



EUROPEAN UNION ASSISTANCE TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT

The overall EU contribution aimed at addressing the consequences of the Chernobyl accident is close to €350 million.

The EU has provided €240 million of funding to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development-managed Chernobyl Shelter Fund. There is an agreement to provide a further €9.7 million in 2009. The EU is the main contributor to the shelter fund and provides nearly 20% of the total funding.

The EU has also contributed €22.5 million to the Nuclear Safety Account (NSA), which is also a fund managed by the EBRD. The NSA supports a number of projects at the Chernobyl site including two major radioactive waste management projects.

For its directly supported projects, the European Union has provided approximately €80 million of funding through the TACIS programme. This includes the funding of the Industrial Complex for Solid Radwaste Management (ICSRM) (see below) which received €47 million of EU funding.

Other EU-funded projects in Chernobyl relate to various waste management facilities and radioactivity measurement equipment in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, and also to a few projects aimed at improving the social and health conditions of the population in the area.

In addition, €60 million worth of funding was provided to Ukraine to compensate the early closure in 2000 of the 3 units remaining in operation after the accident (known as the "Fuel Gap"). This was due to the delay in the completion of the Khmelnytsky 2 and Rivne 4 plants, for which EBRD and Euratom loans were granted.



CHERNOBYL TO BE AN AREA OF SPECIAL ATTENTION

On 24 April, 2009, the official inauguration ceremony of the Industrial Complex for Solid Radwaste Management (ICSRM) took place at the Chernobyl site. The ceremony was attended by the Head of the European Commission's Delegation to Ukraine, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, the Minister of Emergency Situations of Ukraine Volodymyr Shandra and other high level representatives.

A new radioactive waste management facility, co-funded by the European Commission and Ukraine, will be handed over this week to the end user, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

This €47 million project was co-funded by the European Commission and Ukraine. The complex consists of treatment conditioning and storage facilities for radioactive waste. The presentations pointed out the project to become successfully achieved due to the effective collaboration among the European Commission services, the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, Technocentre and the contractor, Nukem Technologies. The European Commission will continue to co-operate with Ukraine in the domain of radioactive waste management and has earmarked an additional €8 million for further cooperation in this sector.

In addition, the European Commission will provide the complex with a ventilation system for the solid and liquid waste storage building and support in licensing of the facility. The European Commission will also continue its participation in the Chernobyl Shelter Fund (CSF) and the Nuclear Safety Account (NSA), which are both managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).



Contact person: Igor Krol, e-mail: kroli@mns.gov.ua



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

LAUNCH OF EU-ILO FUNDED PROJECT: GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WORLD OF WORK

The new gender equality project's official launch took place on 23 April, 2009. Ukraine has achieved considerable legal progress for the promotion of gender equality, yet women continue to suffer from multiple forms of discrimination and inequality because national experience as regards gender equality law implementation and gender-sensitive policy development is scarce.

The project aims to build the capacity of Ukrainian authorities and social partners for ensuring compliance with national and international commitments as to gender equality in the world of work, for progressively eliminating gender bias in employment policies and sexual harassment at the workplace, and for creating a supportive environment for women's economic empowerment and women's entrepreneurship.

The project will aim to enable key state bodies and social partners to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the world of work by developing, implementing and monitoring gender-sensitive employment policies and programmes. The project will employ awareness-raising activities, communicate information, and support the development and implementation of locally adapted tools and pilot interventions, so that Ukrainian actors are able to accumulate hands-on experience of gender-sensitive policy development and implementation. The project will have an important activity segment dealing with women's economic empowerment, in particular through support for women's entrepreneurship.

The project's main national partners include: the Interagency Council for Family, Gender Equality, Demographic Development and Counteraction to Human Trafficking, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, the Public Employment Service, the State Labour Inspection, the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, employers' organisations and trade unions.



Contact person: Sergiy Savchuk, e-mail: gender@ilo-dp.kiev.ua

EU-UKRAINE: BOOSTING SPACE COOPERATION

On April 23, 2009, a joint meeting of the National Space Agency (NSAU) and the Main Department of Civil service of Ukraine on yearly outcomes of the Twinning Project Space "Boosting Ukrainian Space Cooperation with the European Union" by the NSAU was held. The meeting was attended by Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, Jacques Faure, Ambassador of France to Ukraine and Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth, Ambassador of Germany to Ukraine. The Project was launched in April 2008.

The project is the first space project in the history of the European Twinning Programme. It funded by the European Union (€1.5 million) and implemented by a French-German consortium formed by the National Space Research Centre of France (CNES), the German Space Agency (DLR) and the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. During the project's first year 38 European experts representing various administrative structures of the EU space industry have conducted 32 expert visits, 15 preparatory meetings, 18 workshops and training sessions for 20 to 80 Ukrainian experts each.

In addition to these visits, workshops and training sessions a series of expert reports were produced. Within the framework of the project a number of activities were conducted: three workshops were held aiming implementation of European standards at the enterprises and organisations in the space area; the international seminar on satellite navigation, two international conferences on Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) were conducted as well. Several workshops were organised to prepare documents for participation of Ukrainian scientists in the EU Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The NSAU specialists participated in the first study tour to the German Aerospace Centre and the national subdivisions of the European Space Agency.



Contact person: Andre Moussine-Pouchkine, e-mail: andre.m-pouchkine@wanadoo.fr



LOCAL COMMUNITIES COOPERATE ACTIVELY WITH THE CBA PROJECT

On 23 April, 2009, first local community project was inaugurated in Krasna Polyana Village of Krasnohvardiysky rayon, ARC. The project was completed in the framework of EU/UNDP Community Based Approach to Local Development (CBA) Project and consisted in overhaul and purchase of new equipment for local outpatient clinic. This community project was funded by EU/UNDP CBA Project (UAH 45 000), co-financed from local budget (UAH 35 000) and the community contribution. Now people from 8 villages of Petrivska can make all the necessary tests urgently and get diagnosis and recommendations.



All this was solved mainly with the initiative of Krasna Polyana villagers. Local community decided to do something about the problems with they own force. Thus they prepared the action-plan and then started cooperation with CBA Project. CBA Project team provided a series of trainings on organisational and financial issues, as well as on preparation of project proposals and project implementation. Vidrodzhennya community organisation is going to continue its activities. Such positive example of community self-organisation and effective cooperation with local authorities/ self-government inspires other 4 pilot communities from Krasnohvardiysky rayon.

Contact person: Ganna Yatsyuk, e-mail: ganna.yatsyuk@undp.org.ua

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

16 MAY, KYIV

Visit to Ukraine of Danuta Huebner, European Commissioner for Regional Policy

During the visit Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a dialogue on regional policy and development of regional cooperation between the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine and the European Commission will be signed.

Contact person: Miroslava Didukh, e-mail: Mira.Didukh@ec.europa.eu

19 MAY, KYIV

TAIEX workshop on "EU Requirements for Import of Animal Products"

Representatives of Associations, Ministries, executive Agencies, Trade Unions will take part in the workshop.

20 MAY, KYIV

Closing Conference of the Twinning Project "Strengthening the Enforcement of Competition Law and Policy in Ukraine"

22 MAY, TERNOPIL NATIONAL ECONOMIC UNIVERSITY

EU-Ukraine Education and Youth Conference

The National Tempus Office will take part in the conference.

Contact person: Bohdan Lutsiv, pro-rector of the Economic University, tel.: +38 0352 47 50 58

5 JUNE, KYIV

Closing event of the EU-funded Twinning Project on Civil Aviation

Contact person: Anna Slobodianiuk, e-mail: slobodianiuk@mtu.gov.ua