



Report

Study Tour to Switzerland of a Delegation from Ukraine 7 – 12 July 2008

1. Background

Within the Plan of Operations of the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support Project, a study tour to Switzerland for Ukrainian project partners was planned. The objective of this study tour was to expose project partners (Ukrainian Governmental officials as Parliamentarians – national and Oblast and Rayon level, social mobilisers, community leaders) to successful experiences with decentralised community-based water supply and other public services delivery in Switzerland.

2. Summary of highlights

The study tour took place from 7 to 12 July 2008. The delegation was composed of 18 participants from Crimea, Vinnitsya, Kiev, and other parts of Ukraine, and two interpreters. The delegation was headed by the Minister of Regional Development and Construction and his Deputy Minister, and accompanied by the SDC National Programme Officer- Kiev, the DesPro PIU team, and DesPro HQ team.

PIU in coordination with COOF- Kiev organised a qualified interpreter (Ukrainian/Russian – German). The DesPro team organised and guided the tour through the complete visit programme. The Embassy of Ukraine in Berne facilitated in protocol matters.

The programme started with a short reception by the Mayor of Zurich and a day in Berne, where SDC HQ received participants and provided them with an introduction to the Swiss Cooperation with Eastern Europe and the CIS. In addition, SDC's Governance Division briefed participants on the Decentralisation Policy of SDC and related projects. The Program Manager for Ukraine gave an overview of the Swiss Development Assistance to Ukraine. Furthermore, Prof. Linder of the University of Berne made participants familiar with the Swiss political system with regard to decentralisation. Before leaving from SDC HQ, the Director of SDC welcomed the delegation.

This was followed with a thematic exchange on fiscal decentralisation and financial balance systems between Cantons and the federal level. The representative of the Conference of the Cantonal Governments and two representatives of EDA's Political Affairs Division I provided the necessary inputs.

The next day, the group visited the Institute of Federalism in Fribourg, where participants gained insights into Swiss local services and infrastructure provision from an administrative and legal point of view. Subsequently, the delegation received a sense how local services are provided. The water association of Kiesental close to Berne was a well chosen example to demonstrate the management, organisation and financing of local water supply. An input by

the Director of the Water Department of the Berne Canton showed clearly the division of tasks and responsibilities between the Canton and municipalities.

During the following days, those insights were well complemented by visits to the municipal waste incineration plant in St.Gallen, water supply at town and small rural municipality levels. The group gained further experience with the Swiss local government and administration system and how quality services are provided as a result of a well functioning highly decentralised structure.

The visit programme was ended with a closing session where participants reflected the learning experiences and gave some feedback to the DesPro team.

The study tour took place in a positive and open atmosphere, despite the slightly overloaded schedule. Group dynamics between participants were very good, as were the interactions with the numerous Swiss hosts.

The success of the study tour was only possible thanks to the welcoming hospitality and readiness of the Swiss hosts, entities and individuals from national, Cantonal, local levels, and academia to share knowledge and experiences:

- Mayor of Zurich,
- Governance Division of SDC,
- Prof. Wolf Linder, University of Berne,
- Representative of the Conference of the Cantonal Governments,
- Political Affairs Division I, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs,
- Embassy of Ukraine,
- Institute of Federalism, Fribourg,
- Water Association Kiesental, Konolfingen,
- Mayor of St.Gallen,
- Municipal Waste Incineration Plant of St.Gallen,
- Former Mayor of Malans,
- Peter Wegelin wine-yard, Malans and Architect Konrad Erhard, Chur,
- Mayor of Rorschach and Councillor Etterlin,
- Municipal Technical Division of Rorschach,
- Mayor of Wittenbach, and
- Water Cooperative of Wittenbach.

3. Visit Programme

Time	Programme	Place
Monday 7 July	Arrival day	
11.15	Arrival @ Zürich Airport	
12.00	Transfer to Zürich city centre	Zürich
13.00	Sightseeing in Zürich, on-foot	Zürich
13.45	Welcome by Mayor of Zürich, Mr. Elmar Ledergeber	Stadthaus
14.30	Boat trip on Lake Zürich to Rapperswil with lunch	
16.30	Transfer to Berne via Brünigpass	
19.30	<i>Dinner & Accommodation in Berne</i>	

Tuesday 8 July	Thematic field: Introduction to the Swiss political and administrative system	Berne
9.00	Welcome and Introduction into Swiss Cooperation with Eastern Europe and the CIS Mr. Hubert Eisele, Deputy Head of Department	SDC
9.30	Decentralization Policy of SDC and Related Projects Mr. René Holenstein, Head of Governance Division Ms. Mona M'Bikay Boin, Program Officer	SDC
10.00	Overview of Swiss Development Assistance to Ukraine Mr. Christian Disler, Program Officer Ukraine	SDC
10.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11.00	Welcome Address by SDC Director Mr. Martin Dahinden	SDC
11.15	Short Speech of Mr. Vasyl Kuybida, Minister of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine	SDC
11.30	"Introduction to the Swiss Political System in the Light of Decentralization" Prof. Wolf Linder, University of Berne	SDC
13.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
15.00	Short presentation and thematic exchange about fiscal decentralization, financial equalization between cantons and the federal state, decision-making of Swiss Foreign Ministry, its collaboration with the Parliament, and other issues. Mr. Walter Moser, Representative of the Conference of the Cantonal Governments; Mr. Claude Altermatt, Head of Council of Europe and OSCE Section, Political Affairs Division I Ms. Cécile Druey Schwab, Desk Officer Eastern Europe and CIS, Political Affairs Division I	Bernerhof (Eidg. Finanz-departement)
17.00	Reception in the Embassy of Ukraine	Embassy of Ukraine
19.00	<i>Dinner</i>	Berne

Wednesday 9 July	Thematic field: Decentralisation; Management & Decentralised Service of Water Supply at Rural Level	
9.30	Visit to Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg; Inter-active workshop Prof. Belser: Short presentation on Local Services and Infrastructure from an Administrative and Legal Perspective	Fribourg
10.15	Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Construction, Mr. Anatoliy Tkachuk: Short presentation on the Ukrainian Actual Implementation of Decentralisation	
	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00	Prof. Basta: Moderated Discussion	
12.15	<i>Lunch</i>	Fribourg
13.45	Transfer to Konolfingen	
15.30	Visit of Water Supply System Kieselental (Water Association); Meeting with the Manager of Water Association, Mr. Schäfer, and the Director of the Water Department of Bern Kanton (district level), Mr. Habegger	Konolfingen
19.00	<i>Dinner</i>	Appenberg
	<i>Accommodation in Berne</i>	

Thursday 10 July	Thematic field: Waste Management/ Public Services at "Town" Level: St.Gallen	
6.30	Transfer to St.Gallen	
10.30	Reception by Mr. Thomas Scheitlin, Mayor of St.Gallen	Kehrichtheiz-kraftwerk der Stadt St.Gallen
10.45	Presentation; Visit of a public utility of St.Gallen: Waste management	Kehrichtheiz-kraftwerk der Stadt St.Gallen
14.00	Check-in at Hotel & free time	St.Gallen- Abtwil
15.30	Transfer to Malans	

17.00	Meeting with the former Mayor of Malans: Welcome and short introduction into the Local Government system, Discussion	Malans, Mayor's Office
18.00	Visit of wine-yard and winemaking business of Mr. Peter Wegelin in Malans. A 16 th century wine press to be visited and the new wine processing, storing and marketing building explained by the architect, Mr. Konrad Erhard and representative of wine yard.	Malans, Scadenagut
	<i>Accommodation in St.Gallen- Abtwil</i>	

Friday 11 July	Thematic fields: Public services & Decentralised Local Government System	
9.00	Transfer to Rorschach	
9.30	Welcome by Councillor of Rorschach (8'600 inhabitants) Mr. Etterlin, and introduction to the city's political and administrative organization including a description of services delivery	Rorschach, Technische Betriebe
10.00	Presentation of the public utility company Technische Betriebe Rorschach (TBR; water supply and electricity), owned by the Municipality, by Mr. Hans Steiner, Director of TBR.	Rorschach, Technische Betriebe
11.00	Visit of water supply installations at Lake Constance by Mr. Hans Steiner and Mr. Jörg Hohl	Rorschach, Seewasserwerk
12.15	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00	Transfer to Wittenbach	
14.30	Visit to Wittenbach: meeting with Mayor (Gemeindepräsident), water supply and other service provision at village level (cooperative system)	St.Gallen- Wittenbach
17.00	Wrap-up and closing (What are the lessons-learnt/major impressions for participants? How will they include them in daily life work back home? How will lessons learnt be fed into DesPro)	Room "Caroline", Hotel Walhalla, St.Gallen
18.00	<i>Free time</i>	
19.30	Transfer to Appenzeller Land	
20.00	<i>Farewell Dinner</i>	
	<i>Accommodation in St.Gallen- Abtwil</i>	
	Steinegg - Appenzell	

Saturday 12 July	Departure	
8.00	Departure & transfer to Zürich Airport	
12.10	Flight departure to Kiev	Zürich Airport

4. List of Participants

No.	Name	Position
<i>DesPro Main Partners and Stakeholders at the national level</i>		
1	Mr. Vasyl Kuybida	Minister of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine
2	Mr. Anatoliy Tkachuk	Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine
3	Mr. Vyacheslav Tolkovanov	Director of International Relations and European Affairs, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine
4	Mr. Yevgen Fyshko	Director of Regional Development, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine
5	Ms. Olga Lebedynska	Chief Expert, Regional Policy Department, Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
6	Ms. Olga Bodnar	Member of the Parliament, First Deputy Head of the Parliamentary Committee on State Construction and Local Self-Government

7	Mr.	Zynovij Shkutyak	Member of the Parliament, Head of Sub-Committee on Housing and Communal Services, Parliamentary Committee on Construction, Urban Development, Housing and Regional Policy
8	Mr.	Anatoliy Chemerys	First Vice-President, National Academy of Public Administration at the President of Ukraine
9	Mr.	Pavlo Kozyryev	President of the Ukrainian Association of Villages and Small Towns, Mayor of Ukrayinka town, Kyiv Region
10	Ms.	Natalya Romanova	Head of Chernigiv Regional Council, Vice-President of the Ukrainian Association of Local and Regional Authorities
11	Mr.	Mykola Pukhtynskyy	President of the Foundation on Local Self-Government at the President of Ukraine
12	Mr.	Ihor Koliushko	Head of Board, Centre for Political and Legal Reforms
DesPro Main Partners and Stakeholders in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea:			
13	Mr.	Aziz Abdullayev	First Deputy Prime-Minister, Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea
14	Mr.	Sabri Ramazanov	Sevastianovka Village Community Leader, Bakhchisaray Rayon, Autonomous Republic of Crimea
DesPro Main Partners and Stakeholders in Vinnytsya Region			
15	Mr.	Valeriy Koroviy	First Deputy Governor, Vinnytsya Region State Administration
16	Ms.	Mariya Kolibabchuk	Deputy Head of Tulchin Rayon State Administration, Vinnytsya Region
17	Mr.	Oleh Dmytryk	Head of Illintsi Rayon Council, Vinnytsya Region
18	Ms.	Rita Grynychuk	Chief of Internal Affairs Department, Kalynivka Rayon State Administration, Vinnytsya Region
Swiss Cooperation Office in Ukraine - SDC			
19	Ms.	Olena Lytvynenko	National Programme Officer, Decentralisation and Democracy
DesPro Implementation Team			
20	Mr.	Juerg Christen	Project Director, Executive Director of Skat, CH
21	Ms.	Claudia Schneider	Project Manager, Institutional Development Specialist of Skat, CH
22	Ms.	Oksana Garnets	Senior Project Coordinator in Ukraine
23	Mr.	Vyacheslav Sorokovsky	Community Mobilization and Decentralization Expert, Ukraine
24	Ms.	Oksana Gryn	Chief of Finance and Administration, Ukraine
Interpretation			
25	Mr.	Mychajlo Gawrysch	Interpreter, Ukrainian-German
26	Ms.	Tamila Kyrylova	Interpreter, Ukrainian-German

5. Conclusions

The participants of the study tour became familiarised with an understanding of how decentralised water supply and other public services are conditioned by the legal, political, economic and socio-cultural environment. Gained impressions and lessons learnt through visits and discussions help participants to further develop realistic strategic plans for decentralised effective and affordable public services delivery in their respective areas of responsibility (National, Oblast, Rayon, and Village administrations and councils, community groups, etc.). The participants will try to use lessons learnt in their daily work.