



## EU-Ukraine cooperation: key events in March, 2013

### JAN TOMBIŃSKI: TIME IS RUNNING OUT BEFORE NOVEMBER VILNIUS SUMMIT (WITH VIDEO)

*On March 20<sup>th</sup> the European Commission and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy presented the annual "neighbourhood package". The package contains, among other documents, 12 country reports (on developments in 2012 and with a set of recommendations for the future), including one on Ukraine.*

*On March 21<sup>st</sup> the Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine Jan Tombiński gave a press conference in Kyiv to present the main findings of the ENP progress report on Ukraine. Read some of the highlights of his statements and replies.*



Jan Tombiński, head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine

About the report: "The comments on Ukraine [present in the ENP Progress Report] mostly focus on what hasn't been done in order to sign [the Association Agreement] and pass to the next stage of the association. Therefore we focus on the mixed picture: much has been done, but still a lot remains to be fulfilled, especially the European Union recommendations to allow for the signature of the Association Agreement."

"The deadline [for meeting the recommendations] is November, because the Association Agreement should be signed in November."

About common obligations: "The Joint Statement of the EU-Ukraine Summit (February 25<sup>th</sup>) contains all the recommendations – not only the EU recommendations to Ukraine, but also *common* obligations, a common set of tasks for both sides, and I hope they will be fulfilled in due time."

About the November deadline: "The Vilnius [Eastern Partnership] summit will be held at the end of November. We have enough time to see all actions being fulfilled until then. There are no reasons to say that two or three months more could help to fulfill these recommendations and actions by Ukraine. [...] Time is running out before the Vilnius summit."

"During his visit to Kyiv on February 6-7<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Füle was very clear in setting the agenda. He said that we have 10 months to accomplish what has to be done; why then should we extend the deadline?"

Read the full article: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2013/03/21/tombinski3/>

### EMPOWERING REGIONS TO DEVELOP HUMAN CAPITAL

Ukraine is seeking ways to support the socio-economic development and competitiveness of its regions and strengthen the employability of its citizens. To support these goals, participants from Ukraine, neighbouring countries, and the European Union discussed ways of matching education priorities to labour market demand at a conference in Kyiv on March 21-22, jointly organised by the European Training Foundation (ETF) and the EU Delegation to Ukraine.

*"The European regional policy is one of the biggest success stories for the EU and it has substantially changed the landscape of the member states," Jan Tombiński, head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, said during the conference. In his speech, Ambassador Tombiński emphasised the importance of human capital development as a crucial factor in regional development.*



*Anatoliy Maksiuta, Ukraine's first deputy minister for economic development and trade, pointed out that Ukrainian regions face several challenges incited by the demographic decline, with people leaving their home regions in search of better job opportunities elsewhere. According to him, in order to stop this trend, new jobs, and especially highly qualified people, are vitally needed.*



Jan Tombinski, head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine

A possible approach to analyzing demand and matching skills to it was undertaken in Dnipropetrovsk region, through a pilot project implemented by the *European Training Foundation* (ETF) at the request of the Ukrainian government. The project's main objective was to focus vocational technical education to better meet the demands of the region's labour market. The main results of the project, based on questionnaires received from enterprises and educational institutions, were presented at the conference by **Oleksandr Demchyk**, head of the Department of Education and Science of the Dnipropetrovsk oblast administration.

The pilot project highlighted that the number of specialists graduating from educational institutions in the region does not always reflect the real demands of the market, says **Arjen Vos**, *head of the Unit for Eastern Europe and Central Asia of the ETF*. "For example, the number of cooks educated in Dnipropetrovsk educational institutions exceeds the number of jobs offered by the restaurants in the region," Vos explains.

The EU stands ready to contribute financially to the development of new approaches in Ukrainian regional policy. The conference allowed stakeholders to discuss the goals of the recently-launched EU-funded, "*EU Support to Ukraine's Regional Development Policy*" programme. The Programme provides new opportunities for Ukrainian regions to increase their capacities and introduce bottom-up initiatives to support further progress and prosperity.

According to **José Roman Leon Lora**, *head of the Operations Section for Economic Cooperation, Regional and Social Development* of the *EU Delegation to Ukraine*, the EU has allocated **€31 million** to the new programme. Local and regional authorities are invited to submit proposals for projects in line with their priorities as set in the Regional Development strategies. Two calls for proposals will be launched by EU Delegation, a first one in the coming weeks.

*Proper and balanced regional policy can contribute to improving quality of life and fulfilling the everyday needs of Ukrainian citizens, Ambassador **Tombiński** says. He adds that it can also help address problems linked to the massive outflow of labour from Ukraine. "Regional policy is about creating opportunities for people, increasing competitiveness, and creating jobs," the ambassador concludes.*

## Background

*Regional policy has developed into one of the most important policies of the European Union with regards to EU integration. The most recent regional policy initiative of the EU in Ukraine is the Support to Ukraine's Regional Development Policy Programme, launched in January 2013 with a budget of €31 million. The programme provides policy advice, capacity building and training to institutions and actors at the central, regional and local level. Further, it finances concrete regional development projects in Ukrainian regions.*

Contact: Olga Grygorashchenko: [surdp.project@gmail.com](mailto:surdp.project@gmail.com)

*Over the past years, the European Training Foundation (ETF) has positioned itself as a key international agency in Ukraine supporting the modernisation of the country's vocational education and training system. The ETF has implemented a pilot project in Dnipropetrovsk that introduced new methods of analysing labour market demand from enterprises and matching it with the delivery of education and training.*

Contact: Bent Sorensen, Head of ETF Communication Department: [mediarelations@etf.europa.eu](mailto:mediarelations@etf.europa.eu)



Arjen Vos, Head of the Unit for Eastern Europe and Central Asia of the ETF



## COUNCIL OF EUROPE ASSISTS IN REFORMING UKRAINIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



Participants of the kick-off meeting of the project "Support to criminal justice system reform in Ukraine", Kyiv, March 12, 2013

Upon its accession to the Council of Europe in 1995, Ukraine made a number of commitments, including the enactment of modern criminal procedure legislation.

The Council of Europe has already contributed to drafting this legislation, in particular the new Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), by providing expert advice. Today, the effective implementation of the Code is one of the conditions for the signature of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

By launching the "Support to criminal justice system reform in Ukraine" project, co-funded by the Council of Europe and Denmark, the European partners show their intent to continue supporting Ukraine in developing criminal procedure legislation that respects international standards.

The project experts that took part in the project's kick-off meeting in Kyiv on March 12 praised the new Ukrainian legislation represented by the new CPC. **Eric Svanidze**, former member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in respect of Georgia, assesses the text of this law as revolutionary compared to previous editions of the document.

**Mikael Lyngbo**, legal expert of the Danish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, agrees with his colleague, admitting that, "Ukrainian criminal procedure law is as good as any in Europe." He said that the project will pay special attention to new elements which the law introduces to the Ukrainian system, including: work and role of investigating judges, a new "coordination and guidance" role for prosecutors in pre-trial investigations, new rules on non-public investigatory actions, new procedures on police apprehension, and the rights of suspects.

**Jeremy McBride**, chairman of the Scientific Committee of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, expects substantial changes with the new legislation, which are much needed for EU-Ukraine Association Agreement dialogue. "The project offers the tools necessary to achieve this goal," McBride assures. However, he warned of possible challenges in implementing the new legislation, and pointed to the imperative need for highly qualified people to oversee its realization.

**Lorena Bachmaier**, professor at the Law School of the Madrid-based Complutense University, confirms: "Adequate training in line with European standards is essential to ensure a swift transition to the full and correct implementation of the new CPC."

### Background

The two and half year "Support to criminal justice system reform in Ukraine" project, is run by the Council of Europe with the financial support of the Danish government. The project aims to enhance the effectiveness of the Ukrainian criminal justice system and to bring it closer to European standards. It also pursues the following goals: to assist the Ukrainian government and stakeholders in implementing the new Criminal Procedure Code, to work out important new legislation (e.g. concerning the prosecutor's office), and to conduct a series of training sessions for Ukrainian decision-makers and stakeholders.

More information about the project can be found at: <http://coe.kiev.ua/projects/cjr.html>

## EU TO ALLOCATE €1 MILLION TO BOOST UKRAINE'S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT – INTERVIEW

*In today's world, a key goal is not only to boost development of particular areas, but also to decrease inequality between regions. This is why regional development is one of the priorities of the EU's own policies, as well as of its assistance to Ukraine.*



We met with **José Roman Leon Lora**, head of the section for Economic Cooperation, Regional and Social Development of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, to talk more about the EU's new regional policy initiative in the country.



José Roman Leon Lora, head of the section for Economic Cooperation, Regional and Social Development of the EU Delegation to Ukraine

## What is the EU doing to promote Ukrainian regional development?

The partnership between the EU and Ukraine is a global one. We are not only concentrating our attention on the political or economic issues, but we also try to tackle social and regional problems, particularly in the area of regional development.

In the EU, we call it a principle of cohesion, or a so-called, "cohesion policy." It is not only important to develop the country; it is also important to develop it in a cohesive manner. Today it is clearly proved that societies that have succeeded in putting in place cohesive development, aiming at the reduction of inequalities between regions and people, are more competitive, contrary to what the classic economic theories and approaches tend to say.

## How would do you assess Ukraine's regional development since its independence?

The economic development of Ukraine over the last 20 years has not equally favoured all the regions. There is almost no difference between the city centre of Kyiv and the city centre of any other big European city. However, when you go to a rural area or to other regions, the cleavage is visible. In the last 20 years, statistics show that those differences have increased to the benefit of the most industrialised and urban areas, but against the development of the most rural ones.

## What is your response to this challenge?

First of all we hold a policy dialogue with the government in order to draw its attention to regional development as an important component of the country's governance. Second element – we have an active policy dialogue with regional and local authorities as well.

In addition, from 2011 we have launched the preparation of a big program to promote regional development in Ukraine. We want to support development projects in the regions with almost €31 million. We already have strong technical assistance to help the regional authorities, and now we will have funds to finance regional development projects in each region.

Read the full article: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2013/03/27/leonlora/>

## STUDENTS PRAISE EU STUDY DAYS AS "UNIQUE INVESTMENT" IN FUTURE

Out of 400 applicants, 40 top Ukrainian university students and recent graduates were selected to participate in EU Study Days, initiated by the *EU Delegation to Ukraine*. Prominent experts from Ukraine and the European Union, as well as EU Delegation officials, shared their knowledge and first-hand information about the European Union and EU-Ukraine relations, during the EU Study Days' 1<sup>st</sup> session, in Kyiv on March 6-10.

"I got the unique experience of communicating with European integration experts and highly professional lecturers," says **Anastasia Yanovytska**, one of the EU Study Days students. The project became an opportunity to receive "first-hand professional knowledge" about the EU, adds **Halyna Utko**, her fellow student.



Participants of the EU Study days first session



Indeed, students had a unique opportunity to get in touch with the officials and experts of the *EU Delegation to Ukraine*, including Ambassador **Jan Tombiński**, **Nicolas Burge**, *head of the Trade and Economic Section*, **Zoltán Szalai**, *head of the Press and Information Section*, and **Victoria Davydova**, *EU Delegation press and information officer*.

Students had the chance to talk about politics with **Andriy Veselovskiy**, *Ukraine's former representative to the EU (2008-2010)*, **Valeriy Chaliy**, *deputy director general of Razumkov Center*, a Ukrainian think tank, and **Andrew Wilson**, *senior policy fellow at the London-based European Council on Foreign Relations*.

They learned about energy aspects of EU integration thanks to **Mykhaylo Honchar**, *director of energy programs of the Nomos Centre*, and **Christian Egenhofer**, *senior expert at the Brussels-based Centre for European Policy Studies*.

Led by **Taras Kachka**, one of Ukraine's deep and comprehensive free trade area (DCFTA) negotiators, students acted out EU-Ukraine DCFTA talks. Assisted by **Tamara Martseniuk**, *associate professor at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy*, they examined issues of gender equality. Under the guidance of **Oleksandr Sushko**, *research director of the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation*, they analysed citizens' rights and obligations regarding visas.

Moreover, Ukrainian graduates from European universities and representatives from EU member state educational institutions also presented valuable information about study and training opportunities in Europe.

**Vasyl Babych**, another EU Study Days student, spoke of the importance of the project because of "the historic situation in which Ukraine has found itself, linked in particular to the country's movement toward the EU". The project, "is a unique investment in my future life," another student, **Maria Karpyshyn**, concluded.

## Background

The EU Study Days provide the opportunity for **Ukrainian university students and graduates** to gain deeper and wider knowledge about the European Union and EU-Ukraine relations from key experts in the field and from different viewpoints. The project also facilitates the establishment of a **network** of young Ukrainians who will be able to share their experiences and implement joint initiatives in the future.

The next EU Study Days sessions will be held on April 12-14, May 24-26 and June 14-16. The project is implemented by the *Center for Ukrainian Reform Education* and funded by the EU Delegation.

Contact person: Iryna Movchan, director of the *Centre for Ukrainian Reform Education*, [imovchan@cure.org.ua](mailto:imovchan@cure.org.ua).

More information can be requested from the EU Study Days coordinating group: email: [eustudydays@gmail.com](mailto:eustudydays@gmail.com), phone: 097 321 47 30

Website: <http://eustudydays.com>,

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/EUStudyDays>

## SWITCHING ON: EU HELPS LOCAL COMMUNITY BRIGHTEN ITS STREETS

"Community-based approach to local development," a joint EU/UNDP project, has provided residents of Porokhnia village in Khmelnytskyi oblast with an effective system of street lighting. It has also taught them how to cooperate with donors and save energy.

As part of the EU-funded and UNDP-run project, Porokhnia village received 80 energy-saving sodium street lamps, lighting up both the main and side streets of the village. To avoid any energy waste, the system is operated automatically, with the lamps turning on at dusk and off at dawn.



Olga Drozd, Porokhnia village mayor, and Oleksandra Mala, a retired village dweller who participated in the community's co-financing of the project

"This was our first attempt to participate in a project financed by a donor," says **Olha Drozd**, the mayor of Porokhnia village. She adds that the community had previously collected money from its residents and investors to ensure a gas supply and to build a church. The installment of the new system of street lighting, however, could not have been implemented without additional financial resources, Drozd underlined.

According to **Ihor Klepach**, coordinator of the Khmelnytskyi oblast community resource centre, the EU-funded project allocates up to €8,000 to a micro-project, "under the condition that the donor's share does not exceed 50% of the total budget." To assist the Porokhnia village community, the EU granted almost UAH 80,000 (approximately €8,000), which is supplemented by UAH 50,000 from the *rayon* budget and UAH 8,500 collected by village residents. Local businesses also participated in the installment of the energy efficient street lighting system.

According to **Drozd**, the village decided to install a new street lighting system after conducting a poll among the residents. They had also proposed renovating an old school. However, with a low number of children and birth rate, the community decided not to invest their money here.

The success of the project helped residents overcome negative stereotypes and skeptical attitudes regarding European partnership. **Oleksandra Mala**, a retired village resident who contributed financially to the project, says that people in the village first "did not believe that somebody cares about our problems." "Now we have light on our streets which is needed primarily by our grandchildren," she concludes.

This experience of cooperation with the EU encouraged residents of Porokhnia village to work on further projects with partners. Centralised water supply is the next issue that the community plans to tackle in a similar way. The cost of the new project would be substantially higher than the installment of the street lighting system. However, the success of the first project has inspired hope that the necessary partners and resources will be found.

Ihor ZAPADENKO  
Khmelnyskyi-Volochysk

## RACING CLOSER TO THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK

*Be a part of the European movement for energy efficiency!*



The EU Delegation to Ukraine together with its international and Ukrainian partners is preparing the next edition of the European Union Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) on June 22-30, 2013. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, through bottom-up efforts, organizers will connect directly with citizens and energy stakeholders at local, regional and national levels. The combined results of the EUSEW efforts are helping Ukraine in building its sustainable energy future.

You are all invited to participate in this event by organizing activities in your city or village, and we will promote your events. To join the program please fill in [the registration form](#) by March 30.

For more information please visit: <http://www.eusew.eu/> or contact event coordinator Olesya Mygal at [omygal@internews.ua](mailto:omygal@internews.ua)



## Background

**EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)** is an initiative of the European Commission that first took place in 2006 with hundreds of participants each year. It is part of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign, which aims to achieve the EU's energy policy targets within the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency. **In 2011 Ukraine joined the EU Sustainable Energy Week** for the first time. Between 11 and 15 April, the cities of Kyiv, Lviv, Poltava and Kovel hosted events to promote renewable energy.

In 2012 EU Sustainable energy week was held within the European Village initiative in Kyiv near the Arch of Friendship.

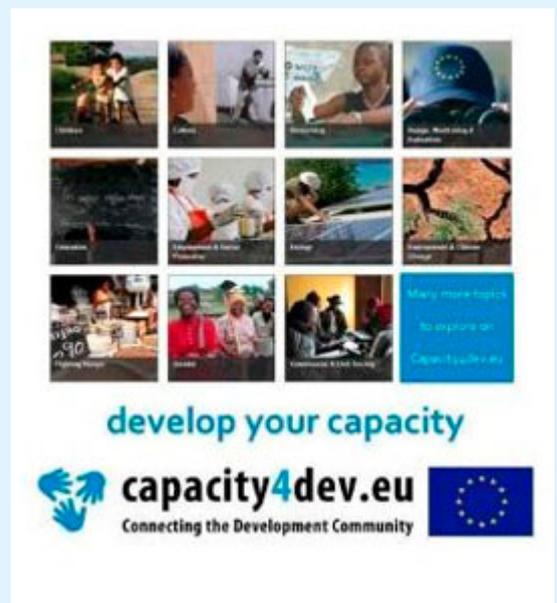
## JOIN CAPACITY4DEV – THE PROFESSIONAL ONLINE COMMUNITY OF THE EU

Tips and recommendations on media relations and communicating EU projects are now available online! You are warmly invited to join the group of the EU Delegation to Ukraine – Communicating EU-Ukraine Cooperation at the web-site <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu>. This is a professional web-community of the European Commission that offers an opportunity to exchange useful information and discuss vital topics.

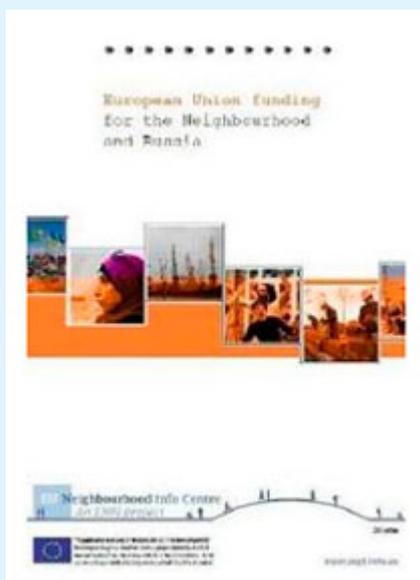
Follow this link to join the group: [http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/communicate\\_eu-ua\\_cooperation/](http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/communicate_eu-ua_cooperation/). In the group's library you will find the **Communication toolkit** of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, interesting presentations, and other useful information.

Capacity4dev is a unique platform for information exchange and distribution that will be on hand for all EU projects.

We encourage you to use this new opportunity to communicate and get advice from the EU Delegation to Ukraine!



## HANDBOOK ON EU FUNDING FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD RELEASED



A handbook on “European Union Funding for the Neighbourhood and Russia” was released at the beginning of March. It seeks to demonstrate how some of the funding for the Neighbourhood works, who is involved and where more information can be found out.

The handbook covers the issues related to the funding instruments, ways of allocation of funds, grants and contracts, budget support, cross border cooperation, etc. It also looks into how governments in the Neighbourhood partner countries are supported to bring about the change.

The handbook mentions institutions offering lending, like the European Investment Bank, and lists some ongoing funded projects. It also includes a glossary of EU funding terms.

This handbook is part of a series of publications produced by the EU Neighbourhood Info Centre. Some of the others are: “A Photographer’s Handbook” (2012) and “A Journalist’s Handbook” (2012).



The handbook is available in English, French, Arabic and Russian languages. It can be downloaded in [English](#) and in [Russian](#).

More information:

[This news at the ENPI-Info website](#)

## EUBAM LEAFLET ILLUSTRATES ITS MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) has issued a [new leaflet](#) to illustrate its contribution to the improvement of the management of the border between the two countries.

Since 2005, EUBAM has served to improve border management and enhance regional security, supporting the economic development of the region. EUBAM has set a number of ambitious goals including more professional Moldovan and Ukrainian border agencies, improved cross-border cooperation and border security.

Thousands of staff members of Moldovan and Ukrainian border agencies benefited from EUBAM training on EU standards and best practices. In 2012, Moldovan and Ukrainian border-guard officers, supported through EUBAM capacity-building initiatives, began jointly patrolling the common border for the first time. EUBAM also played an important role in the resumption of the Chisinau-Odessa passenger railway line in 2010 and facilitated a trilateral process that played a part in the full resumption of cargo-rail traffic through Transnistria in 2012.



EUBAM support was, moreover, instrumental in getting the Jointly Operated Border Crossing Point (JOBCEP) project at Rossoshany-Briceni off the ground in 2012. The JOBCEP is the first crossing on the Moldova-Ukraine border to operate according to EU standards. EUBAM has also played an important part in assisting Moldova and Ukraine in seeking visa-free travel to the EU for their citizens. EUBAM has provided expertise and equipment to the Joint Ukrainian Moldovan Commission on Border Demarcation since March 2008.

To download the leaflet, [click here](#)

For more information on EUBAM: <http://www.eubam.org/>

### Useful links:

For more information on EU-Ukraine relations, consult the following resources <http://euukrainecoop.com/useful-links/>

Calendar of past and future events: <http://euukrainecoop.com/calendar/>