

PRESS-RELEASE

Zhytomyr, February, 8, 2016

EU allocates over 3 million Euro for the development of cross-border cooperation between Belarus and Ukraine

Information Day under the Call for Proposals in the framework of Belarus – Ukraine Territorial Cooperation Programme, which is one of the four EaPTC Programmes financed by the European Union in the Eastern Partnership region, is being held in Zhytomyr on February, 8, 2016.

The total budget of Belarus’- Ukraine Territorial Cooperation Programme amounts to 3.3 mil. Euro. The Programme covers the area of Chernigiv, Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Rivne and Volyn’ regions of Ukraine and Brest and Gomel regions of Belarus’.

The Programme will support cross-border projects to be carried out by the representatives of both countries and will be used to support small and medium businesses, increase tourism and investment attractiveness of the region; build human capital, environmental protection and exchange of environmental information. The priorities of the program are also energy saving, sharing of renewable energy and waste management; disease prevention and early diagnosis; social integration of persons with disabilities; preservation of cultural and historical heritage, strengthen cooperation in culture and sports. Participation in the Programme "Belarus-Ukraine" is open to representatives of authorities and governments, non-governmental organizations.

The projects’ budget can range from 60 to 250 thousand Euro. Project proposals in the framework of Belarus - Ukraine can be submitted till 19 April 2016. During the Information Day the participants will be provided with all necessary information for applying within Call of proposals.

"This is the first EU-funded cross-border cooperation programme for the Eastern Partnership countries, where they can cooperate amongst themselves, without the involvement of any EU partners. The partners, who are neighbouring countries, are able to independently determine their priorities and jointly solve the problems of bordering regions, thus contributing to sustainable economic and social development at the local level. - Mr. Alexei Sekarev, Team Leader of the EaPTC Support Programme, underlined. - Participation in the Programme will bring invaluable experience to all the potential applicants that will be useful for their further attraction of international funding to address their regional needs."

"Ukrainian and Belarusian sides jointly prepared all project documentation, the operational programme with defined operational objectives, - underlined Erk Roeloffs, Team Leader of Managing Authority. - Before similar cross-border programmes were tested in the European Union and have shown their effectiveness. So the EU decided to transfer this experience to the Eastern Partnership countries".

Information Days are organized by Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme in close cooperation with Managing Authority (GIZ GmbH). In Ukraine Info-Days are conducted in Chernigiv, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Rivne and Lutsk. In Belarus they took place in Brest, Pinsk and Gomel.

Background: Press-conference is organized in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme (EaPTC Support Programme) aimed at creating a favourable environment for territorial cooperation programmes along the borders Armenia – Georgia, Azerbaijan – Georgia, Belarus – Ukraine and Moldova – Ukraine with due regard to specifics of each border area, as well as strengthening the capacity of local and regional state and non-state actors to jointly develop and implement cross-border projects. The overall EU contribution to the EaPTC amounts to 12.5 million EUR.

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Програма фінансується
Європейським Союзом

Європейський Союз складається з 28 держав-членів та їх народів. Це унікальне політичне та економічне партнерство, засноване на цінностях поваги до людської гідності, свободи, рівності, верховенства права і прав людини. Понад п'ятдесят років нам знадобилось для створення зони миру, демократії, стабільності і процвітання на нашому континенті. Водночас нам вдалось зберегти культурне розмаїття, толерантність і свободу особистості. ЄС налаштований поділитись своїми цінностями та досягненнями з країнами-сусідами ЄС, їх народами, та з народами з-поза їх меж.