



## EU-BELARUS CO-OPERATION IN CHERNOBYL-AFFECTED AREAS

**Nobody will ever forget the Chernobyl accident. This was a catastrophe with high human, social and economic consequences. Millions of people were affected, many of them in Belarus. One of the most important and complicated tasks is the rehabilitation of contaminated territories and improvement of the lives of the people living there.**

Recognising the scale of the problem for Belarus, the European Union launched a wide and extensive series of assistance programmes. EU funds specifically target the Chernobyl-affected areas, where exposure to radiation not only adversely affected the health of the population, but also severely damaged the mostly agriculture-based economy of the region.

The EU was a major donor to the CORE programme, which covered four regions: Bragin, Chechersk (Gomel), Stolin (Brest) and Slavgorod (Mogilev). The EU contribution was €2 million. A further €2.4 million has been allocated to the project "Combat the Negative Effects of the Chernobyl Disaster in Belarus".

This project, which is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, focuses on the Chernobyl-affected districts of Gomel Oblast not covered by the CORE Programme, specifically Vetka, Zhitkovichy, Khoyniki and Buda-Koshelevo. The overall objective of the project is to promote the enhancement of the livelihoods of rural communities and to develop and implement sustainable social and economic initiatives through community-mobilisation.

The project has already funded reconstruction and repairs to schools, kindergartens crèches and playgrounds in the four districts. Later this month a renovated social centre for disabled people will be officially opened (see below).



## EU-FUNDED PROJECT RENOVATES TWO KINDERGARTENS IN GOMEL REGION

**On 27 August the EU-funded project "Area Based Development of the Chernobyl-Affected Areas of Belarus" held in Gomel Region official openings of two children's preschool institutions renovated within the project. A welcoming and modern gym/music hall was opened after renovation in the Crèche and Kindergarten No.2 in Khoyniki Town, and a playground was put in operation on the premises of the kindergarten in Sudkava Village in the Khoyniki District.**

Aside from renovating the building for the Khoyniki-based Children's Crèche and Kindergarten No.2, the project purchased new sports and musical equipment, chairs, a laptop, a projector with a screen, a stereo-system, and other items. The amount of funding came to more than €7,000.

For the kindergarten in the village of Sudkava (the only one available in that inhabited locality), equipment for physical education and games was purchased and installed on playgrounds. Outdoor amenities were manufactured, and flowerbeds were planted. As a result, 45 local infants obtained the wonderful opportunity to strengthen their health and improve their frame of mind.



**Contact person: Elena Sedach, e-mail: [alena.sedach@undp.by](mailto:alena.sedach@undp.by)**



## EU-FUNDED PROJECT RENOVATES THREE NEW SITES IN GOMEL REGION

**On 7 September the EU-funded project "Combat the Negative Effects of the Chernobyl Disaster in Belarus" held in Gomel Region official openings of three new sites renovated within the project.**

In Vetka town a renovated, warm and equipped house was opened. 40 residents of the house got their apartments equipped by new windows, doors and sanitary ware. Total funding from the side of EU-funded project is more than €15,000.

The Deputy Minister of Emergencies Aleksandr Shamko stresses the important of solving global issues at local level. "I am glad, that thanks to joint effort of local authority and community, Ministry of Emergencies and funding by European Union and UN Development Programme we achieved so visible result", he said.

In Velikie Nemki village, Vetka District 93 children, parents as well as teachers and principal of secondary school-kindergarten celebrated the opening of new warm classrooms with new windows and doors.



The total fund is €22,000 from the side of the project.

In Krivsk town, Buda-Koshelevo District the music school was opened with new musical instruments and equipment for conduction concerts purchased within the project. The total fund is about €4,000.

**Contact person: Elena Sedach, e-mail: [alena.sedach@undp.by](mailto:alena.sedach@undp.by)**

## EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

### EU-FUNDED PROJECT SUPPORTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

**On 3 September the EU-funded project "Building capacity for Strategic Environmental Assessment and environmental conventions implementation in Belarus" held a round table on assessment of information needs of Belarus for implementation of UN Convention on Biological Diversity. 36 representatives of environmental public institutions, non-governmental organisations, academia, and mass media took part in the event.**

The event aimed at discussing the report on assessment of information needs of Belarus for implementation of UN Convention on Biological Diversity, elaborated by the project experts, as well as discussion of the structure of database on biological diversity. The participants also provided their recommendations to the report available on the project website.



The Head of biological and landscape diversity department of the Ministry of Natural Resources Natalia Minchenko stressed during the workshop that the issues of saving biological diversity should be treated in the context of a wider issue of protection and sustainable use of wildlife in Belarus.

The workshop participants approved the draft of the expert report and provided some recommendations for its amendment.

**More information at: <http://www.ecorazvitie.by/>**

**Contact person: Viacheslav Smirnov, e-mail: [viachaslau.smirnou@un.minsk.by](mailto:viachaslau.smirnou@un.minsk.by)**



## 200 BELARUSIAN SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN THE EU-FUNDED ENVIRONMENT PROJECT

On 6 September the EU-funded project "Raising environmental awareness of the youth through establishment and development of Green Schools in Belarus" summarised the call of applications started in January 2010 and aiming to raise environmental awareness of youth and public as a whole through organisation and development of Green Schools in Belarus. About 200 schools sent their applications for participation in the project to receive the status of Green School.

The project supports the development of extra-curricular education system on environment conservation in Belarus through development of a net of "Green Schools". The main structural elements of Green Schools are secondary schools and school forestries as well as environmental education units at specially protected areas.

Within the project framework it is planned – as pilot activities – to support establishment and operation of environmental education units at the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve with a focus on schoolchildren from all regions of Belarus, and a unit at the Lebyazhy Republican Biological Reserve with a main focus on schoolchildren from the city of Minsk.

Project implementation will promote conservation and sustainable development of special protected areas in Belarus along with raising education level and fostering a responsible attitude of the young generation towards the environment.

**More information at:** <http://www.ecorazvitie.by/>

**Contact person:** Viacheslav Smirnov, e-mail: [viachaslau.smirnou@un.minsk.by](mailto:viachaslau.smirnou@un.minsk.by)



## EU-FUNDED PROJECT SHARES INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE ON GREENWAYS DEVELOPMENT

On 9-10 and 14-15 September the EU-funded project "Sustainable development at local level" held in Vitebsk Region two workshops on "Greenways: from idea to implementation" with participation of the international expert on greenways architecture Charles Tracy. The events gathered the officials of public environmental agencies and aimed at discussion the international experience on greenways development.

In Vileika Town and Rossony Town the workshop participants visited the information centres on sustainable development and ecotourism, the local greenways, local ecomuseums, and met the initiative groups on greenway development.

The international expert held presentations on greenway history and modern tendencies, key strategies of greenway design, involvement of local communities for greenway co-ordination.

The participants discussed the development of greenways in Vileika Town and Rossony Town, as well as on other greenways on pilot territories in both districts.

**More information at:** <http://www.ecorazvitie.by/>

**Contact person:** Viacheslav Smirnov, e-mail: [viachaslau.smirnou@un.minsk.by](mailto:viachaslau.smirnou@un.minsk.by)





## EU-FUNDED PROJECT TRAINS SOCIAL PROTECTION SPECIALISTS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On 13 September the EU-funded project "Preventing, Fighting and Addressing the Social Consequences of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Belarus" launched a 3-month training programme for social protection specialists. During the training programme over 200 social protection specialists receive training on rendering social and psychological assistance to victims of human trafficking.

The training sessions are conducted at the International Training Centre on Migration and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior. The training programme covers topics such as prevention of trafficking in human beings among the general population, rendering social and psychological assistance to women and children-victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse, ethical aspects of working with victims of human trafficking, etc.

The trainings are conducted by instructors of the Academy of the Ministry of Interior, specialists of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Minsk City Centre for Social Services for Family and Children, the NGO "Belarusian Young Women Christian Association", and international experts from Lithuania, Moldova, and Ukraine.

"Improvement of the knowledge and competences of the specialists of the territorial public social services centres in the area of combating trafficking in human beings is the main prerequisite for high quality of the social services", said the First Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection Pyotr Grushnik.

**Contact person: Alexander Novikov, e-mail: [alexander.novikov@undp.by](mailto:alexander.novikov@undp.by)**



## EU-FUNDED PROJECT HOLDS TRAINING ON RENEWABLE ENERGY REGULATION

On 13-15 September the EU-funded project "Capacity Building for Energy Regulators" within the INOGATE Programme held in Minsk training on renewable energy regulation. The event focused on energy and climate change package of the EU; environmental policy instruments and their use in the energy sector; renewable energy and their grid integration; demand response management; smart metering case study (Italy).

The training commenced with a short presentation by each participating Partner Country on the potentials of the Renewable Energy Sector and its regulation status, followed by the case studies from the Czech Republic and Hungary. The training course was a continuation to an Introduction to the Regulation of Electricity Markets Training that had taken place in June in Istanbul, Turkey and was organised by the project.

With the objectives to promote and advocate good and sound energy regulatory practices in the Partner Countries of the INOGATE Programme, the €330,000 project aims to create a network for information exchange and assistance among the energy regulators of the beneficiary countries; transfer information and best practices, establish a common regulatory environment based on EU principles; improve organisational performance including better tariff practices consistent with international methods and harmonised among the beneficiary countries; support and educate the beneficiary countries in carrying out their regulatory reforms.

**More information at: <http://www.inogate.org/>  
Contact person: David Conway, e-mail: [d.conway@inogate.org](mailto:d.conway@inogate.org)**





## EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 28 SEPTEMBER, GOMEL REGION

Openings of renovated kindergarten, school, and social centre for disabled people within the EU-funded project "Combat the Negative Effects of Chernobyl Disaster in Belarus"

Contact person: Elena Sedach, e-mail: [alena.sedach@undp.by](mailto:alena.sedach@undp.by)

### 29-30 SEPTEMBER, MINSK

Information and training event of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Baltic Sea Region Programme together with the Regional Capacity Building Initiative

More information at: <http://eu.baltic.net/>

Contact person: Alke Voss, e-mail: [alke.voss@eu.baltic.net](mailto:alke.voss@eu.baltic.net)

### 29 SEPTEMBER-1 OCTOBER, MINSK

Workshop on harmonisation of electricity standards within the INOGATE project "Harmonisation of gas and oil technical standards and practices"

More information at: <http://www.inogate.org>

Contact person: David Conway, e-mail: [d.conway@inogate.org](mailto:d.conway@inogate.org)

### 30 SEPTEMBER, VITEBSK REGION

Second International Conference on CBC Cooperation and Investment

Contact person: Janis Aizsalnieks, e-mail: [janis.aizsalnieks@ec.europa.eu](mailto:janis.aizsalnieks@ec.europa.eu)