

DESPRO NEWS

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SWISS-UKRAINIAN
DECENTRALISATION SUPPORT PROJECT

Experts in decentralization issues discussed the implementation of the effective models of knowledge management in this area



Discussion by experts regarding implementation of effective models of knowledge management in the area of decentralization was held in Kyiv on April 15, 2010.

The discussion was instigated by the need for taking into account the views of national experts and partners in addition to identifying approaches, concepts and methods of management with respect to DESPRO's knowledge and experience.

The development and integration of efficient knowledge management models into local government systems constitute one of the main tasks of the second phase of the DESPRO project. In this dimension, the project aims at enhancing the capacity of local authorities by developing mechanisms for the exchange of experience and information at the local, regional and national levels and providing access to this information by DESPRO's target groups without cost. Databases, resource centers, workshops, glossaries, libraries, publications, web-portals, training of trainers, training courses for public employees, e-learning courses are examples of knowledge management tools to be utilized

towards the goal of decentralization. Combining these tools into a single resource could result in an effective and efficient knowledge management center.

As a result of the discussion, the experts concluded that elaboration and application of sound practices of advanced training for public service employees, as well as the designation of analytical materials could become valuable factors towards strengthening the capacities of public service employees.

According to Anatoly Tkachuk, Chairman of the Management Board of the Civil Society Institute, development of a stable and capable knowledge management system in the country requires the elaboration of a clear strategy and procedures for solving this issue by means of effective cost. Executive Director Deputy of the Association of Ukrainian cities Anatoly Chemerys is convinced that government order should be issued for the creation of such a system.

All experts agreed with the fact that it is of utmost importance to raise awareness among the population with regard to decentralization issues, particularly in rural areas; moreover, village councils should be equipped with computers to establish an effective flow of information.

This discussion was the first one in a series of similar meetings.

The experts: Bertha Camacho (Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development - skat), Anatoly Chemerys (Association of Ukrainian cities), Anatoly Tkachuk (Civil Society Institute), Oleksander Goncharuk (Institute of Sociology of NASU), Vyacheslav Kozak (Ministry of Housing Maintenance and Utilities), Nataliya Protasova (National Academy of Public Administration), Oksana Garnets (Senior Project Coordinator, Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support Project in Ukraine DESPRO), as well as DESPRO specialists •

Conference on "Democracy and Decentralization"

International Conference on "Democracy and Decentralization" was held in St. Gallen (Switzerland) on May 3-4.

Officials from the countries, members of the Council of Europe, politicians, experts, scholars and public figures were invited to discuss and explore issues related to democracy and sound governance. Discussions were represented by four sections that were devoted to topics such as subsidiarity, decentralization in the multinational countries, rational budgeting, as well as referendums at regional and local levels.

The event was organized by the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, the Council of Europe Venice Commission, as well as the University of St. Gallen.

Conference participants included: Viktor Sinchenko, Member of Parliament, member of the Parliamentary Committee on Local Self-Government and State Building; Oleksandr Revyakin, Deputy Head of the Regional Policy Department, Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine; Myroslav Koshelyuk, Head of Vinnytsya City Development Institute;



Volodymyr Garazd, Dolyna City Mayor, Ivano-Frankivsk region; Anzhela Maluyha, Executive Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee on Local Self-Government and State Building; Olena Lytvynenko, Programme Manager of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Ukraine; Oksana Remiga, Senior Programme Coordinator, UNDP; Iryna Skaliy, Project Manager of the Municipal Governance and Sustainable Development Programme, UNDP; Juerg Christen, Project Director (skat), Claudia Schneider, Project Manager (skat); Oksana Garnets, DESPRO Senior Project Coordinator; Vyacheslav Sorokovsky, Expert on Decentralisation, DESPRO project •



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Швейцарсько-український проект •
Підтримка децентралізації в Україні

DESPRO

DESPRO is a Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support to Ukraine project, funded by the Swiss Confederation through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by the Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development (Skat).

The mission of the project is optimizing the governance system and supporting efficient local development in Ukraine, thus creating new impetus for further democratization processes as well as for improvement in services supply at the community and municipal levels.

The project stipulates three phases: preparatory phase (years 2007-2009), consolidation phase (years 2010-2012) and completion phase.

Goal of the project phase I consisted in implementing decentralized services models at rayon, village and municipal levels.

Goal of the current project phase (II) - developing and implementing feasible mechanisms of decentralized public service delivery in pilot regions that are documented and taken up in the national decentralization reform process.

The tasks for project phase II

- Enhancing quality and availability of the services in the target rayons based on participatory planning and decision-making.
- Introducing efficient models for best practices/knowledge management in decentralization processes and local self-governance to increase local capacities.
- Supporting nation-wide reform process in decentralization and local self-governance.

DESPRO project operates at the national level, in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, in Vinnytsya and Sumy oblasts.

Ukrainian Parliament Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn supported the need for conducting elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine by way of open party lists and establishing a return to the majority system for elections to self-government at local levels

V. Lytvyn spoke with regard to the introduction of appropriate amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine, while opening parliamentary hearings on the issue: "Reforming the legislation of Ukraine on local elections taking into account interests of local communities" on May 12, 2010.

The Head of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine stated that the deficiencies of the existing system of local elections is the root cause of all problems and difficulties that Ukraine is experiencing, especially given the fact that this system does not take into account the interests of local communities. Therefore, in his opinion, development of Ukraine and its future will depend on solving the existing problems of self-government at local levels.

He emphasized that the proportional election system of voting by a closed lists of candidates had destroyed the connection between the local community, the MP and the voters, adding that it had become "deprived of effective means of influence on the MPs, who actually does not represent their interests in the corresponding council".

"Introduction of the proportional election system for the local elections virtually prevents renewal of

authority, while closed lists lead to the inclusion of people who have nothing to do with the local communities" - he underscored.

The Head of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine emphasized at the first constituent meeting of the Council of Regions, held on May 11, 2010 the need for civilized and open elections at the local level of government and the necessity of ensuring adequate material and a financial base for their operation was also discussed. "It was agreed that two draft documents will be sent to local authorities with the purpose of taking into account views and suggestions of exactly those, who directly live and work on the territory and accept these documents so that the budget of 2011 could be formed on the basis of normal civilized grounds"- he said. Thus, suggestions and a fundamental vision of a system for organizing and conducting local elections are needed from the regions before August 1.

The following participants participated in the parliamentary hearings: Olena Lytvynenko, Program Manager of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Ukraine, Oksana Garnets, Senior Project Coordinator of the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support Project in Ukraine DESPRO and others •

Round-table "Needs and possibilities of solving solid waste management problems in the cities of Ukraine"



The round-table "Needs and possibilities of solving solid waste management problems in the cities of Ukraine" was held in Ivano-Frankivsk on May 27-28, 2010.

The Municipal Governance and Sustainable Development Program, implemented by UNDP in Ukraine, organized a national round-table event to share experiences and available practices with regard to solving problems of solid waste management (SW) at the local level, as well as developing joint proposals of Ukraine's cities with respect to in the introduction of changes to the current legislation on SW management. The round-table participants

visited sites where sound practices have been established in the c.Ivano-Frankivsk region including: a plant with a sorting line, community organizations that organize separate collection and sorting of waste, as well as a municipal Center of Administrative Services Provision.

The event was attended by Andre Olshevski, the Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development (skat) Water Supply and Wastewater Specialist, Oksana Garnets, Senior Project Coordinator of the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support to Ukraine project DESPRO, Vyacheslav Sorokovskiy, DESPRO Expert on Decentralization •

Success Story: MULTITUDE OF RESULTS



A waste water supply system that was built in the 1970's was the main focal point of problems with water supply in the village of Vilino (Bakhchysaray rayon of AR Crimea). With respect to that system, there were frequent break-ages, rust in the water, periodic disconnections, and residents of the "Vohnykferma" district had not seen water in the pipes for over 15 years.

People were trying to solve the problem in the absence of a centralized water supply system in a variety of ways: by buying imported water at a high price, and by digging and drilling wells where water did not meet sanitary standards. Thus, after learning from the village council about DESPRO's call for proposals, residents of the neighborhood, that suffered the most, created a NGO called "Kvartalnyi komitet "Soniachnyi" ("Quarterly Committee "Sunny") and without hesitation joined the competition of proposal submissions, won and took up implementation of a joint project with DESPRO and village council.

Reconstructing the water supply system, "Soniachnyi", similar to other CBOs, required overcoming many obstacles. In particular, at the beginning of the project, mobilization of the population had to be accomplished. Vilino is an agricultural and resort village, thus the residents are extremely busy in the summer with "resort" business and growing crops. They can completely devote themselves to community problems only in the autumn. Another problem was looking for contractors, which is not such an easy task to do in the countryside!

What helped "Soniachnyi" to solve such complex issues? First and foremost, it was not only the fruitful cooperation with the Vilino village council, but also with the Bakhchysaray rayon council, including media support. Project achievements could be rightly characterized with the phrase a "multitude of results". First of all, quality drinking

water resulted, which is supplied round the clock by the new water supply system with a length of 1.1 km to 285 people from 117 households.

Moreover, a significantly higher level of water supply services for the Vilino residents (due to the transfer of renewed water supply systems) was another important result. Yet another valuable achievement was the consolidation of the community and its self-confidence, which contributed to the continuation of work, i.e. the approval of a new project-draft in bridging water supply systems operating in the village.

In sum, every community consists of individual members. In this case community development was the result of a collection of efforts from each individual Vilino resident. Acquiring new knowledge, obtaining new skills, establishing new contacts, opening new opportunities constituted the most important part of the project.

A project's implementation often produces results that at the beginning of a work were not expected. An example of such an unexpected value achieved was the introduction to many households the innovative technology of drip irrigation after upgrading the water supply system, a method that allows innovators to radically reduce the amount of water for irrigation and significantly increase efficiency in its utilization. Thus, financial and labor costs can be reduced as well. In addition, drip irrigation does not cause soil erosion and allows early harvesting of vegetables. In the Vilino case this was the radish, rightly called "our gold" by the toilers. •

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