



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU-FUNDED PROJECT SUPPORTS REALISATION OF PARTICIPATIVE HOUSING REFORMS IN BELARUS

On 17 September the EU-funded project "Participative Housing Reforms – increasing citizens' participation in local housing reforms implementation through strengthening their capacities, improving access to information and facilitating dialog with local authorities" held in Minsk a discussion forum on "Dialogue in the Housing Sector". The forum was organised in co-operation with the Administration of the Sovetskiy City District of Minsk.

Over 60 participants attended the forum, including representatives of national and local authorities, homeowners' associations, housing management organisations and other specialists from the Belarusian housing sector. In order to facilitate the exchange of experiences, experts from Germany and Russia were invited as guest-speakers. The forum participants discussed the following three topics: legal backgrounds for dialogue in the housing sector, methods and means to conduct the dialogue, and socio-economic aspects of working with citizens.



Special attention was given to the draft housing code, expected to enter into force next spring. Belarusian and German project partners analysed the draft code and provided their suggestions and recommendations to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus.

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

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TAIEX WORKSHOP ON SELECTION AND RECRUITMENT OF BORDER PERSONNEL

On 23-24 September the State Border Committee of Belarus held under the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX) of the European Commission a workshop on "Studying of European Legislation in Selection and Recruitment of Border Personnel". Representatives of the border police-and customs services from Poland, Latvia, Slovakia, Germany and Romania shared during the workshop their experience with Belarusian colleagues.

In his welcome speech, the Charge d'Affaires of the EU Delegation to Belarus Jean-Eric Holzapfel stated that one of the principle ideas of the workshop was to share Europe's rich experience in practical areas of border management such as the introduction of electronic border control with representatives of the Belarusian border service. The Deputy Head of the State Border Committee of Belarus Vasili Gorbatenko said that his institution intended to apply new European technologies in the field of training and staffing. He continued that the State Border Committee was interested in studying the experience of colleagues in the EU, adding that Belarusian border guards had already learned a lot from the border police services of Poland, Latvia and Germany.



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EU-FUNDED PROJECT CONTRIBUTES TO CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING

On 28 September the EU-funded project "Combat the Negative Effects of Chernobyl Disaster in Belarus" officially opened three renovated educational establishments for youngest residents of Gomel Region. The Khoiniki District Centre of Rehabilitation, Education and Development for children with disabilities, the crèche and kindergarten No.3 in Vetka town, and the local comprehensive Primary School in Pykhan village, Vetka District were renovated and well-equipped with financial support of the project.

The project purchased special training equipment for children with disability in Khoiniki town; made new development equipment was purchased, playing sets, physiotherapy facilities, repair work in class rooms in Vetka town; and improved energy saving in school in Pykhan village. The total funds allocated by the project for three initiatives were more than €43 thousand.

"The allocated funds are invested in our future – our children. I hope that these cosy rooms will help to save the healthy state of children from Chernobyl-affected areas, wished the Charge d'Affaires of the EU Delegation to Belarus Jean-Eric Holzapfel.

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EU-FUNDED BALTIC SEA REGION PROGRAMME HOLDS AN INFORMATION SEMINAR IN MINSK

On 29-30 September the EU-funded Baltic Sea Region Programme held in Minsk an information event and training workshop for potential partners from Belarus.

The information event gathered more than 100 representatives from national, regional and local authorities, NGOs and academic sector. The participants received general information on the Programme, status quo of its implementation and Programme rules. Potential partners from Belarus got useful tips how to develop project proposals and find partners. Belarusian partners from the approved projects shared their experience on participation in the Programme and presented their own ways of establishing contacts with European partners.

Around 50 participants from 15 projects took part in the workshop. The main purpose of the workshop was to support Belarusian partners in carrying out their daily project routines. The Programme experts informed about the main Programme rules and national requirements.

The Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 is a support programme to make the Baltic Sea region an attractive place to invest, work and live in. The total budget of the Programme (including Norway's funding of €12 million) is €293 million. 16 projects with participation of Belarusian partners were approved under the Programme.

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

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BELARUSIAN SPECIALISTS LEARN DANISH EXPERIENCE OF COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On 3-8 October the EU-funded project "Preventing, Fighting and Addressing the Social Consequences of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Belarus" organised a study visit to Denmark for representatives of Belarusian counter-trafficking state and non-governmental organisations. The purpose of the visit was to familiarise Belarusian specialists with the experience of Danish non-governmental organisations and law-enforcement agencies in the area of preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, as well as providing social assistance to the victims of trafficking.

The programme of the visit included meetings with representatives of the Danish Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Danish Centre against Human Trafficking, and a shelter for women-victims of abuse and human trafficking. The Belarusian specialists had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the state-funded system of social and rehabilitation services for victims of trafficking. Special attention was paid to learning the experience of the Danish Police of identifying victims of trafficking and providing social support to them.

The Belarusian delegation also had a meeting with representatives of the Nordic Council of Ministers during which the participants discussed the current trends and measures to combat trafficking in human beings in Belarus, in the North European countries, and on the level of the European Union.

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

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EU-FUNDED PROJECTS OPENS AN INFORMATION CENTRE IN CHAUSY

On 5 October the EU-funded project "Sustainable Development at Local Level" held in Chausy the official opening of the Information Centre on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development. The event gathered representatives of the UNDP in Belarus, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, local authorities, and other stakeholders. The Head of Operations of the EU Delegation Laura Garagnani officially opened the event.

Besides information and research activities, the new Information Centre will further co-ordinate the joint work of the public ecological organisation "Endo" and Chausy Executive Committee in several ways. One of the main objectives is to improve the environmental situation in the town and the region and to raise environmental awareness of local residents. It is planned to implement projects on drinking water quality, organisation of separate collection of garbage, introduction of alternative energy sources.

The local community will learn about the principles of organic farming, which allows to obtain ecologically pure products. The implementation of organic farming is planned to start by creating "environmentally literate" chicken farm for the local boarding school, and later to create a special "organic" agro village.

A significant role in the Centre's activity is the promotion of renewable energy technologies, education on careful use of resources. The efforts of ecologists in this area will focus on education: seminars and training for teachers, assistance to schools in organising special classes, special courses, study groups, teaching materials.

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

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT HOLDS A SEMINAR ON REFUGEE PROTECTION

On 8 October the EU-funded project "Strengthening the Protection Capacity in the Republic of Belarus – phase II" held a seminar on refugee protection for executive authorities and self-governance bodies of Minsk region. The seminar was a continuation of a planned set of similar events, which already took place in Brest, Gomel, Grodno and Minsk in 2008–2010.

During the event, regional executive authorities and representatives of self-governance bodies discussed international and European standards in the area of refugee protection as well as the specifics of the national asylum system of Belarus. Representatives of central and local state authorities, the National Assembly, international and non-governmental organisations took part in the discussion.

The joint EU-UNHCR three-year project aims at further developing and consolidating the protection monitoring mechanisms and procedures that have been established in Belarus in 2007-2008. Its purpose is to ensure free and unhampered access of asylum-seekers to the territory, asylum information as well as fair and efficient refugee status determination procedure.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECTS OPENS AN INFORMATION CENTRE IN BELOOZYORSK

On 14 October the EU-funded project "Sustainable Development at Local Level" held in Beloozyorsk the official opening of the Information Centre on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development. The event gathered representatives of the UNDP in Belarus, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, local authorities, and other stakeholders. This is the fourth of five Information Centre opened within the project.

The Information Centre in Beloozyorsk will promote sustainable development and its principles among the local community, share knowledge and experience of successful work in the field of sustainable development and promote ecotourism as the region has huge potential for attracting tourists from Belarus and from abroad.

In general, the Centre's activity includes research, information and training seminars and workshops, provision of library services on sustainable development. The Centre will also facilitate exchange of experiences with partners from Belarus and neighbouring countries, as well as provide support to Belarusian regions in the development of Local Agendas 21 and Greenways.

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

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT PRESENTS A SURVEY ON COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN BELARUS

On 15 October the EU-funded project "Preventing, Fighting and Addressing the Social Consequences of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Belarus" presented the results of the survey on youth awareness about the situation in the area of combating trafficking in human beings in Belarus. The round table gathered representatives of the EU Delegation, UNDP, UNICEF, IOM, Belarusian public authorities, and NGOs.

In his welcoming address, the Co-operation Officer of the EU Delegation Ulrich Rainer pointed out that trafficking in human beings continues to be an acute issue in the countries of the European Union. He reminded that 18 October is marked every year as the European Anti-Trafficking Day established with the purpose to raise public awareness about this problem.

The presented survey was conducted by the Ministry of Interior of Belarus among the students of secondary schools, colleges and universities in all regions of Belarus (overall over 5,000 respondents). The processing of the survey findings was carried out by the Information and Analytical Centre of the Administration of the President with the support of the project. The survey's objective was to evaluate the awareness of the youth about the issue of human trafficking; to identify their opinion about the effectiveness of the counter-trafficking efforts of the law-enforcement agencies; and to receive feedback on measures to be taken to make the fight against trafficking in human beings more effective.



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

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

4 NOVEMBER, DAUGAVPILS, LATVIA

2nd Partner Search Forum of the Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus Cross Border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

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

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4 NOVEMBER GRODNO

EU Projects Information Day

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22 NOVEMBER, GRODNO

Discussion forum to present the main project results and recommendations in the areas of housing reforms and improving dialogue between citizens and local authorities under the EU-funded Participative Housing Reforms project

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

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26 NOVEMBER, VITEBSK

EU Projects Information Day

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