



BUILDING EUROPE IN SUMY AND POLTAVA

Local communities play a major role in bringing Ukraine closer to Europe. All they have to offer shone in the spotlight during Europe celebrations in Sumy and six other towns in Sumy and Poltava oblasts of Central Ukraine. From 27-29 May, diplomats from eleven European embassies, including seven ambassadors, toured the region to meet with local communities, listen to their concerns, debate with their students and participate in their Europe Day celebrations.

This is a wonderful opportunity to leave the capital and to explain the European Union to the real people", Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador Jose Pinto Teixeira, spoke to the people of Romny, in Sumska oblast. "One reason why the EU works is that we follow the principle of subsidiarity – to treat problems at the most appropriate level. Here in your town we can indeed see local administration is often best placed to find solutions".



Ambassador Teixeira's praise of local governance continued throughout the diplomats' tour of the region. "THIS is democracy at local level. YOU are functioning like the EU", he told the citizens of the 317 person village of Pobyvanka. Thanks to the joint EU-UNDP Community Based Approach (CBA) programme, which helps over 1000 communities throughout Ukraine realize their own solutions to their problems, Pobyvanka has 3.6 km of water pipes, providing drinking water to all its inhabitants. The tender they launched reduced the cost of the works to almost half the usual price. In addition to municipal funding and a 10 UAH contribution per citizen, the village thus increased its living standards. "We don't want to stay where we are. We want to develop", stated the Head of the Village Council. As Pobyvanka, 42 other communities in the oblast have also agreed – through general meeting votes - on local priorities for their Community Development Plan.

Debates with Sumy State University students, local NGOs and schools in Poltava oblast were a favourite among EU ambassadors. Participants had the chance to directly question the EU representatives on concerns ranging from free trade with the EU to relations with Russia, and covering migration and the issue of visas. A key message from the EU ambassadors: If we apply the European Union "recipe" to Ukraine, people will live better lives, with better social conditions, a stronger civil society, freedom, rule of law and a higher standard of living. When will Ukraine be closer to the EU?, Ambassador Teixeira responded: "When you will feel it in your lives: when public services support citizens, and not themselves; when opening a business is easy and transparent; when you feel freedom..."

The celebrations reached their climax in the oblast capital Sumy. What seemed to be the entire youth population of the city – led by the local Euroclubs – brought a "European Village" in the centre of town to bright and boisterous life. In the tents, adorned with flags, pictures, collages inspired by the history and culture of the European country, young citizens tested visitors' knowledge, shared specialities and practiced their European languages. The veteran of eight Europe celebration tours in Ukraine, Ambassador of Finland, Christer Michelsson, expressed the shared enthusiasm of the European diplomats: "This is the best Europe Day I have participated in".

Bianca Baumler, Communications Manager, EU Delegation to Ukraine



EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

EU PROJECT PREPARES TRAINERS TO BOOST UKRAINIAN PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

On May 24-25, representatives of the FP7 National Information Point (NIP Ukraine) and recently appointed FP7 National Contact Points participated in a two-day train the trainer session in Kyiv. Strengthen the capacities of the Joint Support Office for Enhancing Ukraine's Integration into the European Research Area (JSO-ERA) and its personnel, the training ultimately aims to increase Ukrainian organisations' participation in the EU 7th Framework Programme on Research and Technology Development (FP7).

Developed by TETALAR, the Hungarian Scientific and Technology Foundation, the 21 training modules are designed to increase knowledge of the EU FP7. Each module comprises presentations and practical exercises on the following topics: rules for participation in FP7, writing and submission of proposals, partner search and consortium building, financial issues and basic legal documents, project management and others.

The training was organised by the EU-funded project "Joint Support Office for Enhancing Ukraine's Integration into the European Research Area (JSO-ERA)" in cooperation with the FP7 NIP Ukraine.

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CALL FOR PROJECTS ACROSS POLAND-BELARUS AND UKRAINE BORDERS NOW OPEN

On 23 May, the Second Call for Proposals, worth over €88 million, was launched for the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013.

The Ministry of Regional Development of Poland, acting as the programme's Joint Managing Authority, is seeking proposals with a positive cross-border impact in the following sectors:

Priority 1. Increasing competitiveness of the border area

- Better conditions for entrepreneurship
- Tourism development
- Improving access to the region

Priority 2. Improving the quality of life

- Natural environment protection in the borderland
- Efficient and secure borders

Priority 3. Networking and people-to-people cooperation

- Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building

Every selected project will be funded with between €100,000 and €4 million. Proposed actions should last a maximum of 24 months.

The deadline for submission of proposals is 30 September 2011.

For the complete guidelines for applicants, please visit: www.pl-by-ua.eu





UKRAINIAN BORDER GUARD, CUSTOMS, AND LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES LEARN ENGLISH FOR EURO 2012

On 20 May, 24 Ukrainian and Moldovan senior law-enforcement participated in the the first day of specialised English-language training organised by the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM). The training took place at the Ukrainian Customs Training Centre in Khmelnytsky.

«Common Border, Common Language: On the Threshold of Euro 2012» is a pivotal week-long «train-the-trainers» event of EUBAM. It extends its regular capacity-building assistance for the border guard, customs and law-enforcement agencies to help them prepare for next year's Euro 2012 football championship.

The Khmelnytsky sessions targeted English-language communication skills for official meetings in areas such as «law enforcement and Euro 2012», «corruption and organised crime», «Schengen Borders Code», «smuggling», «crowd management and emergencies», «profiling» and «security of travel documents».

This week's training is the latest in a series of initiatives EUBAM has developed in anticipation of Euro 2012. Further training of English language instructors from Ukrainian border guard, customs, and law-enforcement agencies will be carried out by EUBAM this year.

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JOINT ANTI-CORRUPTION SPRING SCHOOL «YOUTH AGAINST CORRUPTION» OPENS IN YALTA

On 18 May, the international Spring School «Youth against Corruption» opened its doors in Yalta. The school is an initiative organised jointly by the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (UASBGS) and the Centre for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption of the Republic of Moldova (CCECC).

The week-long training programme is the third such school to be organised for Ukrainian and Moldovan students, following successful editions in Moldova last summer, and in Odessa in February. The 26 students were welcomed by the Head of EUBAM, Udo Burkholder, the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj, and the Vice-Director of CCECC, George Russu, at the opening ceremony.

The spring school programme includes practical and theoretical sessions for the students on anti-corruption-related issues such as tools for corruption prevention, investigation, principals of good governance, ethics, as well as actual case studies from EU Member States, Ukraine and Moldova.

The «Youth against Corruption» series is among several anti-corruption initiatives supported by EUBAM. At central and regional levels in Moldova and Ukraine, the Mission supports the border-management services in the design and implementation of their anti-corruption action plans and preventative mechanisms.

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INTERNATIONAL «MINI-FOOTBALL» TOURNAMENT REINFORCES LAW AND BORDER PARTNERSHIPS

Teams comprised of law-enforcement and border-management personnel from more than half a dozen countries took to the field on 14-15 May 2011 for a unique international football tournament in Odessa. This was the third edition of the two-day annual tournament, which was co-hosted by the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.

The tournament endeavors to strengthen cooperation and mutual trust between the services working on the border and to facilitate working relationships with partner organisations in the European Union.

Udo Burkholder, the head of EUBAM, remarked of the tournament's growth in popularity since the inaugural event in 2009: "Last year's tournament has helped to strengthen the partnerships between the border agencies of Moldova, Ukraine and the EU, and I am glad that this year teams from other CIS countries are also joining us".

Teams representing the border guard and customs services of Moldova and Ukraine, border guard services of Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, Council of Border Guard Forces Commanders of CIS, the Romanian border police, National Customs Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria, FRONTEX (the EU agency that coordinates operational cooperation between Member States of the EU in the field of border security), Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Center, Odessa universities, Odessa regional authorities, and EUBAM, participated in the tournament.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT "CHILD RIGHTS IN ACTION" CONCLUDES WITH REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN KHERSON

On 13 May, the "Child Rights in Action" staff presented how they have secured the consideration of rights and interests of children in the implementation of state family policy in Kherson.

The project focused on the creation, development and support of foster families, family type homes and placing children in them. With the financial support of the European Union, the Project was implemented in 2009-2011 by the Kherson Oblast Youth Organization "New Generation", in partnership with the Youth Organization "Perspective" from Nova Kakhovka.

96 conference participants included foster parents and parents of family-type homes with their children, local representatives of government bodies, representatives of the social service for children and the centers of the social services for families, children and youth from Mykholyayiv oblast and Crimea.

Project director Natalia Chermoshentseva described the Training Course "School on Child Rights", the interactive workshops for children, which used the "Compasito" Manual in pilot regions, as well as the psychological and legal counseling that was provided for foster families upon request.

The Family clubs that were created in 5 pilot communities (Nova Vorontsovka, Skadovsk, Chaplinka, Genichesk and Bilozerka) of Kherson oblast presented the results of their activities.

The 30 children took part in arts & crafts workshops and enjoyed the conference's entertainment program.

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UKRAINE BEGINS PREPARING FOR PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROGRAMME

On 13 May the JSO-ERA Project "Support for Ukraine's participation in FP7 organised its first working group meeting in the State Agency for Science, Innovation and Information of Ukraine". The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, State Agency, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and JSO-ERA experts. The meeting was to prepare recommendations for the development of relevant legislation and proposals on measures to support Ukraine's participation in the EU 7th Framework Programme on Research and Technology Development (FP7), based on the best EU practices.



During the meeting Alexander Bakovski, the Head JSO-ERA expert group, presented an analysis of the main problems and challenges faced by Ukrainian research institutions participating in FP7. John Kulchitsky, regional representative of the project in Lviv and Albena Vutsova, JSO-ERA Key expert, described specific issues and obstacles associated with participation in FP7, such as the application form, preparation of project, its implementation, jointly reporting financial, legal, procedural, administrative and others issues.

During the discussion, special attention was paid to the need to sign a new agreement on scientific and technological cooperation, which would provide state support for the implementation of FP7 projects.

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EU FACILITATES EU-UKRAINE CONSORTIA BUILDING TO PARTICIPATE IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

On May 11-12, researchers from Ukraine, Denmark, France and Poland met in Lviv to discuss the technical aspects of the proposed scientific ideas for participation in the EU 7th Framework Programme on Research and Technology Development (FP7).

The aim of the two-day networking meeting was to establish personal contacts and discuss potential scientific cooperation between European and Ukrainian organisations for building International Research Consortia for participation in FP7. The representatives of scientific organisations and innovative Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) held technical discussions of six specific research projects in fields of health, nanotechnologies and energy-saving. Specific attention was paid to the EU-Ukraine S&T cooperation in nanomaterials and nanotechnology.



The meeting was organised by the EU-funded project "Joint Support Office for Enhancing Ukraine's Integration into the European Research Area (JSO-ERA)" in cooperation with the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv and Lviv Institute of Management.

The experienced experts of the JSO-ERA project provided the participants with detailed information on the FP7 general rules of consortia creation, conclusion of consortium agreement, legal and financial aspects, intellectual property rights, project management, and accountability.

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