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**Information**  
**on the activities within the framework of the Canada-Ukraine Partnership**  
**Project for Regional Governance and Development (RGD)**  
**in April 2007**

- From April 2 to April 5, Olena Nyzhnyk, Director, Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and Ihor Sanzharovskyi, RGD Senior Technical Advisor, participated in the conference **“Regions in Focus”** that was organized by the Regional Studies Association (RSA) and held in Lisbon, Portugal. RSA conference is an annual event gathering public officials, researchers, academics, NGO workers, and business representatives working in the areas related to regional development. Over two hundred participants from around the world attended RSA event this year to share and discuss results of their work. Olena Nyzhnyk and Ihor Sanzharovskyi participated in three plenary sessions and several workshops as well as delivered a presentation on “Regional Development in Ukraine: Institutions and Policy” to the participants of the “Regional Governance and Policy” workshop. The presentation was very well received and many questions were raised to discuss current practices and perspectives for regional development in Ukraine. Participation in the event allowed the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine to learn international best practices in regional development, which will inform policy making and implementation. Among policy areas, which need specific attention in Ukraine are regional innovations, regional competitiveness, regional mobility, skills and employment and regional governance. The RGD project’s participation provided an opportunity to share its achievements to an international audience and allowed to identify areas of Ukrainian regional development policy, where support is required in the context of the current international trends.
- On April 4 **training on fundraising** (alternative resources of the programs for regional development financing) was held in Zaporizhzhia city council building. The training was organized by Zaporizhzhia regional branch of the Association of Cities and Communities of Ukraine with the involvement of the RGD Project. Among participants of the event were representatives of regional government and local self-government bodies of Zaporizhzhia oblast cities and districts. This event was the next step in developing cooperation between the RGD Project and Association of Cities and Communities of Ukraine, which was initiated last year during a meeting between the RGD Zaporizhzhia Oblast Project Manager, Irina Lekh, and Executive Director of Association of Cities and Communities of Ukraine, Ivan Shcherbakha. As a result of several meetings, an agreement on cooperation in the regional and local development sphere was reached. In particular, it included holding of joint trainings and workshops for the representatives of government and local self-government bodies. This particular training was facilitated by Irina Lekh. She introduced to the participants the basics of fundraising, gave practical recommendations on how to write project proposals for receiving grants and mobilizing internal resources. Besides, Irina Lekh outlined RGD Project activities in the region and presented to the participants the opportunities of receiving mini-grants for the demonstration projects implementation within the framework of RGD Project. The next event within the framework of cooperation between RGD and the Association of Cities and Communities of Ukraine is going to be training for the representatives of government and local self-government bodies on the topic of “Strategic Planning as an Instrument for Effective Community Development”.
- On April 18 Tamara Romas Figol, Second Secretary, Development, Canadian Embassy in Ukraine, visited Zakarpattia region with the purpose to monitor the RGD project activity in Zakarpattia region and learn the

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activities taking place on the ground. During the visit Tamara Romas Figol met with the officials from Zakarpattya Oblast Council and Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration, RGD Project Zakarpattya regional staff and experts, and NGOs' leaders, in particular, the coalition "For the Future of Zakarpattya" that was established specifically for coordinating NGOs activities in the process of development and implementation of the "Regional Strategy for Zakarpattya Oblast Development until 2015". The participants of these meetings included Vasyl Brenzovych, Deputy Head of Zakarpattya Oblast Council, Volodymyr Hoblyk, Deputy Head of Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration, Ernest Nuser, Head of Main Department for European Integration, Foreign External Relations and Tourism, Viktor Pogorelov, Head of Main Economic Department, Ludmyla Hrytsak, Deputy Head, Main Economic Department. The discussions were focused on the specifics of the strategic planning process in Zakarpattya, major results achieved to date and some of the challenges encountered along the way. They also covered the RGD Project action plan for the ongoing strategic planning process in Zakarpattya and the next steps in implementing the regional strategy.

- On April 18 ***the award ceremony for the winners of the contest for the best logo and motto for strategic planning in Zakarpattya region*** was held in Zakarpattya Oblast Council building. The judging panel of Zakarpattya artists, experts and representatives of the public selected the winners from about 60 logo and motto submissions, which reflected ideas and objectives of Zakarpattya Regional Development Strategy. The winners of the contest were Ponomarenko Hanna, art-designer of "TWIN" ltd., and Babunych Galyna, head of NGO "Ukrainian – Polish Centre for Cross-border Cooperation" (Uzhgorod). The motto of Zakarpattya Regional Development Strategy consists of 5 words – symbols, which reflect five strategic priorities for the development of Zakarpattya region: *Person \* Prosperity \* Zakarpattya \* Consent \* Harmony*.
- During the month of April the RGD Project regional strategic planning experts and representatives of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration analyzed reports on activities of the local Working Groups on Strategic Planning. These working groups operate in oblast districts and cities. This was a part of the process on selection of pilot districts and cities, where the Project is planning to support activities in development of the local strategies during Year 3 of the Project. As a result of the analysis, several options were identified. This included Prymorsk and Tokmak districts, and Energodar, Melitopol and Zaporizhzhia cities. In addition, it was decided to organize visits to the possible pilots by the RGD Zaporizhzhia Regional Project Manager in April-May with the purpose to verify the information received and make a final decision. On April 26 Iryna Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Oblast Project Manager visited the city of Energodar, where she held meetings with Andriy Urbanovich, Head of the Economic Department of the executive committee of the Energodar city council, and Volodymyr Kostyuk, Head of the Public Working Group on Strategic Planning. During these meetings they discussed issues related to Energodar city Development Strategy, as well as plans to continue this process throughout the current year. At the time of the visit the city had already formulated a common vision and was planning to work on identifying its strategic development priorities. Visits to Prymorsk and Tokmak districts due to take place in the middle and in the end of May respectively.
- On April 26-27 Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager and Ihor Sanzharovskiy, RGD Senior Technical Advisor, participated in the conference "***International Economic Cooperation and Regional Development***" in the Crimea held by the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and supported by Carl Duisberg Center. The conference was chaired by Serhiy Romaniuk, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine. The discussion topics included the following issues: investment and innovation policy in Ukraine; regional peculiarities and competitiveness of the regions; possibilities for investment into regional development; capacity building for regional development; presentations of investment capacities of the regions; economic forecast for development; priorities for strategic development of the regions; international programs for regional development. The participants of the conference represented the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Ministry of Economy of the Crimea Autonomous Republic, and the main economic departments of regional state administrations. The basic issues raised were about implementing regional strategies through investment projects, more effective capacity building for regional staff in preparation of investments projects, establishing more effective links between trained specialists, selected projects and regional priorities; and providing regions with information on the available credit lines from international banking institutions and Ukrainian ministries. The RGD project representatives delivered a presentation on the RGD project focusing on infrastructure investment training that are taking place within the framework of the project. The first round of workshops for the representatives of regional state administrations from

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Eastern and Western clusters of oblasts was held in Svyatogorsk, Donetsk region and Lviv in April (respectively). The first round of workshops for the representatives of regional state administrations from Central and Southern clusters of regions due to happen in Kyiv and Odessa in May (respectively).

- On April 27 on the initiative of the Regional Public Working Group (RPWG) on Strategic Planning **a roundtable meeting on social and economic development issues** of Komunarsk rayon (district) was held in Komunarsk Rayon Administration of the city of Zaporizhzhia. The Head of the Komunarsk Rayon Administration, Yuri Pelykh, addressed the RGD Project Zaporizhzhia regional office with a request to assist the rayon administration in development of a Strategic Plan for Komunarskyi rayon. The Head of the RPWG, Volodymyr Glazunov, suggested holding a meeting with the participation of the local government and public representatives to discuss the joint work on Strategy development. The RGD Project Regional office staff participated in this event. The Regional Manager delivered a presentation on the results of strategic planning process in Zaporizhzhia region and outlined plans for the current year. During the roundtable Volodymyr Glazunov facilitated SWOT-analysis of the current situation in Komunarskyi rayon. The participants were divided into three groups; each of the groups identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of their rayon in the economic, social and political spheres. At the end of the meeting, Volodymyr Glazunov suggested establishing an initiative working group for the rayon development strategy. The working group was formed by all of the participants of this meeting. The meeting of the initiative working group will be held on May 19, 2007.
- The analytical report entitled **“State Financial Support for Regional Development”** was finalized by Ukrainian experts Ihor Yakovenko and Iryna Sherbyna. This report includes the following issues: financial tools for regional development (capital grants, subventions, etc.); incentives for the regions; technical criteria and procedures for obtaining funds from the state budget; and financial institutions and mechanisms of regional development. This report is available in Ukrainian on the RGD Project’s website at: [http://www.rgd.org.ua/project\\_publications/publications\\_list/](http://www.rgd.org.ua/project_publications/publications_list/)
- The analytical report entitled **“Review of Central and Eastern European Regional Experience”** was published in Ukrainian. This report contains a review of local government in CEE countries since the introduction of new territorial-administrative systems; an analysis of regional policies and practices; a discussion of fiscal decentralization issues and sub-national finance; a review of institutional arrangements and intergovernmental relations; and policy recommendations for the Ukrainian government. This publication was disseminated among regional state administrations of Ukraine and the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine. This publication is also available on the RGD Project’s website at: [http://www.rgd.org.ua/project\\_publications/publications\\_list/](http://www.rgd.org.ua/project_publications/publications_list/)

More detailed information about Project events and activities can be found online at [www.rgd.org.ua](http://www.rgd.org.ua)

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