

Implementation of Ukraine's Commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural Sector



Project Budget:
€4.74 million

Duration:
October 2008 – December 2011

Funded by:
European Union

Country of Implementation:
Ukraine

Project is implemented by:
Consortium led by WYG International

Key Project Partner and Beneficiary:
Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine

Project's Objectives and Tasks:

Overall objective:

To assist in close cooperation between Ukraine and the EU, as well as to support harmonization of the Ukrainian standards according to the WTO requirements.

The project is based on the application of a sector-wide approach in the rural sector of Ukraine's economy. The project will also increase the potential of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine in supervising and coordinating the sector-wide approach due to the institutional development.

Project's Activities:

The Project will be realised in AR Crimea, Cherkasy, Odesa, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv and Poltava oblasts in the following priority sectors:

- Institutional development aims at improving coordination between donors in the agrarian area, ensuring the political dialogue between Ukraine and the EU as well as strengthening the potential of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine.
- Food safety aims at improving Ukrainian food safety system, bringing it closer to international food safety standards and recognising of the Ukrainian food safety system as satisfactory by the international community.
- Development of the infrastructure of wholesale markets will assist in implementing the national wholesale markets of farm products development programme, developing proposals for government regulations and legislation concerning the creation of wholesale markets networks, developing the creation plan and assisting in creation of one wholesale market in a pilot region.
- Development of rural areas aims at the development and public discussion of rural area development strategy, provision of information exchange via web site and Internet portal development. This component also includes creation of a workgroup for coordination of similar projects financed by the EU.

Expected results:

- Closer harmonisation of Ukraine and EU standards;
- Adherence to WTO rules by Ukraine and harmonisation of its legislation with the EU standards;
- Implementation of the Plan of European Neighborhood Policy.

Project's Achievements to date:

- Policy papers drafted on market infrastructure, food safety and rural development, a number of training were organised on food safety, institutional development and rural development.
- The detailed training programme has been drafted for year-one of the project, i.e. until 31 January 2010.
- The locations of 6 laboratories to be upgraded to reference laboratories for Ukraine's residue control plan are agreed: Kyiv, Lviv (2), Cherkasy, Poltava and Dnepropetrovsk. The list of laboratory equipment for 6 laboratories has been finalised, and the technical specification, tender dossier, forecast and procurement notices drafted.
- The project started to translate and circulate DG Sanco daily and weekly news summaries, and to translate EC Regulations and Directives for the project partner.
- A questionnaire completed by all major agri-markets in the Ukraine as identified at Oblast level regarding their current stage of development.
- Regional visits to Odessa, Poltava/Kremenchuk, Lviv, Khmelnytskyi and Kherson for meetings with directors, managers and investors in wholesale markets, architects and designers, representatives from Rayon Councils/Municipalities, buyers and suppliers, farmers and representatives of farmer associations, directors and advisers in extension services and relevant institutes.
- Two launch events held in Kyiv and Cherkassy.
- Round table discussions organised on each component.

Note: The project's distinctive feature is the active involvement of Ukrainian participants, in particular of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine. Ministry specialists will have the opportunity to get an experience of coordinating different components of the project.

Project's Objectives and Tasks:

Overall objective:

To increase SME (small and medium enterprises) sector competitiveness.

The Project comprises 3 components:

- Improve State policy in the sphere of SME support development;
- Facilitate commercial links with EU companies and other foreign enterprises;
- Increase awareness of business internationalisation in the public and SME sector.

Expected results:

Selected companies will receive consultancy support:

- to establish commercial links with EU companies and promote long-term business partnerships;
- to develop new strategic plans;
- to create and implement new international marketing plans.

The Project will also provide training programmes for:

- SCURPE and relevant public authorities at central and regional levels, in SME development and regulatory policy;
- local consultants, in business infrastructure and development of relevant services;
- a wider audience of Ukrainian SME managers.

Project's achievements:

- The project works in three priority regions – Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Lviv, and provides support to SCURPE offices in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa and Donetsk.
- 62 SME from three sectors have benefited from the Project: machinery & equipment companies in Kharkiv region; woodworking/furniture companies in Lviv region; and IT companies in Kyiv region.
- 6 partnership development missions for selected pilot SMEs are being conducted: 3 inward missions and 3 outward missions to help SMEs to find potential customers, investors and to establish business links between Ukrainian and EU companies:
 - Pilot machinery & equipment companies:
 - Mission to International Investment & Business Forum during the Intertool Trade Fair (Kyiv, Ukraine), April 2009
 - Trade mission linked to Subcontracting Hannover Trade Fair (Hannover, Germany), April 2009
 - Pilot IT companies:
 - Trade mission linked to Internet World UK (London, UK), April 2009
 - Business Forum and matchmaking event (Kyiv, Ukraine), June 2009
 - Pilot woodworking/furniture companies:
 - Trade mission linked to Ligna Fair (Hannover, Germany), May 2009
 - Business forum linked to woodworking trade show (Lviv, Ukraine), May 2009
- A number of trainings, study tours, workshops organized for representatives of SCURPE and other civil servants:
 - Study tours organized to Hungary, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
 - Basic Office and Management Skills Training Programme – specialists and managers from the SCURPE Head Office took four courses in effective communication skills, time management, effective presentations, and business image and etiquette.
 - Regional seminars “Strengthening SME Competitiveness” for Senior SCURPE staff and other external participants involved in SME policy implementation conducted in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv.
 - A series of Policy Round Tables organized aiming at strengthening SCURPE and other governmental agencies in their efforts to promote SME development, growth and competitiveness.

More information about the Project: <http://www.sme-int.com.ua>

“The seminar provided a wealth of useful information on how to find partners in the EU using different information sources. I have also learned how to analyse Ukrainian companies' opportunities of entering external markets and finding necessary solutions.”

Olexiy Buchenko, Executive Director of Business Award Foundation, Kyiv

Support to the Development of Business Capacity of Ukrainian SMEs – International Dimension



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€2.5 million

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September 2008 – August 2009

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European Union

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Ukraine

Project is implemented by:
Consortium led by WYG International (UK)

Key Project Partner and Beneficiary:
State Committee of Ukraine for Regulatory Policy and Entrepreneurship (SCURPE)