



Information
on the activities within the framework of the Canada-Ukraine Partnership
Project for Regional Governance and Development (RGD)
in August 2008

- **On August 2-4**, the **third annual RGD Project Staff Retreat** was held in Uzhgorod, Zakarpattya. The participants included RGD Project staff from Kyiv office, regional offices and the Toronto office. E. Dinu, Canadian Project Manager opened the meeting with an update from the Toronto office, followed by Y. Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager, I. Lekh, Zaporizhzhia Regional Manager and M. Popadynets, Zakarpattya Regional Manager with updates from their respective offices. All presentations were followed by active discussions by the Project staff members.

Among the issues discussed during the staff retreat were changes at CIDA and appointment of new CIDA officer in Ottawa, as well as a new CIDA representative in Kyiv (as of September 2008), scheduling of November missions to Ukraine, forthcoming learning programs, youth internships (three Canadian Interns coming to Ukraine this year), Monitor's comments and questions about the Project work plan, Project log frame and presentation on result based management (RBM). The Staff Retreat also included discussions of Fiscal Year Four Annual Work Plan by activity/output, planning for Fiscal Year Five, as well as planning beyond the RGD Project, and a discussion of cross-cutting themes (gender equality, environmental sustainability, PMF, project reporting), etc.

- **On August 05**, E. Dinu, Canadian Project Manager, O. Semenovych, Project Officer and Y. Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager, held a working meeting with M. Popadynets, Zakarpattya Project Manager and L. Koval, Zakarpattya Project Coordinator. The goal of this meeting was to discuss the objectives and tasks to be addressed by Zakarpattya Project team during Fiscal Year Four. On August 05, E. Dinu, O. Semenovych, Y. Polianski, and M. Popadynets also met with V. Pogorelov, Head of the Main Economic Department of Zakarpattya OSA, V. Papp, Deputy Head of the Main Economic Department of Zakarpattya OSA, L. Hrytsak, Head of the Department within the Main Economic Department of OSA, and M. Pryhara, Acting Head of Administration of Zakarpattya OSA. At this meeting, cooperation between RGD Project and local authorities on implementation of "Regional Development Strategy for Zakarpattya oblast until 2015" was discussed.
- **On August 06**, E. Dinu, Project Manager, O. Semenovych, Project Officer and Y. Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager, and M. Popadynets, Zakarpattya Project Manager held a working meeting with RGD Project's Ukrainian experts in Zakarpattya, including S. Slava, Regional Planning Expert, Y. Boyko, Infrastructure Investment and Project Management Expert, O. Stankevych, Regional Planning Expert and I. Breza, Regional Media Expert. The issues discussed during the meeting included expert participation in implementation of the Project's annual work plan, coordination of experts' work with Zakarpattya regional office and cooperation with local authorities, businesses and the general public during the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy.

3, Triohsvyatytska Str, office 60, Kyiv 01001

Tel.: 390 70 87, fax: 278 07 14

E-mail: info@rgd.org.ua

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- Over the month of August, both **Zakarpattya and Zaporizhzhia**, continued working on the **implementation of their Regional Strategies** and on **prioritization of the operational plans** with RGD Project's support.

In **Zakarpattya**, through a series of working meetings between M. Popadynets, Zakarpattya Regional Manager, and regional experts S. Slava, Y. Boyko, O. Stankevych, O. Luksha, W. Pardy, the following issues were addressed: finalizing operational programs, selection of small scale priority projects according to the methodological recommendations, and the experts' work within the pilot rayons and cities. Regional experts carried out ongoing consultations with the working groups on the selection of small scale projects. On August 21, a meeting on the priority "Expanding Cross-Border and Euroregional Cooperation" was held. The project expert O. Luksha participated in the meeting and provided expert recommendations on the methodology of priority projects selection. The participants (public officials, academics, private entrepreneurs) discussed new possibilities for the Oblast in terms of cooperation with neighboring countries.

In Zaporizhzhia, V. Nazarenko and V. Lysenko, Zaporizhzhia Regional Experts, developed drafts of the following documents: Statute of Council on Regional Strategy Implementation up to 2015 and Statute of Regional working group on Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Strategy up to 2015. In addition, V. Nazarenko and V. Lysenko developed methodological recommendations on institutional arrangements for implementation of the strategy and for prioritizing of the operational plans. This will be put in place during the first year of Strategy implementation. The regional experts also developed proposals on the membership of the Regional Working Group and on the organization of its work on priority tasks for Strategy implementation. All the above mentioned materials were submitted to Zaporizhzhia OSA officials for discussion and finalization.

- **In Zaporizhzhia**, RGD Project also continued supporting **planning and implementation at the rayon and city levels**. V. Lysenko, Zaporizhzhia Regional Expert, provided methodological assistance to the Azov Sea coast rayons in the implementation of partnership mechanisms for joint implementation of Zaporizhzhia Regional Strategy and of the Sea Coast Territories Development Strategy. Methodological recommendations were forwarded to the Mayor of Primorsk city. These recommendations included a selection of regulatory acts and other materials on cooperation between local self-government authorities and on joint management of territorial development. The information provided was presented to representatives from other rayons and cities situated at the Azov Sea Coast by the Deputy Mayor during a conference in Primorsk in August 2008.

V. Nazarenko, Zaporizhzhia Regional Planning Expert, held a number of working meetings with local authorities in other pilot territories of the RGD project including Tokmak (August 12), Berdiansk (August 15) and Energodar (August 19) cities. During the meetings with A. Mamchak, Head of the Economy Department of Tokmak City Council, O. Orgiets', Deputy Head of Berdiansk Raion State Administration and E. Ovchatova, Head of Economic Department of Energodar City Council, V. Nazarenko provided them with consultation on the first steps in the implementation of the adopted Local Strategies as well as on their role in the implementation of Zaporizhzhia Regional Strategy. It was also decided to facilitate the operation of the strategic planning working groups and hold a number of working group meetings in September.

More detailed information about Project events and activities can be found at www.rgd.org.ua.

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