



National Project Steering Committee
Friday, November 9, 2007
Ukrainian House, Kyiv, Ukraine

Minutes

1. Call to Order

The National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) meeting was called to order at 14:00.

2. Welcome Remarks

Welcoming remarks were provided by representatives of CUI, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia Oblast State Administrations, and the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine.

3. Review and approval of minutes from NPSC meeting, 28 March 2007

Copies of the minutes of the NPSC meeting of March 28, 2007 had been circulated. With a motion by Andrew Farncombe, the Minutes of the NPSC meeting of March 28, 2007 were adopted as tabled.

4. Summary of progress towards results and overview of project achievements in April-September, 2007 and review of action plans for Q3, Q4 and beyond.

RGD Project management presented the results of project implementation during the first six months of this fiscal year and provided an update on the activities planned for the following six months in each of the three project components: national-level policy and regional dialogue development, capacity development, and participatory planning.

The highlighted project achievements included:

- improving the capacity of regional governments in preparing capital grants project proposals provided through capital grants training delivered jointly with DFID;
- improving the regional stakeholders' understanding of CEE experiences in regional development provided through a learning exchange to Hungary;
- increased public awareness of regional strategic planning processes provided through regional informational and educational campaigns; and
- action planning in RGD pilot regions.

The highlighted planned activities included:

- completion of research, recommendations, and background reports;
- support to action planning in priority areas;
- providing expert review and support to public discussion of Zaporizhzhia draft strategy;
- continued support to the process of integrated planning in Zaporizhzhia's rayons and cities;
- building stakeholders capacities in monitoring and evaluation;
- building stakeholders capacity in the implementation of strategic plans; and
- technical learning exchanges.

A key goal for the coming period is to ensure sustainability of project results.

5. Summary of activities in the project pilot regions

RGD pilot oblasts, Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia provided an update on project activities and the results achieved during the last six months.

In Zaporizhzhia, the highlights included:

- completion of the tendering process for the drafting of the Regional Development Strategy document;
- completion of background studies for selected priority areas;
- commencement of the action planning process and development of draft action plans;
- activities on local strategies development in pilot rayons and cities;
- information and education campaign events;
- work on local initiatives; and
- cooperation with other donor projects and initiatives (DFID, World Bank and MEDA).

In Zakarpattya, the highlights included:

- publishing of the demonstration version of Zakarpattya Regional Development Strategy until 2015 in Ukrainian;
- information and education campaign events;
- establishment of working groups for strategic priority areas;
- commencement of the action planning process and development of draft action plans; and
- completion and approval of strategic plans in seven rayons and two cities.

6. Discussion

The Chair opened the floor for NPSC discussion, comments and suggestions.

Discussion was held about current achievements and future activities of the RGD Project. The following points and recommendations were raised:

- Cooperation between rayons and cities in Zaporizhzhia was applauded by the Ministry of Economy.
- The importance of infrastructure development projects for the development of financial capacity of territorial communities was underlined.
- A suggestion was made to carry out a study of the demographic situation and trends in Zaporizhzhia oblast.
- Recommendations were made to hold investment forums in the pilot oblasts after the completion of Regional Strategies and to provide training on preparation of business plans and investment project proposals for rayons in the pilot oblasts.
- Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattya oblasts expressed an interest for increased cooperation to share information on achievements in strategic planning and to hold joint activities.
- Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattya oblasts expressed an interest in increased linkages with Canadian partners, in particular in finding sister-cities in Canada for the cities in Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattya. Oblast representatives were referred to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities that could be approached with this issue. Additionally, it was noted that the Regional Municipality of Niagara is interested in holding knowledge-sharing and exchanges within the framework of the RGD Project, but is unable to sign a legal agreement.
- Learning exchanges were highlighted as a useful tool for exchange of experience with other countries.
- Sustainability was identified as a key issue to be addressed over the coming period in the project.

7. Other business

- RGD Budget

RGD management responded to a request raised by Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattya oblasts during the NPSC meeting of March 28, 2007 to review RGD Project budget. A document outlining the budget of the project for FY3 was circulated among NPSC members. No questions or discussion was raised about the budget.

- Retirement of RGD Lead International Expert (LIE)

RGD LIE, Dr. Tibor Frank, announced his retirement in October 2007. RGD Project management acknowledged the contribution of LIE to the project since its launch and expressed appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Frank.

8. Adjournment

The next NPSC meeting is to be held in April or May 2008. The meeting adjourned at 16:00.

List of Participants

Present:

Andrew Farncombe, Director, International Partnerships, Canadian Urban Institute (Chair)
Vasyl Papp, Deputy Head, Main Economic Department, Zakarpattia Regional State Administration
Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager, RGD Project, Kyiv
Serhiy Romanyuk, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine
Tamara Romas Figol, Second Secretary (Development), Canadian Embassy
Ella Slepian, Head, Main Economic Department, Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration
Yuri Tretiak, Executive Director, National Association of Regional Development Agencies

In Attendance:

Nataliya Betsa, Project Coordinator, RGD Project, Kyiv (Secretary)
Anastasiya Bevez, Zaporizhzhia Oblast Project Assistant, RGD Project
Alex Hetmanczuk, RGD Project Intern, Canada
Svitlana Krugliak, Deputy Head, Main Economic Department, Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration
Iryna Lekh, Zaporizhzhia Oblast Project Manager, RGD Project
Dmytro Miroshnikov, RGD Zakarpattya Project Coordinator
Sergiy Mogylnyi, Strategic Planning Expert for Zaporizhzhia Oblast
Volodymyr Nazarenko, Strategic Planning Expert for Zaporizhzhia Oblast
Natliya Nosa, Zakarpattya Oblast Project Manager, RGD Project
Olena Nyzhnyk, Director, Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine
Bohdan S. Onyschuk, Chairman of the Board of the Canadian Urban Institute, partner at Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Larysa Pekarska, Deputy Head, Department for International Technical Assistance Coordination, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine
Ihor Sanzharovskyi, Senior Technical Advisor, RGD Project, Kyiv
Tymur Tashtanov, Head of Department of Trans-Border Cooperation and European Integration, Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration
Chris VanDooren, Project Manager, International Partnerships, Canadian Urban Institute

Observers:

Ihor Ilko, Ukrainian Field Coordinator, "Decentralized Management of Skills Training in Ukraine" Project