



**Information Sessions in Regional Policy
Regional Policy Dialogues with China and Ukraine**

A pilot project of the European Commission in the framework of their European Parliament pilot project to enhance regional and local cooperation by promoting EU regional policy on a global scale

**Information Session N°2
Introduction to EU Regional Policy**

**Focus on Territorial Cooperation
and Macro-Regional Strategies**

19 June – 01 July 2011

**A two week event prepared for delegates from the
Ministries and Regions of Ukraine**

Technical Report

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Implemented by:

Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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1. Background of the programme

This information session for 17 Ukrainian government officials was carried out on behalf of the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO). It took place from June 20 to July 01, 2011 within the framework of the European Parliament's pilot project to enhance regional and local cooperation by promoting EU regional policy on a global scale. It was the second in a series of four sessions that are implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Entwicklung (GIZ) GmbH. GIZ is a federally owned enterprise of the German Government aimed at supporting it in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

The information session focused on territorial cooperation and on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, an initiative launched 2010. It contained a mix of lectures and field visits. The course started with a briefing session in Kiev, delivering an introduction to the basics of EU regional policy as well as a summary of the EU-Ukraine cooperation on regional policy. The Ukrainian delegation also visited the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, where it received an overview of bilateral cooperation especially regarding regional development issues.

The session continued with a lecturing day in the training centre in Bonn, where participants attended presentations on the specific topics of the training session, i.e. regional policy, European territorial cooperation and the Danube Strategy of the European Union.

Participants then started a series of field visits in Bonn (Germany), Maastricht (Netherlands), Eupen and Brussels (Belgium), Budapest (Hungary), Vienna (Austria) and Warsaw (Poland). The summary session in Warsaw consisted of a half day workshop, in which participants developed their own reflections on EU regional policy and its significance for Ukrainian challenges. The workshop summarised the key contents of the seminar. Participants were also able to evaluate the seminar. They returned from Warsaw to Kiev.

The overall programme included 23 sessions and several cultural activities.

2. Objective of the information session

The information session was designed to achieve following immediate objectives:

1. To raise awareness of the participants on the key principles of European regional policy;
2. To enable participants to understand the new concepts provided by the specific policy instruments aimed at achieving territorial cohesion, including the concepts of territorial cooperation and macro-regions (Danube Strategy);
3. To discuss with participants the problems that may arise in the implementation of specific provisions in the light of European and Ukrainian realities.

In addition to that, the overall project is designed to contribute to disseminating the experience gained during the information sessions (multiplier-effect).



3. Methodology

The information session grounded on a sound mix of lectures and study visits. The approach included three phases:

1. During the preparatory phase, interests and preferences of DG REGIO were actively requested by GIZ. Once the schedule had been approved by DG REGIO, participants received preparatory information 4 weeks before training, including an overview of the programme.
2. The implementation phase started already in Kiev with a one-day briefing session. This included preparatory information on EU integration and cohesion policy as well as a presentation by a senior expert on EU-Ukrainian regional development cooperation. The Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine was closely involved. A particular feature of the implementation was to promote dialogue and reflection among participants through a workshop on the last day. During this session participants were asked to compare acquired knowledge on the European situation with their own realities.
3. The reporting and dissemination phase ends with this technical report aimed at communicating the results of the session to a wider community.

With regard to the methods applied during the information sessions, these included:

1. Class-room sessions of max. 90 min each of which max. 60 min were devoted to presentations and (consecutive) interpretation. The remaining time was used by the project coordinator to promote a vivid discussion between participants and speakers.
2. Field visits allowed participants to see on the spot the diversity and complexity of regional policy in Europe, as well as to understand the implementation and management of EU-funded projects.
3. Interactive participation through the half-day closing workshop allowing participants to apply the contents of the course to their own regional development challenges.

Through the practice-oriented wider capacity building approach combining lectures, discussion and field visits, the information session promoted active commitment of participants during its entire duration. This was achieved by a sound coordination with speakers to deliver concise presentations and lectures, leaving enough room for discussion and facilitating the mutual exchange of experience between European and Ukrainian regional policy experts.



4. Rationale for selection of regions that were visited

The countries, cities and rural areas visited during the information session were chosen in coordination with DG REGIO giving participants the opportunity to see a representative cross-section of European regional development areas. In order to deal with the issues of territorial cohesion and the Danube Strategy of the EU, the programme included visits to case studies in Western European and Central European countries.

The first region to be visited was the Euroregio Maas-Rhine, the oldest Euroregio in the EU. The region covers provinces in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands and receives EU funding from a specific regional operation cross-border programme amounting 144.8 million euros (50% national co-financing). The field visit to the joint technical secretariat (JTS) showed Ukrainian representatives ways to overcome differences in the legal systems of the bordering countries as well the working method of the JTS. This visit also provided a valuable example of decision making mechanisms for the allocation of funding in cross-border areas. The visit to the region included the JTS in Eupen, two field visits and one lecture in Maastricht (see section 7).

After the working sessions held at the European institutions in Brussels (Parliament, Commission and Committee of the Regions), the delegation travelled to Budapest. GIZ aimed at showing regional policy making at the national, regional and communal level, as well as cross-border cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe (Hungary coordinates one cross-border OP in which Ukraine is involved). The programme in Budapest also aimed at illustrating the contribution of European regional development funds (ERDF) to economic (infrastructure) and social cohesion of a member state. GIZ and the Hungarian authorities decided to visit to two different projects; one social development project for the Roma minority as well as one infrastructure development project (Margaret Bridge).

The visit to the City of Vienna grounded on its active role in shaping and implementing regional development policies in Central Europe. Moreover, the City of Vienna coordinates one priority area of the Danube Strategy of the European Union and manages the Operational Programme “Central Europe”. Due to the strong support of the City authorities, the delegation was able to visit two cross-border cooperation projects and to get an overview of Ukraine’s involvement in the transnational cooperation scheme.

The information session ended in Warsaw, the largest Polish city and the most important economic development hub. A visit to the city allowed participants to analyse the national regional development strategy 2010 – 2020. Due to its successful experience in reforming its administrative and regional development structure, Poland offered a very important reference for Ukrainian officials.

The overall rationale of the programme was to ensure a truly European programme, showing the striking differences of regional development and structures in Western and Central European countries.



5. Overview of the programme

Day	General Issues	Locations
Sunday, 19.06.11	Afternoon: Arrival of Delegates Dinner and accommodation in Kiev	Kiev
Monday, 20.06.11	Morning: Briefing session in Kiev Afternoon: Flight Kiev (13h15) – Düsseldorf (15h15) Transfer to Bonn (approx. 70 km) Cultural programme and accommodation in Bonn	Kiev – Bonn
Tuesday, 21.06.11	Opening, Introduction, 3 Lectures Cultural programme Accommodation in Bonn	Bonn
Wednesday, 22.06.11	Transfer to Eupen (approx. 110 km) Lectures and Field visits in Euregio I (Eupen) Cultural programme Accommodation in Maastricht	Eupen, Maastricht
Thursday, 23.03.11	Field visits in Euregio II (Maastricht, Brussels) Transfer to Brussels (approx. 120 km)	Maastricht, Brussels
Friday, 24.06.11	Lectures in Brussels Accommodation in Brussels	Brussels
Saturday, 25.06.11	Cultural programme Afternoon: Flight Brussels (17h30) to Budapest (19h25)	Brussels – Budapest
Sunday, 26.06.11	Free Day in Budapest Cultural Programme (Participation at <i>Danube event</i>)	Budapest
Monday, 27.06.11	Field Visit Regional Development	Budapest
Tuesday, 28.06.11	Morning: Field Visit Regional Development Afternoon: Transfer to Vienna (approx. 240 km) Accommodation in Vienna	Budapest – Vienna
Wednesday, 29.06.11	Morning: Lectures from relevant authorities Afternoon: Field Visit Regional Development Train Trip Vienna (22h08) to Warsaw (07h06)	Vienna – Warsaw
Thursday, 30.06.11	Lectures and Field Visits in Warsaw Cultural Programme	Warsaw
Friday, 01.07.11	Morning: Workshop and Closing Session Afternoon: Flight Warsaw (15h20) to Kiev (17h45)	Warsaw – Kiev



6. Detailed programme

Sunday, 19 June 2011

Location: Hotel Dnipro, Khreshchatyk Str.1/2, Kiev

14:00 Lunch

15:30 Briefing session – Part 1: Introduction

Description: The information session started with a briefing meeting in Kiev. The first part of the session was dedicated to a broad introduction of the project, the Ukrainian delegation and the staff in charge of implementing the session in Europe. Ukrainian delegates were able to express their areas of specialisation and their expectations with regard to the study tour. This session gave also an overview of the European integration process. It provided participants with the key background information on the political, economic and social dimension of Europe as well as on its regional and innovation policy.

Moderator: Mr. Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator

17:00 Briefing session – Part 2: Regional development in Ukraine and Europe

Description: Mr. Colin Maddock presented the results of an analysis on the position of Chernovtsy and Odessa regions of Ukraine, including a set of recommendations regarding these regions in three functional areas: A) Economic Performance; B) Competitiveness; and, C) Institutional Capacity.

Lecturers: Mr. Colin Maddock, Senior Consultant to EU Commission Delegation, Kiev

19:00 Dinner at Hotel Dnipro

Accommodation at Hotel Dnipro, Kiev

Monday, 20 June 2011

08:30 Transfer to EU Delegation

09:00 Briefing session – Part 3: Activities of EU Delegation in Regional Development

Description: The EU programme of financial and technical cooperation supports Ukraine's ambitious reform agenda. More than 250 projects are currently being carried out across a wide-range of sectors, regions and cities in Ukraine. EU assistance focuses in particular on support for democratic development and good governance, regulatory reform and administrative capacity building, infrastructure development and nuclear safety. EU funding for projects in Ukraine is provided in the form of grants, contracts and increasingly budget support.

Lecturers: Mr. Dominik Papenheim and Mr. José Roman León Lora, Section for Economic Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine (Kiev)

Location: Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine (Kiev)

10:30 Transfer to Airport

13:15 Flight to Düsseldorf (Aerosvit)

15:15 Arrival in Düsseldorf and Transfer to Bonn



16:45 Arrival in Bonn – Guided Tour

18:00 Dinner in Bonn

19:00 Cultural event in Bonn

Tuesday, 21 June 2011

08:30 Bus Transfer to GIZ, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40, 53113 Bonn

09:00 Welcoming words by GIZ. Michael Funcke-Bartz, Head of Division Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development.

09:30 Session 1: European Territorial Cooperation - the INTERREG IV Programme

Description: INTERREG promotes cooperation between the cities, regions and member states of the European Union and forms part of Objective 3 "European Territorial Cooperation". The programme concentrates on three strands: cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. Projects are supported within the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The German Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) is the national contact point for the implementation of INTERREG in Germany.

Lecturer: Dr. Wilfried Görmar, Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning BBSR, Bonn

11:00 Coffee Break

11:15 Session 2: The Current Debate on the Future of EU Regional Policy

Description: The major goal of the European Regional Policy is to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion by reducing disparities between the regions and countries of the European Union. By this way, the EU policy contributes positively to the overall economic performance of the EU. Within the current financial framework (2007-2013), spending on regional policy amounts to an average of almost €50 billion per year, which is more than one third (35.7%) of the total EU budget. This lecture focused on the current debate on the future of EU regional policy after 2014.

Lecturer: Mr. Steffen Osterloh, ZEW Mannheim, Germany

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Session 3: The Danube Strategy of the European Union: A view from the Regions

Description: This session introduced the Danube strategy of the European Union. The initiative was launched in 2010 and aims at achieving better coordination and cooperation between the Danube countries in order to address common challenges including transport and energy connections, environmental issues, socio-economic development and security issues. The implementation of the action plan will start on 1 July 2011. This session dealt with the position of the European regions, as represented by the Assembly of European Regions.

Lecturer: Mr. Klaus Klipp, General Secretary, Assembly of European Regions, Strasbourg

16:00 Transfer to the Hotel



17:00 Guided Tour in Bonn

19:00 Dinner and Accommodation in Bonn

Wednesday, 22 June 2011

08:00 Transfer to Eupen (approx. 110 km)

10:00 Session 4: The Operational Programme (OP) Euregio Maas-Rhine

Description: The OP INTERREG IV-A "Euregio Maas-Rhine" covers provinces in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. The total allocation for the programme amounts to 144.8 million euros. The maximum contribution from the ERDF to the operational programme amounts to 72.4 million Euro, i.e. a co-financing rate 50%. The session presented the programme priorities and the proceedings for project development and monitoring.

Lecturer: Mr. Hans Niessen, Director Euregio Foundation and Ms. Joelle Ramakers, Ministry for the German Speaking Community, Eupen

Venue: Ministry for the German Speaking Community, Eupen

12:00 Session 5: Field visit: The Vennebahn Route - EU funded project

Description: The route (130km) is Europe's longest continuous cross-border cycling and walking trail on an abandoned railway line. It connects Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg. The project is co-financed INTERREG IVa.

Lecturer: Mr. Hans Niessen, Director Euregio Foundation and Ms. Joelle Ramakers, Ministry for the German Speaking Community, Eupen

13:30 Lunch and transfer to Aachen / Heerle

15:30 Session 6: Field visit: Economic Cross-Border Cooperation - the Eurode Business Center

Description: The Eurode Business Center is one of the first cross-border German-Dutch business parks. Its location in the Maas-Rhine Euroregion, between the cities of Herzogenrath and Kerkrade, offers businesses and investors excellent opportunities in the market.

Lecturer: Mr. Cor Chudy, Eurode and Mr. Chris Kerkman, City of Kerkrade

17:00 Transfer to Maastricht (approx. 25 km)

18:00 Guided Tour in Maastricht

19:30 Dinner and Accommodation in Maastricht

Thursday, 23 June 2011

09:30 Transfer by bus to the Provincial Government of Limburg

10:00 Session 7: Field Visit: Limburg and the Euregio Meuse Rhein

Description: Limburg is a border region with a dynamic industrial and economic growth based on its many SMEs (over 90%), including vehicle and chemical

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industries. Its location at the centre of Europe provides access to a large population share with a very high purchasing power. The cross-border region also aims at becoming the leading Top Technology Region (TTR) in Europe.

Lecturer: Mr. Erik Lammens, Province of Limburg (tbc)

Venue: Maastricht

12:00 Lunch and transfer to Brussels (approx. 130 km)

16:00 Session 8: Meeting with CoR President Luc van den Brande, MEP Jan Olbrycht – Member of the REGI Committee

Venue: Committee of the Regions

18:30 Transfer to the Hotel

19:30 Dinner and Accommodation in Brussels

Friday, 24 June 2011

08:30 Transfer to the European Parliament

09:30 Session 9: Institutions and Regional Policy I – The European Parliament

Description: The information session in Brussels started with a visit of the European Parliament (EP). The Ukrainian participants had the chance to understand the work of the Regional Development Committee, which is in charge of coordinating the European regional development funds as well as of cooperating with relevant institutions including the Union Presidency, the Council, the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions.

Lecturer: Visitors Centre

Venue: European Parliament

11:30 Transfer to DG REGIO

12:00 Session 10: Institutions and Regional Policy II – The European Commission

Description: The regions within the EU face different levels of economic development. For this reason, the Directorate-General Regional Policy develops programmes and launches funds in order to bridge prosperity and development disparities. But every region needs its tailor-made solution. This is why the EU engages strong partnerships with many actors on national, regional and local level. The policy is thus an important expression of the solidarity of the European Union. This lecture introduced the key lessons of EU regional policy and the future challenges.

Lecturer: Mr. Charles White, DG Regional Policy, European Commission

Venue: DG REGIO

13:30 Lunch near DG REGIO



15:00 Transfer to the Hotel

16:00 Walking Tour in the City Centre

19:30 Dinner and Accommodation in Brussels

Saturday, 25 June 2011

Free morning

14:30 Transfer to the airport

17:30 Flight to Budapest

19:25 Arrival in Budapest – Transfer to the hotel

21:00 Dinner and Accommodation in Budapest

Sunday, 26 June 2011

Morning: Walking Tour in Budapest

Afternoon: Visit of the *Danube Festival* organised by the City of Budapest

Dinner and Accommodation in Budapest

Monday, 27 June 2011

08:30 Transfer to the National Development Agency

09:00 Session 11: EU Regional Policy and Sustainable Development in Hungary

Description: The National Development Agency manages the implementation of strategic planning and the operational programmes in Hungary. The most relevant objective of the New Hungary Development Plan relates to raising the level of employment and establishing conditions underpinning permanent growth. Therefore, coordinated state and EU development will be launched in 6 priority areas, namely: the economy, transport, initiatives targeting social renewal, environmental protection and energy, regional development and tasks relating to state reform.

Lecturer: Dr. Zsolt Szabó, National Development Agency

Venue: National Development Agency, Wesselényi utca 20-22, Budapest

11:00 Session 12: Cross-border Cooperation: EU's Strategy for the Danube Macro-Region

Description: The Danube region covers parts of 8 EU countries and 6 non-EU countries (including Ukraine). The region is facing several challenges including environmental threats (water pollution, floods, climate change); untapped shipping potential and lack of road and rail transport connections; insufficient energy connections; uneven socio-economic development; uncoordinated education, research and innovation systems as well as shortcomings in safety and security. The Danube Strategy of the EU offers a netter coordination and



cooperation between the countries and regions in order to address these challenges.

Lecturer: Mr. Balázs Simó, Director of the Managing Authority for International Cooperation Programmes, National Development Agency

Venue: National Development Agency, Wesselényi utca 20-22, Budapest

13:30 Lunch

15:00 Session 13: Field Visit to the Magdolna Quarter Project (social rehabilitation for Roma minority) – EU funded project

17:00 Session 14: Field Visit to the Margaret Bridge - EU funded project

19:00 Dinner and Accommodation in Budapest

Tuesday, 28 June 2011

09:00 Transfer to Vienna (approx. 240km)

11:00 Session 15: Field Visit to the Cycle track Komárno – Váh- Komárom (EU funded)

12:00 Arrival and check-in in Vienna

13:00 Lunch

15:00 Session 16: Field Visit to the EdTwinn Project (EU funded) - Education Twinning for European Citizenship, Heading for Excellence in the Centrope Region"
<http://www.edtwin.eu/>

16:30 Cultural Programme: Guided Tour in Vienna

18:30 Dinner

Accommodation in Vienna

Wednesday, 29 June 2011

08:30 Transfer to the City Hall of Vienna

09:00 Session 17: The Danube Strategy of the EU – the role of the City of Vienna

Description: The main goals of the Action Plan on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region are defined by activities and exemplary projects. For its implementation and success, strong, dynamic and creative mutual support among the involved actors and networks at local and regional level will be crucial.

Lecturer: Dr. Kurt Puchinger, Director, Urban Planning Group, City of Vienna

Venue: City Hall of Vienna

10:30 Coffee Break



11:00 Session 18: The Operational Programme Central Europe

Description: The overall goal of the Programme is to strengthen territorial cohesion, promote internal integration and enhance the competitiveness of Central Europe. This broad overall aim has the following two strategic objectives: a) Improving the competitiveness of Central Europe by strengthening innovation and accessibility structures; and b) Improving territorial development in a balanced and sustainable way by enhancing the quality of the environment and developing attractive cities and regions.

Lecturer: Ms. Christiane Breznik, Director, Department for EU Strategy and Economic Development

Venue: City Hall of Vienna

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Session 19: Field Visit - The New Central Station in Vienna (EU funded)

The station is part of the Trans-European Transportation Networks (TEN-Ts). More information at <http://www.hauptbahnhof-wien.at/>.

18:30 Dinner in Vienna

21:00 Transfer from Hotel to the Train Station

22:08 Train departure to Warsaw (arrival at 07:06)

Thursday, 30 June 2011

07:06 Arrival in Warsaw and transfer to the hotel

09:00 Session 20: The National Coordination of EU Regional Policy

Description: The Ministry of Regional Development performs functions related to the preparation and implementation of the national development strategy and manages the EU's assistance funds. The department visited is responsible for structural policy coordination, drafting programming documents in the area of the cohesion policy. The department is in charge of evaluating the implementation of the *Community Support Framework* and the *National Cohesion Strategy*. It prepares draft national development strategies and analyses the consistency of other strategic documents with the National Development Strategy. It is accountable for developing the spatial development concept for Poland.

Lecturer: Mr. Daniel Baliński, Department of Structural Policy Coordination, Ministry of Regional Development, Warsaw

Venue: Ministry of Regional Development

11:00 Session 21: Field visit 1 - the Młociny Traffic Node (EU funded)

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Session 22: Field visit 2 – the Royal Castle Project (Warsaw – EU funded)



17:00 Cultural Programme: Guided Tour in Warsaw

Dinner and Accommodation in Warsaw

Friday, 1 July 2011

09:00 Session 23: Workshop - European sustainable development strategies: A way forward for Ukraine?

Description: A particular feature of the information session is to promote dialogue and reflection among participants' through a workshop in the last day. During this session participants were asked to develop their own reflection on EU regional policy and its lessons for Ukrainian challenges. Moreover, Ukrainian experts proposed some ways to further fostering regional policy dialogue between both partners. The workshop also summarised key contents of the seminar. Participants were also able to assess the seminar and to receive participation certificates.

Moderator: Michael Funcke-Bartz, Head of Division Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development, GIZ

Venue: Hotel Mercure Chopin, Warsaw

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Transfer to the airport

15:20 Flight to Kiev (Aerosvit)

17:45 Arrival in Kiev



7. Summary of the information session's programme

The programme started with one briefing session in Kiev which included a presentation of the basic logistic issues as well as an introduction to the European Union (focus on cohesion policy).

Mr. Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator, introduced the key figures of European integration and briefly explained the regional diversities across the continent. He also explained the institutional policy making of European legislation as well as the key instruments of European regional policy (ERDF, ESF, etc). The presentation included the wider scope of regional policy since the Lisbon Treaty ("territorial cohesion") and the economic development strategy Europe 2020.

Mr. Colin Maddock, a senior expert on regional development based in Kiev, delivered two presentations; one on cross-border cooperation programmes between Ukraine and its neighbours as well as an overview of international donor activities in Ukraine.

Ukrainian government officials were able to introduce themselves and to explain their expectations for the information session.

On the next day, Ukrainian representatives visited the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, where Mr. José Roman Leon Lora, Head of Section for Economic Cooperation, and Mr. Dominik Papenheim, Sector Manager – Regional and Local Development/Decentralisation of Governance, explained the EU programme of financial and technical cooperation with Ukraine. Mr. León Lora explained that EU regional policy is one of the most successful policy fields of the European Union. With regard to cooperation with Ukraine, he stated that beyond the decentralised cooperation approach implemented in past decades, the recently launched dialogue at the national level will allow coherent regional policy cooperation. Mr. Lora explained the key EU regional development projects in Ukraine, focusing on areas like capacity-building and cross-border development.

Discussion centred on EU technical assistance measures, coordination of cross-border cooperation programmes, EU support to administrative reform and the creation of monitoring agencies for regional development.

Sessions in Germany

The first working day in Europe began with three lectures aiming at introducing Ukrainian delegates to European Territorial Cooperation, the Danube Strategy of the EU and the future of EU Regional Policy. Dr. Wilfried Görmar, Head of Unit of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR), delivered a comprehensive presentation on territorial and transnational cooperation in Europe. Mr. Görmar explained the main requirements for application to cross-border cooperation (CBC), interregional and transnational programmes, as well their thematic priorities and management structures. He presented several examples in areas like urban and rural development, innovation, accessibility and environmental protection. He also explained the role of Ukraine in the transnational cooperation programme *Central Europe*, and gave an overview of the overall cooperation achievements as well as outlook to the future perspectives of territorial cooperation in Europe.



Mr. Steffen Osterloh, Senior Expert of the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim introduced the reform of cohesion policy after 2013, focusing on the determinants of allocated transfers as well as on political consequences for current negotiations. Mr. Osterloh presented an economic evaluation of EU regional policy launched 2008, which showed positive economies of scale and spill-over effects in the convergence and territorial cooperation objectives. He also introduced some reform options for EU regional policy, including stronger concentration on poor regions, stronger conditionality of spending and support of regions instead of countries. He illustrated his view on the positions of EU member states with regard to regional policy negotiations and explained the timeline of the bargaining process.

Discussion centred on the lessons to be learnt from EU regional policy, including the long term vision, a co-financing system that enhances co-ownership and a transparent method for monitoring and evaluating. Moreover, the role of local and regional authorities in the design, implementation and surveillance of regional policy was discussed.

Mr. Klaus Klipp, General Secretary of the Assembly of European Regions (AER) centred on the importance of strong regional administrative structures for the efficient implementation of regional development policies. In his perspective, European Union countries show a correlation between economic development and decentralisation. Mr. Klipp also introduced the Danube Strategy of the EU, underlining the necessity to include the Black Sea in the initiative. Discussion focused on the comparison of different European administrative systems. for regional development as well as on concrete ideas for cooperation between Ukrainian and EU member states' regions.

The second day consisted of a field visit to the cross-border region Maas-Rhine. The first session consisted of a visit to the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Operational Programme (OP) Euregio Maas-Rhine, where Mr. Hans Niessen and Ms. Joelle Ramakers explained its priorities and proceedings. The OP INTERREG IV-A "Euregio Maas-Rhine" covers provinces in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. The total allocation for the programme amounts to 144.8 million Euro. The maximum contribution from the ERDF to the operational programme amounts to 72.4 million Euro, i.e. a co-financing rate 50%. Funding is allocated after two selection rounds involving delegates from all countries. Ms. Ramakers and Mr. Niessen organised a visit to the Vennebahn Route, a cross-border cycling and walking trail on an abandoned railway line. It connects Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg.

Sessions in the Netherlands

The second day ended with a visit to the Eurode Business Centre, one of the first cross-border German-Dutch business parks. Through its unique location between the cities of Herzogenrath and Kerkrade (also stakeholders of the centre), Eurode offers businesses and investors excellent opportunities in the market. Mr. Chris Kerkman, a senior official of the City of Kerkrade, explained the practical questions of cross border cooperation, including education standards, commercial requirements and taxation issues. Discussion focused on the stakeholders' role and on fiscal implications for Germany and the Netherlands.



On the next day, the Ukrainian delegation visited the Provincial Government of Limburg in Maastricht. Dr. Jean Severijns, Head of Economic Department, delivered a lecture on smart specialisation in a functional region. Limburg is a border region with a dynamic industrial and economic growth based on its many SMEs (over 90%), including vehicle and chemical industries. Its location at the centre of Europe provides access to a large population share with a very high purchasing power. The cross-border region also aims to become the leading Top Technology Region (TTR) in Europe. Mr. Severijns explained the positive externalities of cooperation between competing border regions in Europe and the need of clear priorities for implementing regional development projects.

Sessions in Belgium

Ukrainian delegates first visited the Committee of the Regions (CoR) in order to meet Mr. Luc van den Brande, former President of CoR. The CoR monitors and comments the legislative proposals issued by the European Commission in order to ensure that the regions' interests are reflected. As the biggest share of the public expenditure in Europe is done by the regional and local level, the CoR plays a key role in achieving multi-level governance. Mr. van den Brande explained the role of regions in the Europe 2020 Development Strategy. He also focused on CoR cooperation with Ukraine. Discussion centred on the existing Euroregions in Ukraine, the coherence of EU programmes with Ukraine and the role of managing authorities in the allocation of funds for CBC programmes.

The session was followed by a speech of Mr. Jan Olbrycht, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) and Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Regional Development. MEP Olbrycht introduced his view on the role of regions in EU regional policy. He also explained budgetary implications of EU regional policy's decision making process as well as the role of different European institutions. Mr. Olbrycht focused on EU cooperation instruments with Ukraine at the local, regional and national level. He mentioned the importance of different administrative systems in the EU as references for reform of regional development policy in Ukraine. Particularly Poland delivers interesting experiences for the Ukrainian case. Discussion centred on the role of the Polish Presidency in further deepening EU-Ukraine relations.

Ukrainian representatives also visited the European Parliament, where they attended a presentation on EU policy making. They were also able to visit the plenary room of the Parliament.

The last meeting in Brussels took place at the Directorate General regional Policy (DG REGIO) of the European Commission, where Mr. Charles White delivered a presentation on EU regional policy as an inspiration for third countries. He underlined the cooperation between public and private sector in financing regional development and emphasised that regional policy is not only a budget but rather a working methodology. The approach grounds on the assumption of investing in new projects rather than in subsidising inefficient sectors. Mr. White also stated that the contracts for regional development funding are publicly tendered and open to companies of the whole world. Mr. White also explained the role of the European Commission and the Member States on regional policy making and mentioned the 458 operational programmes through which regional policy is implemented. He also mentioned key achievements of European cohesion policy, including connectivity, jobs and cross-



border cooperation. Discussion with the Ukrainian experts focused on the multi-level governance approach as well as on the principle of subsidiarity.

Sessions in Hungary

After a travel day, Ukrainian delegates were welcomed in Budapest by Dr. Zsolt Szabó from the National Development Agency (NDA). The Agency manages the implementation of strategic planning and the operational programmes in Hungary. Mr. Szabó delivered a presentation on the implementation of EU-cohesion policy in Hungary. He explained the structure of development plans in Hungary and the role of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), which specifies 15 operational programmes for the period 2007-2013. Mr. Zsabó commented some of the thematic priorities and the allocations of regional programmes. He also explained the special programme for the least developed micro-regions, a funding line which gives additional development possibilities and has shown great success. Ukrainian delegates asked mainly about the design of the national development policy and about the method of implementation (from NSRF to operational projects).

Following Mr. Szabó's intervention, Mr. Balázs Simó, Director of the Managing Authority for International Cooperation Programmes, delivered a speech about NDA's role in cross-border, interregional and transnational cooperation. Mr. Simó introduced some advantages of the recently centralised regional development structure in Hungary, including the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in the programme planning procedure, the link between national and local level as well as the avoidance of overlapping and double-financing.

Mr. Simó also explained the chances for Ukraine to get involved in these programmes through ENPI CBC Programmes. He explained the working structures and procedures and showed several project examples. These included the restoration works of cathedrals in Ukraine as well as the improvement of environment in Ivano-Frankivsk and neighbouring region applying environmentally sound technologies in municipal solid waste management. Mr. Simó also introduced the Cycle track Komárno – Váh- Komárom, which was visited by the delegates on the next day. Discussion focused on the role of partners in CBC-projects as well as on the assessment and decision making procedures for projects.

On the next day, the delegation visited Cycle track Komárno – Váh- Komárom, a project connected to the international cycle track Vienna – Bratislava – Budapest. The project has been supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with 1,574 million Euro (85% of the total volume).

Sessions in Austria

After the field visit in the Hungarian-Slovakian border, the Ukrainian delegation arrived in Vienna. The working programme started with a field visit to two EU-funded projects managed by the Education Department of the City of Vienna: the ET Street project is a transnational venture fostering knowledge management. The partners –also from Ukraine- analyse the changing needs of regions and provide training measures for the workforce to meet them. Target group are young people between 18-20 years old. Participants receive training on start-ups, entrepreneurship, etc.



The second project visited by delegates was EdTwin, a language exchange project between Hungary, Austria and the Czech Republic. Scholars from these three countries receive intercultural training and are encouraged to organise school-exchanges and partnerships. Moreover, EdTwin promotes travelling of young people to the neighbouring countries, providing basic information about cultural and commercial activities in the region.

On the next day, the delegation was hosted at the City Hall of Vienna. Dr. Kurt Puchinger, Director of Urban Planning Group at the City of Vienna and coordinator of one priority area of the Danube strategy for the Danube Region, delivered an introduction to this initiative. He underlined the bottom-up nature of the programme and the concept of organising EU regional policy in macro-regions. Mr. Puchinger mentioned key activities and exemplary projects. He stated that for the success of the strategy, mutual support among the involved actors and networks at local and regional level is crucial. Mr. Puchinger also mentioned the Danube waterway and the need to upgrade nodes to multi-modal nodes.

Ms. Christiane Breznik, Director of the Department for EU Strategy and Economic Development at the City of Vienna gave a speech on the Central Europe Programme, a transnational cooperation venture. The programme involves eight EU partners and part of Ukraine and aims to strengthening territorial cohesion, promoting internal integration and enhancing competitiveness of Central Europe. With a total budget of 298 Mio EUR, the programme has supported many projects in four priority areas. Ms. Breznik explained the scope of the open call for proposals and the mechanism to become involved (more information at www.central2013.eu).

The delegation then visited the New Central Station in Vienna as an example of regional development. The visit, organised by Mr. Rudolf Zunke (City of Vienna), was followed by a guided tour through the key urban development areas of the City of Vienna.

Sessions in Poland

In Warsaw, the delegation visited the Ministry of Regional Development. Mr. Wojciech Porczyk, Deputy Director of EU and International Cooperation welcomed the delegation and briefly explained the competences of the ministry in cohesion policy. Mr. Maciej Kolczyński delivered a comprehensive presentation about the National Strategy of Regional Development (NSRD) 2010-2020. The lecture introduced the most important regional policy challenges and the key instruments to tackle them. NSRD covers regions, cities and rural areas and has implemented innovative horizontal and multi-level coordination mechanisms. Ukrainian delegates were highly interested in the administrative reforms undertaken in Poland and in the governance system of regional policy.

The working sessions in Warsaw also included two site visits organised by the City of Warsaw. Mr. Paweł Sajnog from the Regional Development Projects Unit of Warsaw City Hall brought delegates to the Młociny Node, where they attended a presentation delivered by Mr. Michał Olszewski, Director of the European Funds Department. The "Młociny" node is a modern surface transport structure, with total surface of 4 hectares. It includes four floors of "park & go" with parking possibilities for nearly 1000 vehicles, a municipal bus terminus with five platforms and a tram terminus. The A23 "Młociny"



station is the last on line I of the metro. The infrastructure project has an overall volume of EUR 250 Mio. (1/3 co-financed through ERDF) and aims at mitigating the traffic congestion in Warsaw. Ukrainian delegates asked about the public procurement process as well as about further measures undertaken by the Warsaw transport authority to mitigate traffic congestion in the city centre.

In the afternoon Ukrainian delegates visited the Royal Castle of Warsaw which has been renovated with ERDF.

Closing Session

The seminar ended with a half-day workshop in Warsaw. The workshop was moderated by Mr. Michael Funcke-Bartz, Head of Division Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development at GIZ. Participants were requested to develop their own reflection on EU regional policy and its usefulness for Ukrainian challenges.

The first session of the workshop dealt with key findings relevant for the own work of the delegates. The Ukrainian delegation emphasised the importance of strategic planning in Europe. Through its unique multi-level governance system, European regional policy involves all relevant stakeholders and regional planning levels. Cross-border cooperation mechanisms and the Danube Strategy of the EU offer many chances for Ukrainian regions to get involved.

Delegates stated that the overall information session was very helpful as Ukraine is currently setting its own strategy for regional development. They also stressed that the Euroregio Maas-Rhine delivered very good references for Ukraine, especially with regard to cross-border cooperation (CBC) in economic issues. They noted that existing European CBC-programmes should be more coherent with existing Euroregions in Ukraine. The EU needs to conduct more information and public communication activities in Ukraine so that regions understand how to get involved more actively.

With regard to EU regional policy making, they very much appreciated discussions in Brussels and welcomed Polish attempts for a stronger involvement of Ukraine in regional development issues. They underlined the good cooperation between the European Commission and the member states in designing, implementing and monitoring cohesion policy. Delegates emphasised that ERDF is a valuable reference for a regional development fund which is being planned in Ukraine. They acknowledge the high level meetings and the good quality of lectures and speeches. They stressed that the contacts which have been made offer direct cooperation possibilities with several countries, especially with Poland. Delegates also very much appreciated the opportunity to discuss with representatives of managing authorities about planning and implementation structures of regional development. Finally, they also mentioned the importance of social development as a key component of regional development and welcomed the field visits in Budapest and Vienna (Roma minority and Ed-Twinn).

The workshop continued with a session on ideas for future cooperation between the EU and Ukraine. Delegates stressed that whereas an action plan has been already adapted, it could be useful to deeper analyse the administrative structure of one EU member state, e.g. Poland. They also mentioned the need to cooperate on regional policy legislation, especially with regard to the allocation of funding (for instance through ERDF). Round tables and workshops should be organised in Ukraine in order to foster debate about cooperation between EU and Ukraine at the local level. Capacity



building programmes on self-government for local authorities were mentioned as one further element of cooperation. Also the involvement of Ukrainian civil society members was stressed as an important factor for future cooperation. Delegates also mentioned the creation of regional development agencies and the establishment of an online platform in Ukrainian language with basic information on EU regional policy as important ideas for the future.

The workshop also included a brief summary of the field visits delivered by the project coordinator, Mr. Pablo Gándara. Participants were also able to evaluate the activity. The overall programme was received very positively by Ukrainian delegates and the overall spirit in the group was very positive.

8. Cultural programme

GIZ was committed to implementing an attractive cultural programme in order to facilitate cooperation among participants and to promote cooperation with the regions that have been visited. The cultural programme included guided tours in the cities of Bonn, Maastricht, Brussels, Budapest and Vienna. Moreover, Ukrainian delegates were able to visit the House of History in Bonn as well as the City Castle in Warsaw and a ballet performance in Warsaw (on voluntary basis).

9. Cooperation with other institutions

GIZ is especially grateful for the support of key governmental and non governmental institutions, including:

- European Union institutions: European Commission (DG REGIO); the European Parliament (EP) and the Committee of the Regions (CoR) in Brussels
- The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning BBSR, Bonn, Germany
- The Assembly of European Regions, Strasbourg, France
- The Ministry for the German Speaking Community, Eupen, Belgium
- The Eurocentre Eurode, Herzogenrath and Kerkrade, Germany and Netherlands
- The Provincial Government of Limburg, Netherlands
- The National Development Agency, Budapest, Hungary
- The City Hall of Vienna, Austria
- The Ministry of Regional Development, Warsaw, Poland
- The City Hall of Warsaw, Poland
- The Transport Authority of Warsaw, Poland
- The Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim, Germany

It should be stressed that all lecturers were very motivated with the activity as well as with the discussions with Ukrainian delegation members.



10. Composition of the Ukrainian delegation

The Ukrainian delegation consisted of regional-level officials and representatives of different national ministries. All participants were senior experts in their policy areas and had decision-making competences on regional development issues.

№	Authority	Name	Position
1.	Administration of the President of Ukraine	Mr. Oleksandr Orel	Deputy Head of the Department of the Main Department on Regional and Personnel Policy
2.	Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine	Mr. V'iacheslav Nehoda	First Deputy Head of the Department of Provision of Cooperation with the Parliament and Regions of Ukraine – Head of the Division of Territorial Organisation of Power
3.	Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine	Mr. Andrii Tymoshenko	Head of the Division for Legislation and Governmental Orders on Fulfillment Control, Office of the Prime Minister of Ukraine
4.	Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine	Mr. Vasyl Lishchuk	Assistant to the First Vice-Prime-Minister
5.	Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Municipal Economy of Ukraine	Ms. Nina Natalenko	Head of the Division of Territorial Governance Reform of the Department of Local Self-Government, Interregional Cooperation and Administrative-Territorial Organisation
6.	Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Municipal Economy of Ukraine	Mr. Kostiantyn Gavrylov	Chief Consultant of the Department of International Cooperation and Investment Development
7.	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine	Ms. Olena Boiko	Deputy Director of the Department of Coordination of Regional Economic Policy
8.	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine	Ms. Ganna Delyusto	Deputy Head of the Division of Transborder Cooperation
9.	Ministry of Finance of Ukraine	Ms. Svitlana Suprun	Deputy Head of State Debt and International Cooperation Department



10.	Ministry of Justice of Ukraine	Ms. Oleksandra Duchenko	Deputy Head of the Division of the Department of International Legal Cooperation
11.	Volyn Regional State Administration	Ms. Nataliia Krolik	Deputy Head
12.	Zaporizhzhya Regional State Administration	Ms. Ella Slepian	Chief of Main Department of Economy
13.	Lviv Regional State Administration	Mr. Lev Zakharchyshyn	Head of International Relations Department
14.	Odessa Regional State Administration	Ms. Anastasiia Andronova	Deputy Head of the Main Department of Foreign Economic Activity and European Integration
15.	Sumy Regional State Administration	Mr. Oleksandr Sitak	Chief of Main Department of Economy
16.	Chernivtsi Regional State Administration	Ms. Kushnir Nadiia	Deputy Chief of the Department of International Affairs and Foreign Economic Activity
17.	Chernihiv Regional State Administration	Mr. Leonid Podoliak	Chief of Main Department of Economy
18.	Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine and Belarus	Mr. Dominik Papenheim	Sector Manager – Regional and Local Development/Decentralisation of Governance

11. Documentation provided to the participants

Detailed documentation folders were handed out to the participants in their introductory session in Trier. The prepared folders included:

- Programme
- Background material on EU-Ukraine Regional Policy dialogue, EU Cohesion Policy 2007-2013.
- Background material on the relevant Operation Programmes (OPs) to be visited
- Background material on some lectures and presentations

12. E-Learning platform Global Campus 21 ©

Most presentations held during the two-week training were uploaded to Global Campus 21© (GC21), GIZ's virtual learning platform on the Internet. It is based on a learning management system using modern web technology.

For this information session, a shared workspace was established in English. This provided various online tools, such as chat & discussion forums, pin board, document pools, link collections, and mailing features.



Global Campus 21
Info Session Nr. 2 Introduction to EU Regional Policy (19 June - 01 July 2011)

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Resources for Participants

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Latest Tutor News

Welcome

For the coming information session with Ukraine, GC21 will be used even more intensively during the preparation phase for an effective involvement of participants in advance. This will include providing documents, presentations and other relevant information on technical aspects, cultural background and general information on the diverse EU destinations to be visited .



13. Results of the written evaluation by the participants

Each participant received an evaluation form to be filled in after the seminar. The form contained several categories including contents, logistics and assistance. Participants were also able to enter additional remarks on different aspects of the seminar. The results of the assessment form are as follow:

1. Overall evaluation

Excellent (1,3 from 1 to 5, where 1 is excellent and 5 is poor)

2. The impact of the information session on your future work

All participants think what they have gained from the information session will play an important and positive role in their future work and they are ready to transfer it to their colleagues or related persons.

3. Please write some topics particularly relevant for cohesion policy in Ukraine

- Cross-border cooperation/conduct of neighbours, project management and control of realisation of regional strategies
- Experience of Poland in the realisation of EU cohesion policy as this is a neighbouring country and active partner of Ukraine 2) Experience of work of the polish deputy in the European parliament
- Structural funds (principles of work), Cross-border and regional cooperation, centralisation and decentralisation, (Ukraine will conduct an administrative reform), mutual beneficial relations between bordering countries
- Set up of Euroregions, 2) Cross-border-cooperation 3) Danube strategy
- 1) Visit in the Ministry of Regional Dev. in Poland, 2) Visit to the National agency in Hungary
- Regional Policy of EU (Brussels), Activities in Euroregions (Maas-Rhine), Activities of regional authorities in Hungary, Poland etc.
- 1) National coordination of regional policy in EU 2) Institutions and EU Regional policy, Links between cities, villages and sustainable development in Hungary
- |Nuts-2, NUTS3, Cross-border cooperation, social security system
- 1) Detailed information how to ensure participation of central and eastern Ukraine in cohesion policy
- 1) Transnational cooperation, cross-boarder, cooperation, Regional Development
- Training programmes for youth, active integration of youth to cross-border programmes
- EU Regional policy
- EU Structure, Cohesion Policy (Poland, Hungary)
- Trans-border cooperation, EU Regional Development, EU Regional policy



4. Crucial issues not dealt with or not dealt with in sufficient depth during this Information Session

- Administrative and territorial structure of EU countries
- Decision making procedures about partnership between EU and Non-EU countries
- Project management/control from the side of the EU
- Social security, Principles of municipal budgeting in the EU
- I would have liked to be informed more precisely about EU Danube strategy
- System of organisation of regional authorities on the basis of case studies of concrete regions
- Organisation of regional dev. from national level to lower levels (communities)
- Development of foreign economic activities
- System for assessment of development of regions, criteria, statistics, 2) Regional strategies
- Control over the realisation of projects

5. Your own concrete ideas about how to apply what you've gained from the information session in Ukraine

- Implementation of administrative-territorial reforms in Ukraine, Modernisation of administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine
- Active acquaintance with documents (legislative) of the EU, requirements for project preparation
- I will apply these ideas when elaborating development programmes and development strategies
- Creation of a unique factors for elaboration of strategy, improvement of the realisation of regional development
- Application of experience in the framework of cooperation in Euroregions
- Establishment of regional information centres on EU activity
- Development of law enforcement project on division responsibilities between executive bodies and local authorities
- Strategic planning, trans-border cooperation (knowledge transfer)
- Development of new approaches to manage regional development
- Strategic approach in developing projects of trans-border cooperation, control to which extend they comply with regional priorities
- Trans-border development, this is priority of regional development
- Regional Development fund, Assessment of effectiveness of regional policy
- Assistance to cbc projects in Ukraine



6. What concepts/ideas in your opinion can be effectively implemented in Ukraine?

- Optimisation of activities of the central and regional (local) authorities in Ukraine
- Decentralisation following the Polish example
- Development of sectoral programmes and information on different levels
- Implementation of regional development reform
- To take into account European experience on how to train specialists
- Planning and implementation of regional strategy
- Setting up a strategy of regional development

7. If the tasks were not accomplished, please explain why

- I would like to get to know more about the implementation of strategies, as for example the Danube Strategy
- A lack of possibility to contact representatives of regional authorities after the conducted events

8. How would you like to be integrated into the programme planning?

- We can propose to extend the composition of participants and propose a route
- In advance by questionnaire per e-mail, preparatory seminars prior to planning the visit
- To take part in the decision on best topics
- By a poll before the visit
- Discussion of the programmes during planning
- Survey/poll among participants about the most actual topics
- Questionnaires
- Prior consultations

9. Is it important for you to know in advance contents, lecturers and projects?

- If possible, yes

10. What kind of actions do you recommend after the visit?

- Seminars on the territory of Ukraine
- Format of this study tour, seminars in Ukraine, information centres
- Seminars for representatives of regional authorities in the regions of Ukraine, including NGOs
- Seminars, round table, web-based trainings



- Follow up seminars, and discussion of progress with other members of the delegation
- Dissemination of information on EU structure and funds
- Follow-up sessions in Kyiv, web-based info system

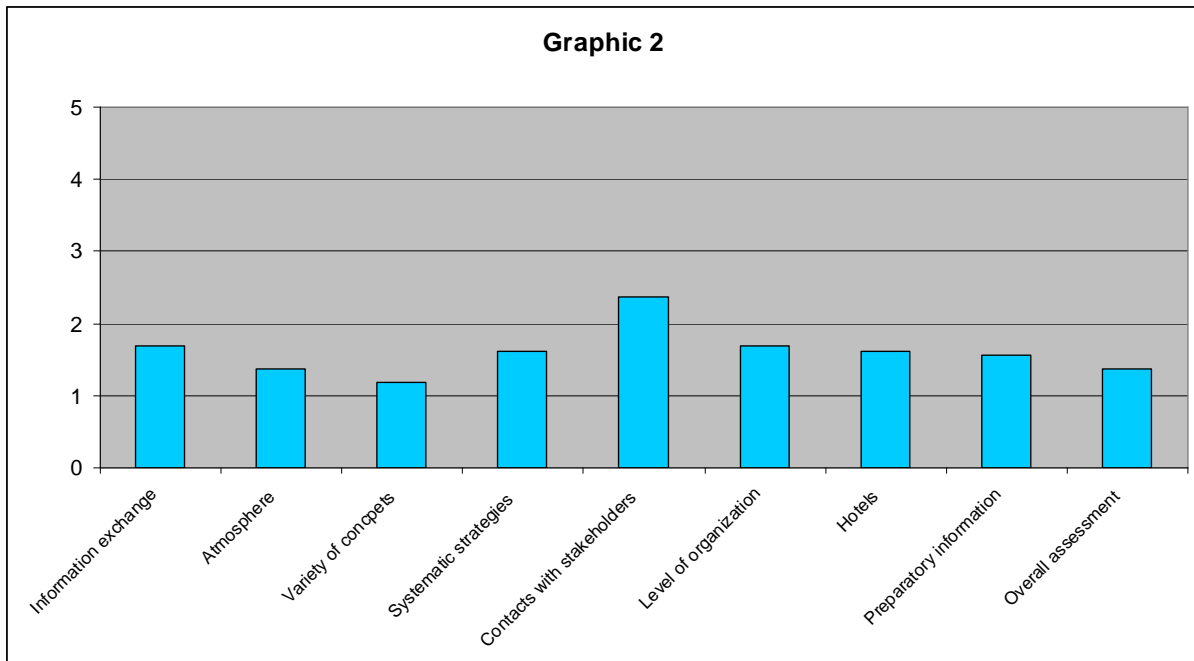
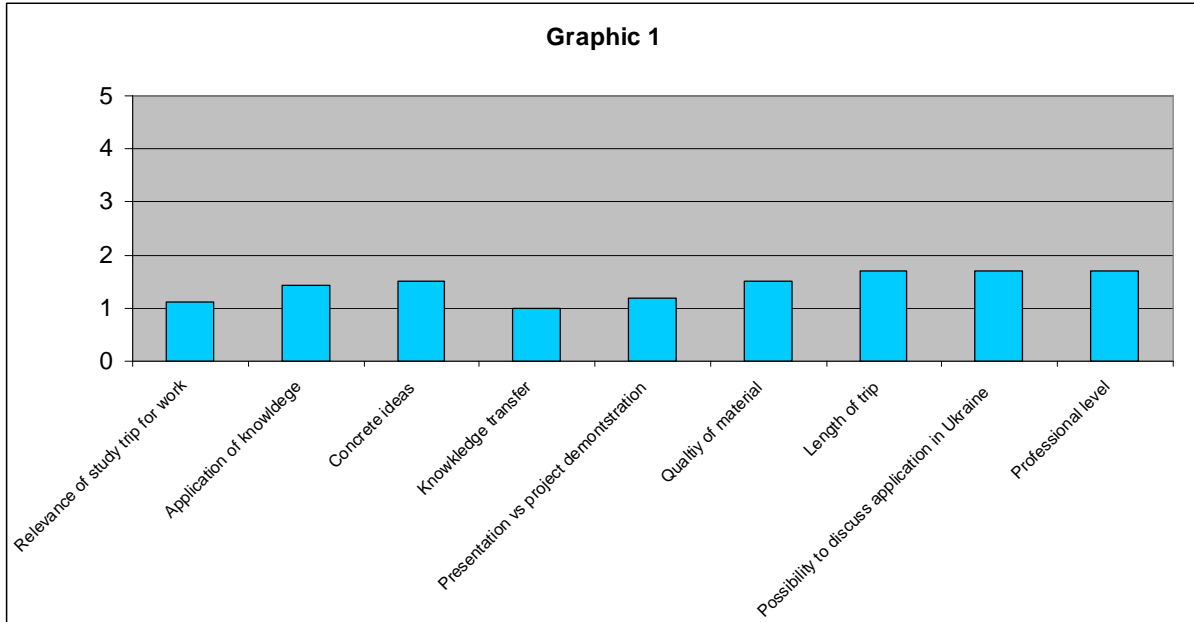
11. Other comments

- To live at one place and return each evening after project visits to this place
- Materials in Ukrainian and Russian!
- Better develop programme, less travel, more meetings in one place, to provide us with better materials before visit (booklets, information on CD/USB)
- Translation into Ukrainian, interpreter should better know the subject!
- Thank you
- Concentrate and study a fewer selected topics more in details!
- Experience of trans-border cooperation on the example of realisation of joined projects, which include participation of Ukrainian partners
- Conduct working meetings with the project coordinator to continue future cooperation
- Look at all levels of project drafting and implementation(in one EU state), practical projects in others, involve representatives of NGOs (e.g. association of cities, include EPSON into next visits, or presentations on Regional Development Fund)



14. Quantitative presentation of the evaluation results

Please find below the aggregated data of the evaluation made anonymously by Ukrainian delegates. The scale goes from 1 (excellent) to 5 (poor).





15. Staff engaged in the implementation of the programme

Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator

Mr. Gándara studied political science with a focus on economics in Chile (Santiago) and Germany (Berlin). Mr. Gándara has a long track record in leading public communication agencies, economic associations as well as academic and training institutions. He has also published several articles on EU foreign policy and regional integration issues. Mr. Gándara has developed and managed large scale research and training projects co-funded by the European Commission.

Steffi Meyer, Project Assistant

Mrs. Meyer holds an M.A. in Political Science, Conflict Studies and Sociology. After finishing her studies in Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands, she worked at the GIZ country office in N'Djaména/Chad. Since 2010, she is project manager in the department “Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development” at the GIZ head office in Bonn/Germany.

Michael Funcke-Bartz, Head of Division Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Since 2010, Mr. Funcke-Bartz is in charge of the Division “Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development” at GIZ's head office in Bonn. Since 1985, he worked for the predecessor organisations Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft e.V. (CDG) and Capacity Building International, Germany (InWEnt) as human capacity building specialist in the field of urban development and infrastructure management. As senior project manager, he was responsible for the developing, implementing and monitoring advanced professional training programmes for professionals and decision-makers in developing countries.



16. Pictures Gallery



Visit to EU Delegation in Kiev



Debate with CoR Member Mr. Luc van den Brande and MEP Mr. Jan Olbrycht in Brussels



Presentation by Mr. Charles White, EU Commission (DG REGIO)



Field visit in Budapest (Magdolna Quarter Project)



Presentation by Mr. Kurt Puchinger, City of Vienna



Mr. V'iacheslav Nehoda presenting some reflections on regional policy during the workshop in Warsaw