

EU-UKRAINE CO-OPERATION ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As early as the Treaty of Rome in 1957, the EU has been committed to "reducing the differences existing among the various regions". Within the EU, Regional Development is supported through the Cohesion Policy which aims to reduce their economic and social shortfall and stabilise the economies of the Union's poorest regions.

In Ukraine, the EU is also committed to supporting poorer regions, especially as most poverty in Ukraine exists in rural areas. The EU-Ukraine Action Plan commits the EU and Ukraine to reducing regional imbalances and improving local development capacities. The Action Plan promises to support the introduction of strategic planning at the national and regional levels and to elaborate a draft State strategy of regional development up to 2015; and establish a legislative basis for promotion of regional development, including depressed territories.

The EU has provided assistance under TACIS building a sustainable development policy in Ukraine. This approach has focused on small and medium-size towns and their infrastructure. Projects have included a Regional Development Project completed in December 2006 aimed at providing assistance in development and implementation of transparent and efficient national regional policies stimulating economic growth. A Municipal Services Support project, also completed in December 2006 mainly aimed at improving sustainability of services in 10 selected cities. Two projects on Capacity Building for waste management were carried out in Donetsk Oblast.

Ongoing projects include the Sustainable Local Development aimed at upgrading municipal services infrastructure and paving the way for sustainable development in 4 selected cities, the Support to Sustainable Regional Development which adopts a comprehensive approach at strategy, instrumental and implementation levels and the Community Based Approach projects (see below) implemented by UNDP, with €12 million of EC funding. The projects are aimed at mobilising local communities around development priorities.



ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

PROJECT ON COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (CBA)

The CBA project is co-financed by the European Commission and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and implemented by UNDP. It operates in every oblast of Ukraine. Its overall objective is to create an enabling environment for long-term self-sustaining social-economic and community development at the local level by promoting local self-governance and community-based initiatives throughout Ukraine. The project runs from September 2007 to February 2011. Joint EU-UNDP budget makes up €3,333,000.



The key project activity areas include:

- Establishing community resource centres in 24 oblasts to facilitate dissemination of community-based approach throughout Ukraine;
- Supporting local communities to get organised to make joint decisions and implement local priorities through collective action;
- Enhancing capacity of targeted communities and local authorities to define, manage and implement local development strategies and projects through participatory and democratic dialogue, action, partnership and cooperation;
- Supporting organised communities with seed grants to implement self-help initiatives for improving basic social and communal infrastructure and services in the framework of public private partnership;
- Documenting the lessons for policy recommendation in the area of citizens involvement in local development. ►

► At least 1,000 community self-help organisations and local authorities carry out rehabilitation of basic social infrastructure and municipal services within major project priorities: health (local health posts network), energy (energy conservation measures at local level, etc); environment, water management and local transport systems. Regarding pilot communities the project's target group is constituted by villages, urban villages and small towns with population up to 10,000 people.

Currently the project is proceeding with the selection of target rayons and signing Partnership Agreements with oblast and rayon authorities.

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More information: www.cba.org.ua

PROJECT ON SUSTAINABLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE

The overall objective of this project is to improve quality, access and sustainability of essential services in selected municipalities and to pave the way for sustainable local development in Ukraine.

The project is implemented from November 2006 to November 2010. The following results are expected to be achieved by in four selected medium-sized cities and territories: Izyum (Kharkiv oblast), Romny (Sumy oblast), Sverdlovsk (Lugansk oblast) and Pryluky (Chernihiv oblast):

- A significant part of essential municipal services infrastructure (such as water supply and wastewater networks) will be renovated.
- Sustainable local development initiatives will be launched in coordination with other projects in areas such as education and training, SME development, local financing, energy, public health and social sector.
- Management tools for efficient municipal services delivery and socio-economic development will be operational.
- A model for the sustainable local development in Ukraine will be developed.



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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

SUPPORT TO PCA IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT TRAINS UKRAINIAN CIVIL SERVANTS IN MONITORING AND EVALUATION

On 5 June the project on the EU Support to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement Implementation – Ukraine held a workshop for civil servants on monitoring, policy cycle management and indicators. The training session brought together officials from various government ministries including the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the main partner of the project.

"Monitoring is not an instrument of control, but rather a tool for facilitation of the implementation of bilateral agreements, which is based on thorough analysis of key problems to overcome main impediments to the effective processes", – underlined Dr. Marian Murawa, Team Leader of the EU Project.

Capacity-building of relevant institutions is an important part of the monitoring chain and efforts. This introductory session on monitoring, project and policy cycle management, logical framework and elaboration of indicators has provided a forum for discussion and constructive dialogue between responsible bodies in Ukraine. The workshop is particularly important in the light of the EU-Ukraine Action Plan expiring in February 2009 and the new enhanced agreement currently under negotiation between Ukraine and the EU.

The purpose of this EU-funded project is to support Ukraine in the implementation of the PCA provisions and EU-Ukraine Action Plan in terms of operation of joint bodies established within the framework of the PCA, and improvements of the system of monitoring of the implementation of the PCA and the Action Plan. The project lasts till December 2009.

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EC Attaché Bernhard Bogensperger, Shatsk District Council Chairperson Olga Sakharuk, SBGS Chief of Staff of the Northern Regional Directorate Oleh Valkiv cutting the ribbon at Shatsk Temporary Holding Facility.

UKRAINIAN BORDER GUARDS SEEK TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE ACCOMMODATION FOR AND TREATMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

On 9 and 10 June the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine in partnership with the European Commission (EC) opened two temporary holding facilities in Shatsk (Volyn Oblast) and Malniv (Lviv Oblast).

In order to increase the standard of irregular migrants' stay in Ukraine, the pre-existing facilities were refurbished and fitted with furniture and computing equipment. Extensive EU-compliant training focusing on protection of migrants' human rights was provided to SBGS personnel at these facilities. These activities were conducted as part of the Capacity Building of Migration Management: Ukraine (Phases I & II) project funded by the EU and implemented by the International Organization of Migration (IOM). The EC commitment for this programme totalled approximately €7,200,000.

In an effort to help the government of Ukraine meet standards set by European human rights institutions and protection mechanisms, IOM together with its partners produced guidelines on EU best practices. The handbook focuses on bringing transparency and monitoring to the system that was already in place. In this context, particular attention was paid to persons' safety and security, access to legal, NGO, and interpretation services, health care, physical fitness, nutrition, and hygiene, storage of personal effects, and the opportunity to work voluntarily. The cooperative effort has led to innovative reforms throughout the Service, important steps in the SBGS' transformation by 2015 into a modern EU-compliant law enforcement agency with border management responsibilities.

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UKRAINIAN BORDER GUARDS, REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRIES, STATE SECURITY SERVICE, AND POLICE INSPECTORS TRAINED AS TRAINERS IN DOCUMENT SECURITY

Under the EU-funded AENEAS project on Strengthening capacities and cooperation in the identification of forged and falsified documents in Ukraine, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) organised a training course on document security on 13-23 May 2008. The training was held at the Academy of the Border Guards in Khmelnytsky for 25 representatives from the Border Guard Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Security Service of Ukraine and the State Committee for Nationalities and Religions of Ukraine.



The training participants were trained in detecting document fraud, on the use of special technical equipment, as well as on document verification and methodology how to conduct the trainings by experts from the Hungarian National Police. The training covered good EU practice in document security, production and printing of the secure travel documents and visas, security features, identification of passport and visa fraud, biometric identification systems, operational, forensic and technological ways to detect forged and falsified travel documents, as well as plastic ID cards.

ICMPD, together with the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, is currently developing a series of pilot trainings on Travel Document Security to be conducted in summer / autumn 2008 by the national trainers who were trained in Khmelnytsky.

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UKRAINIAN SCHOOLCHILDREN TO STUDY CONSUMER ESSENTIALS



On 10 June the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and EU-UNDP funded Consumer Society and Citizen Networks project have presented a handbook on Consumer Essentials for 1-12 forms of Ukrainian secondary schools.

The handbook was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine for an optional school course. The course curriculum was designed to be taught as a separate subject or to be integrated in other courses such as health basics, biology, mathematics, economics, geography, etc. Over 1,000 Ukrainian schools have already requested to participate in piloting the Consumer Essentials course which will start this September.

The course will teach schoolchildren the skills to orientate themselves on the market of goods and services, search for consumer information and effectively exercise their consumer rights. The electronic version of the handbook is available on the Consumer Portal <http://www.consumerinfo.org.ua>.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

1-2 July and 9 July 2008, Kyiv

Conferences on prevention of political corruption (1-2 July) and on effectiveness of the national anti-corruption policy and compliance with GRECO recommendations and the role of civil society (9 July)

Both events are organised by the EU/CoE Project against Corruption in Ukraine (UPAC).

For more information please contact: Roman Chlapak, e-mail: roman.chlapak@coe.int; www.coe.int/upac.

2-9 July 2008, Austria, Italy, Slovenia

A study tour on international experience in healthcare sector reform

This study tour for Ministry of Health representatives is organised by the EU-funded Project on Support to Secondary Healthcare Reform in Ukraine.

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July 2008, Lviv

A workshop on government management in SME internationalisation in developed countries

The workshop will be organized by the EU-funded Project on Support to the Development of Business Capacity of Ukrainian SMEs-International Dimension.

For exact date and more information please contact Nataliya Martynenko; e-mail: nataliya.martynenko@sme-int.com.ua



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