



## EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

### GENDER EQUALITY: EU AWARDS BELARUSIAN WINNERS OF THE DRAWING COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN

On 21 October the EU Delegation to Belarus held a local award ceremony aimed at congratulating the Belarusian winners of the annual children's drawing competition on gender equality. The European Commission launched on 8 March 2010 for the third year in a row an international drawing competition on International Women's Day. This competition called on children in third countries to express their vision of gender equality through a drawing.

In total, more than 50,000 children from 61 countries throughout the world, including 120 children from Belarus, took part in the global EU-funded competition this year. Within the Belarusian part of the competition, the EU Delegation has selected 10 best drawings of 8-10 year-old children from all regions of Belarus.

In his inaugurating speech, Mr. Jean-Eric Holzapfel, Chargé d'affaires of the EU Delegation said that the competition had been organised "to raise awareness of the people around you about the issue of gender equality - the principle of equal treatment between women and men."

The winners of the Belarusian competition received certificates of recognition and gifts that they may find useful in their studies and creative work.

**More information at:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/belarus/press\\_corner/all\\_news/news/2010/30082010\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/belarus/press_corner/all_news/news/2010/30082010_en.htm)

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### BETTER WEATHER FORECASTS FOR IMPROVED SERVICES FROM BELARUS TO DENMARK

On 26 October the EU-funded BALTRAD project held in Aalborg, Denmark a workshop on improvement of weather forecasts. One of the findings of the event is that information from weather radar can significantly improve the management of transport, public safety and recreation facilities in the Baltic Sea Region. Weather radar systems are capable of monitoring rain, snow, hail, and wind over large geographical areas with high resolution in both time and space.

Participants in the workshop were informed about enhanced weather forecasting and its use in customised applications. Interactions between experts on radar-based weather forecasts and end-user communities helped to stimulate ideas about possible research areas the project could explore.

The BALTRAD project is creating a weather radar network for the Baltic Sea Region, operating in real-time, with high-quality data, and with demonstrated value to forecasters and decision-makers. The €2.1 million project is funded by the Baltic Sea Region Programme, and it is designed as an element of regional infrastructure in support of transport sectors (road, rail, aviation, sea), hydrology, radiation and nuclear safety, recreation, and other interests where weather is important. BALTRAD partners are the national weather and hydrological institutes in 7 countries of the region including Belarus.

**More information at:** <http://www.baltrad.eu/>

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## EU-FUNDED PROJECT OPENS A BEEKEEPING MUSEUM

On 3 November the EU-funded project "Sustainable Development at Local Level" officially opened in Borok Village, Volozhyn District a Beekeeping Museum. The event gathered pupils from Rakov Village School, students of Geography Department from Belarus State University, local inhabitants and journalists.

The Beekeeping Museum is funded under the project's mini-grants programme and will become a new ecotourism object of the existing Volozhyn Greenway – a 200 km tourism trail managed by local people and leading along linear green corridors, historic trade routes, rivers and railways.

Mr. Vasily Frolov, museum director, told about the tourism in the region and beekeeping traditions. "Volozhyn Greenway is very popular among local inhabitants and tourists. The opening of this museum will obviously contribute to sustainable development of the region, raising additional funds to rural areas, as well as increasing the level of environmental education and making the region more attractive to tourists", he added.

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

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## EU DELEGATION HOLDS THE EU PROJECTS INFORMATION DAY IN GRODNO

On 4 November the EU Delegation to Belarus held the EU Projects Information Day in Grodno. The event included a workshop on "Overview of EU-Belarus Co-operation Programmes: experience and perspectives for Grodno Oblast" and training for journalists on "EU Information Sources". It was organised in co-operation with Grodno Oblast and City Executive Committees and Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, and gathered representatives of local authorities, NGOs, academia, as well as implementers of concrete EU-funded projects in the region.

Mr. Viacheslav Shelegeiko, Projects Co-ordinator of the EU Delegation made an overview of EU-Belarus co-operation highlighting active participation of the Grodno Oblast in different EU programmes. "The region successfully takes part in such programmes as TEMPUS, Cross-border Co-operation, Non-State Actors and Local Authorities. There are projects on development of tourism, higher education, public health, environment, etc."

Mr. Vladimir Belitsky, Senior Expert of the EU-funded project "Support to the National Coordinating Unit in Belarus", made a presentation of the most common mistakes applicants make when preparing project proposals for grants and tenders under EU programmes.

The implementers of the two EU-funded projects shared their experience: Mr. Sergei Koleda from Belarus National Union of Tourism and Sport told about the project "Unknown Europe" aimed at tourism development in the region. Prof. Anatoly Sviridenok from the National Academy of Sciences shared his experience of implementing the EU-funded project "Biomechanical research and elaboration of the methods for improvement of children gate from Podlasie and Grodno Oblast".

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## SPECIALISTS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IMPROVE METHODS OF PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On 10-12 November the EU/UNDP/UNICEF project "Preventing, Fighting and Addressing the Social Consequences of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Belarus" organised a supervision seminar on prevention of trafficking in human beings in educational institutions in Minsk. The participants of the seminar were specialists of educational institutions from all regions of Belarus, who in 2009 had completed training on prevention of human trafficking, organised in the framework of the project, and during this year have been actively conducting prevention activities among students at their institutions.

During the seminar, the participants, guided by international experts from Lithuania, exchanged their experience, discussed and examined the most difficult cases of conducting prevention programs and events, and learned new interactive methods of working with youth audience. At the closing part of the seminar the participants designed individual professional development plans, which will help them to further improve the human trafficking prevention activities at their educational institutions.

To date, over 50 specialised trainings and seminars on prevention of trafficking in human beings at educational institutions have been conducted in the framework of the project. Over 1,000 education specialists from all regions of Belarus have been trained.

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## FUTURE JOURNALISTS TAUGHT TO REPORT PROFESSIONALLY ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

A series of lectures on reporting on the issue of human trafficking in the media was conducted at the Institute of Journalism of the Belarusian State University in the framework of the EU/UNDP/UNICEF project "Preventing, Fighting and Addressing the Social Consequences of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Belarus". Over 100 students of the Institute of Journalism attended the lectures.

During the lectures the students examined key aspects of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, reviewed the practice of covering this topic in international and Belarusian media, and learned different professional techniques of reporting on the subject in the print media, on the radio and television. Special attention was paid to the ethical rules and norms of covering this issue.

Representatives of the Department on Drug Control and Counter Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Interior and the NGO "Belarusian Young Women Christian Association" delivered presentations to the students.

- Journalists, more than others, directly influence public awareness and behavior, and have a crucial role in combating trafficking in human beings, said Sergei Dubovik, Director of the Institute of Journalism.

The lectures were delivered in October-November as part of the core curriculum course of the Institute of Journalism on professional journalistic ethics.

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## EU-FUNDED PROJECT OPENS A CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND TREATIES

On 19 November the EU-funded and UNDP-implemented project "Building capacity for Strategic Environmental Assessment and environmental conventions implementation in Belarus" opened in Minsk a Centre for International Environmental Convention and Treaties. The institution will provide informational and analytical support for co-operation of public authorities and other governmental and non-governmental organisation on implementation of international environmental treaties and conventions, will develop and participate in activities aimed at reducing emissions and increasing removals of greenhouse gases to prevent climate change.

Ms. Elena Rakova, representative of the EU Delegation to Belarus stressed the EU interest in implementation of environment and energy projects in Belarus. "The European Union will increase its office in Belarus next year which will create additional conditions for increasing of environment and other projects implemented in the country", she added.

"The opening of the Centre will create conditions for inter-regional and cross-border co-operation, information sharing and capacity development in monitoring the implementation of commitments under environmental conventions, will promote public access to environmental information", said Mr. Igor Chubara, UNDP Project Co-ordinator.

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

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## EU-FUNDED PROJECT PRESENTS MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS ON PARTICIPATIVE HOUSING REFORMS

On 22 November the EU-funded Participative Housing Reforms project held the final conference in Grodno. During the conference the project experts presented the main project results and recommendations in the areas of housing reforms and improving dialogue between citizens and local authorities. The event gathered representatives of regional and local authorities from Grodno Region, heads of homeowners associations and organisations, representatives of private and municipal housing managing enterprises from Belarus and Germany, and property managing associations.

The project experts presented during the event the web portal "Housing Reforms with Citizens' Participation" which provides updated information on housing legislation, housing reforms and practice of housing management in Belarus; the results of monitoring of housing legislation in Belarus and its actual changes.

The participants discussed the concept of dialogue between the central and local authorities, and homeowners associations; management of common home ownerships, annual financial plans and cost-efficiency; compared common housing management in Belarus and Germany, common housing management and dialog with local authorities in Belarus and Russia.

More information at: <http://www.jildom.com/>

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## EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 30 NOVEMBER , MINSK

Information Day: EU Programmes in the Field of Education and Youth: Opportunities for Belarus

Contact person: National Tempus Coordinator Mr Nikolai Listopad, e-mail: [listopad@unibel.by](mailto:listopad@unibel.by)

### 1 DECEMBER, GRODNO

Regional training for potential applicants within the EU-funded Cross-border Co-operation Programme Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus 2007-2013

More information at: <http://www.enpi-cbc.eu/>

Contact person: Giedrius Surplys, e-mail: [giedrius.surplys@enpi-cbc.eu](mailto:giedrius.surplys@enpi-cbc.eu)

### 1-2 DECEMBER, MINSK

Workshop on Development of Problem Regions in EU Countries and EC Policy Support of Regional Development

More information at: <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taiaex/>

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### 6 DECEMBER, MOGILEV

Regional training for potential applicants within the EU-funded Cross-border Co-operation Programme Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus 2007-2013

More information at: <http://www.enpi-cbc.eu/>

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### 7 DECEMBER, MINSK

Regional training for potential applicants within the EU-funded Cross-border Co-operation Programme Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus 2007-2013

More information at: <http://www.enpi-cbc.eu/>

Contact person: Giedrius Surplys, e-mail: [giedrius.surplys@enpi-cbc.eu](mailto:giedrius.surplys@enpi-cbc.eu)

### 8 DECEMBER, MINSK

EU/UNDP project "Support to Environment and Sustainable Development in Belarus", Action Final Workshop

Contact person: Dmitry Frischin, e-mail: [dmitry.frischin@un.minsk.by](mailto:dmitry.frischin@un.minsk.by)

### 13 DECEMBER, VITEBSK

Regional training for potential applicants within the EU-funded Cross-border Co-operation Programme Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus 2007-2013

More information at: <http://www.enpi-cbc.eu/>

Contact person: Giedrius Surplys, e-mail: [giedrius.surplys@enpi-cbc.eu](mailto:giedrius.surplys@enpi-cbc.eu)

### 14-15 DECEMBER, LVIV

2nd Partner Search Forum and Cross-border Journalist Forum within the EU-funded Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013

More information at: <http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/>

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