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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 2008**

- On April 1, 2008, a **round table** on “**Attracting Investments into Regional Development: Global and Ukrainian Trends**” and “**Experience and Perspectives for Public-Private Partnerships Introduction in Ukraine and Abroad**” was held in Kyiv. The main goal of this event was to present the results of policy research conducted by the RGD project on request by the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine. It was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Ministry for Regional Development and Construction, Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administrations, Ukrainian Center for Foreign Investment Promotion, and other technical assistance programs and projects.

Svitlana Slava, RGD Project Expert, presented the policy report on Investments into Regional Development. Her presentation focused on the quality of the investment climate, the role of investment agencies, innovation policy, and technoparks. She emphasized the importance of encouraging public input into activities aimed at improving and stimulating investment activities. The findings of the study on public-private partnerships were presented by Myroslava Lendiel, RGD Project Expert. Recommendations to the government of Ukraine included specific legal provisions, institutional changes, capacity strengthening activities for government staff, and various financial and economic incentives to stimulate the introduction and dissemination of public-private partnerships. Following the presentations, Tetyana Lysytsia, Deputy Director of the Department for Investment Policy of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine presented a draft Law of Ukraine on “Public – Private Partnerships in Ukraine.” She noted that the policy research presented at the roundtable, informed the preparation of the draft law.

In the afternoon, the participants engaged in a fruitful discussion. Important comments and recommendations were provided by Peter Szegvari, RGD International Expert from Hungary. He shared Hungarian experience in attracting investments, and discussed case studies and lessons learned in establishing technoparks and developing public-private partnerships. The reports will be published in Ukrainian in the near future. More detailed information on the round table, including presentations and recommendations is available on the RGD Project website at: [http://www.rgd.org.ua/project\\_activities/round\\_table/round\\_table\\_kyiv/](http://www.rgd.org.ua/project_activities/round_table/round_table_kyiv/)

- On April 4, the last **Regional Working Group meeting (RWG)** on Strategy development was held in Zaporizhzhia. Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, chaired the meeting. The number of men and women present at the meeting was nearly equal. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: amendments to the Draft Regional Development Strategy of Zaporizhzhia Oblast until 2015; development and approval of the short (demonstration) version of the Regional Development Strategy; and the progress in the development of local strategies in the pilot territories of Zaporizhzhia oblast. The draft strategies from the pilot territories were presented: Development Strategy of Energodar city; the Concept of the Development Strategy of the Recreational Zone of Azov Seacoast Territories; and the Concept of the Tokmak Territory Development.

As a result of the meeting, the short (demonstration) version of the Draft Regional Development Strategy of Zaporizhzhia Oblast up to 2015 was approved. The complete draft of the Regional Strategy was also approved by mutual consensus. It was agreed to submit the Strategy to Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council for consideration, including the following additional proposals:

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- a motion by the mayor of Energodar city about the construction of a bridge across Kakhovka lake and the establishment of a Scythian culture museum in Energodar;
- a motion by the heads of the Berdyansk, Priazovsk, Primorsk and Yakymivka Rayon State Administrations about the Concept of the Development Strategy of the Recreational Zone of Azov Seacoast Territories; and
- the motion by the head of Tokmak Rayon State Administration and Tokmak City mayor about the Concept of the Tokmak territory development.

Additionally, it was decided to draft an order from the head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration to establish a new RWG on implementation and monitoring of the Regional Development Strategy of Zaporizhzhia Oblast until 2015. The event was widely covered in local mass media, in particular, on regional TV-channels "Alex", "TV-5" and "Zaporizhzhia"; broadcasted on Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Radio company "Zaporizhzhia" and radio "Zaporizhzhia-FM". The information about the event was also posted on the Ukrprostir website and official website of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration.

- At the beginning of April, the multi-stakeholder working groups in Zakarpattya Oblast prepared the final drafts of the action plans in each priority area. These drafts were discussed and finalized for presentation to the Oblast State Administration during the final working group meetings on April 4, 5 and 7. This included finalizing the schedules for the short, middle and long term activities stated in the action plan. Additionally, on April 8, working groups' leaders met with the Oblast Council deputies that chair council committees on various issues related to the regional priority areas. The goal of this meeting was to foster more active involvement by the Oblast Council deputies in the regional strategic planning process. The deputies were briefed about the key short, middle and long term activities for implementation of the regional strategy. They recommended that the action plans should be presented to the Oblast State Administration to be reviewed by the related specialized departments and by the department of finance. After this, the action plans should be tabled for approval at a regular session of the Oblast Council.

The action plans were presented to Oblast State Administration during a **joint meeting of all working groups** on April 9. During this meeting, working group facilitators discussed the key aspects of the action plans, including the short, middle, and long term activities stated in those plans. The feedback provided by the representatives of the Oblast State Administration was positive and enthusiastic. It was underlined that the draft action plans were prepared by the multi-stakeholder working groups and the Oblast State Administration. Vasyl Papp, Deputy Head of the Main Department of Economy, informed the participants that the action plans should be reviewed by the relevant specialized departments and also by the department of finance prior to commencing the implementation process.

- On April 10, a **meeting of the working group on local strategic planning** was held in Energodar city. The participants of the meeting included Oleksander Kulibov, mayor of Energodar city, deputy mayors, and also deputies of the City Council, representatives of NGOs and local business. Irina Lekh, regional RGD Project Manager in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, and Strategic Planning Experts, Volodymyr Nazarenko and Kostyantyn Zhezdrin, were also present at the meeting. Konstantin Zhezdrin delivered a presentation about the draft demonstration version of the Regional Strategy, focusing on the different stages through which it was developed, as well as on the results of the survey. After discussion, it was decided to start circulating the document among major stakeholders. The next steps for Energodar city, as expressed at the meeting, would be to develop specific projects for implementation of the strategic goals and tasks, defined in the Draft Strategy. It is also important to introduce new budgeting processes based on the approved Strategy. Business representatives expressed interest in cooperating with the RGD Project and the municipal executive committee in the restructuring of the housing infrastructure, including utilities, stimulating innovative investment activity, and developing new city infrastructure. Local authority confirmed its willingness to consider small projects on the above mentioned priorities from local enterprises. It was specified, however, that preference would be given to proposals that address issues related to Energodar city's strategic priorities areas - environmental, socio-cultural and community development areas.
- Within the framework of donor cooperation, Irina Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Regional Project Manager, participated in the round table discussion of the study on "Export potential of Zaporizhzhia," which was held in Zaporizhzhia on April 18. This study was carried out upon the request by the Razumkov Ukrainian Center of Economical and Political Researches with the assistance provided by Swedish International Development

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Agency (SIDA). The research findings were presented by Olena Ilyinkova, professor of Zaporizhzhia State Engineering Academy. Very importantly, this research was based on the background study of the investment potential of the Zaporizhzhia region that was carried out by the RGD Project in 2007. Volodymyr Kaltsev, Chair of the meeting, applauded the cooperation between the two international projects. He reiterated that this is the first time when Zaporizhzhia oblast can witness joint work by two international projects leading to stronger and broader results. Information about the event was broadcasted on the regional TV-channel "Zaporizhzhia" and regional radios "Zaporizhzhia" and "Zaporizhzhia FM".

- On April 22, **the National Project Steering Committee** met in Kyiv. The meeting was co-chaired by Andrew Farncombe, RGD Project Director and Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of the Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine. During the meeting, project management provided an overview of the project results during the third fiscal year, the cumulative progress towards anticipated outcomes at the end of the project, and the annual work plan for the fourth fiscal year. RGD regional managers presented the results of strategic planning processes in the pilot oblasts. RGD Project partners, Ministry of Economy, Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia Oblast State Administrations provided several useful recommendations for the project's future activities, in particular in terms of institutionalization and sustainability of results achieved, strengthening the focus on more hands-on support activities, establishing interregional cooperation (Zaporizhzhia-Zakarpattia), etc. As a result of the meeting, RGD Project partners endorsed the annual work plan for 2008-2009.

**The Regional Steering Committees** met on April 15 in Zaporizhzhia, and on April 18 in Uzhgorod. The main items for discussion included results achieved in the oblasts during the past year and the proposed activities for the following year. The next meetings of the National and Regional Steering Committees will take place in the fall of 2008. They will be focused on reviewing the results of project implementation during the first half of the fourth fiscal year and plans for the following period.

- On April 22, Duncan Leitch, RGD Lead International Expert, met with Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, and Ella Slepian, Head of the Main Economic Department, Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration to discuss RGD Project activities for the coming fiscal year. Valentyn Rash, RGD Project Expert, and Iryna Lekh, RGD Project Regional Manager in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, also participated in this discussion. The meeting led to an agreement for cooperation in the delivery of training on strategies implementation and infrastructure investment projects, and in the conducting of the organizational review of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration's policies and business processes related to the implementation and monitoring of Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy.
- On April 24, in Zaporizhzhia a meeting of the Oblast Coordinating Council on Entrepreneurship Development took place. The focus of the discussion was on the current and potential opportunities for entrepreneurship development in the tourism sector. Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, chaired the meeting. Svitlana Krugliak, Deputy Head of the Main Department of Economy of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, Lyudmyla Bratsylo, Deputy Head of Department of Culture and Tourism of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, and Iryna Lekh, RGD Project regional manager in Zaporizhzhia region provided information for regional businesses and CSOs about the current efforts by the oblast authorities and the RGD Project in this area. The meeting resulted in several decisions, in particular, with regard to establishing public-private partnerships for tourism development in the region. Additionally, the deputy mayor of Prymorsk championed the process of organizing a regional conference on tourism development issues in May. Information about the meeting was broadcasted on the regional TV-channels "TV-5" and "Alex," and also posted on the official website of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration.

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

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