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

- Following Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council decision to allocate 200 000 UAH for the development of Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy until 2015, Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration started the preparation for a tender. The Main Department of Economy, with the assistance from the RGD strategic planning experts for Zaporizhzhia region, prepared relevant tender documentation and submitted it to the Tender Committee of Ukraine in June. After obtaining the license the **tender on Zaporizhzhia Regional Strategy development was officially announced on August 2, 2007.**
- Within the framework of **local strategies development** in Zaporizhzhia oblast, the process of developing of the Azov Sea rayons' joint strategy commenced at the beginning of August. The purpose of this activity is to develop an effective model for creating a favorable environment to attract investments for the development of the Azov Sea rayons. In order to select priorities for the rayons' development, a number of activities were carried out, including a diagnosis of the potential for development of the Azov Sea coast (300km), a needs assessment, and a survey on the level of tourist satisfaction with the tourism services and products offered by the rayons. These activities were carried out by using the "First impressions" methodology, by holding focus groups for stakeholders engagement (authorities, businesses, communities) and round table meetings on infrastructure development strategy for rayons of Zaporizhzhia oblast, and by providing media coverage of working groups activities. These activities were implemented in Primorsk rayon on August 9-12, and in Yakymivka rayon, on August 16-19.

Also in August two round table meetings were held by Volodymyr Nazarenko, RGD strategic planning expert for Zaporizhzhia oblast, in Energodar and Tokmak cities. The meetings were about drafting operational plans for regional development priorities. The work on elaboration of the operational plans will start in September. It was agreed that local strategies for the cities of Tokmak and Energodar will be developed by the end of the year. The final version of the operational plans will be approved during the meetings of pilot rayons' working groups of at the beginning of September.

- On August 10, the workshop on **Improving Delivery of Administrative Services by Local Executive Authorities** took place in Zaporizhzhia. It was carried out by Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the implementation of the Cabinet of Ministers Decree on the Concept of Administrative Services Delivery. The participants of the workshop included heads of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration departments, representatives of cities' and rayons' authorities, academia, business and RGD project. The workshop resulted in a decision to approach the RGD project for assistance with certification of administrative services as a local initiative. The implementation of this initiative within the framework of the RGD project will contribute towards the implementation of regional development priorities identified in the regional strategic plan and towards creating an integrated regional development model on the regional level.
- On August 14, the **meeting at the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction** was held with participation of Nathan Taylor, First Secretary, Canadian Embassy, Tamara Romas Figol, Second Secretary, Canadian Embassy, Olga Brizhan, Secretary/Interpreter, Canadian Embassy, Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, Yuri Solovkov, Deputy Minister, Ministry, Svitlana Konorska, International Relations, Ministry;

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Tetiana Ursalova, Deputy Minister Assistant. The meeting was about the participation of the new Ministry of Regional Development and Construction in the activities of the RGD and other CIDA-funded projects. Yuri Polianski briefed the participants about the RGD project and confirmed that the project will be sharing all of its informational materials with the Ministry and invite the Ministry to project activities such as the forums, workshops, meetings with international experts, etc. Nathan Taylor spoke about CIDA Strategy for Ukraine and briefed the Ministry about Policy Reform and Implementation Support Mechanism (PRISM) project that was announced in July 2007. The project follows a flexible approach and the Ministry can benefit from the project already from September. The Civil Service Reform is another project that might be useful for the new Ministry to assist in developing its capacity in policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. In the area of trans-border co-operation, CIDA is developing a new initiative aimed at tri-lateral co-operation between Canada, Government of Ukraine, and Eastern European Countries to mobilize competitive advantages of these countries. The project will focus more on the regional level. The Ministry will be provided with a discussion paper and invited to provide proposals. Tamara Romas Figol discussed her portfolio of projects on regional and local development and encouraged the Ministry to put forward its proposals for co-operation. She suggested arranging a series of working meetings with CIDA-funded projects and the Ministry to discuss different aspects of co-operation. The Deputy Minister said that he and his staff would carefully study all provided documents and would actively participate in all future working meetings to develop partnerships.

- On August 14, the **round table meeting on preliminary results of background studies** on priority areas was held in Zaporizhzhia. The participants of the meeting included the experts who prepared the studies, Volodymyr Nazarenko, Sergiy Mogylnyj and Vitaliy Lysenko, and Ella Slepian, Head of Main Department of Economy of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, Svitlana Krugliak, Deputy Head of Main Department of Economy, Mischanin Vadim, Head of Department of Foreign Affairs, Lyudmila Bratsilo, Deputy Head of Department of Culture and Tourism and Irina Lekh, RGD Project Regional Manager in Zaporizhzhia. The experts presented draft reports that were discussed in detail. Following the discussion, the reports were submitted to respective departments of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration for their comments. The second draft of background studies will be presented during a three-day workshop for the members of specialized working groups that will take place in Azov city on September 11-13.
- In Zakarpattya region, a **public information and education campaign** on strategic priorities for the oblast development is being actively implemented. The video film entitled "*Zakarpattya 2015*" was developed and disseminated among major regional stakeholders. The video film presents the results of the oblast strategic planning process that have been achieved since the beginning of the RGD project implementation in Zakarpattya region. It also talks about the consolidation of the efforts by the community, regional authorities and business to achieve their vision for the region's development in 2015. Within the framework of the public information and education campaign, the demonstration version of Zakarpattya Regional Development Strategy until 2015 was published. This document also demonstrates the partnership between the community, regional authorities and business. The demonstration version of the Strategy was reviewed by the Ukrainian Gender Expert in July 2007 for inclusion of gender-related issues.

The development of the Regional Strategy inspired active work on the development of the local strategies for the rayons and cities of Zakarpattya oblast. All rayons and cities of the oblast significance of Zakarpattya region are developing their strategies in line with the Decree of the Head of Zakarpattya Regional Council as of December 28, 2006, with the assistance from the RGD Project. As a result of consultations provided by the RGD regional strategic planning experts for Zakarpattya region at Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration, as well as the workshops and individual consultations for the rayons and cities, almost all local strategies are going through the final discussion process and are moving towards approval. As of September 1, 2007, seven local strategies were approved, in particular, Strategies for Development of the city of Beregovo and Beregovo rayon, Uzhgorod, Irshava, Mizhgirrya, Rakhiv, Svalyava and Tiachiv rayons.

The working groups for the priorities identified in the Zakarpattya Regional Strategy are in the process of being established. During the month of August, three preliminary meetings of the working groups were held. The main objective of the working groups' activity is the development of operational plans, which will become the basis for the development of investment projects to be funded from the state budget, private capital and donor funds.

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- On August 27, following the capital grants training that was organized jointly by RGD project and DFID upon request of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, and Ihor Sanzharovskiy, RGD Senior Technical Advisor met with Grzegorz Gajda, Principal Banker for Municipal and Environmental Infrastructure, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The purpose of the meeting was to clarify EBRD criteria and procedures for supporting projects prepared in the course of the training. At the meeting Grzegorz Gajda advised that the bank can provide grants for finalizing the project proposals, but the EBRD has some basic criteria for the applicants. In particular, the proposals need to have an impact on the development of a free market economy in the country, the minimal amount of funding should be 10 million Euros and the minimum size of the municipality applying for support should be 200 thousand inhabitants. During the meeting, the issue of providing bank loans to the regions was also discussed. However, it was agreed that it is necessary to further clarify the legal basis for this, because currently the bank works only with municipalities and enterprises.
- From August 28 to August 31, **RGD staff retreat** took place at the Odessa Regional Institute for State Administration at the President of Ukraine. RGD Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia and Uzghorod project staff as well as RGD Project Manager from Canada participated in the retreat. The main objectives of the retreat were to strengthen the coherency between RGD Project Implementation Plan and Fiscal Year Three Work Plan in terms of outputs, outcomes and impacts, to reach consensus on each activity and to link its outputs to amended Project Performance Framework, as well as to reach consensus on activities to support the implementation of plans. During the retreat the staff gained knowledge about CIDA's guidelines on Result Based Management, discussed in details activities of the work plan, brainstormed Project Performance Framework, in particular outputs, outcomes and impact, as well as developed qualitative and quantitative indicators for measuring project outputs and outcomes. The retreat was very productive and resulted in common understanding of all staff members of all project activities and a completion of an amended Project Performance Framework.

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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