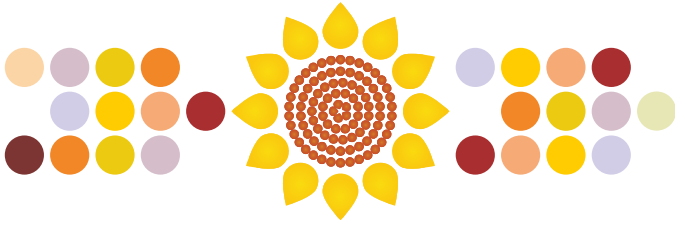




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Community Based Approach to Local Development Project

NEWS DIGEST

Village school in Dnipropetrovsk Region Takes a Biomass Route



Alternative energy technologies is often associated with some high-tech enterprises or scientific projects but they could be actually applied anywhere, at any object. Using energy efficiency measures in renovation of public schools is one of such real-life examples. Kamyanetska village school, Dnepropetrovsk region, had its moment of fame when information about installation of innovative biomass heating system in the school was aired in the local news. The school is relatively new, it was built in 1994. However, engineering gaps became noticeable soon after the construction: the premises were not heated evenly; some rooms were heated well while others remained cold. The school management was looking for the ways to fix this problem but had no sufficient funds to reconstruct the heating system. Solution was found when the local com-

munity decided to participate in the CBA project. After a due application process and expert evaluation, it was recommended to install biomass boilers to ensure balanced heating of all classrooms. Total cost of this project is UAH 495 767, including contribution from UNDP/EU (UAH 12,970), community contribution (UAH 24,755), and allocations from regional budget (UAH 25,067) and rayon budget (UAH 32,975).

Two biomass boilers that have been installed at school are running on wood pellets. "This boiler house is now the main one, and gas boiler house functions as a back-up system. If we run out of pellets, a gas boiler switches on automatically and continues heating the school. This project has a real social importance," school administrative manager tells. The upgraded heating system allowed to stabilize heat delivery in the whole

school building. In addition to installation of biomass boilers, 88 windows and entrance doors at the school were also replaced. As a result, temperature in the classrooms increased by 3-4 degrees. Thanks to this innovation, the school can save twice as much on energy bills. An added value is that pellets are locally produced. To ensure sustainability of this community project, Prydniprovsk village council decided to allocate funds for procurement of wood pellets for Kamyanetska village school. At the moment, there are 268 children studying the Kamyanetske village school, including children from the neighboring villages and smaller settlements who get here by school bus. In the coming years it is expected that the number of schoolchildren will increase as there are two kindergartens in the village and many of these kids will soon go to school. Besides, the school is opened all day round as there are Center for children's creative activities and sport club working at school. Currently there are 129 community initiatives on energy efficiency implemented throughout Ukraine with the CBA support.



Smart city approaches brainstormed at Ivano-Frankivsk conference



On 30-31 March, a national level round table *"Smart Cities - Innovations in Local Governance"* was organized in Ivano-Frankivsk city. Among the participants were representatives of the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine and the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the Ministry of Regional Development and the State Agency for Ukraine's e-governance, and Ukrainian municipal authorities.



Together they discussed perspectives of development of smart cities in Ukraine in the context of decentralization reform.

Smart cities is not some futuristic vision, it is already inherent part of our daily life. Ivano-Frankivsk was selected as venue for the conference for a reason. Ivano-Frankivsk city council is considered to be a leader among Ukrainian cities in terms of attracting direct foreign investments into city development. The city also achieved significant results in introducing e-governance.


In addition to round table discussions, the participants visited a local administrative services center, one of the first that was opened in Ukraine. The city management also presented Ivano-Frankivsk e-governance practices that are being applied since 2010. For instance, all city residents have their personalized pages at the city council's web-site and can get in touch with relevant officials and re-

ceive on-line services. Another example is a mobile guide for tourists coming to Ivano-Frankivsk that was developed by the local IT-specialists. Participants also learnt about smart boiler-house operating in the multi-apartment buildings that reacts to temperature changes, regulates the temperature accordingly and transmits the heat consumption information.

As Mr Janthomas Hiemstra, UNDP Country Director in Ukraine, has noted that *«as UNDP we believe that smart solutions for the cities like Ivano-Frankivsk and for the cities where you come from can bring all progress. Increase of information and communication technologies can help to reach those people whom we couldn't reach previously like people in rural areas.*



Decentralization and democratic access to data and to services – those things go hand in hand, that is why this event, this programme and this particular aspect is so relevant to Ukraine.»


On the basis of discussions, the participants started drafting proposals for sustainable development of smart cities in Ukraine to be implemented jointly with the municipal authorities. 

Ukraine joins international discussion on development of smart sustainable cities

On 18-19 May, an International Forum on *"Shaping Smarter and More Sustainable Cities"* took place in Rome. This strategic event aimed at introducing environment friendly urban services based on technological innovation, including smart transportation, smart healthcare, smart energy and smart education, has gathered the experts from all over the world, including Ukraine. Mr. Vitaliy Lukov, Mayor of Voznesensk city, Mykolaiv region, made a presentation how innovative technologies transformed life of this city, including introduction of smart solutions into



health services. Since 2006, Voznesensk cooperates with the UNDP that supports local energy efficient initiatives and also advocates for mainstreaming electronic governance into Ukrainian cities development programs.

Mr. Vyacheslav Negoda, Ukraine's First Deputy Minister of Regional Development, also presented the National action plan to support sustainable urban development, emphasizing the role of smart city practices. 

CBA Universities Network joins the smart cities initiative

On 14-15 April, representatives from 13 Ukrainian Universities, participating in the UNDP/CBA's University Network, and CBA regional coordinators from 12 regions gathered in Lviv to discuss the ways to engage the Network into promotion and development of smart cities concept and innovative governance in Ukraine. The event started from the field visit to Zolochiv, Lviv region, where the participants visited the local solid waste landfill where the modern technologies of waste sorting and storage are applied. They had an opportunity to see how the landfill functions, to find out from the staff about ecological security, cost-effectiveness, sorting technology and waste management. After that, the participants met with an association of co-owners of multi-apartment building (ACMB) established in Zolochiv with the CBA support. The ACMB members told about their cooperation with the city authorities and shared some practical tips. Practical introduction was followed



by strategic session aimed at discussing the modalities of Universities Network's engagement into the CBA urban development activities. The participants analyzed together approaches to shaping development strategy for the ACMBs, discussed future joint activities of University Resource

Centers, regional branches of the CBA project and local self-governance bodies regarding promotion of the smart cities concept and sustainable urban development. The best academic practices with regard to supporting the community/ACMB development as well as the results of practical academic research and practices were also shared at the meeting. Using business game methodology, the academics and regional CBA coordinators analyzed:

- Practical possibilities to access sustainable urban development indicators;
- ACMB development strategies;
- Universities' role in urban development;
- Objectives of the CBA's University Network for 2017-2019 with regard to supporting local self-governance bodies with an aim to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and ensure sustainable urban development.



UNDP field visit to see eco-friendly street lightning project in the village in Halychyna

In late March, UNDP Delegation led by Mr Janthomas Hiemstra, UNDP Country Director in Ukraine, visited Poberezhia village, Ivano-Frankivsk region, to see the results of the community initiative on energy efficient street lightning. The project has been implemented with the CBA Project support. The guests saw the solar panels that switch on automatically when it gets dark. However, this is not the only bene-

fit of this eco-friendly renewable energy system; the local community opted for the solar energy instead of the traditional overhead and underground power lines to ensure the availability of street lightning in the areas at high risk of flooding from the rivers of Dnister and Bystrytisia. From now on, the street lightning in Poberezhya will go uninterrupted under any weather condition.



The Evacuated Donetsk University Joins the CBA University Network



On 30 March 2016, Vinnytsia hosted two events aimed at enhancing the cooperation between the CBA Project and the Partner Universities Network. The first meeting at Vinnytsia Institute of Trade and Economics was organized to review last year activities of University Resource Center. Natalya Mokhnachova, Center Coordinator, presented the plan of activities for 2016. Moreover, since according to assessment of activities of all Resource Centers in 2015, this University has been selected as a winner, the

Resource Center was rewarded with a laptop and a multifunctional device from the CBA. Svitlana Slabinska, the CBA focal person for university cooperation, also had a meeting at Donetsk National University relocated from the conflict zone to Vinnytsia. The University has recently joined the CBA Network. Roman Hryniuk, Rector of Donetsk National University, handed the signed Memorandum of understanding between the UNDP and the University and informed that he had already signed a decree about creation of Resource Center. It was jointly decided that

the Center's activities will focus on promoting sustainable development, decentralization and communities' right to manage their territories, as well as on research in these areas. The University has already allocated premises for the Resource Center. The faculty staff and students of the displaced University are keen on active participation in activities of the Network. The University immediately came up with their first initiative to organize the contest of student research papers on sustainable development announced in April. 🌻

Sustainable Development Goals on University agenda



In the framework of recent student debates organized in Odesa under the CBA Project, the participants from 18 Universities learnt more about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and why they are crucial for regional and global development. The students have not only learnt about the reasons behind the SDGs introduction but have been also briefed about each of 17 Goals and proposed activities to achieve those by 2030. Students as future experts and innovators were explained how their proactive participation may contribute to positive changes. They were also encouraged to bring on the table their creative proposals that could be included the future National Sustainable Development Program. Some participants have already taken to promoting SDGs, particularly during the Europe Days, like the students of Volodymyr Dahl East-Ukrainian National University (featured in the photo). 🌻

Resource Center Opened at Kyiv Drahomanov Pedagogical University



On 5 April 2016, the UNDP/CBA National Network of Partner Universities became one member larger. A newcomer is a well-known Drahomanov National Pedagogic University in Kyiv where Resource center for sustainable development was official opened. During the opening ceremony an Action Plan for 2016 developed in accord with All-Ukrainian Action Plan of the UNDP/CBA University Network was signed.


The event was opened by Svitlana Slabinska, CBA Monitoring and Communication Specialist. Oleksandr Riabiy, CBA Rural Development Specialist, presented to the students and University management an overview of an urban component of the CBA. It is planned that priority areas of the UNDP/CBA network activities in 2016 will be smart cities development and e-governance. 🌻

Accommodation center for IDPs opened in Vinnytsia region



On 29 March 2016, an official opening of an accommodation center for IDPs took place in Yampil city, Vinnytsia region. The opening event brought a genuine home-like atmosphere. As at any other home celebration, the guests were treated to a delicious cake and entertained with the music. The accommodation center is situated in a reconstructed "Dnister" Hotel that can host up to 40 IDPs. It offers comfortable living conditions, fully equipped kitchen, hygienic facilities and showers – every-


thing one needs to start a new life in a new place with dignity. During major repair works, new windows and doors were installed, heating system, internal water supply and sewerage were renovated, and finishing works performed. This is the first CBA housing project in Vinnytsia region. Andriy Gyzhko, Deputy Head of Vinnytska Oblast State Administration, told at the opening ceremony about longtime cooperation with the CBA Project: "When we were signing our first cooperation agreement seven years ago, it was all about develop-

ment activities: constructing water pipelines, energy saving at schools, street lightning. However, two years ago everything has drastically changed. The country faces the war. IDPs arriving to Vinnytsia region need our support and empathy. We are so much grateful for the initiative implemented in Yampil." In total, there are 34 community initiatives on renovation of the buildings for the IDPs being implemented in Ukraine. 26 residential objects have been already refurbished and opened. 

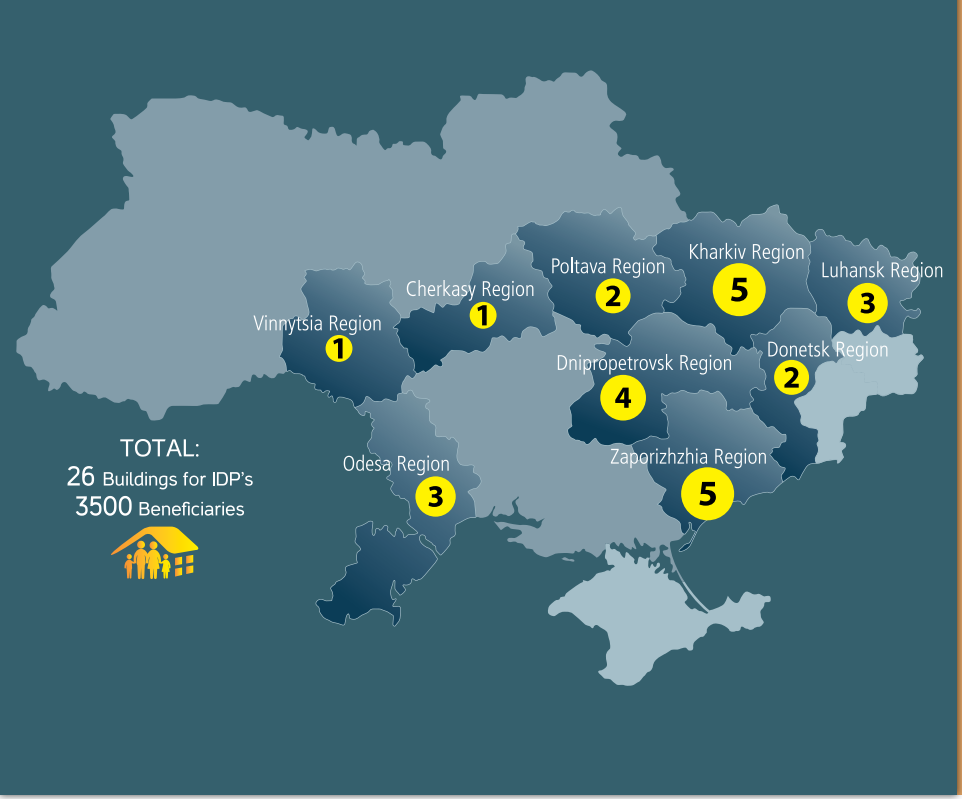


Housing projects in three regions with the highest number of IDPs



It is estimated that Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhya regions host the highest number of internally displaced persons from Donbas. Recently an accommodation center was opened in Verkhniodniprovsk town, Dnipropetrovsk region, where the dormitory of the local Agrarian College has been refurbished and is ready to accommodate 60 IDPs. It is the fifth facility in Dnipropetrovsk region repaired within this initiative. Earlier this year, the accommodation centers for IDPs have been opened in Botievo, Zaporizhya region, and Barvinkove, Kharkiv region. 

Support to internally displaced persons (number of buildings for IDPs per region)



CBA BENEFICIARIES



Kairy village, Kherson region

Spring works in Kairy village go into high gear. The local agricultural cooperative is equipped with a harrow, a seed drill and a tractor procured under the CBA project - all a novice cooperative needs to be efficient and self-reliant.



Khoroshiv village, Khmelnytsk region

Medical staff of the health post in Khoroshiv village are happy to return to the newly refurbished premises. With the CBA support, the health post has new windows, doors and roof.



Velyka Berizka village, Sumy region

Sophia Rogovets, 78, about recently completed water supply project: "What a joy to have running water. I am now using washing machine – my children bought it for me now that we have water at home. We also have a sewage. The only thing I regret is that it is only in the end of my life our village has received water supply and I can finally enjoy the benefits."



Yampil, Vinnytsia region

Official opening of accommodation center for IDPs in Yampil gathered many guests and future residents – adults and kids (see p. 5). The refurbished building is ready to host 40 persons in comfortable, home-like conditions.



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Community Based Approach to Local Development Project

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