



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

- On June 7 the **visit of Canadian Embassy representatives to Zaporizhzhia** took place. The delegation, including Doris Wong, Counselor, Head of Technical Cooperation Section and Tamara Romas-Figol, Second Secretary, met with Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration officials: Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration, Ella Slepian, Head of Main Economic Department, Svitlana Kruglyak, Deputy Head of Main Economic Department, Vadym Mishanin, Head of International Affairs Department, and Irina Lekh, Zaporizhzhia Regional Manager of RGD Project. During the meeting they discussed the progress achieved by the RGD Project in Zaporizhzhia region and the possibilities of launching other CIDA-funded projects in the region. Doris Wong and Tamara Romas-Figol also took part in the meeting of the Regional Working Group (RWG) on strategic planning. The most active RWG members were invited, the majority of whom were women. They discussed RGD Action Plan for June-July. Gender aspects of strategic planning process in the region were also discussed during the meeting.
- From June 7 to June 16 a **mission of RGD Canadian experts, Bohdan Wynnycky and Andrew Balahura**, took place to Ukraine. The purpose of the mission was to participate in meetings with Project beneficiaries and Ukrainian experts to provide support to Project activities aimed at providing policy analysis and advice for the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and supporting the action planning processes in the pilot regions. During the mission Bohdan Wynnycky and Andrew Balahura also shared Canadian experience in state support of investments into regional development, in particular industrial and techno parks development, greenfields and brownfields development, and public-private partnerships development. A number of meetings took place in Kyiv as well as in RGD Project pilot oblasts. In Kyiv, Bohdan Wynnycky and Andrew Balahura participated in the following meetings. On June 11 and 12, they took part in a roundtable meeting organized by the RGD project and the European Business Association (EBA) and met with officials from the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and Kyiv Oblast State Administration, managers and experts from Local Economic Development (LED) project and OSCE Project Coordinator's office in Ukraine. Among them were Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of the Department for Regional Development of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Anna Derevyanko, Executive Director of European Business Association, Anton Zatsepin, Director of the State Agency for Innovations and Investments, Hugh Kelly, Director of LTP Investments, developer company in the Czech Republic that runs industrial park in Lviv oblast, Dusan Kulka, FDI consultant, LED/USAID Project in Ukraine, Maksym Protskiy, Advisor, Investment Company "Halychyna", Olena Hantsyak-Kaskiv, Deputy Director, Ukrainian Centre for Foreign Investments Promotion, Serhiy Rusnak, FDI Coordinator, OSCE Project Coordinator's office in Ukraine, Svitlana Slava, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Uzhgorod National University and Georgiy Glinyskiy, Head of Main Economic Department, Kyiv Oblast State Administration. Following the meetings in Kyiv, the Canadian experts visited the Project pilot regions.
- From June 12 to June 15, **Andrew Balahura, RGD Canadian expert, visited Zaporizhzhia**. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the Oblast authority, academia, NGO representatives and RGD experts to Canadian experience in implementation of regional development strategies, and different approaches to development of action plans for strategic priority areas. During the mission a number of working meetings and workshops took place as follows:

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- On June 13, several working meetings took place at the Oblast State Administration. The participants of the meetings included heads of departments responsible for the regional development priority areas of cultural and historical tourism and innovative investment. Irina Lekh, Zaporizhzhia Regional Manager of RGD Project, Volodymyr Nazarenko and Sergiy Mogylny, RGD strategic planning experts, also took part in the meetings.
- On June 14 the RGD Project held a training seminar on **“Background Studies on Implementation of Regional Development Priorities”** in Zaporizhzhia. Presentations were delivered by Andrew Balahura, Canadian expert, and Irina Lekh, Zaporizhzhia Regional Manager of RGD Project. The seminar participants, experts, representatives of academia, authorities and NGOs actively participated in a discussion of current issues in the region’s development. Half of the participants were women. They were very actively engaged in the discussion of the region’s problems, asked many questions, and took an active stand on the issues that were discussed. Among major issues discussed were implementation of new ideas in the field of tourism, historical-cultural stream of tourism, and innovative investment activity of the region. The participants thanked the organizers for preparation of interesting and useful materials and asked the Project to hold similar training with participation of Canadian experts in November 2007.
- On June 15 Andrew Balahura met with RGD regional strategic planning experts to discuss development of action plans for regional strategy and to provide Ukrainian experts with methodological support necessary to undertake background studies on the strategic priorities for Zaporizhzhia Oblast development. As a result of the meeting, it was decided to implement one of Canadian best practices *“First impressions community exchange”* program into the development of the cultural and historical tourism industry of Zaporizhzhia region. As a follow-up to this meeting, on June 26 RGD strategic planning experts Sergiy Mogylny and Volodymyr Nazarenko held meetings with the representatives of working groups in priority areas, where they delivered presentations on *“First Impressions Community Exchange”* methodology. Andrew Balahura also met with Ella Slepian, Head of Main Economic Department. During the meeting results of Andrew Balahura’s mission to Zaporizhzhia oblast, infrastructure development and innovations to the development of the region were discussed.
- During June 13-15 *Bohdan Wynnycky, RGD Canadian expert visited Uzhgorod*. Igor Sanzharovsky, RGD Senior Technical Advisor also participated in this visit. The main goal of the visit was to share Canadian experience with the regional strategic planning experts as to the implementation of regional strategies, development of action plans for the priorities of oblast development, methodology of cooperation with working groups. Within the framework of the visit a meeting with the representatives of coalition of NGO *“For the future Zakarpattya”* took place. The topics of discussion during this meeting included cooperation of authorities and civil society organizations in the decision making process, providing self-sufficiency of NGOs and fundraising. On June 14 Bohdan Wynnycky and Igor Sanzharovsky participated in a plenary session of the International Trade-club in Zakarpattya, which took place at the premises of Zakarpattya Regional State Administration. During the meeting the demonstration video film *“Zakarpattya - investments”* and investment project proposals, developed in Zakarpattya region were presented.
- Within the ***Training Program for Regional Specialists in the Preparation of European Standard Proposals for Capital Investment Grants*** organized by the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and RGD project and funded jointly by CIDA and DFID a second round of workshops was held for Western and Eastern clusters of oblasts of Ukraine in June. From June 11 to June 15 training was held in Uzhgorod. The trainers were two Polish experts Arkadiusz Bakierzynski and Rafal Szporco, DS Consulting. The participants of the training included representatives from Lviv, Zakarpattya, Ivano-Frankivsk, Volyn, Rivne, Ternopil and Chernivtsi regions. From June 18 to June 21 the second sound of capital grants seminar was held in Azov rayon. The participants of the seminar included representatives of Dnipropetrovs’k, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Lugans’k and Kharkiv oblasts. The training was delivered by Polish experts, Zbigniew Jedrzejewski and Jacek Kawala of Lemtech Consulting. During the week-long training, experts reviewed infrastructure project proposals prepared by each oblast within the strategic priorities of their oblasts development. The main outcomes of the seminars were the completed capital grant project proposals from the majority of oblasts. At the end of the training all the participants of the seminars were awarded with certificates.

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- On June 18 an international conference entitled **“Regional Governance: International Experience and Ukrainian Realities”** was held in Uzhgorod. The conference was organized by the Institute of Public Administration (Uzhgorod National University) in cooperation with Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration, RGD project and the Community Economical Development Project, which is also funded by CIDA. The participants of the conference included, for the most part, representatives of Zakarpattia Rayon State Administrations. The conference program consisted of four sessions: Modern Trends of Regional Economic Development and Management in Europe and Ukraine; European Integration as the Element of Reforming the Regional Administration; Strategic Planning of the Regional Development: Ukrainian Experience; and Adaptation of Ukrainian Legislation to European Standards. The sessions were followed by training on community economic development issues.

- From June 18 to June 21 **Canadian gender expert mission** took place in Kyiv. The Canadian Gender/Youth Consultant Carole Houlihan visited the RGD Project Kyiv office in order to provide advice and practical recommendations on how to integrate gender and youth issues more actively into all project activities at the national and regional levels. In accomplishing this task and in order to learn about recent developments in gender policy in Ukraine, a number of meetings were held with government representatives responsible for gender policy, representatives of other donor-funded projects related to gender policy, as well as a meeting with the RGD Project staff. In particular:
 - On June 18 Carole Houlihan, RGD Canadian Gender/Youth Consultant and Nataliya Betsa, RGD Project Coordinator met with Rayisa Semenets, Deputy Head, Department for Family and Gender Policy, Ministry for Family, Youth and Sport. Rayisa Semenets said that great deal of effort is being made towards solving gender issues in Ukraine in particular in the area of legislation. A Decree of the President of Ukraine “On Improvement of Work of Central and Local Executive Authorities on Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Women and Men” was issued on 26 July 2005, “Law on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women” approved by the Supreme Council (Verkhovna Rada) was approved on 8 September 2005, and Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On Approval of State Program for Gender Equality in Ukraine until 2010” was approved on 27 December 2006.
 - On June 19 Carole Houlihan participated in the RGD staff meeting, which included Kyiv, Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhia RGD project staff members. The meeting included a very thorough discussion of the RGD annual work plan; recommendations on how to practically integrate gender/youth issues into project activities, as well as document this integration were made. In particular, issues regarding how to ensure that women, men, youth and elderly people participate in strategic planning processes in the regions were discussed.
 - On June 21 a meeting with the UNDP “Equal Opportunities Programme” took place. Participants of the meeting included Larysa Kobelyanska, Project Manager, Iryna Ignatova, Regional Gender Development Expert, Carole Houlihan, RGD Canadian Gender/Youth Consultant and Nataliya Betsa, RGD Project Coordinator. UNDP representatives shared information about the activities of their project, outlined main components of the programme, namely Formation of Gender Sensitive Policies, Support of Civil Society Initiative in Formation of Gender-Oriented Regional Policy, Access to Justice and Implementation of Gender Approaches through Media and Education, as well as activities in pilot regions, namely Vinnytsia, Zakarpattia, Kherson and Lugansk. RGD Project is very interested in UNDP Programme activities in Zakarpattia region in order to build upon their experience. In particular, RGD Project will contact gender resource center that was established at Uzhgorod National University to seek mutual cooperation in solving gender related issues in Zakarpattia region.

- On June 26 the **decentralization mission from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) visited Uzhgorod**. Dr. Ann McAfee, expert on decentralization and regional governance, was the head of the delegation. The delegates were Tamara Romas-Figol, Second Secretary of the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine, Anik Brunet, Project Officer at CIDA responsible for decentralization (Ottawa). The main purpose of the mission was to present CIDA Programming Strategy for Ukraine 2007-2011 and to learn about regional and local civil society organizations (CSOs) in Zakarpattia and their relationship with local authorities. During the mission the

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delegation met with the NGO members of the coalition "For the Future of Zakarpattya". Mykola Yatskov, head of human rights organization "Vested", Oleksandr Koval, representative of NGO "Panonia", Galyna Babunych, head of Ukrainian – Polish Centre of Cross-border cooperation, Iryna Chervinska, representative of agency "Europolis" participated in the meeting. The delegation also met with Oleg Luksha and Oksana Stankevych, RGD strategic planning experts for Zakarpattya region. During the meetings the discussion covered further steps for implementation of Zakarpattya Regional Development Strategy until 2015. CIDA Programming Strategy priorities for Ukraine were presented. The participants discussed efficient mechanisms of corruption decrease, strategies of cooperation with mass media; cooperation of authorities and NGOs; public engagement to the process of local budgets development; cooperation of NGOs and business.

- On June 26, a **meeting of Zaporizhzhia Business Women Association "Women league"** took place in Zaporizhzhia Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The main purpose of the meeting was discussion of tourism and resort industry prospects. The keynote speakers were Larysa Sizintsova, Head of Department for Culture and Tourism, Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration and Nina Pogorylo, Head of the Tourism Agency of Zaporizhzhia Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Irina Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Regional Project Manager, delivered a presentation on the Project prospects in this field. All the business women support development of tourism and resort industry in Zaporizhzhia region. They suggested addressing oblast authorities to give preference to this very field that would stimulate intensive development of tourism in the region.
- During June RGD Strategic Planning Experts for Zaporizhzhia oblast, Volodymyr Nazarenko and Serhiy Mogylnyi, held consultations with local authorities in pilot rayons. These events resulted in joint activity plans on elaboration of development strategies for pilot rayons, including common vision formulation, carrying out of SWOT analysis and determination of territory development priorities. Joint activities were planned out until October 1, 2007. In particular, meetings took place in Berdyansk city on June 16, Tokhmak city on June 22 and Enerhodar city on June 27.
- During June RGD Strategic Planning Experts for Zakarpattya region, Oleg Luksha and Oksana Stankevych, held workshops for the 13 rayons of Zakarpattya oblast in order to provide individual consultations for the representatives of each rayon on challenges faced throughout the rayon strategic planning processes. Additional meetings were held for the representatives of Uzhgorod, Beregovo, Khust, Svaliava, Vynogradiv and Mukachevo rayons in order to evaluate their draft development strategies. All rayon strategies were developed with participation by rayon authorities, local self-government bodies, civil society organizations, and business representatives. They also address local gender-related issues. Overall, the workshops demonstrated that majority of the rayons are now in the process of finalizing their development strategies, which are expected to be finalized by July 2007 in compliance with the Decree of the Head of Zakarpattya Oblast Council.
- Within the frameworks of media-coverage of the RGD project action-plan implementation **interactive Internet-forum** was established in Zaporizhzhia region. The purpose of the forum is to engage region residents into the strategic planning process, learn public opinion as to the future oblast development. The forum contains topics that give information about the project and its events in Zaporizhzhia region. Users have free access and can express their opinions, evaluate events that happen in Zaporizhzhia within the framework of the project and get additional information about the project and strategic planning process in the oblast. Address of the forum is as follows: <http://ukrprostir.net/forum/>.
- In June the **youth contest "I create the future of my region"** was initiated by RGD project in Zaporizhzhia region. The purpose of the contest is to engage youth into strategic planning process. According to Zaporizhzhia oblast strategic priorities the following topics are envisaged:
 1. Zaporizhzhia oblast – safe environment of the region;
 2. Zaporizhzhia region as historic cultural and tourism center of South-Eastern Ukraine;
 3. Development of innovative investment in the region.Information about launching the contest was sent to educational institutions, advertised in regional and local mass media as well as posted on the website/forum in Zaporizhzhia region at <http://ukrprostir.net/forum/> .

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

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