



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PLANNING IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT, FROM MOROCCO TO BELARUS

On 14th December, 2010, the EU-funded project under the CIUDAD programme "Sustainable Urban Energy in the ENPI region – towards the Covenant of Mayors (SURE)" held a conference in the Moroccan city of Salé on sustainable energy planning in the context of urban development.

Among the participants there were high-level Moroccan authorities, as well as local government representatives from the towns of Friedrichshafen (Germany), Murcia (Spain) and Polotsk (Belarus) and from the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPRM, Rennes, France).

Both Salé and Polotsk aim to join the Covenant of Mayors (CoM), a 500-strong voluntary association of local authorities committed to a more sustainable use of energy, and the conference is widely seen as an important step in reaching that goal.

More information at: http://www.enpi-info.eu/main.php?id_type=1&id=23537&lang_id=450



JOINT EU/UNDP PROJECT "SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN BELARUS" HELD ACTION FINAL WORKSHOP

On 8th December, 2010, the joint EU/UNDP funded project "Support to environment and sustainable development in Belarus" held the final workshop with the purpose to evaluate the project activities and results.

The implementation of the project "Support to environment and sustainable development in Belarus" was recognized as successful by all the participants. The following achievements of the project were mentioned: improved potential of the Local Agenda 21 and Green routes in the regions; more effective use of the Strategic ecological assessment, implementation of the International Ecological Conventions, opening of the 5 information centres of sustainable development, creation of required conditions for the development of the ecological education at schools.

Antonius Broek, UNDP Resident Representative, opened the workshop and expressed a special gratitude to the Delegation of the European Union to Belarus and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (the National Executive Agency) for the support and coordination provided at the national level.

The project finishes on 29th, December 2010.

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EU-FUNDED CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS DANGERS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On 2-8 December, 2010, an awareness raising campaign "Stop Human Trafficking!" aimed at improving the knowledge of young people of Belarus about the rules of safety when travelling abroad was held in Brest, Hrodna, Vitsiebsk, Mahiliou, and Homiel.

The campaign was conducted 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" with the assistance of the Ministry of Education of Belarus.

In the framework of the campaign, thematic awareness raising events for students of universities and colleges were organised at cinemas of the five cities. Activities included interactive discussions on the issue of trafficking in human beings, quizzes on basic safety rules when travelling abroad, and the presentation of the video film "Inhuman Trafficking", depicting harrowing stories of young women trapped in sexual exploitation in Europe.

The output of the campaign is that over 2,700 Students received knowledge about Safety Rules of Travelling Abroad (of them 63% – women and 37% – men).

The campaign was dedicated to the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, which is commemorated every year on 2nd of December on the initiative of the United Nations.

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WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONS IN EU COUNTRIES AND EU REGIONAL POLICY

On 1-2nd December, 2010, the TAIEX jointly with representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to Belarus conducted the Workshop on Development of Regions and EU Countries and EU Regional Policy in Minsk.

The event aimed to provide information support to the representatives of regional executive committees (around 30 participants attended the seminar).

Nikolai Snopkov, Minister of Economy, the Republic of Belarus and Aliaksei Vavokhin, EU Delegation in Belarus addressed the participants with the welcome word.

Within two days of the workshop, the participants discussed the following important topics and completed different case studies: administrative setup and regional policy of Belarus, EU Regional and Cohesion Policy and Structural Funds Instruments, Management & Control System: NSRF 2007 – 2013 – the case of Greece, the principles of EU regional policy and evaluation of its impact (indicators and results), Regional policy and cohesion policy: their place in the Eastern Partnership, Development of Regions in the "new" EU Countries on the Example of the Baltic States.

In the closing discussion the Belarusian side (Ministry of Economy of Belarus) expressed the wish to have more of such events in order to raise awareness of the regional and local authorities of the importance of regional development policy.

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THE JOINT EU/UNDP ACTION "COMBAT THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CHERNOBYL DISASTER IN BELARUS" HOLDS FINAL PRESS-CONFERENCE

On 16th December, the overall results of the joint EU/UNDP Action "Combat the Negative Effects of Chernobyl Disaster in Belarus" were presented during the final press-conference in Minsk.

This Action has been implemented since July 2009 in 4 target districts in Homiel Region (Choiniki District, Zytkevichy District, Vietka District, Buda-Kasaliouva District).

Mr. Farid Garakhanov, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, reported that 60 local project initiatives in the field of healthcare, energy efficiency, sports and human security were implemented in the Chernobyl-affected areas during this year. The total amount of the EU/UNDP funding of the project initiatives exceeded USD 948 thousand. A matching amount has been contributed by the local administration in target districts which doubled the positive impact of the local projects.

Over 9500 persons have benefited from the joint action activities undertaken in the target Districts. One of the recognized positive outputs of the action is the increased involvement of local communities in socio-economic development of their respective districts.

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THE SECOND PARTNER SEARCH FORUM AND JOURNALIST FORUM WITHIN EU-FUNDED PROGRAMME.

On 14-15th December, 2010, the EU-funded Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Poland - Belarus - Ukraine 2007-2013" held the 2nd Partner Search Forum and the 1st Cross-border Forum of Journalists in Lviv.

There were over 270 representatives invited from the Polish, Belarusian and Ukrainian organizations and institutions to meet in Lviv to exchange ideas on what projects are worthwhile developing for the forthcoming calls for proposals (the first one for the Measure 3.2 exclusively) planned for the 1st half of 2011.

Potential partners also had a chance to meet the Project Managers from the JTS and experts from the Regional Capacity Building Initiative. The Partner Search Forum was organized well ahead the announcements of the calls in order to give applicants more time to work on the partnership.

On 15th December 2010, the local and regional media from the Programme territory met in Lviv to discuss needs of the borderland. More than 30 journalists participated and shared their views on the role the Programme should play locally. Journalists expressed their readiness to support the information plan of the Programme.

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FIRST TV CHANNEL JOINTLY WITH THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO BELARUS OPENED «WINDOW TO EUROPE»

On 13th December, 2010, the First Channel of the National State Television of Belarus and the Delegation of the European Union to Belarus launched joint information project "Window to Europe."

The project includes weekly TV and radio programmes "Window To Europe" that will run for one year on First TV Channel and Radio Radius FM.

The programmes will be telling about EU relations with its Eastern neighbours and providing relevant and up-to-date information about EU activities in Belarus.

"We are pleased that "Window to Europe" will keep telling the Belarusians about the European Neighbourhood policy and Eastern Partnership, which are the main instruments of EU assistance to its neighbours. The programme will also highlight the EU projects implemented in Belarus", Jean-Eric Holzapfel, Charge d'affaires of the



EU Delegation to Belarus says.

The main strategy of the project is partnership with leading Belarusian mass media such as First TV Channel and radio Radius FM.

"Window to Europe" will be broadcast on First TV Channel on Mondays at 18:25 and Wednesdays at 16:00 (re-broadcast). Radio programmes will run on Radius FM on Mondays at 18:40 and re-run on Thursdays at the same time.

More information at: <http://windowtoeurope.livejournal.com/>

NEW ERASMUS MUNDUS CALL FOR PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED

A new Call for Proposals has been announced under Erasmus Mundus. The Call aims to support projects under all three Actions of the programme:

Action 1: Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes

- Action 1A: Erasmus Mundus Master Courses (EMMC)
- Action 1B: Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates (EMJD)

Action 2: Erasmus Mundus Partnerships

- Action 2 – STRAND 1: Partnerships with countries covered by the ENPI, DCI, EDF and IPA instruments (former External Cooperation Window)
- Action 2 – STRAND 2: Partnerships with countries and territories covered by the Industrialised Countries Instrument (ICI)

Action 3: Promotion of European higher education

- Projects to enhance the Attractiveness of European higher education



The deadline for submission of applications under all three Actions is 29 April 2011.

In addition, the Erasmus Mundus Info Day will take place on 7 February 2011 to provide more information on the Call. It will explain the application process and documents, and give tips and advice on how to prepare a strong proposal under all three of the Actions. The Info Day will take place in Brussels, and be broadcast live via webstreaming.

More information at: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/funding/2011/call_eacea_41_10_en.php

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
The next issue will come out in January 2011.