



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU/UNDP/UNICEF PROJECT ENHANCES NATIONAL CAPACITIES IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On 28th December 2010, the joint EU/UNDP/UNICEF project "Preventing, Fighting and Addressing the Social Consequences of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Belarus" has been completed.

The project was implemented by the UNDP jointly with the Ministry of Interior of Belarus during 2009-2010 and aimed to enhance the national capacities in fighting human trafficking and protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking.

In the framework of the project, over 7,000 specialists of educational establishments and social workers received training in various methods of prevention of human trafficking and rendering assistance to the victims.

Jointly with the Ministry of Education the project developed a teaching manual on prevention of trafficking in human beings and child abuse in the Internet, which will enable educators to more effectively conduct prevention programs at educational establishments.

The project provided financial and technical support to the anti-trafficking hotline "La Strada" and the rehabilitation shelter for victims of trafficking. Specialists of the hotline delivered 1,300 consultations on various issues of safe travel abroad.

With the assistance of EU/UNDP/UNICEF Project a Multi-Service Centre to Promote Youth Employment and Participation of Youth in Private Sector Development was created. The Centre provided over 9,000 consultations and 23 trainings for youth on various issues of employment and small business development.

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TRAINING WORKSHOPS UNDER THE LATVIA-LITHUANIA-BELARUS ENPI CBC PROGRAMME

Four workshops on how to prepare project proposals were held in Belarus in January 2011 for potential applicants and partners under the Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument Cross Border Cooperation programme (ENPI CBC Programme).

More than 100 participants took part in the workshops held in Vitebsk, Mogilev, Minsk and Grodno.

The aim of the events was to support the development of projects for submission under the Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus ENPI CBC programme second call for proposals due to close on 22 February 2011. Workshop topics included developing project ideas, logical frameworks, activity timelines and budgets.



Potential applicants and partners include national, regional, international and joint organisations in partner countries, in so far as they contribute to the objectives of this Programme, as well as nongovernmental organisations and associations.

The events were organised by the EU support project, the Regional Capacity Building Initiative project in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union to Belarus, Joint Technical Secretariat of the Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus ENPI CBC programme and the National Coordinating Unit for EU Programmes in Belarus.

**More information at: www.enpi-cbc.eu, www.rcbi.info
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NEW EU PROJECT WILL HELP THE CITIES OF BELARUS AND MOROCCO SIGN UP TO COVENANT OF MAYORS

On 18–19 January 2011, Polotsk (Belarus) hosted an international kick-off conference of the EU project SURE: Sustainable Urban Energy in the ENPI region – towards the Covenant of Mayors.

The project is being implemented as part of the EU CIUDAD programme: Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue and unites six partners from five countries – Germany (City of Friedrichshafen), Spain (City of Murcia), Belarus (City of Polotsk), Morocco (City of Salé) and France (Conference on Peripheral Maritime Regions). Aim of the conference was to present the SURE project to the audience of Belarus. There was the project's second event: a similar conference took place in Salé, Morocco in November 2010, SURE project has a budget of about €620 000 and will run for 30 months until mid 2012. The project's lead partner is the German city of Friedrichshafen, the twin city of Polotsk.



The project is aimed to encourage cooperation between ENPI-East and ENPI-South regions and to contribute to sustainable development of energy in two cities – Polotsk (Belarus, ENPI-East) and Salé (Morocco, ENPI-South) – by fostering their adherence to the Covenant of Mayors, a widely known European initiative.

Signatories of the Covenant of Mayors commit to implement the 20–20–20 strategy of the EU, which aims to achieve significant improvements in the sphere of sustainable energy development by 2020: to reduce CO2 emissions by 20%, to raise the share of renewable energy sources up to 20%, and to increase energy efficiency by 20%.

The kick-off conference was attended by representatives of local and regional authorities of Belarus, Morocco, Germany, and Spain, as well as experts from various administrations, institutions and organizations of Belarus that work in the sphere of energy.

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JEAN MONNET PROGRAMME LAUNCHES CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON INTEGRATION

European Commission has launched the 2011 call for proposals of university-level teaching and research projects seeking Jean Monnet Programme funding. The deadline for the call is 15 February 2011, for projects to start, at the earliest, in September 2011.

The current call concerns projects that aim to stimulate excellence in teaching, research and debate in European integration studies in higher education institutions within and outside the EU. This particular activity of the programme, which falls under the new Lifelong Learning Programme, brings together the two instruments formerly known as the Jean Monnet Action and the Support for Study and Research Centres.



European integration studies focuses on the origins and evolution of the EU, and analyses both the internal and external dimension of European integration, including the EU's role in dialogue between peoples and cultures.

The Jean Monnet Programme offers support for associations of professors and researchers specialising in European integration and for information and research activities relating to European integration. The programme is also looking to fund multilateral research groups from different countries.

The Jean Monnet Programme is now present in 68 countries throughout the world and more than 760 universities offer Jean Monnet courses as part of their curricula. The Programme brings together a network of 1,600 professors, reaching audiences of 250,000 students every year.

More information at: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2011/call_jean_monnet_action_ka1_2011_en.php



EU-UNHCR PROJECT SUMMARISES UP THE CONTEST FOR STUDENTS ON REFUGEE PROTECTION

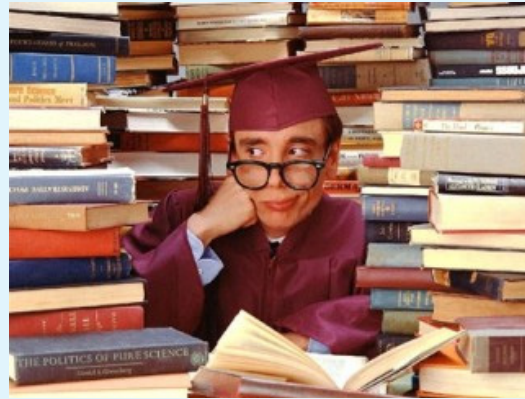
On 21st January, 2011 EU – UNHCR project «Improvement of the Effectiveness of Separation and Work with Migration Flows through the State Border of the Republic of Belarus – phase II» held a meeting, where the results of the contest of the works of students, candidates for a master's degree, post-graduate students "Protection of the Rights of Refugees and Stateless Persons and Formation of a Tolerant Attitude towards them" have been finalized.

Students, involved in researches in the specified areas were invited to participate in the contest. There were 42 works of the students and post-graduates from 19 universities of Belarus were submitted for jury's consideration.

After careful studying out the works, the decision was made of the winners list with providing a reward in an amount of 600 000 (six hundreds thousand) Belarusian rubles and memorable diplomas and 200 000 (two hundred thousand) Belarusian rubles and memorable diplomas.

The Awarding ceremony will take place on 21st January, 2011 at 15:30 at the Faculty of International Relations of Belarusian State University. There will be Sholeh Safavi, UNHCR Representative in the Republic of Belarus participating in the event.

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CROSS BORDER COOPERATION LATVIA-LITHUANIA-BELARUS PROGRAMME ORGANISES THE INFORMATION DAY

The Information Day of the Programme was organised on 26th January 2011. The event was held in following cities:

24.01.2011 – Vilnius (113 participants)

26.01.2011 – Minsk (91 participants)

31.01.2011 – Daugavpils (60 participants)

The deadline of the 2nd Call is the 22nd of February, 2011.

All the questions could be submitted to the Joint Technical Secretariat till February 1st 2011

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EU TO QUADRUPLE SUPPORT FOR BELARUSIAN CIVIL SOCIETY TO €15.6 MILLION

On 2nd February 2011, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle announced, that the European Commission intended to increase its funds and support for Belarusian civil society fourfold.

In his speech to an international Donor's Conference on Belarus in Warsaw, he said: "With these measures, we are seeking to avoid isolating the Belarusian population. I believe we have an important responsibility in this regard."

The first step to provide support to the victims of repression and boost assistance to civil society will be funded through the Instrument for Stability to the tune of €1.7 million.

In his speech, Štefan Füle outlined three main mechanisms of support, namely:

"Support through the Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and the Non State Actors programme will aim "to strengthen civil society's capacity to promote democratic reform and small-scale local development activities".

Annual funding of €1 million to the European Humanities University in exile in Vilnius will continue providing support to "the young generation in Belarus to pursue high quality, free education".

The European Commission will provide scholarships and promote student mobility and exchanges between education institutions from Belarus and the EU.

More information at:

http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/belarus/press_corner/all_news/news/2011/2011_02_02_02_en.htm



ANNOUNCEMENTS

24 FEBRUARY, BERLIN

Baltic Sea Region Programme Consultation day for applicants

15-16 FEBRUARY, BRUSSELS

ENPI CBC conference on the future of CBC

More information: http://www.interact-eu.net/events/enpi_cbc_conference_on_future_of_cbc/14/7548