

DESPRO plans activities for the next three years

DESPRO is the Swiss-Ukrainian Project for Decentralization Support in Ukraine financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by the Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development (Skat).

Main objectives of the project:

**Development of the decentralized approaches in public services provision, in particular, improvement of the public utility and social services (water supply) due to the higher level of involvement of the local communities and associations of citizens;*

**Promotion of integration of the decentralized services provision to the community model into the system of local authority;*

**Taking into account the experience and best practices obtained in the pilot regions at the development of the "national action plan" on decentralization*

DESPRO works on the national level, in Autonomous Republic Crimea and in Vinnytsia region.



The first stage of the project activity planning was completed in the end of July, while the final project activity planning session is scheduled for October 2 this current year. In both planning events participate DESPRO partners of different levels and project donors.

Basic principles and areas of the "Decentralization support in Ukraine" project activities for the next three years were defined in the result of deliberations, group discussions on modeling approaches for addressing strategic objectives. Project will continue its activities in support of local initiatives to provide services to

the population in decentralized fashion, as well as cooperation with communities and authorities at different levels, while supporting the territorial-administrative reform in Ukraine. Expansion of the project geography, increasing of the number of local projects and areas of decentralized public services provision to the population should be emphasized among major project changes. This means that since 2010 the project will operate in addition to Vinnytsia region and AR Crimea in Sumy region, as well as support not only water supply projects, but also disposal of household solid wastes in some localities. Another important DESPRO component will constitute the system of accumulation and further promotion in the country of the best practices and experience gained by the partners at different levels in the process of local development projects implementation.

Experience exchange visit to Ukraine and Moldova



Representatives of Ukraine, Moldova and Switzerland shared their positive experiences in implementation of the local development projects in the course of the study visit to Vinnytsia region of Ukraine and to Republic of Moldova from August 25 to August 28, 2009.

From the Ukrainian side in the event participated representatives of the "Decentralization support in Ukraine" DESPRO project, members of the rayon working groups, project partners from the pilot rayons of Vinnytsia region. Moldova was represented by the experts of the water supply and sewerage ApaSan project, which is also funded by the Swiss

Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), as well as the local project partners. Skat officials were among members of the Swiss delegation.

Delegates from each side were interested in various aspects of community-based projects realization, namely: improvement of the project management, engineering components, support and project implementation, procedure of facility property rights transferring, stakeholders terms of cooperation, selection criteria for project proposals, co-financing criteria, etc.

Visit plan envisaged visiting local water supply, sewerage and purification facilities, as well as meetings with local authorities.

Program started on August 25 with a trip to one of the DESPRO project pilot areas in Kalynivskiy rayon. After meeting with rayon authorities, the delegation visited village Cherepashyntsi and met with community activists, village head, visited the local water supply system built in the course of the project implementation. Moldovan partners were interested in the regional working groups operation system and active role of rayon authorities in the local projects implementation.

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Similar meetings were held in the village Suvorivske of Tulchynskiy rayon on the next day, August 26.

On August 27 and 28 the participants were in the Republic of Moldova and visited the Association of water consumers, local water and sewage facilities. Delegates from Ukraine underlined the high quality of the technical equipment of the water supply and sewage systems created by the ApaSan project. Following the bilateral visit participants agreed that the successful experience of the Ukrainian and Moldovan partners is worthy of sharing. Participants of both sides suggested to carry out specific workshops and training sessions to share experience in the issues where parties reached success. DESPRO will accumulate best practices for further dissemination within the "Knowledge management" project component.

Updated structure and design of the project web-site

New, more dynamic and informative web-site was developed to meet the needs of more effective dissemination of information about project activities, and most importantly - about DESPRO methodology and approaches in decentralization support.

From now on the bilingual (Ukrainian and English) web-site contains video films, photo materials, presentations, numerous publications, documents and links in addition to text information. Internet user can learn the procedure of public project implementation, tested within the DESPRO project, as well as find many other interesting and useful information. In addition to informational purpose, web-site will also play an important communication role. Registered users, i.e. members of the local projects in the regions, will be able to add information to different sections of the web-page within the frames of the granted access. Thus, the site will be efficiently updated with the up to-date information directly from the event locations.

In October, the site will operate in the test mode: its sections will be gradually supplemented with the information, web-site administration will consider and decide on user requests and proposals regarding content, structure, user-friendly and functionality of the web-page. Welcome to www.despro.org.ua

The screenshot displays the DESPRO website in a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The page layout includes a top navigation bar with links for 'DESPRO', 'Сфери діяльності', 'Методологія DESPRO', 'Проекти громад', 'База знань', 'Новини', 'Мерехт', and 'Контакти'. Below the navigation is a search bar and a login section with fields for 'Логін' and 'Пароль'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Черепащичі. 2' with a video player, 'Останні сюжети' with a list of recent videos, 'Географія активності' with a map of Ukraine, 'База знань' with a library section, 'Як впровадити громадський проект?' with a list of documents, and 'Новини проекту' with a list of recent news items. The browser's address bar shows 'http://despro.org.ua/' and the page title is 'Швейцарсько-український проект підтримки децентралізації України - Mozilla Firefox'.