

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

17, 19 November 2008

EU-UKRAINE CO-OPERATION IN THE LAW-ENFORCEMENT SECTOR

The EU and Ukraine share a common border and, as direct neighbours, face common challenges in the fight against organised crime, terrorism and other illegal activities of cross-border nature. Effective EU-Ukraine co-operation in the area of justice, freedom and security is particularly important.

Ukraine, in order to implement the EU-Ukraine Action Plan and meet its commitments within the European Convention on Human Rights, needs to ensure that it respects the requirements of the Council of Europe in designing and implementing police reform. The EU encourages Ukraine to continue with its democratic reform process to ensure a society based on democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. To that end, the EU continues to support effective reform efforts, including in the area of improved law-enforcement capacity and quality of professional services provided by the Ukrainian police.



The European Union has just started a €2 million Twinning project to *Introduce and Further Develop Quality Management within the Ukrainian Police*. The twinning counterpart is the French Ministry of Interior. This initiative supports structural and police-specific reforms undertaken by the Ukrainian Ministry of Interior. It will also transfer European knowledge and procedures of better recruiting, training and disciplining of law-enforcement personnel.

The International Cooperation in Criminal Matters by Ukrainian Law-Enforcement project (*see below*), which ends in November 2008, has been the first joint EU-INTERPOL action in Ukraine. The European Union provided around €1 million for this 22-month project while INTERPOL provided its expertise and equipment. The project has considerably increased the capacities of the Ukrainian police to co-operate internationally in the fight against organised and serious crime.

The ENPI National Indicative Programme 2007-2010 foresees a comprehensive financial envelope providing assistance, among other priorities, to improving working methods of law-enforcement agencies and prosecution. Effective co-operation between law-enforcement bodies of the EU member states and Ukraine is extremely important, and achievements of the joint EU-INTERPOL project have laid the foundation for potential future EU-Ukraine cooperation programmes on the basis of a sector-wide approach.

ANOTHER STEP TO CO-OPERATION

EU-FUNDED INTERPOL PROJECT HOLDS CLOSING CEREMONY

On 6 November a closing ceremony for a joint EU-INTERPOL project on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters by Ukrainian Law-enforcement was held at the Kyiv National University of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. The ceremony was attended by representatives of Ukraine's Ministry of Interior, INTERPOL, the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine and Kyiv National University of Internal Affairs.



The project has provided modern technology for Ukrainian police officers to access Interpol's global communication system and databases (I-24/7). It established the training centre and provided for the extensive participation of Ukrainian police officers at international anti-crime coordination events. The training centre will act as a vital forum for the acquisition of skills, the exchange of information and the enhancement of national, regional and international police cooperation.

With the European Union's financial support, INTERPOL has been expanding access of I-24/7 throughout Ukraine to put Interpol tools and services directly into the hands of officers in the field. Mr. Martin Schieder, Head of Operations Section of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, attending the event, said: "Enhancing training of the police is a joint objective agreed in the EU-Ukraine Action Plan. The concrete results of this project – a global police communications system training centre – will help to fulfill the goals of the Action Plan".

Contact person: Mr. Evgueny Paniotov, National Central Bureau of INTERPOL in Ukraine: e-mail: Ncb.kiev@ua.igcs.int.

EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

HEAD OF DELEGATION VISITS EU-FUNDED PROJECTS IN ODESA REGION

On 13-15 November the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira visited Odesa region. As part of this visit, the Ambassador visited the European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM), went to the Field Office and border checkpoint in Kuchurgan, and traveled to the village of Shabo (Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi district in Odesa region), participating in the EU-UNDP Community-Based Approach to Local Development project (CBA).



The EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine was launched in 2005 following the joint request of the Presidents of Moldova and Ukraine. The Mission works to harmonise Ukrainian and Moldovan border management standards and procedures with those prevalent in the EU member states, helps enhance the professional capacities of the Moldovan and Ukrainian customs and border guard services, improves co-operation and complementarity between the border guard and customs services and other law enforcement agencies, and promotes cross-border co-operation.

At the press conference, given by Ambassador Pinto Teixeira and General Ferenc Banfi, the Head of EUBAM, the Ambassador underlined EUBAM's significance for Ukraine, Moldova and the European Union. He emphasised the Mission's particular task to contribute to settling the frozen conflict regarding Transnistria and to stabilise the situation at the border. The Ambassador also highlighted that EUBAM helps Ukrainian and Moldovan partner services to approximate towards EU standards.



During his visit to Shabo, the Ambassador took stock of the state of implementation of the CBA project. Residents of a multi-storey apartment building in Shabo have established a co-owners organisation in order to improve their living conditions and install a proper heating system and energy-saving measures in their building. Ambassador Pinto Teixeira noted that the European Commission's work in Kyiv is mainly focused on institutional relations and does usually not involve much interaction with community at local level. He stressed that while its results are significant, they are not immediately visible. Therefore, the Ambassador was particularly pleased to see a EU-funded project which addresses initiatives that encourage people to take over responsibility and change their lives for the better. The Ambassador said: "For me it is a very touching experience to meet such an

active and organised community in the village of Shabo. Despite difficulties, this community is taking their future in their own hands; this community should serve an example for other communities throughout Ukraine."

The CBA project aims at creating an enabling environment for long-term self-sustaining social and economic development at local level by promoting local self-governance and community-based initiatives in Ukraine. This project receives €12 million worth of EU funding.

More information: <http://www.eubam.org> and <http://cba.org.ua>

HEAD OF EC DELEGATION, FRENCH AMBASSADOR, EU MEMBER STATES AND OTHER MAJOR DONORS MET WITH DIRECTOR OF COORDINATION BUREAU FOR EUROPEAN AND EUROATLANTIC INTEGRATION

On 6 November, Mr Vadim Triukhan, Director of the Coordination Bureau for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration met with Ambassador Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission and Jacques Faure, French Ambassador, representing the EU Presidency.

Mr. Triukhan made a presentation about the functions of the recently established bureau to the two Ambassadors and other representatives from the EU Member States, as well as a number of major donors to Ukraine. He also focused on the role the bureau will play in the negotiations on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.



The well-attended meeting offered an opportunity to the donor community to understand better how the bureau will contribute to improved coordination in the areas of European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

Contact person: Matthew Green, email: Matthew.Green@ec.europa.eu

EU-FUNDED PROJECT PROVIDES UKRAINIAN IT COMPANIES LINKS TO INVESTORS AND MICROSOFT BIZSPARK NETWORK

On 10 November, the EU-funded project “Support to the Development of Business Capacity of Ukrainian SMEs – International Dimension” and its four pilot information technology (IT) companies participated in the Microsoft conference devoted to presentation of the new software initiative, Microsoft® BizSpark™.

Microsoft® BizSpark™ is a global programme designed to help accelerate the success of early stage startups by providing key resources such as:

- Software: fast and easy access to current full-featured Microsoft development tools, platform technologies, and production licenses of server products for immediate use in developing and bringing to market innovative and interoperable solutions.
- Support: connection to Network Partners around the world – incubators, investors, advisors, government agencies and hosters – that are equally involved and vested in software-fueled innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Visibility: global visibility to an audience of potential investors, clients and partners.



The conference brought together 75 participants: representatives from the State Agency of Ukraine for Investments and Innovations, IT and software development companies, Microsoft, several venture capital funds and the Association of Private Investors of Ukraine as network partners of the new Microsoft’s BizSpark programme.

As Microsoft BizSpark members, the companies can tap into a rich, vibrant ecosystem of peers, partners and support resources around the globe, helping them grow and succeed.

The two-year EU-funded project "Support to the Development of Business Capacity of Ukrainian SMEs – International Dimension" was initiated in 2007 with the State Committee of Ukraine for Regulatory Policy and Entrepreneurship (SCURPE), the project’s main partner. 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.

Additional information: <http://www.sme-int.com.ua>

Contact person: Nataliya Martynenko, Email: nataliya.martynenko@sme-int.com.ua

EU-FUNDED SECONDARY HEALTH CARE REFORM PROJECT CONDUCTS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

On November 6-7, the EU-funded project “Support to Secondary Health Care Reform in Ukraine” held its midterm national conference to review the progress and results of the project’s activities in its pilot regions (Zhytomyr, Kharkiv and Poltava) and at the national level. 160 participants attended the event, including representatives of the Ministries of Health, Finance, Economy, Education and Science, the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, graduate and post-graduate medical education institutions, pilot region healthcare departments, civil society, international and Ukrainian experts.



The conference participants learned about the project’s recommendations for the reforms in secondary health care, including the establishment of inter-regional economic networks of hospitals in Ukraine. These networks are viewed by the project experts as the first step in introducing up-to-date European approaches to rational and effective hospital network planning in Ukraine.

The participants emphasised the importance of this event for further planning of health care reforms. “The work, undertaken by the European Union’s project in the area of preparation of secondary health care reform is extremely important. Scenarios of reforms in the health care sector, presented by the project at the conference, were very interesting. This particularly concerns the establishment of economic networks of hospitals, which is innovation for Ukraine. I believe that this issue requires further broad discussion”, said professor Valeria Lekhan from the Dnipropetrovsk Medial Academy. ➡

➔ The project was launched in August 2007 with the budget of €4.2 million provided by European Union. The overall goal of the project is to support the establishment of an effective, cost-efficient and equitable health care system in Ukraine, which will be supported through the implementation of systematic secondary health care reform.

Additional information: <http://www.eu-shc.com.ua>

Contact person: Natalia Loochsheva,
e-mail: Natalia.Loochsheva@epos.de



WHAT HIDES BEHIND «E»: A NEW WAVE OF CONSUMER OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

From the beginning of November 2008 the EU-UNDP Consumer Society and Citizen Networks project started a new wave of consumer public advertising in Kyiv to encourage consumers to carefully study product information.

The campaign aims to acquaint consumers with the notion of “E” signs enabling consumers to differentiate between an “E” that poses a serious health risk and the one that stands for an ordinary food additive, i.e. ascorbic acid that hides behind a concise E300 index.

To conduct this “E” illiteracy campaign for consumers, the Consumer Society project has developed bright and catchy prints featuring widely used but none the least dangerous food additives.



«We intended to draw consumers' attention to the issue of safety of products they eat. Since the question of safety is mostly raised when buying goods for children we decided to pick a universal product that is associated with childhood – a lollipop. It is extremely appealing from outside, but it contains an additive that due to repeated consumption leads to overload of the child's nervous system because it creates extra strain and hyperactivity», said Klavdia Maksimenko, the Consumer Society and Citizen Networks project manager.

Contact person: Maria Savchenko, e-mail: maria.savchenko@undp.org.ua

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

10-12 December, Romny, Sumy Oblast

Meeting on Activities of EU-funded Project on Sustainable Local Development in Ukraine

Ten city mayors, representatives of three Ukrainian ministries, four oblast governments will participate in the event to review the project activities for July 2008-December 2008.

Contact person: Svetlana Timshyna, e-mail: svetlana.timshina@sld.org.ua



This electronic newsletter is produced within the project on Information and PR Activities for the EU and its Programmes in Ukraine. The project is funded by the European Union and is implemented by the RAPID Public Relations Centre. Project Manager – Andriy Kulish. Contact number: 8-050-35-25-738 E-mail: a_kulish@ukr.net