



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

- From February 21 to March 8, 2007, the RGD Project held a successful **study tour on strategic planning to Waterloo Region (Canada)** for a group of Ukrainian strategic planning experts and representatives of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration. The primary objective of this study tour was to allow participants to learn from Canadian experiences with regional planning, including plan development, implementation, financing, monitoring and revision. The participants had a two-week placement with the Regional Municipality of Waterloo to observe and learn from the strategic plan review process that the region was about to undertake. During the study tour, the participants visited many organizations and observed sessions of public institutions in Waterloo region. In particular, they visited Canada's Technology Triangle and Grand River Conservation Authority, attended the public lecture "Canada's Cities: Competitive and Sustainable?", participated in the conference "Growing Your Opportunities", and observed a Waterloo Regional Council meeting, a Waterloo Region senior management staff meeting, and a City of Waterloo Economic Development Committee meeting. During the study tour, participants learned from the experiences of Waterloo Region and the cities of Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge in participatory strategic planning, public-private partnerships, and brownfield redevelopment. The participants of the study tour included Ella Slepian, Head of Main Economic Department, Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, Volodymyr Nazarenko and Sergyi Mogylnyi, RGD strategic planning experts, and Ihor Sanzharovskiy, RGD Senior Technical Advisor. This study tour deepened the RGD Project's partners' understanding of regional planning in Canada and became the next step in developing partnerships between Zaporizhzhia in Ukraine and Waterloo in Canada – an informal partnership that began during the RGD Project's first study tour to Canada in April 2006. Waterloo officials are expected to visit Zaporizhzhia region in summer 2007.
- On March 2, 2007, **a roundtable discussion of development scenarios for Zaporizhzhia oblast** was held in Zaporizhzhia. This roundtable was a follow up to the roundtables held in February on each of the priority areas for the oblast's future development. After these February events, experts were chosen to develop and present final versions of development scenarios at the March roundtable to assisting in finalizing the oblast's priorities. The participants of the roundtable included Oblast State Administration and Oblast Council officials and academia representatives. Also, Iryna Lekh and Natalie Nosa, RGD Project Managers in Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia regions, delivered presentations on SWOT-analysis and regional development priorities setting. The final workshop on setting Zaporizhzhia oblast's priorities was held on March 15, 2007.
- On March 5, 2007, the RGD Project held **a mission to Donetsk** to meet with representatives of the Department for International Development (UK)'s "Economic Regeneration and Social Mitigation in the Donbass" project to learn from their experience in elaborating strategies for cities and rayons. During the mission, project staff met with Mike Chambers, Project Manager, Marina Cherenkova, Ukrainian Project Manager, Adeline Gonay, Deputy Project Manager/Strategy Development Advisor, Oleksandr Lyakh, Advisor on Economic Development, as well as members of working groups on the development and implementation of strategies for social and economic development and community development strategies in Perevalsk rajon and the city of Severodonetsk in Lugansk region. The participants shared their experiences in developing strategies including the elaboration of a regional strategy for small and medium enterprise development until 2010. The RGD Project shared its experience in strategic planning in

3, Triohsvyatytelska Str, office 60, Kyiv 01001

Tel.: 390 70 87, fax: 278 07 14

E-mail: info@rgd.org.ua

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Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhia regions. As a result of the meeting, it was agreed that the RGD Project together with DFID's "Economic Regeneration and Social Mitigation in the Donbass" and Lviv Development Projects will hold workshops to strengthen the capacity of regional and local governments in preparing high quality infrastructure investment project proposals. The first round of workshops will take place at the end of April 2007.

- On March 11, 2007, a coordination meeting on launching the training program for capital grants projects was held in the RGD Project's Kyiv office with the participation of Serhiy Romaniuk, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Zbigniew Jedrejewski and Jacek Kawala, LEMTECH Consulting, Poland (DFID experts), and RGD staff. The discussion was about the needs and approaches to training on developing capital grants criteria. As a follow up to this meeting, the RGD Project together with DFID and Ministry of Economy of Ukraine held **a three day workshop for Ministry of Economy staff on developing criteria for capital grants selection** on March 12-14, 2007. The workshops were facilitated by DFID experts Zbigniew Jedrejewski and Jacek Kawala and resulted in developing an application form and set of instructions for the applicants. These workshops were followed by training events in the regions.
- From March 12 to March 16, 2007, **five workshops on strategic planning** were held in rayons and cities of Zakarpattia oblast. These workshops were facilitated by RGD strategic planning experts Oleg Luksha and Oxana Stankevych. In particular, on March 12, 2007, a strategic planning workshop was held in Uzhgorod engaging participants from Uzhgorod and Perechyn rayons and the cities of Uzhgorod and Perechyn. In Mukachevo, a workshop was held on March 13, 2007 with participants from Mukachevo and Beregovo rayons and the cities of Mukachevo and Beregovo. On March 14, 2007, a workshop was held in Khust and included representatives from Khust, Rakhiv and Tyachiv rayons and the cities of Khust, Rakhiv and Tyachiv. In Vynogradovo, a workshop was held on March 15, 2007 engaging participants from Vynogradovo and Irshava rayons and the cities of Vynogradovo and Irshava. The last workshop was held on March 16, 2007 in Svalyava with participants coming from Svalyava and Volovets rayons and the cities of Svalyava and Volovets. These seminars were attended by representatives of Rayon Administrations and Councils, City Councils, members of local NGOs, and business communities. The workshops aimed to provide rayon and city representatives with guidelines to launch a strategic planning process in order to complete their Strategic Plans by July 2007 as indicated by the Decree of the Head of Zakarpattia Oblast Council. During the workshops, RGD Project experts briefed the participants on the basics of strategic planning, in particular on the structure and organization of working groups, the use of SWOT analysis for determining strategic priorities, and suggestions for public engagement techniques and working with local communities. In addition, the participants received information packages on the strategic planning process, step-by-step instructions on using SWOT analysis, and sample documents. The experts also described the role of the rayons and cities in developing action plans within the framework of implementing the Zakarpattia Regional Development Strategy. The rayon and city representatives had an opportunity to work together on determining visions, missions and strategic priorities for their districts. As a result of the seminars, each of the rayons and cities that participated in the events elaborated a first draft of the key elements of their future Strategic Plans – vision, mission and strategic priorities.
- On March 15, 2007, **a workshop on setting Zaporizhzhia region's future development priorities** was held in Zaporizhzhia with around 100 representatives of regional government, businesses and NGOs attending. The participants were engaged in a fruitful discussion on various scenarios of the oblast's future development. The RGD Project strategic planning experts Serhiy Mogyl'nyj and Volodymyr Nazarenko presented the results of the sociological survey, through which more than 1200 Zaporizhzhia oblast citizens were interviewed. As a result of the workshop, two main priorities out of ten possible areas for the region's development were chosen – "environment" and "historical-cultural and tourism development." These priorities were submitted to the Regional Working group on Strategic Planning (RWG) for approval at their meeting on March 20, 2007 in Zaporizhzhia. During the meeting, while the two priorities selected at the prior workshop were approved, a decision was made to add a third priority – "innovative investment" – that had ranked third in the surveys and gained a lot of support. In addition, the Regional Working Group approved the outline of the Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy and decided that the development of the written Strategic Plan will take place during the period from April until October 2007.
- On March 20, 2007, **a round table discussion on the development of rayon and city level development strategies** was held in Uzhgorod for the chiefs of economic departments of rayon and city administrations on the

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initiative of the Chief Economic Department, Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration. Participants of the meeting included Viktor Pogorelov, Head of Chief Economic Department, Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration, Lyudmyla Hrytsak, Head of Division on Regional Development, Oleg Luksha and Oxana Stankevych, RGD Project regional strategic planning experts, and heads of economic departments of rayon and city administrations. The results and achievements of the earlier regional workshops, including the first drafts of the rayons' missions, visions and strategic priorities, were presented and discussed. Representatives of the rayons briefed the participants on the current situation with regional development in their rayons. Oleg Luksha and Oxana Stankevych presented the resource potential of each rayon and city and expressed confidence that they all demonstrate the conditions for developing good strategic plans. All rayons and cities were advised on the process of strategy development and the RGD strategic planning experts agreed to provide further assistance through consultations and methodological support.

- On March 21, 2007, **a joint press conference** was organized by Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration, Zakarpattya Oblast Council and RGD Project and held in Uzhgorod to share the results of the strategic planning process in Zakarpattya region. Participants of the press conference included Mykhailo Martyn, Deputy Head of Oblast Council, Viktor Pogorelov, Head of Chief Economic Department, Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration, Andrew Farncombe, Director, International Partnerships, Canadian Urban Institute, Chris Vandooren, RGD Project Manager, Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, Natalie Nosa, RGD Zakarpattya Oblast Project Manager, Olga Semenovych, RGD Project intern from Canada, regional mass media, and representatives of NGOs, in particular coalition "For the Future of Zakarpattya", which was actively involved in the process of elaborating the "Regional Strategy for Zakarpattya Oblast Development until 2015". During the press conference, the results of the mutual work of the oblast authorities and civil society in the strategy development process were presented. Representatives of the RGD Project presented to the public the draft action plan for the next year of project implementation. At the end of the press conference, an awards ceremony for active civil society participants in the strategic planning process was held and about 60 people were honoured with certificates.
- On March 26, 2007, Canadian strategic planning experts Gary Davidson and Beate Bowron held a working meeting with Zakarpattya regional experts to discuss the strategic planning results and public engagement achieved to date. Regional experts expressed their ideas for future RGD project activity in Zakarpattya as well as their possible input. Provision of methodological assistance to rayon and city state administrations by RGD regional strategic planning experts for the development of rayon and city level development strategies as well as mechanisms for implementing operational plans within the strategic priorities identified in the Regional Strategy were also discussed.
- On March 28, 2007, Canadian strategic planning experts Gary Davidson and Beate Bowron held a working meeting with representatives of Zaporizhzhia oblast authorities and strategic planning experts, including Svitlana Krugliak, Deputy Head of the Chief Department of Economy, Oleksandr Ryabiy, Assistant to the Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council, Irina Lekh, RGD Project Zaporizhzhia Oblast Manager, and Volodymyr Nazarenko and Serhiy Mohylnyi, RGD Project strategic planning experts. During the meeting, a discussion ensued on the experts' involvement in the Strategy's development and in developing operational plans within the two strategic priorities. Additionally, the participants discussed possible directions for activities in "pilot" districts and cities of Zaporizhzhia oblast and agreed on future cooperation.
- To review the results of the second year of project implementation and validate the draft annual work plan for the period from April 2007 to March 2008, a number of meetings between the RGD team and its main partners and beneficiaries were held in March. 2007 In particular:
 - On March 20, a meeting with Olena Nyzhnyk, Director, Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, took place where results of the second year of project implementation on the national level and perspectives for the third year were discussed.
 - On March 20, a meeting with Doris Wong, Counsellor, Head of Technical Cooperation Section and Tamara Romas Figol, Second Secretary, Development, Canadian Embassy, was held. CIDA's new programming framework for Ukraine for 2007-2011 as well as donor coordination were discussed and comments and suggestions on future RGD project plans obtained.

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- On March 21, the RGD Project management team held a coordination meeting with Viktor Pogorelov, Head of Chief Economic Department, Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration. During the meeting, the involvement of the RGD Project in the process of selecting operational goals and activities for each strategic priority identified in the Zakarpattya Regional Development Strategy was discussed. Viktor Pogorelov suggested paying more attention to such priorities as development of sustainable economy, including development of hydro-energy, and tourism attraction. The possibility of developing demonstration for these strategic priorities was also discussed. Andrew Farncombe, RGD Project Director, informed participants that all these suggestions will be considered and expressed his confidence that they will be supported by the RGD Project.
- On March 21, the RGD Project management team held a coordination meeting with the RGD Project regional experts in Zakarpattya oblast including Svitlana Slava, Kateryna Sochka, Oxana Stankevych, Myroslava Lendel and Oleg Luksha. During the meeting, the achievements of the RGD Project in Zakarpattya region as well as plans for future activities were discussed. Each expert expressed his/her suggestions as to his/her role in planned events. They also spoke about further RGD project assistance in developing operational goals and activities.
- From March 26 to 27, a mission of the RGD project management team was held to Zaporizhzhia oblast. Andrew Farncombe, RGD Project Director, Chris VanDooren, RGD Project Manager, Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, and Andrea Roberts, RGD Project Officer, met with the key partners of the RGD Project in Zaporizhzhia oblast, including Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, Leonid Anisimov, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council, Ella Slepian, Head of the Chief Economic Department, Svitlana Krugliak, Deputy Head of the Chief Economic Department, RGD Project regional staff, and RGD Project regional strategic planning experts. During the meetings, RGD project activities in the region for the next year were discussed and valuable suggestions as to the priority areas obtained.
- On March 28, 2007, **the National Project Steering Committee** met in Kyiv. The meeting was co-chaired by Svitlana Verkhoglyadova, Deputy Director, Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, and Andrew Farncombe, RGD Project Director. During the meeting, Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, provided an overview of project results achieved during the second fiscal year and presented the work plan for the period from April 2007 to March 2008. The Regional Managers presented the results of the strategic planning process achieved to date in Zakarpattya and Zaporizhzhia regions. Representatives from “Decentralized Management of Skills Training in Ukraine” project (CIDA) and Swiss Cooperation Office for Ukraine, as well as international and Ukrainian project experts sat as observers to the meeting. Additionally, **meetings of the Regional Steering Committees** were held in Uzhgorod and Zaporizhzhia on March 22 and March 27, 2007 respectively. During the meetings, the draft annual work plan was thoroughly discussed with the project partners in the regions, and comments and suggestions obtained. As a result of the National Project Steering Committee meeting, the annual work plan for the period from April 2007 to March 2008 was endorsed. The next meeting of the National and Regional Steering Committees will take place in fall 2007 to review project implementation results during this period.

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

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