



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

- On May 4 and 10 two meetings of Regional Working Group (RWG) on strategic planning took place in Zaporizhzhia within the framework of strategic planning process. The following issues were discussed:
 - terms and conditions of holding a tender competition for the production of Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy;
 - draft terms of reference for holding a tender competition;
 - draft Media Strategy for the development of Zaporizhzhia Region Development Strategy;
 - action plan for Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy for the period April – September 2007.The Regional Working Group decided to recommend holding the tender competition for drafting of the strategy document in May-June 2007. The terms of reference developed with participation of RGD strategic planning experts will form the basis of the tender competition. The terms of reference take into consideration the results of public engagement into the development of the oblast mission, vision and strategic priorities. The Working Group produced and approved the plan for mass media coverage of the strategy development. In particular, this includes regular TV, radio and printed media coverage. In the framework of the RGD Annual Work Plan the Regional Working Group developed and approved a regional action plan that included a detailed calendar of events and activities taking place in May-September 2007.

- Following selection of strategic priorities for development of Zaporizhzhia oblast in March 2007, Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration and the RGD Project began active work in implementation of these strategic priorities. The selected priorities are Environment, Cultural-Historical Tourism and Resort Industry, and Innovative Investment.

Innovative Investment

- On May 16, on request of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, the RGD Project regional office held a seminar on “*Additional financing of infrastructure development projects: how to efficiently prepare an investment project proposal*”. The participants of the seminar included representatives of oblast, rayon and major city administrations, and NGOs. The meeting was chaired by Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration, and Olexandr Sin, deputy head of RWG on strategic planning. Presentations were delivered by Ella Slepyan, Head of Main Economic Department, Irina Lekh, Zaporizhzhia Regional Manager of RGD project, and Volodymyr Nazarenko, regional expert on strategic planning. The participants thanked the organizers for preparation of interesting and useful materials and asked the Project to hold similar training for business representatives.

- On May 17 a round table meeting on “*Innovative Infrastructure in Zaporizhzhia region*” took place in Zaporizhzhia city. Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration, chaired the meeting. RGD Project Zaporizhzhia Regional Manager, Iryna Lekh delivered a presentation on Project activities and stressed that the Project will support this priority area. The participants – representatives of authority, business, academia and NGOs – drew attention to the fact that for many years the authorities did not pay enough attention to innovative technologies, which today are playing an increasingly significant role

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in regional development. The meeting resulted in adoption of a resolution, which anticipates the establishment of a Coordinating Council on Innovations at the Oblast State Administration, and the approval of publication of the regional innovative projects bulletin.

- On May 30, a regular meeting of the *Coordinating Council on Entrepreneurship Development* took place on the premises of Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration. The regional authorities, representatives of RGD Project, business-associations and NGOs participated in the meeting. The major topic of discussion was attraction of investments into the region. The representatives of the department of external and international economic relations presented an interactive web-site “Zaporizhzhia oblast – the region of opportunities” (www.invest-zp.org.ua). The website contains the analysis of economic situation in the region, information on existing investment projects and a questionnaire for potential investors.
- On May 31 Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration received a delegation from the International Trade Club representing 23 countries. The purpose of the visit was to learn about the investment potential of Zaporizhzhia region. During the round table meeting with the representatives of embassies, chambers of commerce and businesses from the countries represented in the International Trade Club, Volodymyr Kaltsev stated that attraction of foreign and domestic investments is one of the main priorities of Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy till the year 2015, which is currently being developed within the framework of Canada-Ukraine partnership project for Regional Governance and Development. Iryna Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Regional Project Manager, delivered a presentation on Project activities in the region. During the two-day visit, the members of the delegation visited Zaporizhzhia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a number of large-scale enterprises in Zaporizhzhia and Melitopol.

Cultural and Historical Tourism and Resort Industry

- On May 25 Zaporizhzhia Regional Council deputy committee held a meeting in Prymorsk city. The main topic of the meeting was development of tourism and private enterprise in the four seaside areas of Zaporizhzhia region. The event was attended by the heads of regional and rayon administrations, and the deputies from regional and rayon councils. This meeting was a good opportunity for RGD Project to improve awareness and understanding of regional and rayon council deputies of the participatory strategic planning process going on in the region. Thus, Svitlana Kruglyak, deputy head of chief economic department, Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, the secretary of the RWG on strategic planning, presented the results of RGD project activities in developing the Regional Development Strategy till the year 2015.

Environment

- Environment was always one of the major challenges for Zaporizhzhia region. Since environment was identified as the most important strategic priority during public consultations, the regional government has become more active in this area. The Regional Council made a decision to hold a special session devoted to environmental issues, during which Regional Council deputies suggested to hold hearings of the Regional State Administration report on implementation of related regional and local programs. In addition, the international seminar on “Ecological conditions in Zaporizhzhia” will take place in Zaporizhzhia on June 5. Among seminar participants will be representatives of central, regional and local authorities, international and Ukrainian experts, as well as NGOs. Another upcoming event in this priority area is a round table meeting on the subject of “Zaporizhzhia: How to strengthen economical potential and preserve the environment,” which is scheduled for June 12. The heads of regional and local authorities, representatives of large-scale industrial and financial enterprises, RGD representatives, and NGOs of the region have been invited to participate.
- On May 18, the Ministry of Economy held a working meeting on building capacity of regional governments in preparing capital grants project proposals. The First Deputy Minister Sergiy Romaniuk met with DFID expert Duncan Leitch, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager Yuri Polianski and RGD Senior Technical Advisor, Ihor Sanzharovskyyi. During the meeting it was confirmed that the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine in cooperation with the British Department for International Development (DFID) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will continue working on organizing and running a **training program for Regional Specialists**

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in the Preparation of European Standard Proposals for Capital Investment Grants. The format of these capacity building activities was also discussed. Considering that the first round of training has been completed in Donetsk, Lviv and Odessa, the issue of organising practical work in these regions on preparation of capital grants projects was brought up. To facilitate these activities Serhiy Romaniuk suggested that the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine instructs the regional state administrations to identify project proposals that fit into regional development priorities and set up regional working groups to draft project proposals. It was agreed that the second round of training will be in the format of practical review and assessment of the drafted infrastructure project proposals. The workshops will be held in Zakarpattia, Zaporizhzhia, Odessa oblasts and the city of Kyiv in June and July. The meeting also included a discussion of the results expected from this training program, which include the following. The selected priority infrastructure investment projects from all regions will be prepared in time for consideration in the process of preparing the 2008 State Budget. Infrastructure projects will be prepared to a standard capable of attracting other financing, including sources in the European Union. Specialists from each region will acquire knowledge and skills in project preparation and will share this experience with other specialists in their regions.

- During the period of May 21-23 the **civil society technical mission from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) visited Uzhgorod.** Doris Wong, Counselor, Head of Technical Cooperation, Canadian Embassy in Ukraine was the head of the delegation. The delegates were Marie Brault, Civil Society Project Officer, Lyse Cote-Bolanos, Governance Specialist, Betty Plewes, Civil Society Specialist and Valeriy Oliynyk, Ukrainian Civil Society Consultant. 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 a number of meetings took place, in particular:
 - On May 21 the delegation met with the NGO members of the coalition “For the Future of Zakarpattia” in Zakarpattia RGD Regional Project office. At the meeting, they discussed the Program focus for strengthening of the civil society, improving the financial independence and sustainability of NGOs, and increasing the available funding sources for NGOs.

On the same day CIDA delegation met with the officials of Zakarpattia Regional Council and Zakarpattia Regional State Administration. Vasyl Brenzovych, Deputy Head of Regional Council, Volodymyr Hoblyk, Deputy Head of Regional Administration, Ernest Nuser, Head of Main Department of European integration, foreign external relations and tourism, Yuri Popovych, Deputy Head of Main Economic Department participated in this meeting. The discussions covered CIDA Programming Strategy priorities for Ukraine, cooperation of the regional and local authorities with regional and local CSOs, and possible further cooperation between CIDA and regional authorities.

Another meeting on May 21 was with Oleg Luksha, director of the regional branch of Association of Ukrainian cities. During the meeting Mr. Luksha and CIDA representatives discussed the experience of the Association in assisting regional and local CSOs, their vision on the capacity of the CSOs to diversify and expand their funding sources, strengthening of the CSO networks and coalitions that work on engaging the wider public into decision making process at the regional and local levels, as well as the effectiveness of social enterprises.

- On May 22 the delegation met with the representatives of NGO “Centre for social, economic and human studies”. Stepan Sember, head of the organization, Svitlana Slava, lead expert/RGD expert as well as other specialists participated in the meeting. During the meeting the participants discussed the possibility of engaging representatives of the academia in implementing partnerships between government authorities and CSOs, and the role of social enterprises in supporting financial independence and sustainability of NGOs. CIDA Programming Strategy for Ukraine 2007-2011, the Program priorities for strengthening civil society, and the prospects for cooperation between CIDA and NGOs from Zakarpattia were also discussed.

On May 22 the meeting with the leaders of Zakarpattia regional Rotary Club (domestic philanthropy organization) took place. The meeting discussion focused on partnerships between government, civil

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society and the private sector. The leaders of the organization shared their experiences in supporting public initiatives, and raising funds for activities and events aimed at strengthening CSOs.

- In the framework of the **strategic planning process on rayon and city levels in Zaporizhzhia**, Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration, requested that heads of the rayons and cities report on activities completed as a part of the strategic planning process and the results achieved through those activities by June 15. The decision on selection of pilot rayons and cities that will be supported by the RGD Project in developing their strategy will be made following an analysis of the information provided by the heads of rayons and cities. The RGD regional office and the RGD strategic planning experts organized a number of visits to the potential pilot rayons and cities. For this reason, a meeting was held with executive authorities and community representatives in Energodar city and the strategic planning process commenced in Kommunarskiy region of Zaporizhzhia city. In May, strategic planning working group meetings were held in the cities of Prymorsk and Tokmak.
 - Prymorsk city initiated the development of seaside rayons strategy (in Zaporizhzhia oblast four rayons have access to the Azov sea). This idea was supported by the Oblast State Administration, which held a meeting of the working groups on May 15 in the city of Prymorsk with participation of representatives from all these rayons. Irina Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Regional Project Manager and Sergiy Mogilniy, RGD regional expert on strategic planning, delivered presentations on the activities of RGD project in Zaporizhzhia region. There were also interesting speeches by the deputy head of chief economic department, Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, the head of department on culture and tourism development, the mayor of Prymorsk city, the deputy head of the regional council, representatives of academia, NGO and students. The keynote speaker was Borys Khotionchenko, deputy mayor of Prymorsk city who outlined the project on development of Prymorsk and other seaside regions. As a result of the meeting a decision to recommend the RGD Project to support the initiative of local authorities and assist in elaboration of the development strategy for the rayons located on the Azov coast.
 - On May 24, a round table meeting of the Tokmak rayon and city strategic planning working groups took place in the city of Tokmak. Volodymyr Nazarenko, RGD strategic planning expert for Zaporizhzhia region participated in the meeting. Issues on collaboration in developing a joint strategy “rayon + city” were discussed. It was agreed that it is necessary to implement “pilot” projects in line with priorities for the region. In particular, in terms of the environment priority area, a project on cleaning of the Molochna river; in terms of the tourism priority, the project on creation of a tourist route through historical places of Mennonite settlements, and with regard to investment priority, the project on corporate collaboration of producers and processors of fruits and vegetables.
 - On May 31, public hearings were held in the city of Energodar to select the city strategic development priorities. Irina Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Regional Project Manager, and Volodymyr Nazarenko, RGD regional strategic planning expert participated in the event. The following priorities were identified by government authorities, business and community representatives: improvement of the environment, investment and innovative activity stimulation, territorial community development, and development of social and cultural areas.
- From May 29 to June 1 RGD Project jointly with the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID) held the **first round of training on capital grants for civil servants representing the Central and Northern oblasts of Ukraine**, in particular, Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Sumy, Khmelnytsk, Cherkassy, Chernigiv oblast state administrations and Kyiv city state administration. Representatives of other oblasts had an opportunity to participate in the training in April – May in the cities of Lviv, Svyatogorsk (Donetsk region) and Odessa with support provided by DFID funded projects. The purpose of the training was to prepare regional specialists in preparation of capital grants project proposals according to European standards. The training was facilitated by two DFID experts, Jacek Kawala and Zbigniew Jedrezejewski. Working groups on preparation of capital grants project proposals have already been established in several oblasts. The second round of training will be held in June – July in Uzhgorod, Zaporizhzhia, Odessa and Kyiv. As a result of this training specialists will obtain knowledge and skills in

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preparation of capital grants project proposals in line with European standards that will allow applying for funding to different international organizations.

- RGD Ukrainian project expert, Valentyna Mamonova, completed her research on strategic planning experience in Ukraine, on the basis of which the Project produced an analytical report entitled **“Strategic Planning in Regions of Ukraine.”** The report identifies best practices in strategic planning in Ukrainian oblasts, including a review of the current legal framework on strategic planning, models of institutional arrangements, monitoring and evaluation tools, systems of shared approaches to financial support of the planning process, implementation tools, and public engagement strategies. This report is available in Ukrainian on the RGD Project’s website at: http://www.rgd.org.ua/project_publications/publications_list/
- The analytical report entitled **“Current Institutional Arrangement for Regional Policy and Practices of Government Interaction”** was published in Ukrainian. The report was prepared by Ukrainian RGD project experts Markiyan Datsyshyn and Vasyl Keretsman and contains an analysis of the current institutional arrangements and practices of interaction between different national institutions and agencies in Ukraine in developing and implementation of regional development policies, as well as recommendations for their improvement. This publication is also available on the RGD Project’s website at: http://www.rgd.org.ua/project_publications/publications_list/

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

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