### THE DANGERS OF ASBESTOS IN UKRAINE

**29 March, Kyiv:** The EU Delegation participated in the first international conference in Ukraine on the dangers of asbestos, organised by the Academy of Medicine Sciences of Ukraine, the Ukrainian NGO "Mama 86" and the Dutch NGO "Women in Europe for a Common Future".

Asbestos, and in particular chrysotile asbestos, were largely used in construction materials in Europe in the middle of the 20th century. After it became clear that they are highly carcinogen, they were gradually banned in the EU starting from the 70s. Outside the EU, they are still widely used, in particular in CIS countries. Awareness of their long-term deadly effects on human health is close to zero in Ukraine.

Conference participants confirmed the urgency to better inform the Ukrainian public at large on asbestos' dangers. In parallel, the international trade of chrysotile asbestos needs to be further regulated. Ukraine is a larger producer and consumer of chrysotile asbestos and the country still opposes its inclusion on the annex III of the Rotterdam Convention regulating the trade of chemical substances. It is hoped that Ukraine will accept its inclusion before the next Conference of Parties under this Convention in, as advocated by the EU. This inclusion would not ban the trade of chrysotile asbestos, but would improve exchange of information.

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### EU&UNDP IMPROVE CRIMEAN CAPACITIES TO DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

**23 March, Simferopol:** 29 municipality and district administration, ministry and NGO representatives celebrated their graduation of the course "Local and regional development: methodology, tools and project management". Elaborated by experts of the EU-UNDP project "Support to the regional development of Crimea", the training programme entailed three two days workshops in Evpatoria and a theoretical exam. It introduced concepts and logical frameworks of local and regional development projects.

Olga Krivenko, the Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, expressed her gratitude to the EU and UNDP for supporting the initiative on capacity-building of the professionals, obtaining European standards of knowledge. According to Olga Krivenko, all these activities will help to pull raise the Crimean economy to the highest European level and to establish a "core" of experts in regional development issues.

Most of the participants who introduced their projects are searching for fundraising opportunities and are ready to apply to various calls for proposal. Ivan Saraseko, member of Chernomorskoye Strategic Planning Committee, citing the words of Leonardo da Vinci "trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle", also emphasized that the projects will make a significant contribution to the development of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

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### EUROPEAN UNION AND UKRAINE SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT CIVIL SERVICE

**23 March, Kyiv:** The €1.5 million EU Twinning project with the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service (NAUCS) aims to contribute to the building of a professionally sustainable and politically neutral, merit-based and service-oriented Civil Service in Ukraine. It will help increase NAUCS' capacity to lead civil service reform in Ukraine by assisting it to introduce a more strategic approach to policy making, human resources management and to raise awareness of the Civil Service according to European principles and good practice. The project is run by a consortium from the United Kingdom and Poland.

The launch meeting held in Kyiv was hosted by Vyacheslav Tolkovanov, Head of the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service and attended by José Roman Leon Lora, Acting Head of Operations of the EU Delegation to Ukraine a.i., by Leigh Turner, British Ambassador, Dariusz Gorchynski, Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Poland to Ukraine, Petro Panochenko, Deputy Head of the Main Department of Regional and Personnel Policy of the President's Administration, Yuriy Evteev, Head of the Department of Personnel Provisions of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers to Ukraine, Ukrainian officials and media.

The project will run for 23 months and will focus on building capacity to steer civil service reform and development within the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service itself. In addition, it will also help design and implement modernised human resources systems in the specific areas of selection procedures, appraisal of individual performance, competence-based job descriptions and career management. This two strand approach will serve the Agency's development and the improvement of the civil service as a whole.

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## HISTORY TEACHERS PRESENT MULTICULTURAL HISTORY TEXTBOOK FOR UKRAINIAN SCHOOLS

**16 March, Kyiv: The Nova Doba Association of Teachers of History, Civic Education and Social Studies held a conference on Multicultural History of Ukraine. The conference summed up the two-year EU-financed project on Ethnic Minorities in the History of Ukraine, implemented in partnership with Euroclio, the Netherlands-based European Association of History Educators.**

The Nova Doba's project was funded through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. Its overall purpose has been to facilitate a public discussion on the role of history in the post-communist society and to identify new opportunities for building a multicultural image of the Ukrainian society based on contemporary approaches to education. The project activities included a series of expert discussions, a summer school on tolerance and multiculturalism for young teachers, essay and research paper contests for students and young teachers, and preparation of the new textbook on Multicultural History of Ukraine. The textbook was presented and discussed at the final conference which gathered some 100 teachers, students and representatives of ethnic minority organisations in Ukraine.

The textbook uses an intercultural approach to history education encouraging students to appreciate Ukraine's ethnic and religious diversity and ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination. The 330-page publication is meant to complement and expand the existing history curriculum in Ukraine. Its electronic version is available on the Nova Doba's website.

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## EUROPEAN UNION PROVIDES €3.4 MILLION FOR CRIMEAN TOURISM SUPPORT AND DIVERSIFICATION

**13 March, Brussels – The European Union is supporting the diversification of the tourism industry in Sevastopol and Crimea and creation of a more balanced and attractive tourism product on the peninsula. An EU-funded project will build capacities within both the public and private tourism sector, diversify and improve tourism products, delivery and service standards in the region. With almost €3.4 million and over 36 months, it is run by a consortium led by GDSI Limited, one of Ireland's most respected international development consulting companies. An additional €1.5 million will be available for supply of equipment necessary to implement the project.**

The project will seek to build capacity within the Ministry of Resorts and Tourism of Crimea with respect to legislation, grading and standards, planning and implementation of strategic plans, territorial reorganisation, destination marketing, statistics and information provision. It will also build capacity within local authorities to implement tourism development programmes and to formulate integrated tourism development plans, as well as specifically assist the Sevastopol City Administration to review its tourism development programme.



## GRANT BENEFICIARIES OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CULTURE PROGRAMME MEET IN KYIV

**5–6 March, Kyiv: Representatives of 15 grant projects financed by the European Union in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme gathered at the first regional launching workshop. The event was organised by Kyiv-based Regional Monitoring and Capacity Building Unit of the Programme, and was attended by representatives of the European Commission and the EU Delegations to Ukraine, Armenia, Belarus and Georgia.**

The participants were informed about all 15 regional grant projects financed by the European Union in the total amount of €8.2 million. Their implementation will boost the capacities of cultural institutions and cultural actors in Eastern Partnership countries by enhancing their skills in cultural management and policy development, and supporting cultural initiatives and communities.

The projects' overall objective is to strengthen the role of culture as a driving force for sustainable economic, social and human development. Projects cover a broad scope of themes, including areas from film and photography, to cultural education, crafts and publishing. Four of 15 projects are led by partners from Ukraine and other six with activities in Ukraine.

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## EASTERN PARTNERSHIP YOUTH WORKERS DISCUSS COOPERATION WITHIN THE EU EASTERN PARTNERSHIP YOUTH WINDOW

**4-9 March, Lviv: 40 voluntary and professional youth workers from Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries and countries of the EU-funded Youth in Action Programme gathered at the regional "Go East!" contact-making seminar to discuss the new opportunities for international youth cooperation within the EU Eastern Partnership Youth Window and the development of international youth projects.**

The European Union allocated for 2012-2013 additional funds for cooperation within Youth in Action Programme with the EaP countries creating "Eastern Partnership Youth Window". The Window means new opportunities to finance more projects involving organisations and participants from the EaP region.

During the "Go East!" contact-making seminar, youth leaders and project coordinators working directly with youngsters discussed possibilities of cooperation within the Youth in Action Programme with special focus on Eastern Partnership Youth Window; presented examples of efficient and successful cooperation within EaP; built new partnerships between Programme countries and partners from EaP with a clear commitment to provide support to young people with fewer opportunities living in rural or deprived urban areas.

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## EU AND UNDP LAUNCH THE SECOND PHASE OF THE SUPPORT TO THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CRIMEA PROJECT

**1 March, Simferopol: The EU and UNDP launched the second phase of the project "Support to Regional Development Agency of Autonomous Republic of Crimea", financed by the European Union and co-financed and implemented by UNDP. The second phase of this project, which initially started in August 2010, is aimed at assisting municipalities and districts in designing and attracting funding to development projects in line with their strategic priorities. It is expected that, by end of June 2013, the project, now renamed "Support to the Regional Development of ARC", will have not only built local capacities to attract and absorb development funding but will also have triggered the set-up of a Local Development organisation whose trained staff will continue supporting local development initiatives after project's end.**

"The second phase of the project is really about responding to the concrete development needs of municipalities and districts and to help develop genuine capacities at that level", says Adeline Gonay, Head of UNDP Sub-Office in Crimea. "It is expected that trained staff in local administrations and local NGOs, supported by the project, will be able to design projects and seek funding to address needs in the following key areas: business development (including business infrastructure, such as incubators, techno-parks, etc.), sustainable development (including social, economic and environmental development issues), and, of course, infrastructure development. At the same time, the project will provide a set of FDI promotion tools that will help the pilot municipalities and districts to become more visible to investors and attract their funding," she explains.

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## EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS UKRAINIAN ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**1 March, Kyiv: A new EU-funded programme to assist the Ukrainian Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) through sector budget support kicked off. In line with the EU-Ukraine Association Agenda and environmental cooperation agreements, the project of almost €3.3 million will be implemented during 35 months and will help achieve the National Environmental Strategy priorities. Representatives of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, Swedish Embassy in Ukraine, as well as senior public officials and the project team discussed the way forward for the project implementation.**

Managed by the EPTISA led consortium, the project will assist the MENR, civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation, coordination, management and reporting of the EU Sector Budget Support (SBS) programme that has an envelope of €35 million. In addition to its crucial role in the Environmental Strategy implementation and the support to SBS Programme, the project will play a major role in the MENR capacity building.

A public presentation of activities and expected achievements will take place during an enlarged stakeholder meeting at the end of March 2012. The harmonisation of Ukrainian legislation with the EU Aquis, institutional and administrative capacity building, joint monitoring of the SBS Programme in environment and cooperation with civil society actors will be the main topics of discussion.

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## ARMS TRAFFICKING SITUATION REVIEWED AT ODESA WORKSHOP

**28-29 February, Odesa:** The EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine held a workshop on "Combating illegal trafficking of weapons, radiological and nuclear materials" in the framework of its Task Force Arms initiative. The event was attended by Ukrainian and Moldovan experts on combating illicit arms, weapons, radiological and nuclear materials, and by their counterparts from the UK and SELEC.

The participants presented an overview of the current arms-trafficking situation along the common Ukraine-Moldova border, as well as study cases showing criminal investigations conducted at the domestic and international levels.

Theoretical training sessions were delivered by representatives from EUBAM and the UK, covering the latest techniques and methods of preventing and combating the phenomenon, while EUBAM and joint Moldovan-Ukrainian efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in weapons in all forms, including radiological and nuclear materials, were also underlined.



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## UKRAINE'S PROGRESS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND MEDIA

**27 February, Kyiv:** Representatives of Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sport, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Committee for Television and Radio and State Agency for Science, Innovation and Information discussed a progress Ukraine achieved in implementation of the joint commitments taken under the last EU-Ukraine SC 7 meeting (16 December 2010), which focused on Science and technology, Research & Development, education, culture, public health, information society and media.

Evhen Sulima, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Youth and Sport underlined that the Ministry implemented its policy on European integration in many areas. "Ukraine is interested in increasing the number of Ukrainian research teams involved in implementing projects under the EU 7 Framework Programme," he said. The Ministry works on a regular basis to encourage Ukraine's Universities to participate in the EU-funded programmes Tempus, Erasmus Mundus and Jean Monnet, he added.



As to the integration of Ukraine into the European Higher Education Area, Evhen Sulima reported that "the legal framework introducing the Diploma Supplement of European model was established and the Ministry started their issuance".

During the meeting participants prepared proposals to the Agenda of the next joint EU-Ukraine SC 7 meeting to take place end of May in Brussels.

**For more information:** <http://mon.gov.ua/>

## EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 4-5 APRIL, KYIV

**International Conference on EURO 2012 security issues, organised by the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and the Hanns Seidel Stiftung**

**For more information:** <http://www.eubam.org/>, Maryna Reshetnyak, e-mail: [press@eubam.org](mailto:press@eubam.org)

### 5 APRIL, KYIV

**All Ukrainian meeting on HIV/AIDS prevention through education**

**For more information:** Vladimir Ponomarenko, (044) 531 5255

### 6 APRIL, KYIV

**The Children for Clean Energy Award Ceremony, organised by the EU-funded Project "Capacity Building to the State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine"**

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### 10 APRIL, KYIV

**TAIEX expert mission on European practice as regards crop rotation for soils rational usage and preservation for the staff of the State Committee for Land Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture**

**For more information:** <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/>