



Key events of the EU-Ukraine cooperation. September, 2014

EU SUPPORT FOR THE BUDGET OF UKRAINE: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT

There are many figures on this EU financial assistance flying around in media and various programs are being mentioned in this regard. It is not so easy to get the overall picture.



What is also important to remember is the fact that this EU assistance is based on a number of conditions that Ukraine has to fulfil in order to receive these funds.

Therefore, we decided to collect all information on the EU support for the budget of Ukraine and publish it in **ONE TABLE**.

As far as the fulfilment of conditions is concerned, it will be monitored by the EU Delegation together with Ukrainian Government and civil society with an active involvement of mass media.

The table contains two type of support: 1) budget support and 2) Macro-Financial Assistance.

Please, keep also in mind that the EU is directly running and funding hundreds of other projects and programs, which are **NOT** covered here. Their overview can be found [here](#).

Visual presentation of the EU total financial support to Ukraine be found in an infographic below.

Background information:

1) EU budget support programmes

These are **NOT** loans, but aid. An EU-Ukraine Budget Support programme is an international, legal and financial agreement in support of mutually agreed policy reforms. It is a grant that is transferred to the National Treasury of a Ukraine, following the respect by the latter of agreed conditions for payment.

Ukraine will receive €564 million by the end of 2016.

2) Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA)

These are loans with low interests' rate provided by the EU for Ukraine. This assistance is part of a wider package of support (approx. €11 billion) for Ukraine announced by the European Commission on 5 March.) and endorsed by EU leaders at the European Council of 6 March.

Total EU MFA support for Ukraine comes to €1.61 billion, with €600 million already disbursed. There is €1.01 billion ready to be transferred to Ukraine after fulfillment of certain conditions (see the table).

More information: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2014/09/23/finaid/>



EXPERT: JUSTICE SECTOR REFORM WILL ATTRACT INVESTORS TO UKRAINE

For over a year the experts of the EU-funded Project “Support to Justice Sector Reforms in Ukraine” are helping Ukraine in developing the Justice Sector Reform Strategy for 2015-2019, which also outlines the necessary legal reforms.



These important reforms largely determine the attractiveness of Ukrainian market for foreign investment, and consequently jobs and wellbeing of millions of Ukrainians.

Our conversation with Dr. **Virgilius Valančius**, the Team leader of the Project, highlights many other practical aspects of the new judiciary reforms.

Your project is working in Ukraine for one year already. In your opinion, what are the main problems of Ukraine's justice sector & what should be solved first of all?

I believe that at present the main problem is the lack of public confidence in the institutions that make up the justice sector in Ukraine. This problem prevents them from moving forward. Therefore, in the new strategy of the entire justice system of Ukraine steps on restoring confidence in the judiciary, prosecution, advocacy and law enforcement will be presented.

Another problem is the lack of a systematic approach to the reform of the justice sector in Ukraine. We are witnessing the lack of coordination and cooperation between institutions representing the justice sector. Now we are helping in consolidating not only the work of Ukrainian authorities in this direction, but the efforts of all donors who contributed to the reform of the justice sector in Ukraine.

Your Project assisted with developing the Ukraine Judiciary Development Strategy (UJDS), which was presented on June 19. What reforms does this strategy envisage? Have Ukraine already started implementing them?

Indeed, one of the main goals of our project is to assist the national institutions in developing a strategy of the judicial system of Ukraine. This work aims at helping to reform the judiciary, prosecutors, law enforcement and the legal profession.

Following the recent Congress of Judges of Ukraine, the Council of Judges was instructed to further develop a reform strategy for the judiciary. In view of this a working group was established, which includes not only the judges but also the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor General's Office and other agencies, but most importantly, – it includes civil society. It should be noted that civil society makes a significant contribution to the development of this strategy. Here we are actively cooperating with the Centre for Political and Legal Reforms.

Our results on elaboration of the UJDS, as well as other specialized working groups will be presented to the Justice Sector Reforms Coordination Council (RCC) under the President's Administration in October. The presented plan of necessary steps in the judiciary and other branches of the government have to take will be part of basic Justice Sector Reform Strategy (JSRS) for 2015-2019, which is to be developed by the end of 2014.

Will ordinary Ukrainians feel the impact of your project? If so, in what way?

The Justice Sector Reform Strategy will serve as a sector reform roadmap for the actors involved in justice sector as well as legislative and executive powers. They are guided by a strategy to improve the efficiency of the sector, its transparency and effective anti-corruption measures. This is the main goal, on which the EU-funded project is focusing. These changes are expected by the citizens, and they are needed to achieve the European standards aspired by Ukraine.

Read the full article at <http://euukrainecoop.com/2014/09/23/justice-2/>



HUMAN RIGHTS AND EDUCATION: EU SUPPORTS A NEW PROJECT IN MEDIA EDUCATION

This autumn a series of human rights education cinema clubs will be established at schools, universities, non-government organizations, and libraries throughout Ukraine.



The initiative is boosted by Docudays UA, major Ukrainian documentary festival, and is part of a human rights campaign launched by the festival. The project won support of the EU Delegation to Ukraine in January 2014.

Olena Kutsenko, its coordinator in schools and universities, shares her views on what results the team expects to achieve.

Media education is a new phenomenon in Ukraine and few people have a clear idea about it. What is media education, and why have you chosen schools and universities to host media education cinema clubs by Docudays UA?

Briefly, media education is an attempt to teach all people, – from young to old, – to have ability to live in a modern society overwhelmed with information. Journalists believe that this sphere is on their responsibility, focusing mostly on the word “media”. While teachers are focusing more on “education”, stating that this is their sphere of responsibility.

In fact, media education includes journalism, pedagogy, culture, art, as well as many other important things. But the most important is that it helps to be informed and make proper choice of the necessary information, which, in fact, develops a sort of an information “immune system”. Today’s reality witnesses how important these things are.

Organizers of the festival and the coordination board hope that cinema clubs created throughout Ukraine will help not only in education in the law and justice issues. They will also help Ukrainians in developing their critical thinking, as well as creativity of teenagers and young people.

Read the full text at <http://euukrainecoop.com/2014/09/23/docudays/>

EU HELPS CREATE UKRAINIAN AGRICULTURAL LANDS MARKET



The EU-funded twinning project “Assistance in the development of an open and transparent agricultural land market in Ukraine” officially kicked off on 9 September. This sector is particularly important for Ukraine as a country with great potential in the agricultural field.

Speaking at project’s opening, **Anka Feldhusen**, Deputy Head of German diplomatic mission to Ukraine, noted: “Agricultural land accounts for 69% of the country’s land area. The Ukrainian agricultural market, however, is still in a difficult and ambiguous situation.”

Despite the fact that Ukrainian agricultural policy has been conducted for more than 20 years, Ukraine still does not have its own market for agricultural lands. Following the signature of the Association Agreement, the government together with European experts has chances to settle this strategic field.



Enzo Damiani, Head of Sector for agriculture, food safety and land reform at the EU Delegation to Ukraine noted: *“Article 404 of the Association Agreement stipulates that areas of cooperation in agriculture and rural development ought to be defined.”*

One of EU’s principles of “open market” foresees equality, transparency and fair competition. The twinning project “Assistance in the development of an open and transparent agricultural land market in Ukraine” will work from January 2014 till September 2015 to implement this principle in Ukraine.

The Twinning project envisages effective cooperation in the development of an open and transparent agricultural policy attractive to new investors. Ukrainian and foreign experts will facilitate the introduction of new policy mechanisms at the local level (including the issue of privatization), as well as promote the spread of knowledge and practices in agricultural development. The project will also focus on environmental issues and on improving the level market’s competitiveness.

At the moment, after completing the analysis of Ukraine’s State Agency for Land Resources and examining respective legal aspects, European experts have formed their comments. A draft law aims at facilitating the functioning of Ukrainian farmers was developed based on them. According to the statement made by the project leader **Nick Bosmans** at the opening ceremony, the project’s main goal is not just to develop a new law but most importantly to simplify existing legislation in order to avoid duplication of tasks.

Artem Kadomskiy, the project leader from Ukrainian side and First Deputy Head of State Agency for Land Resources of Ukraine, stated that the developed draft laws will simplify the life of Ukrainian landholders. One of legislative changes relates to land lease. A person should pay a deposit to obtain a loan in Ukraine. The land, however, cannot be an object of such deposit according to Ukrainian legislation. Another direction of improvements is to simplify administrative services and provide information from land register directly via Internet.

Background information: Twinning Project “Assistance in development of an open and transparent market in Ukraine” is aimed at supporting Ukraine in the development of an open and transparent agricultural land market in line with the best EU practices. It is focused on improving the agricultural land market management, improving land administration in legal and institutional frameworks as well as increasing professional skills of staff.

This project is funded by the European Union. It is implemented by consortium of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Lithuania.

Duration: 2014-2015 (21 month)

EU contribution: €1.8 million

More information: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2014/09/12/agriculture/>

IMPROVED FOOD SAFETY TO INTENSIFY UKRAINE’S EXPORTS TO THE EU

High quality agricultural products is an essential precondition for improving Ukraine’s exports to the EU.



For the last 2 years the EU Twinning project “Supporting Ukraine in approximating its phytosanitary legislation and administration with European standards” was helping Ukraine in this by coordinating its phytosanitary standards with the EU.

On September 10 the Project reported about its achievements at the final conference. Project manager **Gerhard Hyunderman**, Vice President of Institute of Julius Kyuna, believes that his project has a direct impact on the agricultural sector, gardening and forestry. It helped the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine in providing more effective state protection from bringing and spreading pests and ensures compliance with phytosanitary



requirements of EU. *“As a result, agricultural trade at the national and international levels and safety of products will increase, which will have a significant impact on the economy”.*

“The completion of the project is a step to convergence with the EU. We must ensure the safety of domestic products to every citizen of EU Member States”, – Igor Shvaika, Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, said during a conference. He believes that Europeans are interested in agricultural sector of our country and implementation of a numbers of technical assistance projects in this sector proves this.

Antje Frese, Chief experts of International projects Twinning noted that project developed key legislative recommendations for harmonization with EU standards, created manuals for Ukrainian experts, held thematic seminars for representatives of various levels – from legislators to laboratory professionals. Ukrainian experts held a two-weeks internships in EU countries (France, Germany, Lithuania and Latvia).



Background information: Projects Twinning “Supporting Ukraine in approximating its phytosanitary legislation and administration with European standards” contributed to the development of administrative reforms based on the best European and international practice. The project started on September 18, 2012 with the participation of countries such as Germany, France, Lithuania, Latvia and Ukraine. It aimed at implementing institution building and helped countries within the program of European Neighbourhood and Partnership.

The Twinning project –it is a project that aims to support the EU’s neighbors in the adoption of EU norms and standards and the development of necessary institutional capacity. Experts from the administrations of the Member States transmit their knowledge and experience in the implementation of EU legislation to their colleagues in partner countries.

More information: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2014/09/12/food-safety/>

EU-FINANCED HIGH-TECH SUMMER SCHOOL WAS HELD IN UKRAINE



On 23-26 August the 3rd International summer school for young scientists **“Nanotechnology: from fundamental research to innovations”** was held in Yaremche, Ivano-Frankivsk region, within the framework of FP7 Nanotwinning project. The School was followed by 2nd International conference **“Nanotechnology and Nanomaterials” (NANO-2014)** which took place in Lviv on 27-30 August.

Both events united scientists from universities and research institutions of Estonia, Italy, France, the UK, Turkey, Russia and Ukraine etc. The Sumer School comprised in total 50 international participants while the conference was visited by more than 350 scientists working in the sector of nanotechnologies.

Young participants and known scientists shared knowledge on the development of nanotechnology and its implementation in innovations aimed at meeting the needs of society. Both events also contributed to integration of Ukrainian scientists in European scientific and innovative environment by forming strategic alliances with research institutes and universities. On top of this, Ukrainian young scientists received information on possibilities to participate in EU scientific program such as **Horizon 2020 COSME**.

The event was organized by the Institute of Physics of NAN of Ukraine, Lviv National University, Tartu University (Estonia), European Profiles A.E. (Greece), University of Turin (Italy) and Pierre and Marie Curie University (France).



Background information: the 7th Framework Program (FP 7) for Research and Technological Development is a EU-financed initiative aimed at boosting research in Europe responding to needs in terms of jobs and competitiveness, and to maintain leadership in the global knowledge economy. The Framework Program for Research have two main strategic objectives: to strengthen the scientific and technological base of European industry and to encourage its international competitiveness while promoting research that supports EU policies.

More information: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2014/09/12/summerschool/>

Useful links:

For more information on EU-Ukraine relations, consult the following resources

<http://euukrainecoop.com/useful-links/>

Calendar of past and future events: <http://euukrainecoop.com/calendar/>