



FLOOD PROTECTION IN ZAKARPATTYA

Zakarpattya is a unique region in Ukraine. Not only is it an area of natural beauty, but it is also the only oblast of Ukraine to border on four EU Member States.

Also, unfortunately, the area suffers from regular flooding. A group of EU Ambassadors who recently visited the area where shown in the town of Tyachiv how the level of the River Tysa has reached 741 cm during floods in 2001. The Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira and Ambassadors from Zakarpattya-neighbouring countries, Hungary and Romania also visited the Transcarpathian Industrial Administration of Melioration and Water Management where they presented the five EU-funded projects they have administered in co-operation with their partners in Hungary (3 projects), Slovakia and Romania (1 project each).

The projects have a total value of €2.7 million and have helped to improve flood protection and flood control effectiveness in the region. The latest project has installed 2 automated hydro-meteorological stations including one at the historical bridge at Solotvino-Sighetu Marmăției. The Ambassadors observed this station when they crossed the bridge and border into Romania. The bridge was also re-constructed with EU funds worth €202,000.



EU AMBASSADORS VISIT EU-FUNDED PROJECTS IN ZAKARPATTYA

On 4-6 June the Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, as well as the Ambassadors of EU Member States in Ukraine visited Zakarpattya region. In Uzhgorod the Ambassadors attended a presentation of five EU-funded Cross-Border Cooperation projects on flood prevention at Transcarpathian Industrial Administration of Melioration and Water Management.

The delegation also visited a Slovak School in Uzhgorod and the Ferenc Rákóczi Hungarian Academy in Beregovo, took part in debates with student at Uzhgorod State University and visited the EU-funded Tourist Information Centre in Beregovo. The Ambassadors visited also the EU-funded project at Mukachevo Children's Hospital and a Romanian School in Solotvyno.

Ambassador Pinto Teixeira, as well as the Hungarian Ambassador András Bárony, Romanian Ambassador Traian Laurențiu Hristea and others crossed the Ukraine-Romania border at the Solotvyno-Sighetu Marmăției historical bridge which was re-constructed from the EU-funded Phare Cross-Border Cooperation programme.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU BORDER MISSION HOSTS AN INTERNATIONAL MINI-FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On 22-23 May the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) hosted an international mini-football tournament in Odesa. The event ran for two days and included teams from the Ukrainian and Moldovan border guard and customs services, the Romanian border police, FRONTEX (the EU agency that coordinates operational cooperation between EU Member States in the field of border security), the Odesa regional administration and EUBAM.

"The football tournament is about building trust and good relationships", said Udo Burkholder, Head of EUBAM. "Our tournament last year helped build working relationships between Moldova, Ukraine and EUBAM and I'm delighted that teams of experts from the EU are joining us this year", he added.

The tournament took place at the Lyusdorf Sport and Recreation Centre – Chernomorets' Training Base, Sovinion district, Odesa and was the second of its kind. An extensive opening ceremony took place with all teams on parade before kick. The tournament began with matches in the two groups followed by a playoff for 3rd and 4th places and of course the final.

More information at: <http://www.eubam.org/>

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT DISCUSSES ISSUES OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

On 28 May the EU-funded project to build capacity of civil society to promote respect for human rights and democratic principles in Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine held in Kyiv a forum on promoting women's political participation and representation in Ukraine. The project is implemented by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The forum gathered some 80 members of Parliament and local councils, government officials working to promote gender equality, representatives of civil society and international organisations active in the field of gender equality in Ukraine.

The event summarised over 20 months of project activities, making an important contribution to increasing participation of women in governance and decision-making in Ukraine. It also helped create a platform for the exchange of views and good practices among key stakeholders in the promotion of women's participation in political and public life in Ukraine. It was the second major event held by the project during last month. On 21 May the project organised, in partnership with the Agency for Legislative Initiatives, a conference on Regulation of Political Parties in Ukraine: The Current State of Play and Direction of Reforms. The event brought together some 60 representatives from Ukrainian Ministries, the Parliament, political parties, think tanks, Electoral Commission, international organisations and academia.

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EU EXPERTS DELIVER TRAINING ON SCHENGEN LAW FOR UKRAINIAN BORDER GUARDS

On 4 June the EU-funded and IOM-implemented project "Improving Integrated Border Management: Follow-up to Reinforcing the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine's Human Resources Management System (HUREMAS 2)" held a training on Schengen Law for 24 Ukrainian border guards delivered by two Polish Border Guard specialists.

The EU experts discussed binding legal instruments for all EU Member States' border guard services, presented different types of identification and travel documents of the EU citizens, gave detailed descriptions of the Schengen visa and its built-in protection mechanisms, and explained rules regulating entry and stay of third-country nationals and principles of border control. Numerous pertinent discussions were triggered by the recent adoption of the revised EU Visa Code. The materials received during the training will be used by the SBGS Academy to develop a comparative course on Schengen law and relevant Ukrainian law in border control. The course will be taught using the train-the-trainer, or "multiplication" method across Ukraine.

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EU FLAG ERECTED ON THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN UKRAINE

On 5 June participants in the EU-funded Cross-border Co-operation project "BikeLand" erected the flag of the European Union on the Hoverla mountain (2,061 m), the highest mountain in Ukraine and part of the Carpathian Mountains. The event was part of the Europe Day celebrations in Carpathians, initiated by youth organisations and bicycle clubs from Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv regions.

More than 60 participants from different parts of Ukraine drove on bicycles from Vorohtha, nearest village to Hoverla mountain. They drove out 20 kilometres till the point of climbing start, and then walked till the peak.

The event was organised by the EU-funded project "BikeLand", implemented during 2008-2010 by the Centre of Social and Business Initiatives of Yaremche. The project is a part the Neighbourhood Programme Romania-Ukraine with a total budget of €572,680. During the implementation in 6 districts of Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi and Zakarpattia regions about 50 bicycle routes have been developed and marked out, about 700 bicycle parking places installed, and a network of 30 cyclist-oriented tourist hotels created.

More information at: <http://bikeland.com.ua/>

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT FAMILIARISES UKRAINIAN OFFICIALS WITH EU PRACTICE ON FOOD SAFETY

On 6-13 June the EU-funded project "Implementation of Ukraine's Commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural Sector" held a study visit on food safety for Ukrainian officials to Portugal. The purpose of the visit was to enable 15 senior personnel from national public institutions (veterinary and health protection) to learn from their counterparts in Portugal about how the EU system of food safety control "from farm to fork" operates in practice.

Visits included the regional State Veterinary Service in Oporto, dairy farm and cheese factory, slaughterhouse and cutting plant, farmers cooperative organisation, large retail food supermarket, regional veterinary laboratory in Oporto, regional animal identification and registration service in Oporto, the State Veterinary Service headquarters in Lisbon, and a local green market. The participants saw how food safety controls are implemented in practice in a variety of enterprises in Portugal based on the "farm to fork" model, and were able to meet with their counterparts in Portuguese State institutions to discuss in detail the legislative basis, policy framework, and practical implementation of official controls in EU Member States.

More information at: <http://www.swap-rural.org.ua/>

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EU-FUNDED TWINNING PROJECT HOLDS STUDY VISIT FOR UKRAINIAN VETERINARY INSPECTORS

On 6-13 June the EU-funded Twinning project "Support for the Ukrainian Veterinary Services in Enhancing the Legal and Technical Aspects of Food Safety Control System" held a study visit for Ukrainian veterinary inspectors to the Netherlands. 11 Ukrainian representatives, in particular, veterinary inspectors and meat control laboratory specialists from national public institutions participated in intensive highly specialised trainings on sampling procedures in EU slaughterhouses/food producing establishments as well as in practical laboratory trainings.



The studies were conducted by leading specialists from the Dutch Food and Consumer Products Safety Authority (VWA). The Ukrainian specialists learned the following issues: organisation of official inspections in the Netherlands; the role of the Ministry of Agriculture and the VWA; converting risk assessment in policy advice; information on how VWA deals with consumer complaints and the RASFF system (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed); good laboratory practice; detection of antibiotic residues in food samples using a microbiological testing method; methods for the detection of pathogenic micro-organisms in foodstuffs; typing of pathogenic micro-organisms in order to trace the source of origin. Practical issues for poultry and pig carcasses samplings for microbiological criteria were discussed during visits to two private slaughterhouse companies, in particular, VION (pig meat production) and Vleesch du Bois (poultry meat production).

More information at: <http://twinning.com.ua/>

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT FACILITATES DIALOGUE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN LVIV REGION

On 10 June the EU-funded project "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme" held a roundtable in Lviv to facilitate a discussion between interested parties on the environmental issues in Lviv region related to the coal sector. The participants of the event included representatives of the Ministry of Coal Industry, Ministry of Environmental Protection, regional authorities from Lviv and Lublin (Poland), mining companies, mine ecologists and experts from Ukraine and Poland.



Project experts stressed during the roundtable, that land degradation, spoil tip fires and impacts on water resources are some of the main environmental issues due to mining activities in Lviv region. The western coalfields of Ukraine have a local environmental impact on the territory of Lviv and Volyn regions, but they also have a trans-border impact on the Ukrainian rivers flowing to Poland. The roundtable facilitated the strengthening of the already on-going cooperation regarding regional and sub-regional joint approaches to environmental concerns, and supported the development of a Mining sector cooperation work programme. The discussions were based on a series of joint site visits to locations of interest in and around Chervonograd that took place on 9 June.

More information at: <http://www.eu-coalsector.com.ua/>

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT HELPS PROMOTE INVESTMENT IN THE UKRAINIAN AGRARIAN SECTOR

On 16 June the EU-funded project "Implementation of Ukraine's Commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural Sector" held the first investment forum in Ukraine devoted to the topic of agricultural wholesale market development. The forum entitled "Investments in the Ukrainian Agrarian Sector – Development of Agricultural Wholesale Markets" was organised in cooperation with the EU Delegation and the Ministry of Agrarian Policy.

The main objective of the event was to network potential market developers in Ukraine with interested financiers and investors in order to develop agricultural wholesale markets in Ukraine similar to those successfully operating in the European Union. Opening the event the Head of Operations of the EU Delegation Laura Garagnani said: "The transformation of the Ukrainian economy into a more competitive one should speed up in order to be able to face increased competition after the WTO accession. A more active role of foreign and domestic investors in the process of modernisation of the economy should be one of the key strategic goals for Ukraine". The forum was divided into three panels. The first panel focused on the general investment climate in Ukraine in relation to the Free Trade Agreement and the EU Association Agenda. The second panel focused on the experience of investors in agriculture. And the third panel presented a number of agricultural wholesale market proposals.



More information at: <http://www.swap-rural.org.ua/>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

15-18 JUNE, ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, KYIV

Training Seminars within the Component "Reconstruction of Coal Sector of Ukraine Using International Experiences" of the EU-funded project "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme"

More information at: <http://www.eu-coalsector.com.ua/>

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18 JUNE, EXPOCENTRE UKRAINE, KYIV

Workshop at the 2nd International Agricultural Exhibition-Fair AGRO-2010 within the framework of the EU-funded project "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector"

More information at: <http://www.swap-rural.org.ua/>

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21 JUNE, ODESA

14th Advisory Board Meeting of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine

More information at: <http://www.eubam.org/>

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23 JUNE, DONETSK

Seminar "Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems in Coal Industry based on International Standards" within the EU-funded project "Coal Sector Policy Support Programme"

More information at: <http://www.eu-coalsector.com.ua/>

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30 JUNE-1 JULY, KYIV

International Seminar: "Topical issues on intellectual property rights protection in Ukraine and the European Union in the context of European integration" within the EU-funded project "Enhance Innovation Strategies, Policies and Regulation in Ukraine"

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4-11 JULY, GERMANY

Study tour to Germany "Restructuring the hard coal and lignite industry" within Coal Sector Policy Support Programme

More information at: <http://www.eu-coalsector.com.ua/>

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