



## EU-FUNDED NEWS

### POLAND-BELARUS-UKRAINE CBC PROGRAMME HOLDS INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR APPLICANTS WITHIN THE SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

On 5-7 July in Brest, Pinsk and Baranavichy, the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) of the Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013 held information sessions for applicants who are in the process of preparing project applications in the framework of the second Call for Proposals. The next 5 information sessions will be held during July in Hrodna, Lida, Minsk, Maladziechna and Homiel.

The main purpose of the workshops is to provide grant applicants and partners from Belarus with detailed information on project management issues, development of an activity-based budget, defining of objectively verifiable indicators, etc. The JTS-organised trainings are additionally supported by experts from the Regional Capacity Building Initiative who train applicants on identification of cross-border problems and opportunities, project structure development, action planning, development of an activity-based budget, and working with partners to prepare projects.

The CBC Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013 has a budget of €202.9 million under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and offers grants to regional and local authorities, non-governmental and non-profit organisations from Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine on implementation of non-commercial projects supporting cross-border development processes.

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



### CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL PLATFORM OF EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

On 5 July the Conference of the National Platform of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership took place in Minsk. Representatives of more than 100 civil society organisations of Belarus, trade union organisations, Belarusian mass media, as well as representatives of the EU Delegation, EU Embassies, and foreign organisations, took part in the conference.

The conference of the National Platform approved a list of 31 civil society organisations recommended for participation in the third Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership in Poznan.

Janis Aizsalnieks, Attaché of the EU Delegation, made welcome remarks. He remarked that the Civil Society Forum is the most dynamically developing initiative within the scope of the Eastern Partnership.

The expert panel of the conference was devoted to the discussion of questions of the institutional role of the Forum and actual problems for Belarus' civil society. Today, two of the three dimensions of the Eastern Partnership – the Parliamentary Assembly EURONEST and the governmental level of cooperation – are actually inaccessible for Belarus. Only the Civil Society Forum remains a really working mechanism of Belarus' participation in the initiative.

More information at: <http://www.eap-csf.eu/>





## EUROPEAN COMMISSION LAUNCHES CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE NON-STATE ACTORS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES PROGRAMME FOR BELARUS

**On 4 July the European Commission published a Call for Proposals "Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development: Actions in partner countries, Belarus, 2011 Annual Action Programme". The overall objective of this Call for Proposals is to strengthen an inclusive and empowered society in Belarus by supporting non-state actors and local authorities and promoting participation of citizens in decision and policy making and contributing to the democratisation process.**

The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is €2,400,000. Any grant requested must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts: Lot 1 "Non-State Actors in Development" between €75,000–300,000 and Lot 2 "Local Authorities in Development" between €50,000–200,000. The deadline for submission of concept notes to the postal address of the EU Delegation in Ukraine is 1 September 2011. For interested applicants, the Guidelines for Grant Applicants and the Grant Application Form with Annexes are available on EuropeAid website.

The thematic Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development programme was introduced in 2007 and aims at strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations and local authorities as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society through support to these actors' "own initiatives".

**More information at:** <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/belarus/>



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION ANNOUNCED WINNERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DRAWING COMPETITION ON GENDER EQUALITY

**On 29 June the European Commission announced 14 winners of the International Drawing Competition on Gender Equality. One of the winners was Polina Rubtsova, a 9-year-old girl from Russia. Each winner will be awarded a prize of €1,000, which will be used to buy books, computers and pay for school or library fees or education materials.**

Over 40,000 children aged between eight to ten years sent their visions of how to make the world a fairer and more equal place. Many of the children involved in the competition have had very difficult experience, e.g. in Afghanistan, and they very often express the harsh reality of their everyday life through their drawings.

This is the fifth year in a row that the European Commission has organised the competition, which was launched on International Women's Day, on 8 March 2011. Children from 60 countries including Belarus took part in this year's competition.

Winners were selected via a long and rigorous process which started in their schools and culminated in the finalists' selection ceremony where regional winners were chosen by a jury composed of students from the European School of Brussels.

**More information at:** <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/belarus/>





## LAUNCH OF A NEW PROJECT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL BELARUS

On 22 June a new project co-funded by the European Union and Eurasia Foundation (with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development) was launched in Minsk. The event was organised by New Eurasia Establishment (NEE), a Belarusian non-governmental organisation, which will be the key implementer of this ambitious initiative.

Implemented as part of the European Union's Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development (NSA-LA) programme, the project will encourage local participation in development processes and strengthen the capacity of non-state actors and local governments to cooperate and address the social and economic needs of rural communities. In the course of the project, six local plans for sustainable development, known as Agenda 21, will be worked out and implemented in rural regions of the Republic of Belarus. It is expected that six to eight local initiatives will be supported from a grant pool of €60,000.

Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the EU Delegation Jean-Eric Holzapfel and Belarus Country Programme Officer of USAID John P. Riordan underlined the importance of the project and wished the partners success in the undertaking. Representatives of central and local authorities, NGOs, and international organisations took part in the discussion.

More information at: <http://eurasia.by/>  
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## EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL DEDICATED TO EUROPE DAY HELD IN BELARUS

On 14-19 June in Minsk, the EU Delegation - in co-operation with the embassies of EU member states and the Ministry of Culture of Belarus - organised a European cinema festival dubbed "Golden Ten+". The "Pobeda" cinema hosted free screenings of classic European films of the second half of the 20th century in. The Belarusian film "The Wild Hunt of King Stach" was a special guest of the festival. The movie was filmed in 1979 based on the classical novel by Uladzimir Karatkevich.

1. The first ten movies of the festival – "Golden Ten" – were selected by users of the TUT.BY portal by vote. The rest of the films, each a landmark in the history of the European cinema, completed the programme at the initiative of member states' embassies. The programme of the festival included such movies as "A Man and a Woman" by Claude Lelouch (France, 1966), "8?" by Federico Fellini (Italy, 1963), "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" by Tom Stoppard (UK, 1990), etc.

The festival was held on the occasion of dedicated to Europe Day, which is celebrated in the European Union on 9 May.

More information at: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/belarus/>





## ERASMUS MUNDUS PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION MEETING FOR NEW SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS FROM BELARUS AND UKRAINE

On 10-11 June the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association in co-operation with the EU Delegation to Ukraine held in Kyiv the annual joint Erasmus Mundus pre-departure orientation for the students from Belarus and Ukraine. The two-day-long event was attended by more than 20 newly admitted Erasmus Mundus students. They have won scholarships grants provided by the European Commission, which allow them to enrol in one of Erasmus Mundus Master's or PhD programs at different universities all over Europe[PL1]. The event was an opportunity for them to get first-hand advice from Erasmus Mundus alumni.



During the first day, the students got general information and practical tips regarding visa requirements, living and studying in the EU from embassy representatives of EU member states; learned about the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association activities and various practical issues regarding visa, resident permits, accommodation search, employment prospects, recognition of European diplomas, etc.

The next day of the orientation started with a workshop on intercultural communication where students worked in teams trying to understand the influence of culture on human behaviour, acquiring valuable information about the European mentality, culture peculiarities of the different nations and regions, the concept of culture shock and learned how to play the role of ambassadors of their home countries.

More information at: <http://www.em-a.eu/>

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION LAUNCHES CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR BELARUS

On 7 June the European Commission published a Call for Proposals "European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights: Country-based Support Scheme in Belarus 2010-2011 Annual Action Programmes". The overall objective of this Call for Proposals is to strengthen the role of Belarusian civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in building towards consensus on disputed or controversial policy areas, and in consolidating political representation and participation.



The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is €950,000. Any grant requested must fall between €10,000-200,000. The deadline for submission of proposals to the postal address of the EU Delegation in Ukraine is 5 September 2011. For interested applicants, the Guidelines for Grant Applicants and the Grant Application Form with Annexes are available on EuropeAid website.

More information at: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/belarus/>



## NEW EU-FUNDED PROJECT ON AIR QUALITY GOVERNANCE IMPLEMENTED IN BELARUS

The European Union supports Belarus in improving its air quality governance and increasing convergence to the EU standards in the environmental sector. The EU-funded project "Air Quality Governance in the ENPI East Countries" recently launched in Belarus is to assist partner countries in achieving convergence with the European legislation and regulations on air quality and pollution prevention and control, contribute to improved air quality and strengthen implementation and compliance strategies.

The overall objective of the project is to enable improved and sustainable management of natural resources including nature protection, to reduce effects of climate change and increase environmental cooperation and awareness.

In Belarus three pilot projects will be implemented: transport-environmental models for the City of Minsk; development of technology-based emission limit values in selected sectors and for selected technology equipment; organisation of self-monitoring in selected installations[PL2] (e.g. a cement kiln).

The project, with a budget of almost €7 million, covers seven partner countries: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, and Russian Federation and is being implemented by a consortium of organisations led by the MWH (Belgium).

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