

## Lviv is preparing for Euro 2012



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### Lviv, the Capital of Galicia, is one of four Ukrainian cities hosting the European Football Championships 2012.

As you might already know, Ukraine and Poland will jointly be hosting the European Football Championships in the summer of 2012. On the Ukrainian side – although EURO 2012 is an event concerning the entire country – the main focus will be on four cities: Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Lviv.

A successful hosting of the Euro 2012 will be a significant contribution towards a full-scale European integration. The preparations for the championships can be divided into four major steps: 1) Construction of the stadium, 2) Development of roads and infrastructure, 3) Airport renovation, 4) Development of a security concept.

### The stadium

According to the requirements set by UEFA, the construction of a new stadium in Lviv will have to be completed by the end of 2010 and two official international matches should be held there before launching the championships in 2012.

The stadium will be located 12 km from the city centre, and the company "Arnica", which is a well-known project company in Lviv, has adapted the draft project to the Ukrainian legislation. So, the planning stage is currently completed, and all necessary permits regarding the preliminary construction work have been obtained. The search for investors is ongoing, and at present time negotiations are being conducted with three local and four European companies.

On February 6th, 2008, the Austrian company Alpine BAU GMBH – a well-known constructor of stadiums of

the highest quality in Europe – won the right to build the Lviv stadium for Euro 2012. The plan was to accomplish the construction work within 18 months. However, the agreement with Alpine and Lviv City Council was never signed and all negotiations was stopped due to an unexpected rise amounting to 120 million Euros in the estimated costs of the construction.

As a consequence the tender for the right to construct the stadium in Lviv was reoffered to any interested part. This time the winner was the project and construction company "Azovintex", and according to the press service of Lviv city council the agreement has now been signed with the general contractor.

"We have removed the last obstacle for the start of construction and are now entering the process set out by UEFA. We have been able to conduct all the authorization procedures fast enough, because the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Regional Construction, Vice-Premier Ivan Vasiunyk and regional authorities joined a decision", explains the mayor of Lviv, Andriy Sadovyy. "As for money, the city has guaranteed the construction of the stadium, and as soon as we find an investor, who wishes to finance the project, an agreement with the main contractor will be renegotiated", said Mr. Sadovyy.

All in all, the arena of the future stadium in Lviv will be able to hold 33,400 spectators, 450 of which are reserved for VIPs. The stadium will have three floors. The first floor will be an underground parking lot, the two others will be stands, VIP-sectors, and additional facilities.

### Infrastructure

Lviv has received a grant of 500,000 Euros from Germany's federal-government bank KfW for the development of an infrastructural concept. Besides, KfW will provide a loan of 20 million Euros and the

European Bank of Reconstruction and Development will provide a loan of 30 million Euros for the implementation of this concept.

These projects include the renovation of about 7 km of existing roads in the central part of the city and the construction of approximately 5 km of new roads across suburbs. The plan of action for the implementation of projects has been agreed with the KfW who provided 500,000 Euros of grant funds, and is supported by the GTZ - German Technical Cooperation Society - which implements technical assistance projects to promote economic development in more than 130 countries around the world.

Aside from the (re)-

construction of roads, another challenge facing the city of Lviv is the electric transport system, which is currently suffering a crisis caused by heavy underfunding. However, the new leaders of the Lviv public utility corporation, "Lvivelektrotrans", have begun negotiations with European consulting companies and banks in order to normalize the funding. A framework agreement with EBRD on the financing of the way out from the crisis situation is already signed, and this makes a solution to the problem before the summer of 2012 very likely.

### The airport

With regards to the airport of Lviv, The State Enterprise "International Airport Lviv"

is planning to extend the runway by 700 meters in order to meet the requirements for taking on intercontinental aircrafts. The city itself will participate in renovating the area around the terminal and in the development of general infrastructure.


### A security concept for EURO 2012

The Cabinet of Ministers have already approved the so-called "security concept" meant to ensure a high degree of law and order during EURO 2012. In particular, this conception provides the following: 1) a realization of control measures concerning offences and hooligan actions and direction of fan movements, 2) exchange of information with law enforcing authorities

of the participating countries, 3) cooperation with foreign communication officers, including Interpol and Europol, 4) supervision of highways, railway stations, bus stations and airports, 5) determination of potential threats from terrorists 6) organization of medical support, in particular grant of urgent medical service in the case of emergency, 7) bringing the condition of stadiums in accordance with international standards.

In sum, there is a lot of work to be done before Lviv is ready for hosting the EURO 2012. But once completed, the many projects will no doubt be a massive lift for the city.



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