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**Information**  
**on the activities within the framework of the Canada-Ukraine Partnership**  
**Project for Regional Governance and Development (RGD)**  
**in June 2008**

- In June 2008, the RGD Project held the first round of the **Capital Investment Project Training Program** training. The first round of training took place in Zakarpattya from June 2 to June 6, and in Zaporizhzhia from June 9 to June 13.

The purpose of the training is to increase the capacity of specialists from the oblast, rayon, and municipal levels on preparing complex capital investment projects to standards acceptable to international investors and lending institutions.

The workshops in Zakarpattya oblast were delivered by Rafal Sporko and Arkadiusz Bakejynski of DS Consulting, Gdansk, Poland. Training facilitation from the Ukrainian side was delivered by RGD project experts Svitlana Slava and Yaroslav Boiko. The participants of the training were specialists from the city governments of Uzhgorod, Rakhiv, Mukachevo and Beregovo, and from the rayons of Irshava, Mizhgirryia, uzhgorod and Vynogradiv.

The training in Zaporizhzhia oblast was delivered by Zbigniew Jedrzejewski and Jacek Kawala of LemTech Consulting, Cracow, Poland. The regional experts of the RGD Project, Volodymyr Nazarenko and Vitaly Lysenko assisted during the training. The participants of the training included representatives of the governments of Zaporizhzhia, Energodar, Tokmak, Prymorsk and Melitopol cities.

During the first round of training, participants learned the methodology for developing capital investment project proposals according to European standards. Following the training, the specialists are working independently in eight groups with three specialists in each to prepare real capital investment project proposals. These proposals will be reviewed and improved during the second round of training in July. It is expected that at the end of the training six to eight project proposals will be finalized and ready for submission to the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and different international lending institutions.

- On June 6, **Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council approved the Regional Development Strategy of Zaporizhzhia Oblast until 2015**. The draft Strategy was developed jointly by Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration (OSA), the private sector, and the regional community, with support by the Canada-Ukraine Partnership Project for Regional Governance and Development (RGD).

Olexandr Bereznyi, First Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, reported about the two-year work on the development of the draft Strategy. More than 20 thousand oblast residents participated in the strategic planning process. The speaker expressed his gratitude to all the citizens who showed interest in the regional development and to the RGD Project in particular for encouraging action and for international experience in strategic planning that was shared over the two years.

The draft Strategy has been discussed at all levels: by representatives of authorities, businesses and the public. As a result of public consultations, all possible comments and suggestions were taken into consideration in the preparation of the Strategy. This is the reason why the Strategy was unanimously approved by the Oblast Council deputies.

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As Leonid Anisimov, Deputy Head of the Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council, noted that the approved Strategy represents the choices of region's residents, so it should be adhered to regardless of changes within the regional government.

This event was broadly covered in regional and local mass media.

- From June 9 to June 12, the **Gender and Civil Society Mission to Zaporizhzhia oblast** was held. The participants of the mission included Carole Houlihan, RGD Gender and Youth Expert and Ann M. Szyptur, Civil Society Expert, Foundation for International Training, Toronto, Canada. During the visit the experts met with the RGD staff and experts in Zaporizhzhia oblast, representatives of the Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration Departments of Family, Youth and Sport; External Economic Relations and Tourism; and Main Economic Department. The purpose of the mission was to discuss social and gender equality issues. The Canadian experts provided advice and shared experience from other projects in mainstreaming gender equality into various spheres and emphasized the importance of engaging the public in identifying and implementing solution to important development problems in the region.

The delegation also participated in a meeting of the Public Working Group. At the meeting, the participants were presented with new ideas for small demonstration projects that can be implemented within the framework of Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy.

As a part of the mission, the Canadian experts visited Melitopol rayon of Zaporizhzhia oblast, where they participated in a round table meeting with the Melitopol Rayon State Administration. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss preliminary results of the implementation of two small tourism projects - Creation of a Tourism Network through the Establishment of an Internet Tourism Map of Zaporizhzhia oblast and the Establishment of a Tourism Information Centre in Melitopol. The delegation also participated in the official opening of the first oblast tourism information centre in Mirne village of the Melitopol rayon.

As a result of the mission, RGD project partners received a number of valuable recommendations on how to further integrate gender issues and public engagement process into the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy.

- On June 12, in Melitopol rayon (Myrne village) **the first Tourism Information Centre of Zaporizhzhia oblast was opened**. This was one of the first concrete steps in the implementation of Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy. In international experience, such centres are an integral part of the tourism industry. At these centres tourists can receive appropriate information about accommodations, places of interest to visit and events to attend.

The opening of the Tourism Centre was announced at the round table meeting at the Melitopol Rayon State Administration. Representatives of the rayon authorities, private sector and the civil society acknowledged that tourism development was a very important strategic priority of the regional Strategic Plan. The authorities, the private sector and the civil society united their efforts in developing Zaporizhzhia oblast as an attractive place for tourists. The idea of the information center was developed by civil society representatives. The rayon state administration assisted in allocating space for the centre, business provided equipment, and the RGD project facilitated the launch of an effective operation of the centre as well as provided important international experience from the establishment of such centres.

- Within the framework of donor coordination the representatives of the RGD project in Zaporizhzhia oblast participated in the presentation of the **Canadian Project on Policy Reform and Implementation Support Mechanism** which took place on June 23. Following the official presentation, representatives of the two projects held a discussion about opportunities for future cooperation and the complementarities between the two projects that would allow them to reach their objectives.

More detailed information about Project events and activities can be found at [www.rgd.org.ua](http://www.rgd.org.ua).

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