

DESPRO NEWS

November-December 2011

SWISS-UKRAINIAN
DECENTRALISATION SUPPORT PROJECT

Yalta is hosting the annual final conference of partners of the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support to Ukraine project



On 13 - 15 December 2011, Yalta is hosting the annual meeting of partners of the Swiss-Ukrainian decentralization Support to Ukraine Project (DESPRO).

Its goal is to summarize the work aimed at support the rural communities' projects on provision of decentralized services, to discuss trends and prospects for local and regional development, knowledge management in the area of public administration. Besides, the Conference participants will plan their activities for next year. The event brings together 150 delegates, among them: rural activists, officials of local authorities and executive authorities, experts in public administration and knowledge management, journalists from regional and national mass media.

During 2011, 32 more communities joined the introduction of decentralized rural water supply services. Thus, in general, 72 local projects will be implemented with the support of DESPRO, and it means not just setting up water supply in villages, but also creating a viable sustainable model of providing a service to the population by a rural service cooperative.


Also, the passing year has given a start to two inter-municipal projects of solid waste treatment in Tulchyn rayon, Vinnytsya oblast, and in Bakhchysaray rayon, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. These achievements are reported at a meeting in Yalta by representatives of Vinnytsya and Sumy oblasts as well as of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea - participants of the aforementioned projects.

In order to integrate the elaborated models in system of management, DESPRO Project, in coop-

eration with the National Academy of Public Administration under the Office of the President of Ukraine, is developing a mechanism of knowledge & experience management for maintaining and using best practices and management patterns. In 2011, based on the accumulated practical materials and the best domestic and foreign programmes, complex work has been carried out to create the national portal of knowledge and training modules for civil servants and local self-government officials.

To sum up this important stage of work, DESPRO Project Manager in Ukraine said, in particular: "Further integration of the Project experience in the activities of government bodies means creation of a practical framework for implementing the reforms. And this integration, with the support of the Project, is performed through implementation of relevant training courses for officials of local governments, civil servants, members of local councils. In addition, expert networks and communities of practice are being established, the web-portal and resource centre are being created, experience of other projects is being involved, etc."

Another important task faced by the Project was to spread best practice and experience of self-organization of rural population, and not only within the cooperation with the Swiss-Ukrainian Project. To this end, in June 2011, DESPRO Project together with Creative Association of Mass Media "Slavuta" announced the competition to the media for the best publication about good initiatives and projects of active rural population (villagers), who come together to improve socio-economic conditions of their lives. The final conference became an excellent opportunity to reward the contest winners. At the invitation of the organizers, journalists from various parts of Ukraine, whose materials the jury voted the best, came to Yalta. Such materials will be compiled in a book (collection), which will be distributed in all regions of Ukraine. It will serve as a master class and a source of ideas and inspiration to all potentially active local 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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In Yalta, winners of the "Uniting the Community!" contest were awarded



The contest "Uniting the Community!", aimed at coverage of the best examples of self-organization of rural population, lasted 6 months and was held in 5 oblasts of Ukraine: Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Vinnytsya, Ivano-Frankivsk, and AR Crimea. The contest was initiated by the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support to Ukraine P (DESPRO) and implemented by Creative Association of Ukraine Mass Media "Slavuta".

The contents of stories sent to the contest include successful examples of how rural communities solve certain issues on their own (with or without support from the government), improve the quality of life.

Total, more than one hundred materials were sent to the contest, of which only 37 fully complied with the contest requirements. 6 winners were selected among them by the Expert Council of the Contest, which included representatives of such periodicals as "Mirror of the Week" and "Kontrakty.ua", portal "Public Space" and DESPRO experts. Besides, three periodicals were awarded, which took most active part in the contest and sent the largest number of high-quality materials. Seven more participants of the contest will receive incentive prizes from the contest organizers and members of the Expert Council of the contest. Also, they identified the materials which will be included in the presentation col-

lection: there are 22 of them! Sumy oblast has been the most active in terms of the number of publications - almost a third of all publications received were from the Sumy mass media. The best quality materials were presented by Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy, and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts. We were impressed by the very high level of radio spots. The experts have also noted journalistic skills of the Crimeans: their ability to find creative idea and to present it in an interesting manner. As an example, the material concerning the creation of the ethnographic centre in Bahata Uschelyna village, (article "Ethnographic, rural, green tourism - wealth of culture and wealth of the village" by Ayder Adjimambetov, "Crimean News" agency).

Interestingly, most of the high-quality materials submitted for the contest were devoted to arrangement of public recreation places (parks, children's playgrounds and sports grounds, village clubs, etc.) - 9 out of 37 publications were dedicated to that issue. Quite often public activists focused their activities on addressing problems of water supply (8 publications) and integrated community development (7 publications). Other topics presented by the contest participants included: installation or repair of gas supply systems, street lighting, arrangement of first-aid points, organization of cultural events, arrangement and repair of kindergartens, development of ethnographic tourism, organization of fire brigades, agricultural sector development, infrastructure projects and energy efficiency projects.

Representatives of the media - contest winners, journalists who took prize-winning places, and contest experts were invited to participate in the Forum. They are going to spend three days in Yalta, full of positive emotions, diverse information and prizes: modern dictaphones, cameras, high-capacity flash drives, incentive gifts from national publications. The Contest winner will receive the grand prize - study visit to Switzerland!

The course of the contest and its results can be found at the web-sites of DESPRO (www.despro.org.ua) and CA

The DESPRO Project held a training workshop for partners from Vinnytsya, Sumy oblasts and AR Crimea

On 11-12 November 2011, the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support to Ukraine Project (DESPRO) held the training workshop "Monitoring of Sustainable Decentralized Water-Supply Services at the Community Level" for its partners from Vinnytsya and Sumy oblasts as well as from AR Crimea.

The goal of the workshop was to train the participants to form a set of criteria for monitoring the sustainability of decentralized water supply services at the community level. As a result of the training event, they have learned the basic methods of collecting and analyzing information for this monitoring.

The lecturer of the event was Valeriy Tertychka, Doctor of Science (PhD) in Public Administration, Professor of the Department of Public Policy and Management of Political Processes of the National Academy of Public Administration under the Office of the President of Ukraine.



DECENTRALIZATION OF THE INNOVATION SYSTEM THROUGH KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND STAKEHOLDERS' PARTNERSHIP

On 8 December, the Programme "Forming the Regional Innovation Policy" was successfully concluded at Lviv Regional Institute of Public Administration (LRIPA) NAPA. The Programme has become a component of advanced training for employees of the Main Department of Economy and Industrial Policy of Lviv Oblast State Administration and of the economic departments of Rayon State Administrations in Lviv oblast.

It was a pilot programme aimed at building capacity of civil service at a regional level to involve stakeholders in developing the public policy on decentralization of innovation system of Ukraine. The Programme was implemented with the support of the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support to Ukraine Project (DESPRO) and NGO Ukrainian Distance Learning System. E-course "Knowledge Management through stakeholders' engagement", designed by the team of trainers of LRIPA NAPA during their participation in the Workshop on development of training modules for eLearning (DESPRO Project) in August this year, was integrated in the Programme.

The Programme was implemented in a blended (F2F and eLearning) mode. Distance (electronic) component of the course lasted for three weeks - between two phases of advanced training for the selected category of civil servants. Learning at a distance aroused extraordinary interest among the participants and demonstrated the relevance of the cho-

sen topic. As a result of eLearning, the participants analyzed stakeholders of the Regional Innovation Development Programme in Lviv oblast, interviewed them and developed own proposals to the Regional Programme. On 8 December, on the final day of the Programme, 4 groups (in which participants worked in the e-course) presented their proposals, certificates of successful completion of advanced training were given, and the most active participants of the electronic component of the Programme were rewarded.

The representatives of the Lviv Oblast State Administration, DESPRO Project experts and specialists of LRIPA NAPA have marked the high level and practical significance of the developed and submitted proposals, and they will ensure their consideration during the development of Regional Innovation Development Programme in Lviv oblast, which is scheduled to be adopted at a session of the Lviv Oblast Council in February 2012. Besides, in early 2012, LRIPA NAPA with the support of DESPRO Project is planning to publish guidelines on teaching the course "Forming the Regional Innovation Policy".

Knowledge Management and Innovative Educational Technologies as a necessary component of improving the efficiency of training for civil servants in current conditions

The scientific and practical conference "Innovative Educational Technologies in professional training for civil servants and local self-government officials" took place on 1 December 2011 at the National Academy of Public Administration under the Office of the President of Ukraine with the support of the National Agency on Civil Service and with the assistance of the company - partner "Microsoft Ukraine" and the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support to Ukraine Project (DESPRO).

The goal of the Conference was to find effective ways to modernize and improve the quality of modern education for civil servants and local self-government officials, to familiarize the participants with the latest educational technologies and to disseminate best practices of the National Academy on scientific and methodological aspects of training in the area of Public Administration.

As it was mentioned by Mr. Yuriy Kovbasyuk, President of the National Academy, in his welcome speech, the National Academy has always placed great emphasis on improving the information and analytical as well as organizational and technological support of the teaching/learning process and research activities, including the development of electronic information resources, electronic learning products and introduction of the state-of-the-art innovative educational technologies in the educational process and in the scientific/research component of the institution's activities.

Ms. Maryna Bilyns'ka, Vice-President of the National Academy, reported on "Knowledge Management and Innovative Educational Technologies as a necessary component for improving the efficiency of training of civil servants in today's conditions". In the speaker's opinion, the need for Knowledge Management in the administration is caused by the increasing divergence between the efficiency of the economy and management, by the need of administrative agencies to respond more

quickly to the changes in the economy, by the need to overcome the lag in the area of e-government and knowledge management. "Efficient and effective knowledge management is vital for maintaining and improving an organization's efficiency and for an organization's ability to adapt to the extremely dynamic environment," - said Maryna Bilyns'ka.

Mr. Andriy Zhuravlyov, Head of the Innovative Education Technologies Management, introduced the portal designed as a means for effective use of innovative educational technologies and processes of Knowledge Management for managerial activities. "The technologies that have been elaborated for distance learning (eLearning) are being actively used now not only to improve the quality of extramural studies (learning by correspondence), but also to increase the effectiveness of all forms of education. This applies to on-line libraries, on-line testing, informing students through web-pages of departments and chairs, giving students web-based access to databases. You can predict further penetration of eLearning technologies in all forms of education, and especially in advanced training," - mentioned the Head of the Innovative Education Technologies Management of NAPA.

Special attention was paid to discussing the activities of the Communities of Practice - an important component of Knowledge Management and implementation of lifelong learning system in the modern world. Mr. Ihor Katernyak, DESPRO Project Expert, shared with the participants some experience and best practices of the community of practice in Knowledge Management and eLearning, and highlighted the use of Knowledge Management in development models.

Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support to Ukraine Project (DESPRO) and the National Academy of Public Administration under the Office of the President of Ukraine



On 18 November 2011 educational technologies in the learning process for preparation and the Memorandum of advanced training of civil servants and local self-government officials, the development and implementation of professional training programmes for preparation and training of civil servants and local self-government officials in order to form their competence in Knowledge Management.

"Decentralization Support For this purpose, the National Academy and the DESPRO Project in Ukraine" (DESPRO). are going to jointly promote the exchange of experience and cooperation aimed at studying the European standards of work of civil servants and local self-government officials, to carry out the development and implementation of joint scientific and educational programmes in the area of Public Administration, local self-government, and Knowledge Management.

lyov, Head of the Innovative Education Technologies Management; the DESPRO project – by Oksana Garnets, Project Manager for DESPRO in Ukraine.

Under the Memorandum, the priority areas of cooperation include: liaison for exchange of experience in order to reform public administration and local self-government; improving the system of professional training of civil servants and local self-government officials, including the use of distance learning (eLearning) technologies; integrating the Project experience in the activities of government bodies at various levels through development of educational base/resources; implementation of the state-of-the-art

To ensure the consistency of processes of creating, analyzing, storing and disseminating the information resources and knowledge in the area of Public Administration and local self-government, the Parties have agreed to establish the Internet portal of the Interregional Information and Education Network for integrating the information resources of the National Academy, regional institutes of Public Administration and other educational institutions that provide educational services in the area of Public Administration, to develop distance learning courses (e-courses) within the Master's programmes and advanced training programmes of the National Academy.

Testing of an e-course has been completed within the framework of creating the portal for the Interregional information and education network "Effective State"

On 18 December, teaching of the 7-week e-course "Fundamentals of Regional Social Policy" was completed at Dnipropetrovsk Regional Institute of Public Administration of the National Academy of Public Administration under the Office of the President of Ukraine, within the framework of Master of Public Administration (MPA) programme, with a specialty in Public Administration.

The course was developed and tested in the framework of creation of the Internet portal of the Interregional Information and Education Network "Effective State" for combining information resources of the National Academy of Public Administration under the Office of the President of Ukraine, regional institutes of public administration and other education institutions that provide educational services in the area of Public Administration, in order to ensure consistency of the processes of creating, analyzing, storing and disseminating information resources and knowledge in the sector of public administration and local self-government, with support of the DESPRO Project. The course was created using the MOODLE tools, allowing to successfully combine various forms of work (lectures, individual and group tasks, forums), and lasted from October 31 to December 18, 2011

That practice was very useful both for students and teach-

ers of the course. For students, it included: teamwork, developing skills to formulate opinions and not to be afraid of expressing them, the ability to "listen and hear" others, a sense of "spirit" of competitiveness, positive attitude and friendly atmosphere, the possibility of creativity and innovation and so on. For teachers, it included: clear organization of working time, the ability to reach (involve) all students in the learning process, to adjust the course in accordance with the students' needs - availability of feedback, the use of various educational forms and tools (forum and chat, tests and quizzes, group and individual tasks, etc.), more practical focus of the course, wider opportunities to communicate with the audience, usability of assessment tools, new information and more.

Participants of the learning process, including students, were fully satisfied with the experience gained: they liked communicating with colleagues in the distance format, exchanging views on the forums, they had a well-organized assessment system and mastered problem solving skills online. All students noted usefulness of the modernized form of education and mentioned that many of the issues discussed and skills learned would be necessarily taken into account in practice.