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**Information**  
**on activities within the framework of the Canada-Ukraine Partnership Project for**  
**Regional Governance and Development (RGD)**  
**in December 2006**

- Within the framework of preparing the analytical report and policy recommendations on **“Tools for Overcoming Regional Depressiveness: Experience of Developed Countries”**, Svitlana Slava, RGD project expert, met with Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of the Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, at the Ministry of Economy office on December 1. Olena Nyzhnyk confirmed that the diverse policies, approaches and tools applied by public institutions in Canada and European countries for overcoming economically depressed areas should be in the focus of the study and recommendations.
- On December 5, Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, met with Oleksiy Slenzak, Senior Operations Officer, Environment Sector, World Bank. This meeting was followed by a meeting between Olexiy Slenzak, Irina Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Regional Manager, and Yelena Turos, Head of Laboratory, Institute of Hygiene and Medical Ecology of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, in Zaporizhzhia on December 6. At these meetings, O. Slenzak informed the participants that the WB is beginning a technical assistance project entitled “Environmental Partnership in Zaporizhzhia”. The goal of the project is to raise awareness and bring sustainability to the efforts of all stakeholders active in the area of environmental protection. The project will first work with the city of Zaporizhzhia then with the region. The project is expected to have the first draft of an environmental protection action plan for the city of Zaporizhzhia completed by February 2007. RGD staff members informed the group that RGD is assisting the region in involving the public in identifying Zaporizhzhia’s regional priorities and these activities are scheduled to be completed by February 2007. For facilitating public involvement, the RGD project, in partnership with the regional state administration, established a regional working group and is establishing sectoral working groups, including an environmental one. The environmental situation was studied by an RGD expert and baseline reports produced. Additionally, environmental issues are crosscutting themes in the RGD project. The State Strategy for Regional Development identifies environmental protection as a priority for Zaporizhzhia region. RGD public involvement activities demonstrate that the environment is also identified by the public as a regional priority. Based on this, the RGD project is going to assist the regional state administration to develop an operational plan for this priority and implement small projects in this area. O. Slenzak and RGD staff members agreed that the projects have similar perspectives and should collaborate through information exchange; on-going consultations; sharing expertise, research findings and other documents; establishing a joint regional working group; and participating in each other’s activities and events.
- On December 7-8, Irina Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Regional Manager, and the strategic planning experts for Zaporizhzhia region - Volodymyr Nazarenko and Sergiy Mogylnyi - participated in an All-Ukrainian Scientific-Practical Conference on *“Environmental Protection in Industrial Regions as a Prerequisite for the Sustainable Development of Ukraine”*. Among the participants were scientists from different regions of Ukraine, representatives and experts of the World Bank, and representatives of regional government, industrial enterprises, and universities.

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3, Triohsvyatyetska Str, office 60, Kyiv 01001

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

E-mail: [info@rgd.org.ua](mailto:info@rgd.org.ua)

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- On December 8, Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, and Ihor Sanzharovskyi, Senior Technical Advisor, met with Witold Sartorius, EU Commission Representative, to discuss the TACIS project proposal on regional development. The EU Commission is currently developing a project proposal for a TACIS Regional Development Project built upon other donor's technical assistance projects in this area, as well as Polish experience, for the Ukrainian government.
- On December 12, within the framework of implementing Zaporizhzhia's communication and public engagement strategies, a meeting was held to discuss the results of a regional contest of children's pictures, *"My Native City"*, and one of essays, *"My City through the Eyes of Youth"*. This meeting was held in the Zaporizhzhia office of the All-Ukrainian Association of Cities Development, which was the executing agency for these contests. Ivan Shcherbaha, head of the office, and head deputies participated in the event. A student from the school of arts of Zaporizhzhia city and a representative of Melitopol local government, respectively, were the winners of the contests for an essay on the role of strategic planning in city development.
- On December 13, in Zaporizhzhia University of Humanities, a discussion club met to debate the topic *"the Role of Youth in Regional Development Strategic Planning"*, upon the initiative of the first vice-rector V. Glasunov, who is head of the public working group within the Regional Working Group (RWG) on strategic planning. Students from different higher education institutions in Zaporizhzhia city participated in the event. This was the first of three events planned by the public working group.
- On December 14, a meeting with Mr. Jean-Francois Devemy, Group Leader of the TACIS "Sustainable Local Development" Project, took place in Kyiv RGD office. The meeting aimed to strengthen donor coordination, share information about the RGD project and the "Sustainable Local Development" Project, and identify areas for cooperation. Mr. Devemy noted that a French lead consortium is starting to implement a TACIS project called "Sustainable Local Development". The goal of this project is to develop sustainable development strategies for 4-6 Ukrainian medium-sized cities and their neighbouring/surrounding territories. The project is unique because it has capital funds to support the strategies, mainly through improving water supply, heating, and waste systems. The cities will be selected from a list of 10 candidate cities located in Sumska, Luganska, Kharkivska, Chernigivska and Cherkasska regions (North, East, and central Ukraine). The project's partner is the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and the beneficiaries are local governments, oblast administrations, rayon administrations, Ministry for Construction, Architecture and Utilities, municipal services, and communities. The project will be implemented by a group of leading French experts on sustainable development and water supply, regional planning and heating. The RGD project staff informed Mr. Devemy about the project goals, approaches, activities and outlook for the next financial year. In particular, Mr. Devemy was interested to learn about the format of the expected strategies in the RGD pilot regions and the scale-up planned for 2007. The discussion was also about approaches and best practices in Ukraine in developing city, rayon and oblast strategies. The projects agreed to further cooperate through sharing information and publications, and participating in events.
- A coordination meeting between RGD project staff and the Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, was held on December 19. A range of issues regarding project implementation were discussed, in particular, the timely completion of national level policy pieces - "Tools for overcoming regional depressiveness: experience of developed countries", "Monitoring and evaluation of strategies and programs for regional development", "Best practices of Canada and European countries in relation to state financial support for regional development", and "Experience of regional strategic planning in Ukraine."
- On December 19, a meeting of the Regional Working Group was held in the Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration. The final version of vision statement for Zaporizhzhia oblast's future development was approved: *"Zaporizhzhia region is the historical and cultural capital of the South-Eastern part of Ukraine, ecologically clean, investment attractive, with developed industry and agriculture sectors, a high level of educational and scientific potential, and diverse resort and tourism services. Regional communities are self-sufficient and sustainable. Living standards are high and the population of the region has social and legal security"*.

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- On December 20, a meeting of the Oblast Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, “Potensial”, was held in Zaporizhzhia, where O. Sin, Head of Zaporizhzhia Regional Steering Committee of the Project, together with Serhiy Mohylnyi, RGD strategic planning expert, outlined the major activities of the RGD Project in Zaporizhzhia region. Participants discussed how to motivate business representatives to actively participate in the strategic planning process for Zaporizhzhia oblast’s development. As a result of the meeting, it was decided to create a specialized working group with business representatives.
- On December 22, a meeting of the **Regional Public Working Group** was held in Zaporizhzhia at which the following issues were discussed: creating specialized working groups; developing the workplan of the Regional Public Working Group for the next quarter; and holding a contest for the logo and slogan for regional development.
- With the purpose of widely engaging the public in the process of regional development strategic planning, **regional contests of children’s artwork, contests for the best logo and slogan, and student essays** were held in December in Zakarpattya region. The main purpose was to encourage children to think about the future of the regional community. About 200 drawings and several dozen high school and university essays were received from different areas of Zakarpattya. For each contest, a separate jury was formed that identified the winners after extensive discussions. The main criteria on the basis of which the works were assessed was the extent to which the topics of strategic planning and their vision for future development were revealed. All participants and the winners of the contest were invited to the awards ceremony, which was held at the Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration office on December 28. Mr. V. Brenzovych, Deputy Head of Regional Council, and Mr. Y. Hertsog, Head of Department for Education and Science, Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration, participated in the awards ceremony. They greeted the winners of the contests and presented certificates of achievements.
- In December, an **expert working group** to revise and amend the draft Strategy for Regional Development was established on November 23, 2006 in Uzhgorod. The working group included RGD Project experts, representatives of academia, and Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration officials. The working group collected and reviewed all proposals, comments and suggestions for the draft strategy, some of which were received via the hotline launched through the RGD Zakarpattya regional office. As a result of their work, all stakeholders reached a consensus on the draft Strategy for Regional Development and it was submitted to the Oblast Council. On December 28, 2006, **Zakarpattya Oblast Council approved the Strategy for Regional Development of Zakarpattya region until 2015.**

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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