



EU AND UKRAINE SETTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA TOGETHER

The EU is a major actor on the international environmental scene. Increasingly, it is shaping the international environmental agenda and seen as a model for environmental law. The joint EU-Ukraine Action Plan sets out objectives including, taking steps to set conditions for good environmental governance, preventing the deterioration of the environment, and enhancing EU-Ukraine co-operation on environmental issues.

The environmental dialogue between EU and Ukraine has been upgraded, visible particularly through intensified technical contacts in the areas of waste management and water, as well as by the reactivation in 2006 of the EU-Ukraine Working Group on Climate Change (initially launched in 2002). The working group looks at ways in which the EU and Ukraine can enhance co-operation in areas such as the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, the development of the post-2012 framework, emissions trading and research into climate change.

The EU and Ukraine are also working closely together on energy efficiency, one of the stated objectives of the EU-Ukraine Memorandum of Understanding on Energy. The memorandum also proposes increased cooperation in the promotion of renewable energies and measures to tackle climate change.

Major EU-funded projects in the environmental sector include the "Environmental collaboration for the Black Sea" project and the "Sustainable integrated land use of Eurasian Steppes" project, both of which held major events this week (see below).



EU-FUNDED PROJECT HELPS TO IMPROVE COASTAL MANAGEMENT OF THE BLACK SEA

On 1 October the EU-funded project "Regional Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea" presented its results at the final press conference in Kyiv. The project which operated in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine had a total budget of €2.2 million. Over 2.5 years the project has contributed to the sustainable development of the Black Sea Basin by prevention and reduction of pollution to the Black Sea and sustainable management of natural resources and protection of biodiversity of the Black Sea basin.

In Ukraine the project developed the new draft Law on Coastal Zone, which defines the legal basis of the state policy in the field of integrated coastal management of nature use with regard to territory planning, zoning, development of coastal areas.

The important achievement of the project was the development of the amendments to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (the Bucharest Convention) which is a key agreement of regional collaboration of the six Black Sea countries: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine.

The project prepared substantial background information for the establishment of the Marine Protected Area (MPA), including desk study, report on field survey and Geographic Information System maps of Karkinitzky Bay in the Black Sea. Also Preliminary Management Plan for this marine territory was completed, and training for experts, involved in MPA management conducted. The project prepared 16 draft legislation documents, guidelines, reports and surveys which were passed to the Ministries in the three beneficiary countries.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

UKRAINIAN FARMERS BENEFIT FROM EU-FUNDED PROJECT

From 28 September to 2 October the EU-funded project "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector (Sector Wide Approach)" held two workshops on linking Ukrainian farmers to markets and the role of producer associations. 40 farmers and representatives of local authorities from 8 pilot rayons of Crimea and Kherson oblast took part in the events.



The project experts made presentations on wholesale markets of agricultural products and the role of public and private sectors, improvement of distribution system for farmer products in Ukraine, international and local experience of organisations for producers of agricultural products, and development of marketing networks for movement of agricultural products on a cooperative base.

The workshop participants identified the main issues which encourage production and distribution of agricultural products, made prioritisation of events for the improvement of the distribution system of farmer societies' products in their regions, and prepared action plans for the improvement of farmer societies' distribution system.

The project on implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector was launched in May 2009 and aims at assisting close co-operation between Ukraine and the EU, as well as harmonisation of Ukrainian standards according to WTO requirements.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT HOLDS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT OF EURASIAN STEPPE

From 29 September to 1 October in Luhansk the EU-funded project "Sustainable Integrated Land Use of Eurasian Steppe" organised the International conference "Eurasian Steppe: Restoration and Management". Conference participants from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Mongolia and the Netherlands discussed the steppe restoration approach, including technology and financing mechanisms, potential of steppe landscape for rural area development, and approaches to proper management of steppe protected areas.



The conference also included a roundtable "Development of rural tourism in steppe regions: perspectives and obstacles" with participation of Ukrainian tourist agencies, administrations of tourism and culture, environmental NGOs and international partners of the project.

The project on sustainable integrated land use of Eurasian steppe is operating in Moldova, Ukraine and Russia from December 2007 till the end of 2009 with a total budget of €2.4 million. It focuses on the increase of sustainable land, the restoration and use of abandoned and degraded steppe lands, and improved management of privatised areas, as well as mainstreaming biodiversity concerns and encouraging trans-boundary cooperation between states in the management of steppe resources.

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EU SUPPORTS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL IN UKRAINE

On 6 October the EU-funded Twinning project "Assisting the Main Control and Revision Office (KRU) in Implementing a New System of Public Internal Financial Control" held its official closing event. Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of the EC Delegation, Robert de Koning, Team Leader on Public Internal Financial Control of DG Budget of the European Commission and Mykola Syvulsky, Head of KRU, took part in the meeting.



The speakers presented project results which included the strengthening of the Central Harmonisation Unit and dissemination of new knowledge, methodologies and skills; strategic development plan for the KRU till 2015; draft regulation on internal financial control within the ministries system and other central executive bodies of government; and draft version of internal financial control standards.

During the implementation the project produced two manuals on "Internal Control for Bodies of the State and Communal Sector", and "Internal Audit in the State and Communal Sectors of Ukraine".

The project had a budget of €1.2 million and was implemented over 27 months in order to support KRU in its development and implementation of Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC) in line with internationally recognised standards and European best practice.

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EU-UKRAINE LEGAL APPROXIMATION IN NATURAL GAS REGULATION

On 7 October the EU-funded Twinning project "Regulatory and Legal Capacity Strengthening of Natural Gas Regulation in National Electricity Regulatory Commission of Ukraine (NERC)" held an opening event and a press conference. Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of the EC Delegation, Carlo Crea, Secretary-General of the Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity and Gas, and Valery Kalchenko, Chairman of NERC, presented the new EU project. It will last 27 months and has a budget of €1.2 million.



This Twinning project focuses on the legal approximation to EU standards in Ukrainian natural gas regulation and brings representatives of EU Member States to work with Ukraine on institution building. The overall objective of the project is to assist the NERC in the development and implementation of international best practices in gas sector regulation, consistent with progress in the EU Internal Energy Market and EU legislation. Expected project results include improved, reliable, safe and economically appropriate services for consumers, gas regulation standards adapted to EU best practices, and incentive-based tariffs allowing investments to improve assets for gas distribution companies.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

21 OCTOBER, STATE COMMITTEE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, KYIV

Kick-off meeting of the Twinning project "Support for the Ukrainian veterinary services in enhancing the legal and technical aspects of food safety control system"

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28 OCTOBER, MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION, KYIV

Seminar on Harmonisation of Standards in the Construction Industry, project "Technical Assistance to Ukrainian Quality Infrastructure"

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29 OCTOBER, STATE COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL REGULATION AND CONSUMER POLICY, KYIV

Closing event of the Twinning project "Strengthening Standardisation, Market Surveillance, Metrology and Legal Metrology, Conformity Assessment and Consumer Policy in Ukraine"

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