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

- In January, the RGD Project Kyiv team undertook two planning/coordination missions to the project pilot regions – Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia – with the purpose of discussing project plans and activities for the next year of project implementation.
  - On January 15, Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager and Ihor Sanzharovskyi, Senior Technical Advisor, participated in a joint meeting with the senior management of Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration, in particular with Mr. Kaltsev, newly appointed First Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration; Mr. Fuks, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration; Mr. Anisimov, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Regional Council; Ms. Drazdovych and Ms. Krugliak, Deputy Heads of the Main Economic Department; Mr. Medved, Head of Financial Department; and Mr. Sin, Advisor to the Head of Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration, Head of RGD Regional Steering Committee. The meeting's discussions concerned making a decision regarding the timetable for developing the regional strategy under the current circumstances when the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has instructed regional state administrations to speed up the development and approval of regional strategies. The decision was made to adhere to the original scheme, namely finalizing public involvement by April 1 and developing the strategy document and having the strategy approved by the regional council by the end of 2007. Mr Kaltsev assumed the responsibility of settling this decision with the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Given the RGD activity in the region, the Regional State Administration will approach the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with the request to get permission not to speed up the strategy development. In addition, a series of other planning/coordination meetings were held in Zaporizhzhia with the following partners: Ms. Ella Slepian, Head of the Main Economic Department, Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration; Mr. Anisimov, Vice Head of Zaporizhzhia Regional Council; Mr. Bikulov, Vice President of Zaporizhzhia Trade and Commerce Chamber; Ms. Iryna Lekh RGD Zaporizhzhia Regional Manager; and Mr. Volodymyr Nazarenko and Mr. Sergiy Mohylnyi, RGD strategic planning experts.
  - On January 23, a number of planning/coordination meetings took place in Uzhgorod with the following partners: Mr. Volodymyr Goblyk, Deputy Head of Zakarpattia Regional State Administration; Mr. Ernest Nuser, Head of Department for Trans-Border Cooperation; Mr. Pogorelov, newly appointed Head of Main Economic Department; Mr. Vasyl Brenzovych, Deputy Head of Zakarpattia Regional Council; Mr. Oleg Luksha and Ms. Oksana Stankevych, strategic planning experts for Zakarpattia region; Ms. Myroslava Lendel, Ms. Svitlana Slava and Ms. Kateryna Sochka, RGD project experts; and RGD regional office staff. The meetings' agenda were focused on planning for the next year of project implementation. As a result, it was agreed that the main focus will be on producing a demonstration version of the Zakarpattia regional development strategy until 2015; involving "rayons" into strategic planning; and passing strategic planning methodology on to "rayon" authorities through building awareness and capacity building events. It was decided that the focus of the RGD project in Zakarpattia should be on scaling up activities into "rayons" and municipalities; developing action plans for 1-2 regional priorities; making an inventory of strategies, programs

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and projects and how they fit into the regional strategy; and furthering the partnership with Niagara region of Canada.

- On January 23, a roundtable meeting on strategic planning was held at the University of Humanities in Zaporizhzhia. Regional Public Working Group members, as well as representatives of academia, strategic planning experts and the RGD Project regional staff, participated in the event. The participants were informed of the work on public engagement that was done within the Project from June until December 2006. Additionally, Iryna Lekh, RGD Regional Manager, outlined the major activities planned for February 2007 related to SWOT-analysis and priorities identification. Serhiy Mohylnyi and Volodymyr Nazarenko, RGD Project strategic planning experts, carried out a brainstorming analysis on the possible structure of the Regional Development Strategy for Zaporizhzhia oblast.
- On January 24, Nataliya Nosa, RGD Zakarpattya Regional Manager, participated in a conference dedicated to the opening of the International Ukrainian-Polish Center in Uzhgorod. Nataliya Nosa outlined the major RGD project activities in the region and results achieved to date. Representatives of the project on “Development of Strategy for cross border cooperation between neighboring regions” (Lviv, Volyn’ and Zakarpattya (Ukraine), Lublin, Podcarpattya Voevodstva (Poland)) participated in the event. The discussion covered the possibility of future cooperation and joint activities between the two projects if this project is approved by the European Commission.
- On January 24-25, Ihor Sahzarovskiy, RGD Senior Technical Advisor, visited Budapest, Hungary, with the purpose of learning about Hungarian experience in overcoming economically depressed territories and state financial support of regional development. He met with Mr. Gyorgy Nagyhazi, Head of Section, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Dr. Gyogyi Nyikos, Director, Legal and Management Directorate, Hungarian Public Non-for-profit Company for Regional Development and Town Planning (VATI), Dr. Peter Szegvari, Deputy Director, Regional Development Holding LTD., Mrs. Marta Gal, Innovation Expert, West Pannon Regional Development Agency and Mr. Janos Toth, Head of Department, Hungarian Ministry of Economy and Transportation. Meetings proved to be very informative and useful and new information and knowledge on national level institutions for regional development, engagement of national and local stakeholders (active role of local/regional governments and businesses, comprehensive communication strategy, etc.), tools for regional development, and overcoming economic underdevelopment was obtained. Experts and specialists who participated in the meetings expressed their interest in further cooperation with the RGD Project to share their expertise.
- On January 26, Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, met with Olena Nyzhnyk, Head of Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, with the purpose of discussing plans for the next year of project implementation. Olena Nyzhnyk emphasized the importance of building the capacity of the Ministry of Economy, specifically through training by Canadian “Regional Development Agencies.” Ideally, small, targeted training groups would be formed to undergo training on the developed themes of monitoring and evaluation of programs and strategies for regional development, overcoming depressed areas, and state support for regional development. Some other themes would be feasible as well, including mechanisms of state support of investments into regional development, how to stimulate regions to be proactive and produce investment projects, how to prepare project proposals and select them, etc. This activity might be implemented through a “twinning” scheme and other MoE and Western Economic Diversification Canada partnerships. The Ministry of Economy of Ukraine is also interested in continuing analytical research. One of the topics suggested was mechanisms of state support of investments into regions.
- On January 26, RGD Zakarpattya regional office held a press conference with regional media organizations. The correspondents of the regional TV broadcasting company “Tysa”, regional radio station “Oblasne radio”, and journalists of the newspapers “Novyny Zakarpattya”, “FEST”, “Reportazh”, “Express”, and “Resonant” participated in the press conference. During the event, RGD Regional Manager Nataliya Nosa outlined the major activities of the project in Zakarpattya region, underlining the fruitful cooperation of civil society and local authorities, evidence of which is the approval of the “Regional Strategy for Zakarpattya Development till 2015” that is the product of joint work of the regional authorities, experts and the public. She also presented the results of the student and children’s contests that took place in December 2006 and announced the extension of the deadline of the contest for the best motto and logo of the oblast strategic plan.

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- On January 29, a meeting of the Coordination Committee on Entrepreneurship issues was held in the Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the possible priorities of Zaporizhzhia oblast's future development. Iryna Lekh, RGD Regional Manager, together with Volodymyr Nazarenko, RGD Project strategic planning expert, delivered presentations to the meeting participants – business representatives and directors of NGOs in the business sphere. The participants learned about the RGD Project, as well as about the stages of the strategic planning process and potential priorities identified by the public after the formulation of the region's future development vision. The participants were encouraged to actively participate in activities related to the SWOT-analyses and priorities identification, as well as in the sociological survey of these issues (questionnaires were distributed during the event).
- With the purpose of donor coordination, a number of meetings between the RGD project and other technical assistance projects operating in the field of regional and local development took place in January.
  - On January 16, the RGD project held a coordination meeting with representatives of the OSCE project on "Civil Society Development in Ukraine" implemented with funding provided by the Kingdom of Denmark. Their project partners in Ukraine include the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. This project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations at the all-Ukrainian, regional and local levels through the provision of micro grants to civil society organizations, conducting research and providing international support to Ukrainian civil society organizations. The RGD project outlined project's components and activities at the national and regional level. The RGD project and OSCE representatives agreed about future cooperation between the projects through participation in capacity building events organized by the projects in Kyiv and in the regions as well as sharing information on research conducted. Participants of the meeting included Marten Ehnberg, Head of democratization section, Arsen Popel, elections and governance advisor, Iryna Bilous and Antonina Prudko, Civil society project officers and Nataliya Betsa, RGD Project Coordinator.
  - On January 22, the RGD project held a meeting with Swiss Cooperation Office program officers Ms. Lytvynenko and Mr. Kayakin. RGD briefed them on the project's goals and activities and learned about projects in human rights and decentralization areas. Zaporizhzhia is a pilot region for judicial reform and preventing juvenile delinquency projects. In the area of local government and decentralization, the Office selected the Crimea and Vinnitsa regions. The three-year umbrella project "Support to Decentralization in Ukraine" starts this year. The project focus will be on municipal level where a series of small projects will be implemented. At the national level, no particular beneficiary has been selected yet, but the project will provide a forum for the decentralization agenda and discussions. The project inception phase finishes this June. The RGD and Swiss office project agreed to cooperate through exchange of information, participation in events, steering committees, etc.
  - On January 22, the RGD project held a meeting with Mr. Florin Vladica, PhD student of Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada who arrived in Ukraine to explore the possibilities for a CIDA-funded project to establish and maintain "citizen information kiosks" in a medium-sized Ukrainian city. After a series of successful meetings in Kyiv and Zaporizhzhia region with Kyiv and Zaporizhzhia project staff respectively, and the deputy mayor of the city of Berdiansk, it was agreed that a kiosk will be established in the city of Berdiansk.
  - On January 24, Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager, participated in the meeting with Tamara Romas Figol, Second Secretary, Development, Canadian Embassy; Victoria Grib, USAID; and Olga Fedosejeva and Sergej Martyschwenko, "SUAL Holding" (Russian aluminium company) at the Canadian Embassy. SUAL is already active in Russia in projects building private-public partnerships (PPP). In Ukraine, SUAL started a USAID-funded project "Development of Philanthropy in Zaporizhzhia". To reach its goals, the project will run a small projects scheme. The first event in the region will be a conference held on 14 February. The RGD project will participate and deliver a presentation on its project activities in Zaporizhzhia region. The participants were briefed on RGD activities and the two projects agreed to cooperate, in particular, possibly through joint small projects (partnership of businesses, NGOs and authorities for implementing programs and strategies).

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- On January 26, Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager, attended the DFID funded “Democratizing Ukraine: Small Projects Program” conference entitled “With Communities to European Future”. The small projects scheme has two components: consultation assistance and providing grants to selected communities in Donetsk and Lviv regions. It might be useful for the RGD project to learn from the latter component. For this purpose, the RGD project will be holding a separate donors coordination meeting with the DFID project on February 1.
- On January 26, the RGD project held a meeting with Maryna Cherenkova, manager of “Action Donbass” project. RGD was invited to come to Donetsk to learn about the DFID project’s experience in developing strategies.

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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