



European Project to boost Ukraine's capacity to fight crime ends with conference in Kyiv

Kyiv, 28.10.2008 – A joint European Union-Council of Europe project to fight crime in Ukraine is holding its closing conference on 30 October 2008 in Kyiv (the project will officially end on 30 November 2008).

The Project on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters in Ukraine (UPIC) was aimed at boosting the country's capacities to cooperate internationally in the fight against organised and serious crime. The project's main beneficiaries are the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Prosecutor General, with the Ukrainian Judiciary and Interior Ministry also participating in selected activities.

The project had 3 specific objectives:

- Firstly, to strengthen the legal basis for international cooperation in criminal matters. This was achieved through the provision of legal advice and reviews of draft laws.
- Secondly, to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of the Ministry of Justice and the Prosecution Service. This was achieved by setting up an electronic database for managing international cooperation requests, English and French language training to selected officials across Ukraine, training seminars on priority topics, the development of a practical manual and finally, study visits to other Council of Europe member states to improve knowledge of their legal systems and methods of international cooperation with them.
- Thirdly, to promote networking and direct contacts between Ukrainian Ministry of Justice officials and prosecutors and their counterparts in neighbouring and other countries. This was achieved by four international conferences on Cybercrime, Economic Crime, Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance.

ED185a08