



SEVEN COUNTRIES MEET IN KYIV ON AIR QUALITY

KYIV, Oct. 26. The Air Quality Governance in ENPI East project held its first Steering Committee session in Kyiv, with representatives from all seven countries participating in this EU project. Chaired by EU representatives, the meeting involved officials from the ministries of industry, transport, economic development and environment of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine.

The main topics on the agenda were how to improve air quality and how to select related pilot projects. The project work plan was also presented and the results of a gap analysis of air quality assessment and management systems.

Prepared during the inception period, the gap analysis highlights the need for more data on air quality and greater enforcement of related laws and institutions. Participating countries also proposed pilot projects in the industry and transport. During the meeting, the criteria and procedures for selecting projects to be funded were approved.

The €7 million Air Quality Governance project for 2011–2014, supports these seven countries' efforts to improve air quality. These partners will work to improve existing institutional and legal frameworks to comply with European standards.

The project is an important pillar of the Flagship Initiative on Environmental Governance agreed between the EU and the six countries collaborating under the Eastern Partnership.

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EU FUNDS ENERGY-EFFICIENT PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN SVERDLOVSK

SVERDLOVSK, Oct. 26. The European Union and the City of Sverdlovsk celebrated the renovation of several hospitals in this East-Ukrainian city in Luhansk Oblast, where the EU has invested €9 million to modernise 26 schools, hospitals and day-care centres in order to save energy and reduce heating costs.

Speaking on behalf of pupils and their parents, the Vice Principal of Sverdlovsk Liceum №1 said: "I would like to express our gratitude for such invaluable assistance to our small mining town. With this EU-funded renovation, the Liceum has become a real 21st century school, with comfortable conditions for our children's education and development. We thank you from the bottoms of our hearts!"

Sverdlovsk and the Luhansk Oblast Administration have benefited greatly from EU-Ukraine Cooperation. During the last heating season, gas consumption for EU-renovated buildings was 30% less than in earlier heating seasons. Meanwhile, the city matched the EU's investment by adding new street lightening, planting trees, and repairing pedestrian areas, in addition to providing new furnishings in the renovated schools and hospitals. Other public buildings will also benefit from municipal and EU investment in energy-efficient construction.

The EU Sustainable Regional Development Project has helped Sverdlovsk manage the investment and works project over the last three years. In addition, the EU has supported the Government of Ukraine in setting up a system to finance and manage regional development for the future.

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NEW CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

IVANO-FRANKIVSK & UZHGOROD, Oct. 25-26. Information days took place under the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Cross-Border Cooperation Programme for 2007-2013 in Ivano-Frankivsk and Uzhhorod after the programme's third Call for Proposals was launched. Aimed at potential applicants and partners from eligible areas in Ukraine, the events provided detailed information on the application package. Discussion focused on filling in the application form, budgets and forming viable cross-border partnerships.

The Third Call for Proposals has an indicative budget of €8 million. Projects submitted under this call must relate to these priorities: promoting economic and social development; improving environmental quality; and supporting people-to-people cooperation. The eligible regions in Ukraine are Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi Oblasts. To be considered, projects must include at least one partner from one of the participating Member States and one partner from Ukraine. Grants awarded under this CFP may not exceed 90% of total eligible costs. Applications must be submitted to the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) in Budapest, Hungary by Jan. 31, 2012.



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UKRAINE&EU DISCUSS NATIONAL GENDER PARITY MECHANISMS

KYIV, Oct. 25-26. During Ukraine's chairing of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, the EU Delegation to Ukraine and the UNDP in Ukraine co-organised an international conference on current trends in developing national gender parity mechanisms in Europe. Officials from Spain, Turkey, Moldova, Poland, Greece, France, Sweden, Serbia, Ireland, Slovenia, Croatia, Portugal, Austria, Norway, and Ukraine shared their national experience implementing gender parity at the Ukraine House National Business and Cultural Cooperation Centre in Kyiv.

The conference's high-level speakers emphasised the importance and urgency of implementing national gender parity mechanisms for the sake of democratic development and the empowerment of women in decision-making. European experience has shown that, even with proper legislation in place, only the use of proper public mechanisms offers any guarantee of achieving real gender parity. In their welcome, conference organisers urged experts and attendees alike to work actively to elaborate, through experience-sharing, recommendations for the application of best practice that has brought positive results in Europe.

Ms. Maria Juriková, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, stated that developing effective national institutions and addressing the most important social problems were impossible without taking gender aspects into account. Government offices will not be able to provide high-quality services to their citizens without considering specific gender needs, added Ms. Juriková.



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BORDER OFFICERS LEARN 'COMMON LANGUAGE' FOR EURO 2012

ODESA, Oct. 24. EUBAM organised an English-language training event entitled "Common Border, Common Language: On the Threshold of Euro 2012," as part of the extensive capacity-building support EUBAM delivers to its partners in Moldova and Ukraine.

The event involved 25 officers from the border guard and customs services of Moldova and Ukraine, Ukraine's Interior Ministry, Moldova's Centre for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption, and one officer from the Polish Border Guard Service, along with nine trainers, and six guest speakers. Participants included officers who will be based at key Border Crossing Points (BCP) and airports during Euro 2012.

The week-long intensive course was to raise English-language competence in specific areas, using both theoretical and interactive sessions. The areas focused on were human rights, official meetings, profiling at BCPs, crowd management, the Schengen Borders Code, corruption and smuggling, law enforcement, and the media.



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TEN-T WORKSHOP ON SINGLE SKY AVIATION LEGISLATION

KYIV, Oct. 21-22. A workshop on legislation to support the Single European Sky Initiative took place at Ukraine's Ministry of Infrastructure offices to familiarise regulators, the National Safety Administration and the aviation industry with the relevant aviation legislation. Some 80 officials from Ukraine, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania and Poland participated.

Considerable changes in national legislation will be needed to implement the principles of the Single European Sky Initiative and ensure the regional integration of Ukraine's air navigation services within the EU acquis. Speakers from the legal section of ICAO Headquarters (Montréal), European Commission (DG MOVE), EUROCONTROL and national supervisory authorities of some EU countries discussed the latest developments and emphasized the need for an implementation strategy at the national level.



The workshop was organised by the TEN-T project team in cooperation with the State Aviation Administration of Ukraine. The programme included three sessions: Legal and Institutional Frameworks at the global, regional and national levels; Current Processes of Rulemaking and Implementation; and Capita Selecta on current air transport subjects having a high impact on legislation.

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EU PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS

KYIV, Oct. 21. The EU 7th Framework Programme on Research and Technology Development (FP7) held an Information Day and Partnering Meeting on the Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities theme in the Great Conference Hall of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine to present the Work Programme for 2012 and new calls for proposals under SSH theme to Ukrainian researchers.

The FP7's SSH 2012 programme is intended to promote in-depth understanding of the complex, interrelated socio-economic challenges facing an enlarged EU. Sustainability, environmental protection, demographic change, migration and integration, quality of life and other issues are also very important.

The aim of the meeting was to equip Ukrainian scientists with knowledge about new aspects and research priorities in SSH 2012. More than 100 participants from 10 countries were acquainted with opportunities in international mobility for researchers to strengthen Ukraine-EU cooperation in science and technology and were given practical guidance on preparing and submitting FP7 proposals under the SSH theme.

The event was organised by the EU-funded "Joint Support Office for Enhancing Ukraine's Integration into the European Research Area (JSO-ERA)" project, in cooperation with the FP7 Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities NCP at the Centre for Scientific and Technological Potential and History of Science Studies under Ukraine's NAS and the FP7 National Information Point in Ukraine.

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CONTROLLED DELIVERY USEFUL TO FIGHT ORGANISED CRIME

ODESA, Oct. 21. EUBAM partners from the Border Guard and Customs Services of Moldova and Ukraine, the two countries' security services, their Interior Ministries, and Moldova's Centre for Combating Economic Crime and Corruption completed a five-day training course in controlled delivery, the first training of this kind conducted by the Mission. Among the 35 participants were two instructors from the Odesa and L'viv National Universities of Internal Affairs.

Controlled delivery is a tool used by criminal prosecution authorities that is indispensable to effectively detect organised crime. Experienced officers from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, SOCA and the New Scotland Yard came to Odesa to provide instruction aimed at sharing best practice and knowledge in subjects such as how to plan, organise and conduct controlled delivery, and how to work with other law enforcement agencies. Participants were also introduced to modern techniques and methods of conducting controlled delivery. Case studies and examples of operations involving EU Member States and third countries were included in the programme.

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EU FUNDS WORK WITH IRREGULAR MIGRANTS IN UKRAINE

SUMY OBLAST, Oct. 19. The EU Delegation to Ukraine and the State Border Guards Service of Ukraine launched construction of the first Temporal Holding Facility in Sopych, Sumy Oblast. The European Union has allocated a total of €30 million to enable the EU-Ukraine Readmission Treaty to affect illegal migrants, to strengthen national migration policy, and to build seven Temporary Holding Facilities and two Migrant Custody Centres over the next 30 months.

The EU-funded project "Consultancy to Set Up Custody Centres and Temporary Holding Facilities for Irregular Migrants" will help Ukraine detain and adequately treat irregular migrants in compliance with European best practices and humanitarian standards set by the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the EU *acquis communautaire*.

The project's specific objective is to support Ukraine in designing, establishing, refurbishing and equipping these seven THPs and two CCs in line with European standards.

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REGIONAL OMBUDSMEN, NGOS ON ABUSE OF MINORS IN JAILS

KYIV, Oct. 18. Human rights NGOs and Ombudsmen from eight countries met to exchange experience on how to protect children in detention centres. UNICEF and the EU organized the three-day regional meeting with 35 participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine as part of a broader initiative they co-fund.

With a budget of € 1.5 million, the EU and UNICEF are cooperating to reform juvenile justice systems in line with international and European standards. The joint project is working on legislative reform and capacity-building, and is piloting alternatives to the imprisonment of minors.

The meeting drew up a common plan and tools to monitor torture and ill-treatment of children. Participants shared their experiences and reviewed different approaches to monitoring child rights in juvenile justice. After the meeting, they are expected to undertake research in their own countries and re-convene to share results at the beginning of 2012.

"Prohibiting torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment is one of the most fundamental rules of international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law," said Yukie Mokuo, UNICEF representative in Ukraine. "UNICEF Ukraine recognizes recent positive developments in juvenile justice system reforms in this country. But it is concerned about the practice of solitary confinement of children in disciplinary cells, which is in breach of international standards and is considered ill-treatment." She said that UNICEF strongly recommended abolishing the practice of joint confining minors with adults, an issue that was also raised during the visit of Mr. Robert Badinter, former Minister of Justice of France, to Ukraine in 2010.

"The protection of Human Rights is a core and founding value of the European Union," said Maria Juriková, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine. "The torture and ill treatment of minors are unacceptable acts, to be condemned everywhere. Together with UNICEF, and through the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, the EU is doing its best to help prevent such inhumane treatment and to assist rehabilitating those who have suffered the consequences."

Ms. Juriková noted that the current event symbolized the common struggle of all progressive nations to defend children's rights, "the rights of our next generation." She also described how the EU is working with UNICEF to combat child trafficking, underage prostitution, and violence and torture against children in all parts of the world.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

17-19 NOVEMBER, KYIV

"Study in Europe" Presence in Ukrainian Students' Fair

For more information: Aline Paulissen, DG Education and Culture, aline.paulissen@ec.europa.eu

21 NOVEMBER, KYIV

DGRegio Study tour with focus on Indicators and Evaluation Mechanisms of Regional Development

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25 NOVEMBER, KYIV AND CHERNIGEV

International "Stop Violence" Communications Campaign

For more information: Anastasiya Trotska, PR Manager, Communicating Women's and Children's Rights, tel. +38 (095) 139-9352, pr@cwrights.com.ua