

# DESPRO NEWS

November-December 2010

SWISS-UKRAINIAN  
DECENTRALISATION SUPPORT PROJECT



## THE DESPRO PROJECT PARTNERS' FORUM




**Forum of the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support in Ukraine Project DESPRO partners was held in Yalta on December 15-16, 2010.**

The first forum day was devoted to the summarizing activities of the year 2010, analysis of the urgent issues and ways of reforming local self-government, informational and learning environment for carrying out reforms. Leading experts in the field of administrative-territorial reform, state regional policy, personnel policy in the sector of public administration shared views and experience with practitioners - local self-government officials, civil servants, heads of village councils. Individual sessions were devoted to the knowledge management - one of the components of the DESPRO project. Sociological survey of the demand for knowledge in the system of executive bodies of government and current practices of meeting this demand, in particular, knowledge portal in the local self-government sector, currently under development, was presented to the forum participants. Windup of the first forum day was held in the friendly atmosphere at the delicious dinner and interesting concert programme.

During the second forum day project partners discussed co-financing of the local development initiatives, management of knowledge and experience gained by the DESPRO project. Solid waste management projects to be co-financed by the DESPRO provided an individual topic for discussion. After presentations on this issue, the premiere of the documentary "On the other side of the garbage" which was filmed at the DESPRO request took place.

In the conference participated representatives of the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine, Council of Ministers of AR Crimea, Vinnytsya Regional State Administration, Sumy Regional State Administration, the National Academy of Public Administration at the President of Ukraine, the Association of Village and City Councils of Ukraine, Institute of Sociology of the NASU, the Association of Ukrainian cities, the Civil Society Institute, the Association of Regional Development of Ukraine, Ukrainian Distance Learning System, UNDP Municipal Governance and Sustainable Development Programme; representatives of the DESPRO partner rayons and rural communities.

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Швейцарська Конфедерація  
**skat** Swiss Resource Centre and  
Consultancies for Development

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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### **10 Swiss-Ukrainian projects in the area of health, development of economic potential and local self-government are successfully implemented in Vinnytsya**

Representatives of the Swiss Cooperation Office Ukraine yet again visited Vinnytsya oblast, while they developed long-term relationships of close cooperation in implementing joint projects with this region. On December 2, 2010 the Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office Ukraine Manuel Etter met with the head of the Regional State Administration Mykola Dzhyga, the Head of the Regional Council Sergiy Tatusyak, Vinnytsya city mayor Volodymyr Groisman to discuss the results of realisation of the Swiss-Ukrainian projects in Vinnytsya oblast and implementation of the new and promising areas of cooperation for 2011-2014.

Manuel Etter emphasized that, taking into account the significant positive experience gained during implementation of the above projects and the results of the completed projects, cooperation with the Vinnytsya oblast and the city of Vinnytsya will further remain a priority for the Swiss Government in the context of realisation of the of the Swiss-Ukrainian Cooperation Strategy 2011 -2014.

The Head of the State Administration Mykola Dzhyga stressed that Vinnytsya oblast also has a number of major projects to be carried out in the near future. Especially this is relevant to the establishment of the strong medical complex (University Hospital) at the Vinnytsya Medical University, while authority always puts human health on the first place; upgrading the housing and communal services, agriculture and processing industries.

The Head of the Main Economics Department of the Regional State Administration Andriy Gyzhko underlined that, according to a survey of local territorial communities of the region, among the most promising areas of cooperation for 2011-2014 Vinnytsya oblast residents would like to see solving the problem of solid waste and its disposal; maintenance of local roads; reconstruction of the street light networks; educational activities, i.e. training activists to identify correctly the main problem for the community and organize local activities, etc.

As of December 2010, in the rayons of Vinnytsya region and in the city of Vinnytsya 10 powerful programs and projects are in the process of realization with the financial support of the Swiss Cooperation Office Ukraine, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (DSHE). Those are joint Swiss-Ukrainian projects, such as Maternal and Infant Health (with funding of 3.9 million of Swiss francs); Decentralisation Support in Ukraine (DESPRO – 4,9 million of Swiss francs); Sustainable Development of Agricultural Production in Ukraine (3,8 million of Swiss francs for 2003-2010) and others.

According to the Senior Project Coordinator of the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support in Ukraine project DESPRO Oksana Garnets, in the result of the DESPRO activities in Vinnytsya oblast 20 projects of local communities were implemented. Significant social and economic outcomes were reached, i.e. more than 6 thousand residents of Tulchyn, Kalynivka and Illintsi rayons now are able to enjoy high quality water supply services, the total project cost comprised more than 4 million 222 thousand hryvnia out of which the contribution of the Swiss-Ukrainian DESPRO project comprises approximately 51%. •

### **The needs assessment for knowledge in the system of local government**

For the first time in Ukraine the sociological study of the needs assessment for knowledge in the system of local government was carried out. The study results were presented in Kyiv on November 24.



Data analysis was carried out by the Institute of Sociology of NAS of Ukraine on the request of the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support Project DESPRO in Ukraine. 600 respondents from 14 oblasts of Ukraine and AR Crimea were involved in the survey. Among them were such officials as heads and deputy heads of the rayon state administrations (224 people), heads of rayon councils (197 persons) and village heads (179 people). The knowledge about the local self-government officials and civil servants needs will make the foundation for the introduction of the knowledge management system within the framework of the DESPRO project. Together with the National Academy of Public Administration of Ukraine DESPRO project is developing a comprehensive training course and an information portal for the local self-government officials and civil servants. •

The research results can be found at this link:

[http://despro.org.ua/media/news/despro\\_10\\_zvit\\_new1.ppt](http://despro.org.ua/media/news/despro_10_zvit_new1.ppt)

### **The roundtable table: “Local Self-Government: Current State and Development Prospects”**

**Roundtable “Local Self-Government: Current State and Development Prospects” was carried out in Kyiv on December 2, 2010. The event was organized by the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support in Ukraine project DESPRO in cooperation with the National Academy of Public Administration on the occasion of the Local Self-Government Day.**

The main objective of the roundtable was identifying and discussing the main approaches, priority tasks and perspectives of the local self-government reform in Ukraine. Faculty, doctoral, postgraduate and undergraduate students of NAPA discussed issues of the current situation with the local self-government, availability of the human resources for the development of local self-government and prospects for the local self-government reform.

Speakers Olga Bodnar (First Deputy Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Local Self-Government and State Building), Vasyl Kuybida (deputy of Lviv regional council), Volodymyr Udovychenko (Slavutych city mayor, Kyiv region), Valeriy Vorotin (Advisor to the Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies), Oleksander Vasylyev (Professor, NAPA), Vyacheslav Sorokovskyy (expert, DESPRO) presented at the round table. Discussion demonstrated that the obstacle to the development of the capable local community is rather the absence of the activity of the city and village heads, then the inadequate legislative support of the local self-government. Regional development, decentralisation of authority and professionalization of the service in the local self-government should remain not only on the level of slogans, but also be implemented in practice. Following the discussion results, the participants developed recommendations to be submitted to the Parliamentary Committee on Local Self-Government and State Building. recommendations to be submitted to the Parliamentary Committee on Local Self-Government and State Building. •



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### LOCAL SELF-ORGANIZATION: BY VIRTUE OF? CONTRARY TO? PERSPECTIVE?

Decentralisation Support in Ukraine project DESPRO in cooperation with All-Ukrainian weekly newspaper «Dzerkalo tyzhnya» (Mirror weekly) held round table on the topic "Local self-organization: By virtue of? Contrary to? Perspective?" for the representatives of local authorities and community activists on December 8, 2010.



Dilyaver Hayredinov, Deputy Head of the Nyzhnyohirsk Rayon State Administration of the AR Crimea and the Coordinator of the DESPRO project rayon working group, emphasized that one of the main obstacles to self-organization of people is the lack of faith in the effectiveness of the water supply improvement projects and in the irrevocability of the financial support from the Swiss Confederation. "Community Projects in the Nyzhnyohirsk rayon provided economic platform for sustainable development. Now other donors are willing to cooperate with the rayon. Different spheres of life revive in the areas with an uninterrupted water supply, i.e. soccer teams are organized and it is much easier to cultivate vegetables. Although it sounds strange for the urban residents, but the rural women can now afford automatic washing machines"- said Dilyaver Hayredinov.

Community activist from the village Nova Hreblya of the Kalynivka rayon Vira Honcharuk shared with the participants of the roundtable experience of her community in self-organization and implementation of the water supply project. She said that in her village people were so accustomed to get water from the wells that it was very difficult to persuade them in all the benefits of water supply in the households. The very

definition and awareness of the common problem united people. According to her, the hardest thing was to make the first step. Now people themselves go for the development of their village and for increasing the comfort of their life.

Oleh Novikov, the head of the Organization Department of Tulchyn Rayon State Administration and Coordinator of the DESPRO project rayon working group, underlined that local self-government should be depoliticized in order to better carry out its direct duties to the people. His opinion was shared by all the roundtable participants. "My role I see in the coordination of communities in Tulchyn rayon in the search for different ways and possibilities for development, including the assistance from international donors" - he emphasized.

Roundtable participants discussed the problems of rural communities and small towns, ways of solving them, expressed their views on the prospects of administrative-territorial reform in Ukraine. The leading experts in local self-government, developers of the reforms in this sector and mayors had good opportunity of direct communication with the people who will experience themselves the results of these reforms. In the roundtable participated: Pavlo Kozryyev (Mayor of the city Ukrayinka), Volodymyr Udovychenko (Mayor of the city Slavutych), Anatoliy Tkachuk (Director, Civil Society Institute), Yuriy Hanushchak (expert on the local management issues), Anatoliy Chemerys (DESPRO project expert on knowledge management), Oksana Garnets (Senior Project Coordinator, Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support in Ukraine project DESPRO), Vira Honcharuk (community activist from the village Nova Hreblya of the Kalynivka rayon, Vinnytsya oblast), Oleh Novikov (Head of the Organisation Department of Tulchyn Rayon State Administration and Coordinator of the DESPRO project rayon working group in Tulchyn Rayon, Vinnytsya oblast), Dilyaver Hayredinov (Deputy Head of the Nyzhnyohirsk Rayon State Administration of the AR Crimea and the Coordinator of the DESPRO project rayon working group in Nyzhnyohirsk Rayon), DESPRO experts, mass media representatives. •

### DESPRO project supported VIII International Water Forum "Aqua Ukraine - 2010" and the VI International Congress "Institutional and technical aspects of the housing and communal services reform - 2010"



On November 9, 2010 representatives of the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support Project in Ukraine DESPRO took part in VIII International Water Forum "Aqua Ukraine - 2010" and VI International Congress "Institutional and technical aspects of the housing and communal services reform - 2010". Both events were held at the International Exhibition Center in Kyiv.

Urgent issues of reforming housing and communal services were examined and discussed during the events of the Congress. Keynote statement was given by the Minister of Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Yuriy Khivrych; speeches were delivered by the heads of regional and rayon administrations, local authorities; heads of metropolitan and regional housing and communal services and enterprises, government and commercial organizations, representatives of research institutions, foreign professionals in the field of housing and communal services and industry experts.

Oksana Garnets, DESPRO Senior Project Coordinator, was awarded an honorary diploma from the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine for considerable personal contribution in preparing and carrying out the abovementioned measures. •