

EU Co-operation News

Bi-weekly newsletter of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine
Project on Information and PR Activities for the EU and its Programmes in Ukraine

7, 28 May 2008

EU SUPPORT TO STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

As part of the European Neighbourhood Policy, the European Union is increasing its support to a wide range of capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening civil society in the partner countries, including Ukraine.

The EU supports measures to promote civil society organisations and other actors at the national, regional and local levels. It supports and holds dialogues with non-state actors on a wide range of issues including democratisation, respect for human rights and freedom of expression, women's rights, education and the environment.

The EU also provides funding to increase the capacity of civil society to interact with the state authorities. Attention is also paid to improving the capacity of the authorities to engage in dialogue with both citizens and civil society in general, including by modernising the legal and administrative framework; in Ukraine, the EU-Ukraine Action Plan identifies as one of its goals, "ensuring the freedom of association and involvement of the citizens in the decision making process, including through civil society organisations".

IBPP (Institution Building Partnership Programme) and EIDHR (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights) are the two main EU programmes supporting the development of the civil society in Ukraine. Other major initiatives in Ukraine include the "Further Strengthening of Civil Society" project and its predecessor "Support to NGO Development in Kyiv and selected regions", which successfully strengthened the capacities of non-governmental organisations to provide social services in partnership with local governments, emphasising such aspects as financial management, networking skills, public relations and fundraising. These projects had a combined value of €4 million. Two IBPP projects are covered in this edition of the EU Co-operation News, one to strengthen NGO networks in Western Ukraine and another to support young trade union leaders. The IBPP format has also been used for consultations with NGOs on continued EU-Ukraine civil society co-operation and future EU assistance to civil society development in Ukraine.

For more information on IBPP see: <http://www.ibpp.org.ua/>



Ukrainian Civil Society Organisation activists gather for the closing conference of the Further Strengthening of Civil Society project

ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

Liliya Romanenko on her experience with the *School of Mums* project in Rivne. This project organised training and consultation for prospective and new parents on modern forms of child-rearing:

– I remember when our small NGO was only a few months old and we received our first grant from the EC Delegation to Ukraine within the civil society development programme. Back at that time we, the Ukrainian obstetricians and regular citizens of the city of Rivne, did not have any support at all.

More than three years passed since that time, and we have successfully implemented three EU-funded projects. Today our organization is well-known among people; local authorities respect and appreciate what we do. But there is something else which is more important: thanks to that support, babies in our community are born happy and safe. And this is the greatest joy because they are our new citizens who will live in the new Europe!

ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

FINAL CONFERENCE ON PROMOTING YOUNG WORKERS INTERESTS THROUGH SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP CHANNELS HELD IN KYIV

On 13-14 May the Social Development Agency (SDA), in cooperation with the Pan-European Council of the International Trade Union Confederation, organised a national conference on Trade Union Youth Policies in Kyiv. This conference completed the two-year EU-funded IBPP project on Promoting Young Workers Interests through Social Partnership Channels.



The project has worked to promote interests of the working youth in the Ukrainian society through mobilising participation of young workers in the social partnership and dialogue processes and empowering trade union organisations to address specific needs and interests of young workers.

Young trade union activists applied themselves as experts on the everyday life of young people in Ukraine and developed a set of recommendations for the authorities on the main directions of the national youth policy based on the European Social Model. More than 200 trainees were involved in education activities in 11 regions of Ukraine. A series of national thematic discussions and six regional conferences brought together several hundred people.

The final conference gathered over 60 participants who discussed a wide range of issues related to education in Ukraine, reforms in healthcare, employment and labour market policies, wages, family and household issues, including housing programmes, as well as the need for youth to address their concerns with decision making authorities, through and with assistance of their unions. The participants have also developed recommendations for their unions to ensure follow-up, multiplier effect and sustainability of the project activities.

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FINAL CONFERENCE ON SUPPORT TO MARGINALISED GROUPS OF POPULATION HELD IN ZAKARPATTIA

The fourth civil network building conference concluded the EU-funded project on Assistance to Marginalised Groups of the Population, Institution and Network Building in Ukraine. The conference took place in Janoshchi, Beregovo district on 12-14 May 2008. A total of 22 organizations participated in the event.



This two-year EU-funded IBPP project worked to promote the social integration of unemployed people especially the Roma minority and disabled persons. The main issues of the conference included developing a sustainable framework for co-operation between members and strengthening of the network.

The participants also agreed on a new title for the network which will continue its work after the project's completion: ACCORD (*Association of Cooperating Organizations for Development in Western-Ukraine*). The network members declared that in the following year they will aim to identify ways to support the professional information-sharing alliance and to organise annual networking events.

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MEET PARTICIPANTS OF EUROPE DAYS IN UKRAINE

This edition introduces a few more EU-funded projects that took part in Europe Days in Odesa (May 14) and Donetsk (May 17). All these projects are run by local NGOs or have a civil society-related component.

The Centre of Public Policy Forming in Makiyivka (Donetsk Oblast) project

This EU-funded project focuses on strengthening the influence of city communities on forming children's and youth's policies. The project includes opening a public policy centre, organisation of public hearings to work out strategic plans, and activities to consolidate children's and youth's civil movement in Makiyivka. The project runs from December 2006 to December 2008.

Victoria Fedotova, Project Team Leader, on participating in Europe Days:

- The participation of our project in Europe Days shows the results of our work in the area of public policy development for youth and childhood support. We believe that all changes in Ukraine will happen through active civic participation, and we, the citizens of Ukraine, have to be aware of that.

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MEET PARTICIPANTS OF EUROPE DAYS IN UKRAINE

Project on Combating Youth Exclusion in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts

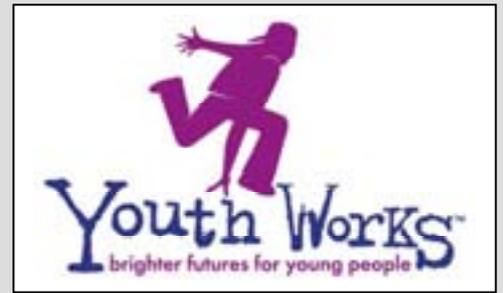
The project was implemented from September 2005 till September 2007 in Donetsk (Donetsk, Gorlovka, Khartsyzsk) and Luhansk (Luhansk, Alchevsk, Stahanov) Oblasts.

The overall aim of the project was to strengthen the capacities of the socially oriented NGOs to develop innovative and efficient partnership initiatives to combat youth social exclusion in the in areas severely affected by economic and industrial restructuring.

Valentina Dyomkina, Project Team Leader, on participating in Europe Days:

- Our project's participation in Europe Days aims to show our citizens how important the EU assistance to Ukraine is in terms of community and youth involvement and how it helps to improve the standards of living.

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Project on Care for Street Children



The overall objective of this project is to encourage social reintegration and promote social security of children living in an extremely unfavourable social environment. The two-year project ends in May 2008 and is implemented in Lviv, Donetsk and Khmelnytsky.

Zoryana Lukavetska, Project Coordinator, on participating in Europe Days:

- Our project's participation in Europe Days shows its role in providing care to vulnerable populations, namely, street children. Despite the government's increased attention towards street children in recent years, our society still remains generally unaware and passive regarding this problem.

Contact e-mail: zorjana@caritas-ua.org

Project on Sustainable Integrated Land Use of Eurasian Steppe

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the steppe conservation and steppe ecosystems restoration and their sustainable management as part of living land tenure system of the region. The project is implemented from June 2007 to December 2009 in Odesa and Luhansk Oblasts in Ukraine, Cagul rayon in Moldova and Rostov Oblast in Russia. The project targets small businesses in the tourism and agrarian sectors, local government and state authorities, and NGOs.

Rieks Bosch, Project Team Leader, on participating in Europe Days:

- Our participation in this event aims at drawing broad public attention towards economic potential and perspectives of rural development of steppe regions in Ukraine, Russia and Moldova. The resources of steppe areas can be used in a way to foster the development of rural economic infrastructure and to enrich the beauty and wealth of steppe for future generations. Our project will make everyone familiar with the unique value of steppes.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP OF THE TEMPUS PROJECT ON TRANSPARENCY IN ACCREDITATION HELD IN KYIV

On 16 May the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in collaboration with the Kharkiv National University of Radioelectronics conducted the dissemination workshop of the TEMPUS Structural and Complementary Measures Project “Towards Transparent Ontology-Based Accreditation”.

Representatives of the Ministry, Rectors and Vice-Rectors of project partners from the EU member states (Finland, France, and Spain) as well as managers of Ukrainian universities participated in the workshop.

Ukrainian project teams presented the new modern approach to accreditation, licensing and ranking based on the best European practices of accreditation and ranking of higher education institutions. The workshop also presented the national portal on accreditation and ranking procedures in Ukraine open to all education stakeholders including higher education institutions, students, employers, teachers, and government agencies.

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TEMPUS is one of the European Commission's programmes designed to help the process of social and economic reform the EU partner countries.

It focuses on the development of the higher education systems in these countries through cooperation with institutions from the EU member states.

For more information see:

<http://www.delukr.ec.europa.eu/page5666.html>



EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

29 May 2008, Kyiv

Training on Quality and Safety of Meat and Milk Food Products

A training session for journalists will be organised by the EU-UNDP Consumer Society and Citizen Networks Project.

Contact person: Maria Savchenko; maria.savchenko@undp.org.ua

9 June 2008, Lutsk

Workshop on Competitive Selection of Business Ideas

This event is organised by the EU-funded Volyn SME Support Foundation within the framework of the project on *Development of Co-operation between Volyn and Liublyn regions on Entrepreneurship Support*.

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