



EUBAM AND SECURITY SERVICES OF UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA WORK TOGETHER ON FIGHT AGAINST CROSS-BORDER CRIME

24 February, Odesa – High-level officials from Ukrainian and Moldovan security services, and the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) gathered at the fifth tri-lateral meeting to review the joint efforts of the parties to tackle cross-border crime.

Udo Burkholder, Head of EUBAM said: "We can only tackle cross-border crime in a spirit of partnership, which is one of EUBAM's core values. Our positive working relationship with the security services of Moldova and Ukraine, just like our relationship with the customs and border services and other state agencies in both countries, is a key to fight against crime and promotion of regional security."

Apart from the participation of both services in EUBAM training initiatives, the parties highlighted the efforts of the two working groups to address illegal migration and illicit smuggling activities; both services also played key roles in Task Force Arms, launched by EUBAM to strengthen efforts at counteracting the proliferation of weapons, radiological and nuclear material.



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UKRAINIAN STATISTICS BENEFIT FROM DANISH, LITHUANIAN, FINNISH EXPERTISE

22 February, Kyiv – The Twinning project "Development of new statistical methodologies and indicators in selected areas of statistics in line with EU standards" has first results to show. Representatives of Statistics Denmark, the Programme Administration Office and the EU Delegation to Ukraine praised the successful implementation of four expert missions on 1) production statistics, 2) salaries and wages, 3) macroeconomic and 4) enterprise statistics.

The project provides high level advice and support to the various departments of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine. Numerous topics will be covered, including tourism, business registers, production statistics, the methodology of measuring salaries and wages, surveys of capital and foreign direct investment, consumer prices and price index for the housing market. Moreover, the project will also provide advice and know-how on monitoring the response burden for respondents and improvement of the personnel management system.

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EUBAM HISTORIC BORDER INITIATIVE TO SPEED UP BORDER CROSSING

22 February, Odesa – A joint operated border crossing point (JoBCP) pilot project supported by the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) was launched at Briceni-Rososhany border crossing point on the Moldova-Ukraine border. The project, which will act as a case study and ultimately allow authorities in Moldova and Ukraine to verify the feasibility of replicating the project elsewhere on the Moldova-Ukraine border, will operate for an initial period of six months.

During those months, entry and exit control will be conducted on the territory of Ukraine, at Rososhany, and the procedures of the border guard and customs services of Moldova and Ukraine will be unified, simplified and optimised. It is also envisaged that the time needed to cross the border for travellers and goods will be significantly reduced.

Benefits arising to the border authorities of Moldova and Ukraine include a more efficient use of human and technical resources, avoidance of duplication, the prosecution of joint activities and the deepening of trust between the services.



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UKRAINIAN DEBT MANAGEMENT SET ON STRONGER FOOTING

21 February, Kyiv – The European Union funded a €1.7 million Twinning Project to support the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine (MoF) in the fields of public debt management and budgetary forecasting. High-level officials from the EU Delegation, Embassies of EU Member States, Ministry of Finance and other public authorities assessed the Twinning Project achievements during the final conference.

The overall objective of the project was enhancement of Ukrainian public finance system in line with international standards and EU best practice.

During the 27 months of implementation the project experts from Hungary, France and Sweden assisted the MoF to improve:

- the legal framework of the budgetary forecasting and public debt management;
- the institutional set-up of the MoF as well as the inter-agency cooperation in budgetary forecasting and public debt management;
- the administrative/professional capacities and professional knowledge of the MoF macroeconomic forecasting and public debt departments.

For more information: <http://www.twinning-finance.org.ua/>



EU CITIES SHARE EXPERIENCE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING WITH UKRAINIAN SMALL TOWNS

16 February, Ukrainka – Yurmala City Hall (Latvia) has joined the EU-funded CIUDAD Sustainable Urban Development project to share its experience with small towns from Ukraine, Belarus and Georgia in development of a European approach to strategic planning and implementation. The announcement was made at the regular meeting of the organisations participating in the project.

The aim of the project is to contribute to sustainable local development in depressed small towns in Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine, and to boost their competitiveness with the help of EU expertise in strategic planning and local development.

Four Ukrainian cities taking part in the project are: Olyevsk (Zhitomir region), Bobrynets (Kirovograd region), Korsun-Shechenkovsky (Cherkassy region) and Gorodok (Khmelnysky region).

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NEW CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES FROM POLAND, BELARUS AND UKRAINE

16 February, Warsaw – Ukrainian regional and local authorities, as well as non-governmental and non-profit organisations from Lviv, Volyn and Zakarpattia regions can apply for grants on implementation of cross-border projects under the new Call for Proposals of the ENPI Cross-border Co-operation Programme between Poland, Belarus and Ukraine. The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is more than €6.6 million.

This Call targets local communities' initiatives (Measure 3.2) aiming at social, scientific, educational and cultural integration of the border area. The measure supports citizens' cross-border contacts and social initiatives, scientific and educational cooperation, cultural and sporting events. Cross-border cooperation between schools and higher education institutions, including exchanges of students, pupils, teachers and scientists, conferences and scientific seminars, will be supported.

Projects aimed at the promotion and cultivation of the common traditions of the borderland areas will also be eligible for assistance. Assistance is also planned for projects concerning cultural diversity and national minorities, as well as the development of the civil society and local communities in its broader sense.

The deadline for submission of proposals is 14 June 2012.

For more information: <http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/>





15 REGIONAL PROJECTS LAUNCHED UNDER EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CULTURE PROGRAMME

16 February, Kyiv – Fifteen regional projects started within the framework of the EU-funded Eastern Partnership Culture Programme. They will be implemented in the Eastern Partnership countries. Four of 15 projects are led by partners from Ukraine and other six with activities in Ukraine.

The projects' overall objective is to strengthen the role of culture as a driving force for sustainable economic, social and human development. Their implementation will boost the capacities of cultural institutions and cultural actors by enhancing their skills in cultural management and policy development, and supporting cultural initiatives and communities.

Projects cover a broad scope of themes, including areas from film and photography, to cultural education, crafts and publishing. The total budget for projects' implementation is €8.2 million.

The Regional Monitoring and Capacity Building Unit of the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme is based in Kyiv.

For more information: <http://www.euroeastculture.eu/>



EU GRANT OPPORTUNITIES DISCUSSED AT THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF CRIMEA

15 February, Simferopol – Crimean public organisations, local authorities and representatives of SME have got information on the key statements, application procedures and partners search under the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The EU-funded Regional Development Agency of Crimea (RDA) organised an information workshop on the Call for Proposals of the FP7.

Opening the event, the Minister of Culture of Crimea Alena Plakida underlined the importance of cooperation with international donor organisations and gave a range of examples on successful implementation of EU-funded development projects in social and cultural spheres, thus inspiring participants to apply for FP7 grants.

The FP7 is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe with a budget of 50.5 billion from 2007 to 2013. It provides grants to research actors all over Europe and beyond (including Ukraine), in order to co-finance research, technological development and demonstration projects.

For more information: <http://www.ard.crimea.ua/>



EUROPEAN UNION PROVIDES SUPPORT TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES IN SMALL UKRAINIAN CITIES

13 February, Kyiv – Ten small Ukrainian cities will benefit from EU assistance to implement energy efficiency measures at municipal level within the EU-funded project "Support to energy efficiency measures in small Ukrainian cities". They were selected after a Call for Proposals launched by the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine with an overall amount available of €1.5 million.

The cities selected after the Call for Proposals are: Gola Prystan (Kherson oblast), Burshtin, (Ivano-Frankivsk oblast), Dolyna (Ivano-Frankivsk oblast), Rakhiv (Zakarpatska oblast), Zelenodolsk (Dnipropetrovsk oblast), Kopychyntsi (Husyatyn district, Ternopil oblast), Borshchiv (Ternopil oblast), Zorynsk (Lugansk oblast), Yagotyń (Kyiv Oblast), Novoselytsya (Chernivtsi oblast).

During the project kick-off meeting at the EU Delegation, the city mayors of awarded cities and project implementing NGOs presented their energy efficiency initiatives to be implemented with EU assistance. They aim at reducing energy consumption; improving the quality of the energy-based services; encouraging best-practice in the design and implementation of energy efficiency projects; increasing the reliability of energy supplies; contributing to CO2 emissions reduction.

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PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA: EUROPEAN STANDARDS AND UKRAINIAN LEGISLATION

13 February, Kyiv – Data protection is part and parcel of subjects on today's Ukrainian media and political agenda. The Visa Liberation Action Plan necessitates a clear law on the protection of personal data, to ensure that such data – requested for visas – is not misused. The Freedom of Media/Access to Information law focuses on the other side of the token – to ensure that media can find the information they need to work with, without infringing on personal rights. Representatives of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, Ukrainian authorities on personal data protection and independent foreign and national experts, as well as civil society representatives gathered to discuss the legal, regulatory and technical aspects of the protection of personal data in Ukraine.

The expert seminar on the protection of personal data as regards European standards and Ukrainian legislation was organised by the joint EU-Council of Europe project "Promotion of European Standards in the Ukrainian media environment".

The seminar reviewed the results of analysis conducted by the Council of Europe experts of the Law of Ukraine "On protection of personal data" for compliance with European standards in this area. The experts discussed the problems of the law's implementation.

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NATIONAL TEMPUS OFFICE PROVIDES CONSULTATION TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ON PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

3 February, Kharkiv – 25 representatives of higher education institutions from Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Vynnytsya and Poltava attended a workshop on development of TEMPUS projects organised by the EU-funded National TEMPUS Office in Ukraine, in co-operation with the International Renaissance Foundation, Kharkiv Regional Charitable Foundation "Academy" and Kharkiv University of Humanities.

As part of the training, participants received knowledge and skills to analyse problems, identify objectives and project results, and counter risks arising during the project implementation. The participants had the opportunity to work in groups on the formulation of strategies of their own projects, the problems that these projects will solve, the purposes for which they aim to achieve and tactics for working with potential project partners/stakeholders.

Taking into account the 3 year experience in implementation of the TEMPUS IV programme in Ukraine, the representatives of the National TEMPUS Office provided consultation and advice to the representatives of higher education institutions regarding the proposed ideas.

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UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM

31 January, Kyiv – Nearly 40 high- and mid-level officials from the Ministry of Emergency Situations, other Ukrainian ministries and public agencies as well as representatives from the international and non-governmental organisations working in the field of disaster reduction and relief in the country took part in the European Civil Protection Mechanism Information Day.

The main goal of the event conducted by the experts of the EU-funded "Programme for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to man-made and natural disasters" in the ENPI East Region (PPRD East) was to raise participants' awareness about the European Civil Protection Mechanism, its structure, work modalities, capabilities and opportunities.

During the Information Day the participants received detailed presentations of the European Civil Protection Mechanism work procedures, capabilities and its missions to the PPRD East Partner Countries. They also simulated the submission of a request of assistance through the Mechanism and procedures for receiving such assistance (Host Nation Support).

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EU EXPERTS SHARE GOOD PRACTICES OF JOINT BORDER CONTROL AT BORDER CROSSING POINTS

16–18 January, Odesa – The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), in cooperation with EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), organised a regional workshop titled "Interagency and International Cooperation: Good Practices of Joint Border Control at Border Crossing Points". The event convened representatives from border and customs services, ministry representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as experts from EUBAM and ICMPD (Latvia and Poland).

The purpose of the workshop was to promote the EU Integrated Border Management concept among all relevant Eastern Partnership (EaP) authorities and agencies involved in border security and customs. In particular, the event aimed to introduce the participants to good practices on the implementation modalities of joint border control. These modalities include topics ranging from legal and operational aspects between neighbouring countries to the necessary requirements of the Integrated Border Management standards. Moreover, the workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to compare the workflows and operational procedures of the land border crossing points of EU and EaP countries. The aim of this comparison was to highlight discrepancies in order to avoid an overlap between the various authorities involved in border issues.

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