



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

FINDINGS AND PROPOSALS ON PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT PRESENTED AT PRESS CONFERENCE

On 21 September, the EU-funded project "Atlas of Torture" presented at a press conference in Chisinau the findings as well as proposals to improve the situation on prevention of torture and ill-treatment in Moldova.

In 2008, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Manfred Nowak, conducted a fact-finding mission to Moldova, including the Transnistrian region. The situation he found was one of widespread torture and ill-treatment in police commissariats, among other issues of concern. According to his assessment, this problem was rooted in a number of structural and legal shortcomings.

In 2011, in the framework of the EU-funded project "Atlas of Torture", an assessment of the actual implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on Torture was undertaken by a team of experts under the leadership of Manfred Nowak. The team held consultations with different ministries, the judiciary, the prosecution, the national preventive mechanism as well as representatives of the international community and Moldovan civil society.

As a result, the project team noted a number of improvements but also identified a range of challenges faced by Moldovan authorities in the effective prevention of torture and ill-treatment, and presented these findings at the press conference.

Contact person: Johanna Lober, e-mail: johanna.lober@univie.ac.at



NEW PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT CAPACITY BUILDING LAUNCHED IN CHISINAU

On 19 September, the EU-funded project on technical assistance to support the Government of Moldova in building the capacity for application of Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA instruments, and to provide support in preparation and implementation of the Comprehensive Institution Building programme was started.

The specific objectives of the project are threefold: to build the capacity of State Chancellery for technical leadership in the identification, preparation and implementation of activities funded by external assistance; to support the Programme Administration Office at the State Chancellery as the central institution for promoting, planning and implementation of the use of EU instruments, specifically Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA and to build capacity and assist the State Chancellery in the preparation and implementation of the Comprehensive Institution Building programme.

The overall objective of this project is to support the Government of the Republic of Moldova in implementation of the reform agenda in the context of EU integration.

Contact person: Janos Zakonyi, e-mail: jzakonyi@gmail.com





ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT PROGRESS PRESENTED AT THE PROJECT BOARD MEETING

On 16 September, the EU-funded Energy and Biomass Project held the second project board meeting to present the project progress and the activities planned to be fulfilled by the end of 2011.

Hence, during April 15-September 10, the project organized public meetings in 7 districts and Gagauz-Yeri ATU on opportunities to harness the local sources for heating production and the conditions to be met so as to get connected to the straw-fired heating systems. As a result, 65 villages sent their intention letters and the proposals of 17 villages were accepted to be funded. Thus, 22 rural public institutions (schools, kindergartners, community centres) will benefit from straw-fired heating systems installed with the financial support of the project.



By the end of the year, the community leaders from the villages in which straw-fired heating systems are to be installed will benefit from trainings in effective management of biomass heating systems, project management and participatory evaluation of projects at community level.

At the same time, the project launched a study to identify the most affordable solutions for biomass-based heating in rural households and another survey regarding the local capacities and potential for developing a local market for briquettes.

Contact person: Ina Prisacaru-Zglavuta, e-mail: ina.zglavuta@undp.org

CUSTOMS SEMINARS ON THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

On 12-23 September, the Twinning Project "Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Republic of Moldova" held two seminars at the Customs Training Centre.

The purpose of both seminars was to raise the awareness of Customs Officers, in the Republic of Moldova, about the dangers of intellectual property crime to society and improve their ability to identify and intercept suspect packages.

The seminars were facilitated by two Danish Customs officers and presentations were given by local right holders, international right holders, the Customs Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs and State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI).



During the seminars, the participants had the opportunity to discuss how intellectual property rights are protected in the European Union, how to identify goods which infringe intellectual property rights and the importance of cooperation with right holders.

Contact person: Victoria Muntean, e-mail: muntean.victoria@gmail.com



LATVIAN AND AUSTRIAN EXPERTS SUPPORT AGENCY FOR THE PROTECTION OF COMPETITION ON INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING

On September 12-16, Latvian and Austrian experts held a mission on institutional strategic planning to the National Agency for the Protection of Competition (NAPC) within the EU-funded Twinning project "Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Competition and State Aid Policy". The experts support NAPC on preparation of NAPC strategy document, and provide recommendations for possible improvements of NAPC internal procedures and elaboration of key processes and appropriate NAPC structure.



Three experts from the Latvian Competition Council (LCC) and two experts from the Federal Austrian Competition Authority (BWB) presented their experience in the field of strategic planning and had meetings and workshops with the NAPC staff. After finalization of midterm priorities, the experts in co-operation with the NAPC staff started the elaboration of program, part of the strategy document.

In the same week NAPC was involved in meetings with several working groups concerning the Competition and State aid laws. In these meetings with the Chamber of Commerce and the Foreign Investors Council have been directly involved two Romanian experts from the Competition Council and two experts from LCC and BWB. Both meetings were dedicated to the issues related to the adoption of two laws.

Contact person: Alexandra Ghenea, e-mail: rtaast@yahoo.com

EUBAM SIGNS FIRST JOINT STATEMENT OF COOPERATION WITH EU ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCY

On 12 September, the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) signed a Joint Statement of Cooperation with the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania at EUBAM headquarters in Odessa

In a further demonstration of the Mission's ongoing commitment to supporting anti-corruption initiatives in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine,

It is the first time EUBAM has entered into formal cooperation with an anti-corruption agency of an EU member state. The logic of the move is to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and best practice from EU agencies in order to enhance the effectiveness of EUBAM's capacity-building support to its partners – the border guard and customs services, and other law-enforcement agencies, of Moldova and Ukraine. This is also consistent with EUBAM's overall objective: to support its partners in the approximation of their border-management procedures to EU standards.



It is now envisaged that, among other areas of collaboration, the Lithuanian service will provide trainers for EUBAM anti-corruption training events in areas such as corruption prevention, investigation and education. The experience of the Lithuanian service, as a new EU member, will prove particularly instructive.

EUBAM is due to sign a second Joint Statement of Cooperation with the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau of Poland in the near future.

More information at: <http://www.eubam.org/>

Contact person: Christina Turcan, e-mail: christina.turcan@eubam.org



"SHELTERED HOUSING" SERVICE LAUNCHED IN BALTI

On September 9, the EU-funded project "Development and testing sheltered housing for people with mental illness from Moldova" launched "sheltered housing" service in Balti. This service is meant for people with mental illness and was implemented by the Association SOMATO from Balti.

Within the "sheltered housing" service, for the first time in the country, there were opened four housings for 16 people with mental illness – two apartments and two houses. The premises were allocated by Balti municipality, while all renovation and furnishing works were funded by foreign donors.

Moreover, in this project 80 people with mental illness from Balti benefited of assistance at home. There were organized two cycles of trainings for people involved in project implementation, there was also organized a study visit to Holland.

During the service opening ceremony, the president of the Association SOMATO, Jana Chihai, mentioned that among the biggest difficulties people with mental illness face is the lack of conditions for independent and free living.

According to the official data, in Balti there are more than three thousand people with mental illness, including over 200 children and 190 teenagers.

Contact person: Katja Assoian, e-mail: kassoian@gjp-global.org



JOURNALISTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT DISCUSS SCENARIOS AND SOLUTIONS OF POLITICAL CRISIS

On 8 September the Independent Journalism Centre held a meeting of journalists with Members of the Parliament from the Alliance for European Integration (AIE). The event was organised within the project "Strengthening the Moldovan Media Capacity to Cover Issues of Public Interest" with the financial support of the European Union under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

Participants have examined possible scenarios for president's election, citizens' attitude in case of new early elections and possible negotiations with the opposition in order to overcome crisis. In this context, Dumitru Diacov, president of the Democratic Party parliamentary faction, said that in Moldova there is no a political crisis, but only politicians who have entered this crisis and do not wish to leave.

Parliamentary fraction secretary of the Liberal Party (PL), Valeriu Munteanu, mentioned that a new round of early elections will be a catastrophe for citizens of the Republic Moldova. The president of the country may be chosen after revising the Constitution. PL representative said that an agreement with PCRM may be welcomed only if it will be made in the name of AIE.

Valeriu Strelet, leader of parliamentary faction PLDM, said that the president must be chosen in strict accordance with the Constitution. "We will not use an organic law to get out of this crisis. If the revising the Constitution will be discussed, we opt for choice of president under the rules of the Constitution", said Valeriu Strelet.

Contact person: Cristina Bobarca, e-mail: coordonator@ijc.md





EUBAM PRESENTS CONFIDENCE-BUILDING IDEAS AT OSCE CONFERENCE

On 8 September, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the German Federal Foreign Office held in Bad Reichenhall, Germany a conference devoted to the consideration of confidence-building activities regarding the Dniester conflict.

EUBAM also presented at the conference its technical ideas for confidence-building opportunities in the economic development in this region, which have already been elaborated in a concept paper the Mission drafted in recent months.

EUBAM plays a technical and adviser role in the settlement process, and has the benefit of having a presence on the ground on both sides of the Moldova-Ukraine border, and of having established working relationships with the border-related services of Moldova and Ukraine. This makes the Mission well placed to also facilitate confidence-building initiatives.

EUBAM played a facilitation role in the resumption of the Chisinau-Odessa passenger railway route (which transits both banks of the Dniester river) at the end of 2010. Besides that, the Mission provides for the proper oversight of foreign trade activities by Transnistrian economic operators, which is necessary for the granting of trade preferences to these operators.

More information at: <http://www.eubam.org/>

Contact person: Christina Turcan, e-mail: christina.turcan@eubam.org



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROMOTION AND AWARENESS SEMINAR

On September 5-9 the Twinning Project "Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Republic of Moldova" held an intellectual property (IP) promotion and awareness seminar at the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI).

The seminar was attended by representatives from AGEPI, the Organisation for the Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (ODIMM), the Agency for Innovation and Technology Transfer (AITT), Universities and Research Institutions

The purpose of the seminar was to enhance the attendees ability to: initiate IP related awareness campaigns; provide IP related services for small and medium sized enterprises (SME); and develop IP customer relationship management skills.

The seminar was facilitated by Christina Aagaard-Jensen and Mette Raaschou-Nielsen from the Danish Patent and Trademark Office.

Contact person: Victoria Muntean, e-mail: muntean.victoria@gmail.com





CZECH EXPERTS PERFORM A TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF BORDER AND CUSTOM SERVICES

On September 5-8, two international training experts from the Czech Republic held in Chisinau a training of trainers for representatives of border and custom services within the EU-funded Eastern Partnership's Integrated Border Management Flagship Initiative Training Project.

The first part of the training included both the theoretical and practical aspects needed to become a trainer. Special attention was given to the interactive work between trainers and participants. The main topics of the training included methods of training, use of different training tools, training preparation, coping with different situations during trainings and development of a training programme and curriculum. The training included individual presentations and various group work assignments, which were followed by a comprehensive feedback session from international experts and other participants. These activities strengthened the theoretical knowledge gained and, furthermore, enhanced cooperation between the future national trainers.

The second part of this training is a three-day evaluation session in Tbilisi from 2-4 November 2011. During this session the certification of the national trainers will take place, based on the assessment of the knowledge and skills obtained during the educational session. These trainers are expected to act as national training experts in their respective agencies and countries. In addition, national training experts, in cooperation with international experts, will develop a training manual.

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

Contact person: Monika Weber, e-mail: monika.weber@icmpd.org



MANAGEMENT SEMINAR AT THE STATE AGENCY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

On September 5-7, the Twinning Project "Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Republic of Moldova" held a management seminar at the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI).

The purpose of the seminar was to allow senior staff from AGEPI and the Danish Patent and Trademark Office to exchange ideas on the efficient management of a national Intellectual Property Office.

Subjects covered, during the seminar, included: office branding; management of awareness campaigns; feedback loops; and total quality management.

The seminar was facilitated by the two Deputy-Director Generals from the Danish Patent and Trademark Office.

Contact person: Victoria Muntean, e-mail: muntean.victoria@gmail.com





EU-FUNDED PROJECT ENCOURAGES YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

18-year-old young people from Hîncești, Cimișlia și Leova have been encouraged to participate in local elections 2011 general election 2009 as well as in democratic processes taking place in the society. These are the objectives of the Learning Democracy project, funded by the European Union through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The project have been implemented during 2008-2011 in 3 Moldovan regions: Hîncești, Cimișlia și Leova.

The main result of the project include: regional and local trainings of young trainers, workshops for youth of 11-12 classes from 3 regions, summer camps for local and regional trainers, discos, awareness campaigns, developing a series of thematic publications, youth mobile stations, development of proposals for local authorities on how to boost youth participation in democratisation processes.

During September 2011 the project team held a series of meetings with young people from 3 regions to identify the most successful proposals for local authorities on how to boost youth participation in democratization processes.

Thus, the project team have been identified a number of proposals which will published on the websites of local and national authorities.

Contact person: Anadela Tofilat, e-mail: consiliul_tineretului@yahoo.com



CUSTOMS OFFICERS ON RISK MANAGEMENT VISIT THE NETHERLANDS

EUBAM's Analysis Cell accompanied at the beginning of September 11 customs officers from the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the Customs Service of Moldova on a study visit to the Netherlands.

The Customs Administration of the Netherlands hosted the EUBAM party for the major part of the study visit, which focused on risk management techniques and principles for customs officers.

As well as presentations on vital risk-management components such as risk indicators, risk analysis and risk selection, the visit also incorporated briefings by customs experts at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, and Rotterdam port, one of the busiest cargo ports in the world.

The study visit was part of EUBAM's ongoing policy of exposing officers from the border guard and customs services in Moldova and Ukraine to EU best practices through visits to strategic partners in EU Member States.

More information at: <http://www.eubam.org/>

Contact person: Christina Turcan, e-mail: christina.turcan@eubam.org





EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

11-12 OCTOBER, CHISINAU

Introduction of the Management by Objectives system to a group of 10 employees of the National Employment Agency within the EU-funded project "Strengthening Moldova's capacity to manage labour and return migration"

Contact person: Mariana Stratan, e-mail: mariana.stratan@legal-in.eu

12-13 OCTOBER, CHISINAU

International Conference: "Mainstreaming Migration into Strategic Policy Development" in the framework of the EU-funded project "Supporting the Implementation of the Migration and Development Component of the EU Moldova Mobility Partnership"

Contact person: Silas Rapold, e-mail: srapold@iom.int

MID OCTOBER, CHISINAU, BALTI AND COMRAT

Three round tables to present and discuss the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Strategy on covering the national territory with audiovisual programme services (2011-2015) in the framework of the EU-funded and Council of Europe-implemented "Democracy Support Programme in Moldova"

Contact person: Eridana Çano, e-mail: eridana.cano@coe.int

MID OCTOBER, CHISINAU

Round table on appellate systems and the role of Supreme Courts in Europe, in the framework of EU-funded and Council of Europe-implemented "Democracy Support Programme in Moldova".

Contact person: Eridana Çano, e-mail: eridana.cano@coe.int

MID OCTOBER, CHISINAU

Round table on discussing CoE expertises on the amendments to the draft laws on Court Administration, Criminal Procedure Code and Prosecution system in the framework of EU-funded and Council of Europe-implemented "Democracy Support Programme in Moldova"

Contact person: Eridana Çano, e-mail: eridana.cano@coe.int

MID OCTOBER, CHISINAU

Round table on the amendments to the Law on Parliamentary Advocate (Ombudsman) in the framework of EU-funded and Council of Europe-implemented "Democracy Support Programme in Moldova"

Contact person: Eridana Çano, e-mail: eridana.cano@coe.int