



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EUBAM-RECOMMENDED APPROACH PROMPTS TWO LARGEST EVER COCAINE SEIZURES IN UKRAINE

On 30 July the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) reported about the largest ever cocaine seizure in Ukraine, which has been made possible due to an intelligence-led approach promoted by the EUBAM. 1200 kg of drugs, with a market value of over \$180 million, were seized by the Ukrainian border services at Odesa seaport on a ship from Venezuela. On 19 July EUBAM also reported about 582.35 kg of cocaine, worth around \$60 million, seized by the Ukrainian border services at Odesa seaport on a ship from Bolivia.



On an assistance request from the State Customs Service of Ukraine, EUBAM experts identified both consignments as high risk. Based on risk indicators the Mission recommended a deep examination of both ships.

“Risk analysis is all about profiling people and freight against major threats – based on intelligence,” said Martin Wintersberger, Head of the EUBAM Analytical and Operational Support Unit. “EUBAM has helped improve the Ukrainian and Moldovan border services capacity here since 2005. This huge seizure is a direct result of using proper risk analysis and earns our respect and congratulations,” he added.

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

Contact person: Matthew Taylor, e-mail: matthew.taylor@eubam.org

EU EXPERTS SHARE EXPERIENCE ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION

On 19–20 July the Main Department of the Civil Service of Ukraine (MDCSU) held under the EU Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument a two-day workshop, entitled “Attracting of international experience on the prevention of corruption and conflicts of interest in public service”. The Head of Operations of the EU Delegation Laura Garagnani welcomed about 70 participants including experts from the EU, representatives of ministries and other central executive bodies of Ukraine.



During the first day, experts of the joint EU-OECD anti-corruption SIGMA programme presented a report concerning the review of legislation of Ukraine in the field of conflict of interest and corruption, which was held as part of the expert mission of the SIGMA programme. Other experts from Belgium, the Netherlands, Romania, and the United Kingdom presented anti-corruption prevention measures in public service and international experience in improvement of anti-corruption legislation.

During the second day, an expert from Italy presented the Italian experience on the identification and investigation of corruption offenses. Expert told in detail about concepts of “active corruption” and “passive corruption”, the reasons that cause them, as well as the basic preventive measures of these negative phenomena. Other experts from Romania and the United Kingdom told about gathering audit data provided by candidates for posts of civil servants and about the possibility of prevention of corruption in public service through the implementation of disciplinary procedures.

Contact person: Roman Gekalyuk, e-mail: roman.gekalyuk@guds.gov.ua



EU CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME HOLDS INFORMATION DAYS

On 20–23 July the EU-funded Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) Programme held in Ivano-Frankivsk, Yaremche, Rakhiv, and Uzhhorod Information Days on the Second Call for proposals within the programme. The aim of the events was to provide the participants with detailed information on the application package, including on how to fill in the application form, the budget and form viable cross-border partnerships.

The National Development Agency of Hungary in co-operation with the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of Slovakia, the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism of Romania and the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine launched the Second Call for Proposals in the framework of the CBC Programme on 24 June. The deadline for submission of applications is 26 October 2010.

The competition is open for non-state actors, national, regional and local authorities whose activities meet the priority areas of the programme, self-governing bodies, associations, professional organisations, NGOs, cultural and religious institutions that are registered and operate in the Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi regions of Ukraine.

More information at: <http://www.huskroua-cbc.net/>
Contact person: Vladyslav Chopak, e-mail: vchopak@vati.hu



EU PROJECT GATHERS CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND EXPERTS TO PROMOTE CHANGE IN CHILDCARE SYSTEM IN UKRAINE

On 22-23 July the GURT Resource Centre organised a workshop to discuss the situation with children's rights and develop recommendations for improving the childcare system in Ukraine. The workshop took place in Kyiv as part of the two-year project "Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Protection of Children Rights", financed through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

The workshop gathered over 70 participants from Vinnytsia, Donetsk, Kyiv, Komsomolsk, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Ternopil and Kharkiv, representing civil society, government agencies and international organisations. This interactive event was organised using the open space technology and enabled the participants to focus on issues of concern to them. Over the two days, they discussed a wide range of topics including reform of the orphanage system in Ukraine, juvenile justice, role of communities in safeguarding children's rights, effectiveness of non-governmental organisations working with children, protection of children's rights in schools and many others. On the second day the participants developed and agreed on a follow up for 17 initiatives aimed to address specific problems in the childcare and children's rights sector. More information about the workshop results is available on GURT's website: <http://gurt.org.ua/news/recent/7184/>



The EU-funded "Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Protection of Children Rights" project is implemented by the GURT Resource Centre until end of September 2010. It works to increase the civil society capacity in network building and advocacy for the protection of children's rights; improve partnerships between local government and civil society organisations in providing services for vulnerable children; and promote reform of the childcare system in Ukraine.

Contact person: Maryana Zaviyska, e-mail: zaviyska@gurt.org.ua



EU SUPPORTS UKRAINE IN IMPLEMENTING THE ESPOO AND AARHUS CONVENTIONS

On 27 July the EU-funded project “Support to Ukraine to implement the Espoo and Aarhus Conventions” held its closing meeting to present the final report on the project, its main results and outputs. The meeting gathered representatives of the European Commission, the EU Delegation, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Transportation.

The global objective of the project is to provide support to Ukraine in its efforts to comply with its obligations under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-boundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and other related obligations under relevant Multilateral Environment Agreements and processes.

The project has provided a detailed assessment of the legal, administrative and procedural aspects of the implementation of the Espoo and Aarhus Conventions in Ukraine based on most recent publicly available reports and information on deficiencies in implementation of the Conventions and proposed strategies and action plans for legal improvements, administrative capacity building, implementation and enforcement of the Conventions and other obligations under relevant Multilateral Environment Agreements.

Contact person: Roman Shakhmatenko, e-mail: r.shakhmatenko@menr.gov.ua

EU-FUNDED PROJECT LAUNCHES A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On 1 August the EU-funded project “Women and children’s rights in Ukraine – Communication component” launched in Kyiv a national public awareness campaign against domestic violence. A street event in the city centre gathered around 1,000 concerned citizens welcoming the campaign that aims to bring together over 200,000 people across the country to publicly profess their opposition to domestic violence in all its forms. On 2 August, the project held press conferences launching the campaign in other 4 Ukrainian cities.



Boosted by street events, billboard and online campaign, throughout the month of August volunteers will fan out across Ukraine’s festivals, beaches and big cities to encourage citizens to wear the symbol of the opposition to domestic violence: a magenta “I’m against violence” rubber wristband. Some 200,000 of these bracelets will be distributed along with many thousands of virtual bracelets worn by people’s social networking avatars.

Giovanni Capellino, Acting Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, formally launched the campaign on St Sophia’s Square in Kyiv and said: This “bracelet campaign” aims at supporting efforts by the Government of Ukraine, the European Union, international organisations, civil society, media and Ukrainian citizens in the protection of women’s and children’s rights. The EU indeed works very closely with the Ministry for Family, Youth and Sports in particular to raise awareness of children’s and women’s rights in Ukraine and to enact all possible mechanisms for promoting a change in behaviour and attitude towards domestic violence. In order to be effective and to bring domestic violence to an end, once and for good, we need make sure that everyone – women, children and men – is on board and is fully engaged. Without a doubt, this campaign will produce a powerful national response to the issue of domestic violence”.

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

Contact person: Anastasia Trotska, e-mail: pr@cwrights.com.ua



EU PROJECT HOLDS TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS WORKSHOP FOR UKRAINIAN BORDER GUARDS

On 5–9 July the EU-funded project “Improving Integrated Border Management: Follow-up to Reinforcing the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine’s Human Resources Management System (HUREMAS 2)” conducted the eighth in a series of seminars and training sessions assisting the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) to develop a sustainable, countrywide train-the-trainer or “multiplication” system.

The experience of EU border guard authorities implementing Integrated Border Management shows that a border guard service must accord due attention to the development of a coherent and logical system of continued education for both officers and junior staff. The newly-created multiplication system will help the SBGS to increase its advanced training capacity, initially in the fields of border control, Schengen law, and identification of forged documents.

Two EU experts trained SBGS training centre instructors in modern teaching methodology and techniques. The participants learned about all steps they will have to take performing their duties in the system of multiplication, starting with the preparation of training materials for a course, delivery of the information, and evaluation of the results of every training session. This dedicated corps of teachers will spearhead the development of short-term multiplication courses.



Contact person: Stephen Rogers, e-mail: srogers@iom.int

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