



ОЩАДБАНК

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Western NIS Enterprise Fund and Oschadbank proceed with crediting social enterprises at unprecedented rates

February 19, 2018, Kyiv, Ukraine - Western NIS Enterprise Fund and Oschadbank granted another social loan under the "Social Entrepreneurship" program. This time it went to the Vocational Counseling Center for the Disabled "Drukarskyi Dim" in Kramatorsk, where this loan will be used to purchase new equipment for printed materials production in order to consequently strengthen the Center's competitive position in the regional market. This, in turn, provides opportunities for creating new jobs for the disabled. At present, "Drukarskyi Dim" employs 11 workers, 4 of them are with special needs. Re-equipment of the enterprise will ensure the employment of 6 to 12 disabled workers, as well as scaling up their wages.

'Social entrepreneurship is a real support program for enterprises and individual entrepreneurs who build and develop business with a social component. For them, such loans are the most affordable in the market since they are granted at unprecedentedly low rates - from 5% to 10% per annum. If your business is social, we are here to help you,' noted **Andrii Stetsevych**, Deputy Chairman of Oschadbank.

'Being involved in a fair market competition for the consumer of goods or services, social enterprises simultaneously invest a significant share of their profits in solving social issues. That is why WNISEF Impact Investing Program prefers such companies in the context of low interest loans. It will facilitate their development both commercially and socially,' said **Vasyl Nazaruk**, WNISEF Impact Investing Program Manager.

Under the "Social Entrepreneurship" program enterprises and entrepreneurs that prove social focus of their activities can get loans at the annual rate of 5% to 10%. Preference is given to projects that support primarily the citizens of Ukraine who suffered from the conflict in the East, including IDPs from southern and eastern regions, people with disabilities, low-income women and members of other disadvantaged social groups. See the detailed loan program terms at <http://wnisef.org/en/impact-investing/> and at Oschadbank's website <https://www.oschadbank.ua/ua/business/finansuvannya-biznesu/>

As part of the program, Oschadbank provided social loans to enterprises in Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk and Cherkasy regions. In October, Oschadbank granted the first social loan to an individual entrepreneur from Kyiv.

Oschadbank is a leading Ukrainian bank with the most extensive network of branches. The Bank operates in all financial sectors. Among its clients are small and medium businesses as well as major Ukrainian companies. Oschadbank was the first state bank to start implementing the Development Strategy. In September 2017 Oschadbank launched a nationwide comprehensive program of small businesses support "[Build Your Own](#)". The main objective of the program is to support entrepreneurs at various stages of business development.

Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF) is a \$150 million regional fund, a pioneer in Ukraine and Moldova with more than two decades of successful experience in investing in small and medium-sized companies. WNISEF was funded by the U.S. government via the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Since its inception, WNISEF's cumulative investments total over \$168 million to 118 companies employing around 25 000 people and made it possible to unlock \$1.5 billion for companies in Ukraine and Moldova. In 2015 WNISEF has launched a \$35 million legacy program focused on export promotion, local economic development, impact investing and economic leadership. WNISEF is funding innovative, high-impact, reform focused programs and aims to support Ukraine and Moldova at this critical period by developing sound economic policy and leadership. Visit www.wnisef.org