



**Information on Activities of the Canada-Ukraine Partnership Project for
“Regional Governance and Development”
from February 2006 to May 2006**

Policy Analysis and Advice

- On March 27, a round table on “Prospects of European Regional Policy of Ukraine: CEE Experience” was held in Kyiv facilitated by two government reform experts Peter Szegvari (Hungary) and Tomasz Potkanski (Poland) with the purpose to review the Central and Eastern European experience with regional self-governance since the introduction of new territorial-administrative systems. Poland and Hungary were selected upon request of Mr. Romanyuk, First Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine, as the most relevant experience to learn from. Ministry of Economy officials responsible for regional policy, as well as leading Canadian, European, and Ukrainian experts on regional governance, development and planning issues participated in the round table. A report “Review of Central and Eastern European Regional Experience” is to be published in July 2006.
- On April 11, a round table on “Major Problems of Fiscal Decentralization in Ukraine” was held in Kyiv by an Ukrainian expert Ihor Burakovskiy, Director of the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, to present and discuss with Ukrainian expert community and project beneficiaries results of the study conducted within the project to provide preliminary policy advice on sub-national finance and design the Project's Action Plan on Sub-National Finance Component for years two and three with the long-term goal to improve the revenue generation and create a more equitable subsidy system in Ukraine.
- On April 14, a project work plan validation meeting with Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of the Department for Regional Development of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, and Svitlana Verhoglyadova, Deputy Director of the Department for Regional Development of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Head of Division on Coordination of Regional Economic Services was held in the project office in Kyiv with the aim to present a draft annual work plan for the next fiscal year and get recommendations as to priority directions of the project implementation. The project team was represented by Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian project manager, Ihor Sanzharovkyi, senior technical advisor and Nataliya Betsa, project coordinator as well as Yuri Tretyak, Executive Director of National Association of Regional Development Agencies. The issues on the Ministry's agenda were discussed, as well as project assistance in these areas. In particular, Mrs. Nyzhnyk suggested to prepare an analytical report and policy recommendations on “Tools for Overcoming Economically Depressed Regions: Experience of Developed Countries” as well as policy recommendations on “Monitoring and Evaluation of Strategies and Programs for Regional Development”, and best practices of Canada and European countries in relation to state financial support for regional development. All the above mentioned activities are included into the work plan and will be carried out until March 2007.

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- An analysis of the current institutional arrangements and practices of interaction between different national institutions and agencies in Ukraine in relation to the issues of elaboration and implementation of regional policy and regional development, as well as recommendations for their improvement is currently carried out by Ukrainian experts. A report on “Current Institutional Arrangement and Practices of Government Interaction” is to be published in July 2006.

Capacity Building

- A first round of workshops on “Regional Development Strategic Planning” was held in Zaporizhzhia and Uzhgorod on February 24 and February 27 respectively. The objective of the workshops was to engage stakeholders in discussion about the current status of regional governance and development in Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia regions, to understand the concerns and needs of local stakeholders and where the Project can assist, and to demonstrate the benefits that participatory strategic planning processes brought to Central and Eastern European regions. John Gladki, Lead Expert of the GHK International, Canada and Dalia Bardauskiene, Advisor on Strategic Planning and Regional Development Issues to the Mayor of the City of Vilnius, Lithuania facilitated the session. Representatives of local government, civil society organizations and academia, as well as leading Canadian, European, and Ukrainian experts on regional governance, development and planning issues participated in the workshop.
- A second round of workshops on “Regional Development Strategic Planning” was held in Zaporizhzhia and Uzhgorod on March 29 and March 31 respectively. Project experts Dalia Bardauskiene and John Gladki facilitated the session, which began with a review of the feedback collected from participants on the previous workshop. The main objectives of the workshop were to:
 - discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the existing regional development planning process, which were outlined during the previous workshop;
 - determine the issues to be included into the regional strategic development plan;
 - discuss the problems of strategic planning process organization;
 - establish the Strategic Planning Committee and corresponding working groups;
 - discuss the experts’ recommendations and proposals of participants concerning further steps and activities to be undertaken during the next years within the project implementation.

Ukrainian experts who were engaged by the Project to conduct researches on regional governance and development, environmental situation in the region, civil society, gender and youth issues presented preliminary results of their studies. Final “Regional Civil Society Reports”, “Regional Environmental Reports”, “Regional Gender and Youth Reports” and “Pilot Oblast Needs Assessment: Regional Governance and Development Regions” for both regions are to be published in July 2006.

- From April 17 to May 1 a study tour to Canada was arranged for the representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine (Department for Regional Development), Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers (Department for Regional Policy), Secretariat of the President of Ukraine (Chief Directorate for Social and Economic Policy, Division on Macroeconomics and Regional Development Analysis), Oblast State Administrations of pilot regions - Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhya.

The purpose of the study tour was threefold:

- to allow Ukrainian participants to learn from Canadian experiences with regional governance and development mechanisms, including public participation mechanisms.
- to allow Canadian organizations and professionals to learn about Ukraine and its regional government reform activities, opening up an avenue for them to participate in future programming.
- to determine the relevance of Ontario know-how and experiences, and those of Canada in general, to Ukraine.

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The study tour took place in the Cities of Toronto, Guelph, Hamilton, and Ottawa and the Regions of Niagara and Waterloo. Participants met with Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ontario Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal, Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation, Regional Municipality of Waterloo and Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Svitlana Verhoglyadova, Deputy Director of the Department for Regional Development of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Vitalii Pugach, First Deputy Head of the Department for Regional Policy of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers together with Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager and Tibor Frank, Lead International Expert travelled to Ottawa to meet with Canadian International Development Agency, Foreign Affairs Canada, Western Economic Diversification, and FedNor (a part of Industry Canada).

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Canadian Urban Institute, the Ministry of Economy, Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhya Regional State Administrations was signed in Toronto on April 25, 2006.

As a result of the Study tour a group of high level officials from Canadian regions, Waterloo and Niagara, will visit Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhya with the purpose to share experience with regional development and establish partnerships in the regions. The visit is to take place in July 2006.

- Call for applications for the position of experts/trainers on strategic planning was conducted in May. Shortlisted candidates are invited to Kyiv to participate in the “training of trainers” workshop to be held by Canadian experts Tibor Frank, Alan Vigoda and Shahan Deirmenjian and an expert from Lithuania, Dalia Bardauskiene in early June. As a result of the workshop two experts/trainers for each pilot region will be selected, who will facilitate activities on regional development strategy elaboration in the regions.

More detailed information about the “Regional Governance and Development” project can be found on the Internet at www.rgd.org.ua

May 2006

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