Key events of the EU-Ukraine cooperation. May, 2013

EU AMBASSADOR TO OPEN THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL WEEK IN KYIV

The Ambassador of the European Union to Ukraine, Jan Tombiński, together with French Ambassador Alain Remy and Croatian Ambassador Tomislav Vidošević, will open a photo exhibition entitled “Homo Urbanus Europeanus” on May 14. The event is the official launch of European Cultural Week in Kyiv.

The exhibition will be open to visitors from May 14 till May 27 in the Khanenko Art Museum and will display unique pictures from 12 European capitals taken by the well-known French photographer, Jean-Marc Caracci. The work of Caracci focuses on the European urban being with a vision of uniting European countries.

European Cultural Week is a joint initiative of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, and European embassies and cultural institutions in the country. The event involves cultural initiatives, including exhibitions, concerts, movie screenings, and lectures, which will be held in Kyiv May 9-18. The Week will be wrapped up by extensive Europe Day celebrations on Khreshchatyk Street in Kyiv on May 18.

Programme of the European Cultural Week in Ukraine (May 9-18)

Media is warmly invited to take part in the press conference and the opening of the exhibition.


When? May 14, 2013, 11:00-12:00

Where? Khanenko Art Museum, 15, Tereshchenkivska str., Kyiv

Participants: Jan Tombiński, Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, Tomislav Vidošević, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Croatia to Ukraine, Alain Remy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to Ukraine.

Background Information

The photo series, “Homo Urbanus Europeanus” is the fruit of French photographer, Jean-Marc Caracci’s three years of travel across Europe. Its major topic is to capture Europeans in their cities and the European “Urban Being.” The project consists of 31 series, representing 31 European capitals, all photographed in the same style: sober and without any cultural or social visibility, favouring the similarity and “europeanity” of human experience in different European cities. The “Homo Urbanus Europeanus” project is an artistic tool for uniting European countries, whether they belong to the European Union or not.

For more information please visit: http://euukrainecoop.com/

For accreditation to the press conference and more information about the exhibition, please contact:

Kateryna Grygorenko, tel.: +38 (097) 354 68 11, k Grygorenko@internews.ua

Programme of the European Cultural Week in Ukraine (May 9-18)
ANDREW RASBASH: EU HOPES TO TURN UKRAINE INTO A PROSPEROUS AND DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY

Andrew Rasbash, Head of Operations at the EU Delegation to Ukraine, talked to Ukrainian students during EU Study Days, an education programme on European studies launched by the EU Delegation to Ukraine. During his presentation on April 14, 2013, he focused on the following issues:

On EU-Ukraine Cooperation: Since 1991 the EU has committed €3 billion for Ukraine to support the country's transformation and its European integration. The strategic goal of the EU's financial assistance is to turn Ukraine into a stable, prosperous and democratic country. Focusing on a policy-based approach, the EU identifies key sectors in which its commitments would be the most effective. This year the EU has prioritised three major areas for assistance: trade, environment and regional policy.

Together, EU and Ukraine agree on concrete goals in specific sectors of cooperation, based on Ukraine's strategy. Once the foreseen results are achieved, the EU transfers funds directly to Ukraine's state budget. In this way, the EU supports results and achievements with its assistance rather than inputs.

In addition, EU specific tools such as TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange), CIB (Comprehensive Institution Building) and Twinning promote EU best practices in Ukraine's public administration.

On major tools of EU-Ukraine Cooperation. The EU’s financial assistance is channelled through different mechanisms that have succeeded one another as EU-Ukraine bilateral relations develop. In the beginning, money was granted through the TACIS (Technical Assistance to CIS countries) Programme, which was then substituted by the ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument). Today the EU is developing the ENI (European Neighbourhood Instrument) to streamline support for 16 neighbour countries, including Ukraine, in line with the differentiation and "more for more" principles. The specific terms of this new financial programme still remain the subject of discussion, as the EU Member States and the EU institutions continue negotiations on the EU’s Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020.

On EU-Ukraine Cooperation in 2013. The EU plans to allocate €186 million in 2013. Since Kyiv and Brussels are paving the way for the signature of the Association Agreement, the further development of EU financial assistance to Ukraine depends on whether the deal will be signed as hoped later this year.

On the Association Agreement. EU hopes Ukraine will sign and implement the Association Agreement. In December 2012 the EU Foreign Affairs Council adopted a list of criteria Kyiv is expected to fulfil before establishing political association with the EU.

On the EU-Ukraine free trade area. Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) provisions are an indispensable part of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. EU-Ukraine policy based on the Association Agreement can be compared to the EU relations with Central and Eastern European countries before their accession to the EU.

EU ANNOUNCES A NEW CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT UKRAINE’S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

On April 26, the European Union announced a new call for proposals to support Ukraine’s regional development policy. Through the call for proposals regional and local authorities will be provided with an additional budget to implement priorities and objectives as defined in the regional development strategies of their respective regions.
The action will be implemented through two lots at the oblast and rayon/municipality levels respectively:

**Lot 1** aims to alleviate regional disparities through targeting the least developed regions of Ukraine (Indicative allocation of funds – €4 million with projects up to €2 mln)

**Lot 2** aims to promote sustainable rural development (Indicative allocation of funds – €2 million with projects up to €500 thousand).

Lot 1 is limited for the applications from Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Vinnytska, Volynska, Zhytomyrska, Zakarpatska, Ivanofrankivska, Kirovograd, L’vivska, Rivnenska, Sumska, Ternopilska, Khersonska, Khmelnytska, Chernivetska, Chernivetska, Chernihivska oblasts.

Lot 2 is open for all regions of Ukraine.

A wide range of issues may be tackled through the Call including infrastructures upgrade and rehabilitation, employment stimulation, tourism development, support to business initiatives, energy efficiency measures, agricultural markets development.

The Call is a part of a wider regional development programme of €31 mln, promoting decentralised development of the Ukrainian regions.

More information is available on the EuropeAid web-site

The deadline for the submission of Concept Notes is 01.07.2013.

The Delegation of the EU to Ukraine will organise a number of information events to promote the Call in the regions of Ukraine in May 2013.

For further information:

Tetiana SHULHA, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine: Tetiana.SHULHA@eeas.europa.eu

Tel: +380 (44) 390 8010

**A STEP TOWARD TRANSPARENCY: EU-FUNDED PROJECT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACCESS**

The new law on access to public information pushes local authorities throughout Ukraine to create the conditions within which citizens can fully exercise their rights. However, today the majority of small city councils still lack the highly-skilled professionals and technical equipment necessary to put the new legislation in practice.

To respond to these challenges, a new project, “Access to Public Information in Small Cities of Ukraine,” was launched on April 23 in Ukrainka, Kyiv region. The European Union pledged 90% of the €150,000 initiative. The Executive Committee of the Ukrainka City Council and the Association of Small Towns of Ukraine will contribute the remaining 10%. The project’s opening conference served as a good platform to outline the main goals of
the project and to issue a call for applications inviting local self-government bodies to take part in project's implementation.

Colombe de Mercey, EU Delegation sector manager for civil society and media, recalled that while the European Union is actively engaged in political dialogue with Ukraine, it also offers Ukraine a broad reform support programme with the aim of bolstering the country's efforts to promote democracy, development and stability. In this regard, the project demonstrates EU commitment to a strengthened co-operation with Ukraine and its citizens, de Mercey stressed.

According to Valentyna Poltavets, the project coordinator, the initiative will support 20 small cities ready to commit themselves to promoting best practices around access to public information. One of the objectives of the project is to develop regulations around using the new law with the involvement of both local authorities and general public.

Read the full article: http://euukrainecoop.com/2013/05/07/public-info/

HEAD OF EUBAM ADDRESSES ADVISORY BOARD FOR FINAL TIME BEFORE MAY RETIREMENT

In one of his final acts as Head of the European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) to Moldova and Ukraine, Mr Udo Burkholder presented on April 16 details of EUBAM’s annual report (December 2011 – November 2012) to members of the Mission’s Advisory Board. Mr Burkholder will retire at the end of May.

The 20th Advisory Board Meeting of EUBAM saw representatives from EU delegations in Moldova and Ukraine, the foreign ministries, border and law enforcement agencies of Moldova and Ukraine, and international organizations such as United Nations Development Programme, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and International Organization for Migration gather in Chisinau, Moldova, where the Head of the Delegation of the EU to Ukraine, Jan Tombinski, acted as chairman.

During the meeting the Mission also reported its activity covering the period from December 2012 to March 2013. Mr Burkholder shared with the board the results of the 10th Joint Border Control Operation ‘Podolia’, addressed recent developments in the process of demarcation of the Moldova-Ukraine border, and the concept of EUBAM activities for Phase 10, which starts in December 2013.

The Advisory Board acknowledged the progress made in EUBAM’s operational support, greater sustainability in capacity-building activities, and its confidence-building efforts in particular, bringing together the customs representatives from Chisinau and Tiraspol following the resumption of rail freight traffic through Transnistria in 2012. Among other outstanding examples of progress achieved has been the establishment of a Jointly Operated Border Crossing Point at Rossoshany-Briceni, and the beginning of joint patrolling on the Moldova-Ukraine border in July 2012.

The chairman of the board, Ambassador Tombinski expressed personal gratitude to the Head of EUBAM Mr Udo Burkholder for his work as both Deputy Head of EUBAM and Head of EUBAM since his appointment in January 2008. "Under the leadership of Mr Burkholder EUBAM has done a lot in setting good example and passing on European Union standards in border management, which itself is an important part of the reform processes in both Moldova and Ukraine, and also plays a role in the ongoing association and visa-liberalization processes", he said.

See also: EUBAM annual report
EU PARLIAMENTARIANS LAUNCH PROJECT TO PROTECT UKRAINIANS AFFECTED BY THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT

Since the Chernobyl accident, the EU has been working to cope with the aftermath by improving nuclear safety and dealing with the legacy of the disaster. On April 26, 2013, a new EU-funded health and ecological project worth €4 million was inaugurated in Ivankiv, a town neighbouring to the Chernobyl zone.

The EU will provide the Ivankiv hospital with new equipment to measure radioactive agents in human beings and their food and help control the health of mothers and children. The hospital will also serve as a counseling center to teach the population about healthy nutrition. “Implementation of the project will allow for early detection of diseases and for providing the necessary medical services to people who suffered from the Chernobyl disaster,” underlined Olexandr Leliak, head of the Ivankiv rayon state administration.

In addition, the initiative will build a greenhouse to grow safe food. Finally, it will work to prevent forest fires (which spread radioactivity) by burning contaminated wood in a special incinerator.

Speaking at the official opening of the project, MEP Michele Rivasi, vice-president of the Greens/European Free Alliance Group, underlined the importance of helping the people affected by nuclear contamination. “After spending millions of euros to improve the safety of the nuclear power plant and the so-called ‘sarcophagus,’ the EU will at last help the victims of this permanent nuclear disaster thanks to an amendment tabled by the Greens and voted on by the European Parliament in 2008,” she said. The MEP stressed the need to maintain and distribute proper information on the devastating outcomes of the nuclear disasters in Chernobyl and Fukushima, also noting that the results of the Ivankiv project will have international importance.

Read the full article: http://euukrainecoop.com/2013/05/07/chernobyl/

POLL: MOST UKRAINIANS WANT GREATER EU ROLE IN THEIR COUNTRY

Most Ukrainians feel the European Union is an important partner, and would like it to play an even greater role in their country, across a range of areas. This is one of the key findings of the recently released Autumn 2012 EU Neighbourhood Barometer for Ukraine, conducted in the framework of an EU-funded opinion polling project for the Neighbourhood.

The survey, based on 1,000 interviews conducted in November-December 2012, finds that 60% of Ukrainians feel the EU is an important partner, with 57% believing the EU and Ukraine share sufficient common values to be able to cooperate – slightly higher than the average for the ENPI East region.

Just over three quarters of those asked (76%) wanted a greater EU role in economic development, 69% in trade, 64% in human rights, and 60% in democracy.

The poll found that 53% of Ukrainians trusted the EU – more than other international institutions like the UN and NATO, and significantly more than they trust their own government (23%), Parliament (18%) or political parties (18%).
Forty-one per cent of respondents felt the EU had good relations with Ukraine, while 30% felt they were bad.

Ukrainians questioned in the poll were generally pessimistic about their lives — more so than other countries in the region — with 57% dissatisfied with the life they lead, though the degree of satisfaction rose the younger and more educated respondents were.

However, the younger and more educated were just as critical as other groups regarding the direction in which the country was going: barely one in ten (11%) of all those asked felt Ukraine was going in the right direction, with 78% saying the economic situation was bad, and 48% saying the worst was still to come in terms of the impact of the crisis on jobs. Three quarters of those asked were not satisfied with the way democracy works in Ukraine.

Forty per cent of those asked agreed enough information was available about the EU, while 41% agreed it was easy to understand (against 36% who disagreed).

Factsheets summarising the findings of the EU Neighbourhood Barometers were published to coincide with the release last month of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) package of 2012 progress reports of countries covered by the ENP.

The EU Neighbourhood Barometer (opinion polling and media monitoring) is part of the EU-funded Regional Communication Programme, and aims at assessing knowledge and perception of the EU Neighbourhood Policy and its cooperation activities and programmes.

An infographic produced for the EU Neighbourhood Info Centre highlights some of the key findings across the ENPI East region. (EU Neighbourhood Info)

Read more

EU Neighbourhood Barometer – Autumn 2012 Ukraine factsheet

EU Neighbourhood Barometer – presentation of Autumn 2012 findings

EU Neighbourhood Barometer website

Source: ENPI-info

WITHOUT BORDERS: EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE IN ACTION

Vita Sjomkane came to Donetsk as a Latvian volunteer. She joined the Intergeneration Dialogue, an EU-supported Youth in Action project coordinated by the Donetsk Youth Debate Centre. “I saw a great opportunity to go to another country whose past resembles, but also differs from, the past of my homeland,” she says.

Vita came to Donetsk because of Youth in Action, an EU-funded programme created for young people. The Donetsk Youth Debate Centre hosts and coordinates the programme’s volunteers, inviting them to share their knowledge about Europe with children and young people in with the goal of promoting dialogue across generations. The volunteers work together on joint programme initiatives, including outdoor artistic actions in the summer. In 2011, Donetsk hosted 11 volunteers; in 2012, their numbers rose to 38, with most volunteers coming from Sweden, Poland, Austria, Lithuania, France, Spain and Denmark.
Since January 2013, six new volunteers from Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Portugal have arrived in Donetsk with support from the European Union. Kristina Katkaukskayte, a volunteer from Lithuania, says she decided to participate in the initiative because it "helps me develop as a person." "I want to challenge myself, to give myself a new purpose, and learn a different culture," she adds.

Four volunteers from Poland participate in the Intergeneration Dialogue project, which runs from October 2012 until September 2013, and is supported by the Polish national agency of the Youth in Action programme. They go to schools and orphanages to share their experience of inter-generational communication. The volunteers have also worked with entire families, conducting interviews and teaching them how to draw family trees and write down family histories. Other activities available for Donetsk families include lectures about the European Union and about the volunteers’ own countries, courses in English and Polish language, and workshops on photography.

Read the full article: http://euukrainecoop.com/2013/05/07/youth-in-action/

EU-UNDP PROJECT TEAMS UP WITH RURAL POPULATION TO MEND WATER SUPPLY IN SUMY REGION

Thanks to the EU-UNDP Community-Based Approach to Local Development Programme (CBA), the populations of four villages in the Nedryhayliv district, Sumy region, will have regular access to water. The programme provided private houses, a feed-milling plant and a childcare centre with four new water pipes.

Water shortage, especially in summer, was one of the district’s major challenges. Until recently it meant many people had limited access to such basic needs as laundering, dishwashing, cleaning, bathing and cooking. Today, residents of villages in Nedryhayliv rayon can enjoy high-quality eco-friendly water mined from the 670-metre deep reservoir and supplied through a 3.2-kilometre long water pipeline.

The bottom-up governance approach of the CBA Programme has illustrated the importance of involving all stakeholders, including citizens, international partners and local authorities. “The total cost of the project was estimated at UAH 1.1 million (€103,361), of which more than half was contributed by local residents, UAH 300,000 (ca. €30,000) was funded by the EU, and UAH 261,000 (ca. €26,000) was committed by the local government budget,” Tamara Sirenko, project coordinator, explained.

“This is a very good idea, especially for elderly people,” says Mykhaylo Philonenko, a Nedryhayliv dweller. His neighbour, Hanna Zakharchenko, agrees: “the water is perfect, and we hope it will never end.”

According to Oleksandr Kushirenko, the head of the Nedryhayliv district council, this experience boosted solidarity and interest among local authorities and ordinary citizens of other neighbouring villages to combine efforts to face common challenges. “Four other communities want to join the project,” he says, adding that six civil society organisations have already been established to address the villagers’ needs, raise funds, and take common action in other areas.

Background

Over 1,100 Ukrainian communities and 1.2 million citizens have benefited from the EU-UNDP Community-Based Approach to Local Development Programme since its launch in 2007. With a total budget of €30 million (UAH 318 million), it has rebuilt health centres, supplied street lighting, provided school buses, replaced windows in schools and hospitals and ensured the supply of clean water. This has all been done with the support of organised local community groups, using social mobilisation tools to bring together local communities and local authorities for
joint decision-making, cost sharing, implementation of community projects and the establishment of sustainable and transparent mechanisms of local governance.

For more information, visit Project’s website

Kostiàntyn Yelîshevych, Sumy

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/