



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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### UKRAINE

#### **Ambassador Holbrooke Attends HIV/AIDS Symposium with Ukrainian Business Leaders**

On October 25th, Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke visited Ukraine and joined in a meeting with the country's senior business leaders to discuss how the AIDS epidemic affects human resources and business, as well as how businesses can get involved and join the global family of companies organizing prevention education for employees and communities to support social initiatives against HIV/AIDS. The meeting was jointly organized by the Elena Franchuk Foundation and Interpipe Corporation in conjunction with USAID's Ukrainian Media Project, which is a Global Development Alliance (GDA) project in partnership with Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS/Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (TPAA/GBC).



*Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke at the HIV/AIDS symposium.*

The following day, Ukraine's Prime Minister Victor Yanukovich met with Ambassador Holbrooke to discuss the political situation in Ukraine and the consequences of the HIV/AIDS and TB epidemics for the country.

The Ukrainian Media Project is a USAID/Ukraine Global Development Alliance that aims to partner with national Ukrainian media to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and fight stigma and discrimination.

#### **Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine James Pettit Visits Donetsk**

On November 20, James Pettit, deputy chief of mission for the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, visited Donetsk, where he met with government officials and extended condolences from the American people while offering \$50,000 in disaster relief aid to the area. The aid was offered in response to a mine explosion that occurred at the Zasyadko Mine two days earlier, which eventually killed 101 miners.



*DCM James Pettit at the AVK Confectionary.*

The DCM was in Donetsk on a previously scheduled visit to review USAID projects in the city. While a USAID 15th Anniversary Photo Exhibit had to be canceled when November 20 was declared a national day of mourning in Ukraine, the DCM still had an opportunity to visit a Legal Aid Clinic and meet with local law students; visit a local tuberculosis hospital to learn how international standards for fighting TB are being implemented here; and see first hand how chocolates and sweets are manufactured during a stop at the AVK Confectionary, which has received USAID support for enterprise development.

## Community Connections Program Holds Alumni Conference

The first Community Connections Program Alumni Conference in Ukraine, entitled "Action Plans – the Road to Success," was held in Cherkasy, Ukraine, on November 29-December 1. The event was organized by the Social Partnership Centre, a Ukrainian NGO, in cooperation with Project Harmony, which is the project implementer. Community Connections is a U.S. government public diplomacy exchange program that encourages an exchange of information to build cultural, business and professional ties both with U.S. counterparts and with Ukrainian partners. Forty alumni representing 16 different exchange groups that traveled to the U.S. in 2006-2007 participated in the conference. These were generally professionals selected through an open competition from among the 200 alumni who had traveled to the U.S. in the last two years. They represented stakeholder groups from 17 oblasts, including businesses, local governments and NGOs. The main goals of the conference were to evaluate the implementation of action plans that participants created while in the US, to discuss obstacles participants may be facing, and to learn how to develop strategies for successful completion of projects.

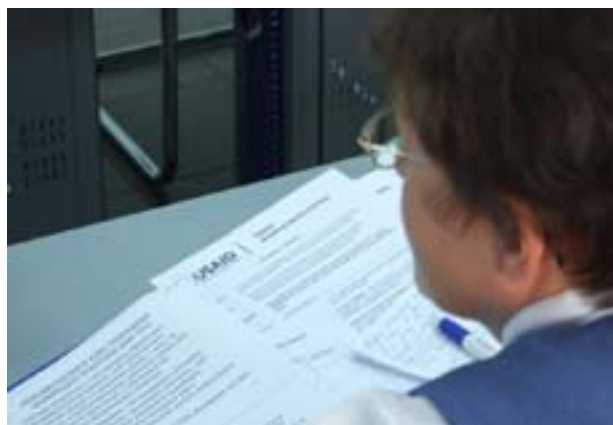


*The first Community Connections Program Alumni Conference.*

Vitalii Koval, chairman of the Cherkassy Oblast Department for Youth and Sports greeted the participants along with USAID/Ukraine's Director of the Office of Program Coordination and Strategy USAID Judith Schumacher. In her speech Ms. Schumacher outlined the goals of Community Connections program while emphasizing that "the real success of the program depends on how participants use what they have learned." She added that, "The results participants identified in individual or group action plans is what the Community Connections Program is truly all about."

## USAID's Capital Markets Project Assists in Drafting Regulation on Self-Regulatory Organizations

USAID's Capital Markets Project helped to organize a meeting of 25 members of a working group to develop a draft regulation on self-regulatory organizations of professional stock market participants, while also providing technical assistance and recommendations. The group, which met on October 1-2, included representatives of the Securities and Stock Market State Commission (SSMSC), the State Commission for Regulation of Financial Services Markets of Ukraine, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of Ukraine, and stock markets and the sector's self-regulatory organizations (SROs).



*At the meeting.*

The working group discussed the current state of SROs and regulatory supervision over the activities of SROs of professional stock market participants, and became acquainted with international best practices on this matter. The working group also updated the draft regulation on SROs, which will be submitted to the SSMSC for approval.

### Upcoming Events

**December 6-10**, MCC Team visit to Kyiv.

**December 7**, Opening ceremony of the Parliamentary Internship Program (2007-2008).

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# M O L D O V A

## **Moldova Wines Make a Splash at U.S. Embassy Reception**

On the eve of Moldova's Wine Festival on October 11, the U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Kelly Keiderling held a wine tasting to celebrate Moldova's wines, and achievements made by the wine industry with assistance from USAID.



*Journalists from the Czech Republic taste Moldova's wines.*

USAID's Competitiveness Enhancement and Enterprise Development (CEED) project is assisting Moldova's wine industry to take its place on the global market by expanding and diversifying its export markets and modernizing its marketing and branding. The efforts are already paying off; recently Moldovan wines were a popular attraction in competition and fairs in the UK, Germany and France, and were awarded several honors.

Local and foreign journalists, government officials, diplomats and wine industry executives attended the reception. Guests tasted wines from seven of Moldova's premier wineries, which recently formed the Wine Guild association, whose assignment is to raise the image Moldova as a winemaking country.

## **New Maternal Center Opens in Cahul**

On October 18, U.S. Ambassador to Moldova Michael D. Kirby inaugurated the Încredere Maternal Center in Cahul, which was established with support from USAID. Încredere is the only housing center in southern Moldova to provide mothers and pregnant women with shelter in times of crisis and need.

With a caring staff and conditions similar to a family home, the shelter seeks to preserve and strengthen the mother and child relationship, and provide medical and counseling services, life skills and vocational training, and assistance in finding jobs.

The Încredere maternal center is the seventh support center established under the Better Opportunities for Women and Youth project implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) with funding from the U.S. Presidential Anti-Trafficking Initiative.

## **Judicial Ethics is Focus of U.S. Federal Judge's Visit to Moldova**

On November 1, USAID organized a press conference with Judge D. Brooks Smith, United States Federal Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, after he had participated in a USAID training on judicial ethics. Judge Smith, the highest ranking U.S. judicial official to have visited Moldova, discussed the importance of judicial ethics and its role in enhancing the accountability, professionalism and public perception of the judiciary in Moldova.

These events followed a Superior Council of Magistracy adoption of a new draft Code of Judicial Ethics that will, for the first time in Moldova, limit a judge's activities to prevent conflict of interest and fraud.

Over 30 judges from the Chisinau Court of Appeal and Chisinau district courts attended the training organized by the Superior Council of Magistracy and MCC Moldova Governance Threshold Program.

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# BELARUS

## NEE Holds Conference on Belarusian Legal Clinics

The New Eurasia Establishment (NEE), a local partner of the Eurasia Foundation, together with the Belarus State University Law Department organized an international conference on October 19-20 in Minsk, entitled "Tendencies in Development of Laws and Advancement of Law Practice in Current Environment". The conference was the concluding event of its program on clinical legal education.



*During the conference.*

About 50 Belarusian educators, students and guests from Ukraine and Russia who are associated with legal clinics discussed the progress and challenges of contemporary clinical legal education in Belarus, and the potential for student legal clinics to improve the rule of law in general.

The conference offered an opportunity for participants to discuss the results of NEE's program on student legal clinics, and to advocate for student legal clinics to become a formal part of legal education in Belarus. Participants also discussed the possibility of introducing professional standards to increase the effectiveness of the clinics' work and promoting each clinic's particular specialization in terms of providing legal services within their respective communities.

Conference participants adopted a resolution outlining actions to promote clinical legal education and adopt international best practices within Belarusian student legal clinics. Conference organizers will distribute the resolution to all stakeholders including universities, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Justice.

The conference further underscored the importance of student legal clinics within the Belarusian legal education. To date, the Eurasia Foundation's and NEE's program on clinical legal education has included the creation of website containing information on each of Belarus' legal clinics, several seminars and round tables for educators and students, the development of a new, two-volume textbook on legal clinic education and a pilot curriculum for students training in the legal clinic.

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**Happy Coming New Year!**