

DESPRO NEWS

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SWISS-UKRAINIAN
DECENTRALISATION SUPPORT PROJECT

Launch of water supply system in the village of Mayaky gives cause for celebration



The village of Mayaky in Tulchyn rayon, Vinnytsya oblast, is located on rather uneven terrain. There are 340 households in the village, with almost 750 residents.


The village has never had a water supply system. Just like in past centuries the people living in Lenin Street had to use public wells, in which the quality of the water did not meet sanitary standards. The rest of the village had their own private wells on their household land. Nevertheless, in summer the water levels in all the wells fell significantly.

This issue was particularly acute for the residents of Lenin Street, who became participants in the project "Quality drinking water for every household", which was implemented between June 2009 and August 2010 by the community-based organisation (CBO) "Mayaky Village Committee" with the assistance of DESPRO.

Thanks to the efforts of the CBO's, residents of the village target area were mobilised and prepared to unite for a common goal. Drilling of a borehole well, installation of a water tower and construction of the water pipeline – these are but a dozen or so words, but for the Mayaky village community this entailed over twelve months of hard work. On the day of the official opening of the water supply system, their eyes shone with pride of their community, their village and, of course, the project's result – good quality water in their homes.

The ceremonial opening of the water supply system was held on August 6, 2010. From that date, people living in 260 households began to enjoy the benefits of decentralised water supply services. The village community in cooperation with the village and rayon authorities assisted by DESPRO implemented the project. A common cause for the good of their birthplace had

drawn the villagers closer together, increasing their self-confidence, and virtually all the residents of Mayaky were present at the opening ceremony, where local government officials, community activists and DESPRO representatives delivered salutary speeches for the audience. •

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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.

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DESPRO and partners plan to develop training course for local government officials

Representatives of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), the UNDP Municipal Governance and Sustainable Development Programme (MGSDP/UNDP) and DESPRO, met on July 19, 2010. The purpose of the joint meeting was the development of a training course on decentralisation and effective local self-government for local government officials and specialists in local government development.

Strategically, DESPRO and MGSDP/UNDP plan to develop one basic course book and a series of manuals for different target audiences of the training programme. The launch of the programme at NAPA should take place during the 2011/12 academic year.

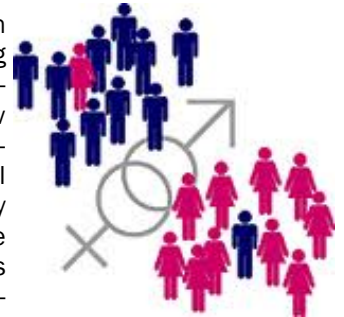
During the meeting, partners also discussed plans for holding training sessions for newly elected local authority leaders and members of local councils.

The official announcement of the joint work plan of NAPA, MGSDP/UNDP and DESPRO is scheduled to be made at a further roundtable meeting in October this year.

Meeting participants included: Vitaliy Malashchenko, Vice President, NAPA; Natalia Protasova, Head of the Education Management Department, NAPA; Valentyna Poltorak, Operations Manager of the project "Promotion of Education Development for Democratic Citizenship in Ukraine", NAPA; Olena Ursu, expert, UNDP/MGSDP Oksana Garnets, Senior Project Coordinator, DESPRO •

Roundtable discussion on gender aspects of implementing community development projects in Ukraine

A roundtable discussion on gender aspects of implementing community development projects in Ukraine was held in Kyiv on August 27, 2010. It was initiated by, DESPRO. The main goal of the roundtable was to identify effective approaches for the implementation of local projects in decentralised service provision that would necessarily take into account ensuring equal opportunities for men and women.



This round table discussion among leading experts on gender issues in Ukraine and DESPRO partners was conducted in the framework of the gender assessment by Erika Schlaeppli (Switzerland), who in collaboration with Ukrainian colleagues studied the issue using the example of DESPRO activities in two pilot regions – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Vinnytsya oblast. The participants exchanged opinions on the available opportunities for decision-making by men and women in rural areas (the DESPRO project works with rural communities) and at the level of rayon authorities, as well as ideas on integrating gender approaches into DESPRO project activities. The conclusions and recommendations of Ms. Schlaeppli and her Ukrainian colleagues will provide the basis for a concrete Action Plan for DESPRO for 2010–2012 •

Ministry of Regional Development and Construction to introduce legislation in the sphere of local self-government – Yatsuba



Before November 10 of this year, the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine (MoRDC) plans to complete three draft laws – “On the administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine”, “On local self-government in Ukraine” (new version), and “On state support for community-based organisations.”

This was announced in the report by the Minister of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine, Mr. Volodymyr Yatsuba, at the meeting of representatives of central executive authorities and national associations of local gov-

ernment, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine, Mr. Viktor Tykhonov on August 31.

“MoRDC staff have initiated and processed more than 1,000 amendments. In mid-September it is planned to submit the draft law on local self-government in Ukraine to the Ministry of Justice for the approval, and by October 1 – the draft law on local state administrations,” said the official.

In total, according to the minister, MoRDC is developing and supporting more than 20 pieces of legislation on improvements to local government operations.

“This work, in my opinion, should be coordinated by a single centre. This could be a government committee or a special committee established under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, empowered with the relevant authority. Or the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction should be granted such powers,” Mr. Yatsuba said. •

Source: IMK