



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU SUPPORTS SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

A workshop on strategic planning and organizational sustainability of Centers for Migrant Advice (CMAs) was held in Kyiv at the beginning of February 2011.

Centers for Migrant Advice are NGOs, which function to empower people to make informed choices and ensure their safety while traveling abroad, as well as encourage people to enjoy ethnic diversity.

The training was organized in the framework of an EU-funded project "Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building for the Government of Ukraine and Moldova for the Implementation of Readmission Agreements with the European Union (GUMIRA)", which is being implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Ukraine.

The workshop was the first such effort to enhance the institutional capacity of CMAs, ensure their financial sustainability, and create a synergized network. During the training, the CMAs presented the results of their previously conducted organizational self-assessments in: strategic planning, fundraising, financial oversight, and human resource management.

Finally, the participants developed a strategic plan for the CMA coalition and drafted a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the network and apply for funding as a single entity with a set structure.

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EU ENCOURAGES LOCALLY-DRIVEN HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

On 8 February 2011, in Kyiv, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Ukraine hosted the second meeting on the implementation of the Observatory Mechanism's (OM) recommendations to uphold human rights standards compliance in migrant holding facilities.

The Observatory Mechanism operates within the framework of an EU-funded project "Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building for the Government of Ukraine and Moldova for the Implementation of Readmission Agreements with the European Union (GUMIRA)", being implemented by the IOM.

In the spirit of the OM's joint nature, the event engaged participants from the EU Delegation to Ukraine, governmental agencies (Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Border Guard Service, Security Service, High Administrative Court, Ombudsman's office, and Office of the Prosecutor General), international organizations (IOM, UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council), and the NGO sector.

The participants discussed recommendations and elaborated an action plan, which covers such key issues as: duration of detention; age-assessment procedures; capacity building for migration authorities, sustainable maintenance and interpretation for detainees.

The OM will be further tuned for handover to Ukrainian government structures and NGOs under the EU-funded and the IOM-implemented project "Support to Implementation of the EC Readmission Agreements with the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine: Facilitation of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (SIREADA)" (2011–2013).

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS TRAINED TO DELIVER COURSES IN PREPARATION FOR EURO 2012

From 8-11 February 2011 in Khmelnytsky, the European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) training officer has facilitated training for 30 English instructors within the framework of preparations for the European Football Championship in 2012.

The event was organised by the Faculty of Foreign Languages at the National Academy of State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. During the event the instructors, all graduates of the Faculty, were trained in foreign language training techniques and practical delivery of classes.

The target group of trainees consisted of inspectors working on strategy for EURO 2012 border crossing points (BCPs), who have little or no knowledge of English. The courses will start in April 2011 and finish in May 2012.

From the feedback gathered on completion of the 'train the trainers' course, it was evident that participants appreciated the quality and organisation of the training, which was conducted in spirit of friendship. They feel that they are now well prepared to deliver the English-language classes.

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A ROUND TABLE "HIGHER EDUCATION FUTURE IN UKRAINE" ORGANISED

On 10th February 2011 the round table "Higher Education Future in Ukraine" took place at the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sport of Ukraine.

First Deputy Minister Evhen Sulima, HERE member, Doctor of Sciences in Philosophy, Professor, Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine (NAPS) invited broad public circles to take part in the national debate on the future of higher education (HE) legislation.

The following issues were discussed during the meeting: the concept of a HE Draft Law (that is being developed under the coordination of the Ministry), Ukraine' higher education integration into European Area of HE, HE quality assurance in modern conditions etc.

Zhanna Talanova, Analytical manager at National Tempus Office drew attention to key objective of a new draft – implementation of international obligations of Ukraine as Bologna Declaration signatory; harmonization of national HE legislation in accordance with Bologna principles; HE reforms and Bologna tools enforcement.

Some participants spoke critically on both enrolled HE Draft Laws, first of all, due to anticipated limitation of university autonomy; secondly, due to students contradictions against the prospects of increasing university fees during the study period.

A proposal on establishment of a working group that will include representatives of the public and students' self-government for drafting a comprehensive higher education law was put forward as a result of the discussion.

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UNHCR ORGANISES INTER-AGENCY MEETING IN ZAKARPATTYA

On 10th February, 2011 the Regional Representation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Kyiv in cooperation with government, civil society and international agencies convened the inter-agency meeting in Zakarpattya to discuss and address issues related to refugee protection in this western region in Ukraine.

Some 32 representatives from border, law enforcement and migration authorities, non-governmental organizations, Ombudsman's office in Zakarpattya, UNHCR, and International Organization for Migration, Danish Refugee Counsel and the EU Delegation in Kyiv attended the meeting.

The meeting included discussions and presentation related to restructuring of migration authority in Ukraine, transfer and processing of refugee applications, interpretation issues, court practice, cooperation with civic society agencies and public information activities to promote tolerance and reduce xenophobic attitudes in Zakarpattya region.

137 refugee applications were transferred from border guards to regional migration services in Zakarpattya out of 1,328 applications registered with State Committee for Nationalities and Religions in Ukraine in 2010.

On the same day the training on refugee protection and round table for local journalists was organized. It mostly focused on irregular migration in Zakarpattya and construction of temporary holding facility at Chop border crossing point. The inter-agency meetings in Zakarpattya are organized every six months by UNHCR under the EU-funded Regional Protection Programme and the next meeting has been scheduled for the end of May 2011.

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UKRAINIAN AGRIBUSINESS CLUB "AGRIEVENT" AND IFC ORGANISE "HORTICULTURAL CONFERENCE"

Association "Ukrainian Agribusiness Club" (UCAB) and the Agency "AgriEvent" together with International Finance Corporation organised the II International Annual Conference "Commercial Horticulture in Ukraine - 2011", which took place on 16th February 2011 in Kyiv.

The objective of this event was to assess the prospects and developments of the market, to get acquainted with new technologies, represented in Ukraine, as well as with worldwide trends in the sector.

The conference was attended by the representatives of leading Ukrainian agricultural companies, including: BASF Ukraine, Melitopolska Cheresnya Ltd., "AgroFusion" Holding, Chernigiv IMC, All-Ukrainian Union of Planting Material Producers, IFC, Syngenta Ukraine, Fozzy Group, Nutritech Ukraine, DS GREENHOUSES, John Deere Ukraine, TYCHE Ukraine, Rosetta Agro, etc. The event gathered around 150 representatives from more than 100 top agricultural companies working in this sector.

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EU PROJECT ARRANGED A WORKSHOP FOR UKRAINIAN VETERINARY INSPECTORS

The EU funded Twinning project "Support for the Ukrainian Veterinary Services in Enhancing the Legal and Technical Aspects of Food Safety Control System" arranged a workshop on meat control for 26 Ukrainian veterinary inspectors

On 15th – 18th February 2011 the workshop took place within the framework of Component 3 "Meat control and food safety". 26 Ukrainian veterinary inspectors from different oblasts in Ukraine participated in the workshop.

The workshop was divided in 2 parts, theory and practice. The theoretical part was held in the conference room in the SSRILDVSE and 2 Dutch experts gave lectures On Tuesday and Friday on EU legislation concerning animal welfare, food chain information, actions in case of non compliance and specific requirements for slaughterhouses and meat processing plants.

On Wednesday and Thursday the practical training took place in a slaughterhouse house and meat processing plant in Usin, where all the participants trained the use of checklists focusing on EU legislation.

TV channel 5 recorded from the workshop on Friday where RTA Allan Bagge and one of the participants were interviewed.

All trained key persons are expected to be trainers for their Ukrainian colleagues.

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EU PROJECT CONSULTS UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS ON PARTICIPATION IN EU RESEARCH PROGRAMS

On 16th February 2011 the experts of the EU Project "Joint Support Office for Enhancing Ukraine's Integration into the European Research Area" (JSO-ERA) were invited to speak at the Seminar "How to prepare proposal for fundamental research in Life Sciences and Social Sciences and Humanities".

The seminar was conducted under the IDEAS Programme of the Seventh Framework Program for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7) which is the EU main instrument for research funding.

The objective of the specific Programme IDEAS is to reinforce excellence, dynamism and creativity in European research and improve the attractiveness of Europe for the best researchers from both European and third countries.

The JSO-ERA experienced experts Dr. Arnolds Ubelis, NCP Latvia, and Dr. Olga Kot, Project Thematic Expert, provided Ukrainian scientists with practical recommendations on how to prepare competitive proposal for participation in open calls under the FP7 IDEAS Programme, focusing on those, which deadlines are in March-April 2011.

The Seminar was organized by the initiative of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics of NAS of Ukraine and was attended by 48 representatives of leading institutions of NAS of Ukraine.

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MOLDOVAN AND UKRAINIAN YOUTH RECEIVE TRAINING IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

On 21st February 2011, the international Winter School 'Youth against Corruption', an initiative organised jointly by the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (UASBGS) and the Centre for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption of the Republic of Moldova (CCECC) was launched in Odessa. The week-long training programme will include tutoring for 26 students from Ukraine and Moldova on corruption and methods to mitigate the phenomenon.

The students were warmly welcomed by the Head of EUBAM, Udo Burkholder, representative of Odessa State Regional Administration, the Head of the Internal Security Department of UASBGS, Yuriy Oblaukhov, and the Vice-Director of CCECC, George Russu.

Outlining the goals of the Winter School, Udo Burkholder said: "By bringing students from different countries and universities together to learn, to discuss common issues and to share different opinions EUBAM wants to facilitate cooperation between academic communities and to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms such as freedom of speech and an open society".

Young people will study the methods of preventing and fighting corruption in European Union law-enforcement agencies, the role of opinion polls in measuring the level of corruption, and the role of mass media in mitigating corruption. Anti-corruption experts from the UASBGS and Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, CCECC and EUBAM will present real cases to students.

Participants will also learn about the role of 'ethics codes' in preventing corruption in public institutions and take part in a round-table debate.

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THE EU HELPS PROTECTING UKRAINIAN VULNERABLE WET ECOSYSTEMS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Polissya is one of the largest European swampy areas with thousands of square kilometers of wetlands and wet forests. Climate change threatens this rare and vulnerable ecosystem. Local Ukrainian authorities and NGOs have decided to react and have requested support from the European Union within the grant-project "Integrating Climate Change into Vulnerable Ecosystems Management: natural parks in wetlands and forest areas (Ukraine)".

The project will be implemented by the French "Association VERSeau Développement" in cooperation with the "Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds" and the French Pyrenees National Park. It was officially launched at the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine in Kiev on February 2nd. Representatives of the Ukrainian and French national parks also took part in the launching vent.

The two pilot areas - the national park "Pripyat-Stokhid" and the "Polissya nature reserve" - will have outputs from direct exchange of know-how and best practices from French NGOs and natural parks.

The project aims at implementing Local Climate Adaptation Plans (LCAPs) for both areas. The project will also enhance capacity of local authorities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and organize public awareness campaign on protecting wet lands and forests.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

10-11 MARCH 2011, LVIV

Information Day "Opportunities for Ukrainian health community in the EU FP 7" and a workshop "Increasing Ukraine's participation in the EU FP 7 "Transport"

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More information at: www.jso-era.org.ua

11 MARCH 2011, KYIV

Kick of meeting of grant project " Demonstration dissemination and deployment of CCS and CCT in Ukraine" and press conference.

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