



Information on Activities of the Canada-Ukraine Partnership Project for “Regional Governance and Development” - June 2006

Capacity Building

- *From June 5 to June 7* strategic planning **‘training of trainers’** workshops led by Canadian and CEE experts, namely Alan Vigoda, civil society expert, Foundation for International Training, Toronto and Shahan Deirmenjian, policy planner, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Dalia Bardauskiene, advisor on strategic planning and regional development issues to the mayor of the city of Vilnius, Lithuania was held in Kyiv for long-term Ukrainian experts-trainers. Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of the Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Markiyan Dacyshyn, Head of the Directorate of Monitoring and Analysis, Secretariat of the President of Ukraine and Larysa Magduke, gender expert of the project also participated in the workshop.

As a result of the workshop two experts were selected for each pilot region, namely Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhya, who will facilitate activities on regional development strategy elaboration.

- *On June 8* a workshop called **“Successful Region, Successful Planning: Working with the Stakeholders”** was held in Zaporizhzhia. Its main purpose was to create a Working Group on Regional Development of Zaporizhzhia oblast and to discuss a plan of activities on communication strategy development. There were 30 participants including representatives of local executive authorities and local self-government bodies, NGO and academia representatives, as well as Ukrainian and international experts. The workshop participants were divided in two groups with the purpose to, firstly, determine stakeholders, and secondly, to develop a vision of public engagement in strategic planning process mechanisms and then to present their vision to other participants for discussion. Two Ukrainian experts-trainers on strategic planning, Volodymyr Nazarenko and Serhij Mohyl'nyj, were facilitating the work of the groups.
- *On June 9* the **first meeting of Zaporizhzhia Regional Steering Committee** of the RGD Project was held in Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration. There were 30 people invited – representatives of 8 parties represented in Zaporizhzhia oblast council, as well as the most active participants of the previous project workshops and Ukrainian project team representatives. Oleksandr Sin, First deputy head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration and the project team presented on overall objectives of the project and current activities. During the session the members of Zaporizhzhia Regional Steering Committee and its head - Oleksandr Sin, First deputy head of Zaporizhzhia oblast state administration were elected.
- *On June 13* a workshop called **“Successful Region, Successful Planning: Working with the Stakeholders”** organized jointly by the project and Zakarpattia Regional Council and Zakarpattia Regional State Administration was held in Uzhgorod. During the workshop:

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- main aspects and stages of strategic planning identified;
- a plan of the strategy of public engagement into the process of strategic planning of regional development elaborated;
- a plan of activities of the strategic planning process defined according to the schedule previously approved by the Project National Steering Committee;
- stakeholders identified and responsibilities among them defined;
- a Council for Regional Development established;

The workshop was led by regional experts of the project – Oleh Luksha and Oksana Stankevych. Project experts from Canada - Tibor Frank, lead international expert and Alan Vigoda, civil society expert, Foundation for International Training, and from Lithuania - Dalia Bardauskiene, advisor on strategic planning and regional development issues to the mayor of the city of Vilnius, also participated in the event.

- On June 14 the **first meeting of Zakarpattya Regional Steering Committee** of the RGD Project was held in Uzhgorod. It included representatives of Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration, Zakarpattya Oblast Council, leading experts on strategic planning, representatives of the civil society and business. Volodymyr Hoblyk, Deputy Head of Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration, head of the Steering Committee, and Tibor Frank, lead international expert of the project opened the meeting. Project team presented the overall objectives of the project and activities in Zakarpattya region for the period from November 2005 to April 2006. The participants also discussed the annual work plan for Zakarpattya oblast for the period from April 2006 to March 2007.
- From June 14 to June 16 a **research mission to Hungary** was organized by Peter Szegvari, governance expert from Hungary for the lead international expert of the project Tibor Frank, senior technical advisor Ihor Sanzharovskyi and Ukrainian regional policy expert Svitlana Slava. The purpose of the visit was to learn Hungarian experience with the regional policy and regional governance in pre-accession and EU membership periods; to identify Hungarian experts and institutions for further cooperation; to analyze options for organization of study tours for the project beneficiaries of the national and regional levels.
- From June 17 to June 20 and from June 19 to June 23 Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian project manager and Canadian project team participated in the **World Planners Congress**, organized by the Canadian Institute of Planners and Planning Institute of British Columbia and **World Urban Forum III**, organized by the UN-Habitat. The project team had an opportunity to raise awareness on global trends and tendencies in urban and regional development; and to network with academics and practitioners working in this area. Both events took place in Vancouver, Canada.

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

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