



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

- From May 1 to May 9, Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, participated in the Canadian Urban Institute's (CUI) **International Partnership Training Program for Field Managers** in Toronto. The purpose of this training was to increase the capacity of CUI's field managers to implement *Results-Based Management* (RBM), and to familiarize them with CIDA's reporting and performance management guidelines. The training was delivered by an RBM specialist, and included theory, discussion and practical exercises. The training also provided field managers with a set of tools to implement RBM in their daily work, and to provide similar training to others. RGD used the training program as an opportunity to finalize the review of the Project Log Frame and the Project's performance and monitoring frameworks.
- On May 23, Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of the Department of Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, and Ella Slepyan, Head of Main Department of Economy of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration held a **working meeting** in Zaporizhzhia. The key issues discussed were the development and implementation of Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy until 2015, monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy, and the development of the National-Regional agreement between Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.
- On May 23, the RGD Project jointly with the World Bank (WB), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and European bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), organized a **round-table meeting on Capital Investment Projects** in Zaporizhzhia. The participants of the round table included the leadership of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration and Oblast Council, leadership of Zaporizhzhia City and major cities of the oblast, senior officials from main departments and municipal utilities, and representatives of the oblast's banking and business community. The Head of the Department of Regional Development of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, and senior representatives of Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration also attended the round-table.

The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the regional leaderships, key figures from the larger cities, and the local business community (including leading regional banks), to the types of services offered by major lending institutions in Ukraine and the related eligibility criteria. The round-table also set the context for the training on the preparation of capital investment project proposals, which will be held in the pilot oblasts in June-July 2008. The information provided in the roundtable will enable the leadership of the oblasts to make informed choices regarding the investment proposals that will be prepared in the course of the training.

The meeting was chaired by Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration. Yevgen Kartashov, Mayor of Zaporizhzhia city, noted in his welcoming remarks that the city has successful experience in working with international lending institutions. An example of this is the cooperation between the city of Zaporizhzhia ("Vodokanal" - water supply enterprise) and EBRD. Loans made to Zaporizhzhia by the EBRD supported the rehabilitation of municipal water treatment facilities and water distribution networks, reducing leakage and improving water quality and water demand management.

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During the round-table, representatives of the WB, IFC and EBRD spoke about funding opportunities and set out the eligibility criteria for the financing of infrastructure investment projects. Following these presentations, Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of the Department of Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine commented on the criteria for state financing of infrastructure projects. After that, the leaderships of Energodar, Melitopol, Berdiansk and Tokmak cities delivered brief presentations on the strategic priorities of their cities, and outlined key investment projects identified in the Regional Strategy. Following the discussion, the representatives from Zakarpattia oblast presented their draft investment projects. The majority of the identified investment projects were related to reconstruction, renewal or rehabilitation of heating and water supply systems, and energy efficiency. All project proposals were directly linked with the priorities identified in regional strategies.

As a result of the round-table, it was agreed that the RGD project will deliver a training program in the pilot oblasts on preparing capital investment proposals according to European standards. This training will take place in June and July 2008. The leadership of Zaporizhzhia oblast and city expressed an interest in exploring opportunities for cooperation between the city and the World Bank, in particular in the area of environmental protection. Further, the leadership of both Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia oblasts were interested in cooperating with the IFC and other banking institutions.

- On May 26, in follow up to the round-table meeting on capital investment projects, Zaporizhzhia oblast leadership met with RGD Zaporizhzhia Project staff and the RGD Lead International Expert to identify project proposals that will be reviewed and improved during the capital grants training program. 13 the most feasible project proposals were selected. On May 30, as a result of additional discussions, this list was further reduced to 9 investment infrastructure projects. This includes 5 projects from Zaporizhzhia City, 1 from the Melitopol City, and 3 from pilot territories - Energodar, Tokmak and Prymorsk. The selected projects meet the criteria of international lending institutions and are in line with the strategic priorities identified in the Regional Strategy.
- From May 27 to May 29, Chris VanDooren, RGD Project Manager, and Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, represented the RGD Project at the **Regional Studies Association Annual International Conference**, which took place in Prague, Czech Republic. The Regional Studies Association (RSA) is a learned society concerned with analysis of regions and regional issues. Through its international membership RSA provides an authoritative voice of, and network for, academics, students, practitioners, policy makers and interested lay people in the field of regional studies. This conference was the twelfth in the Association's international series of events and was hosted by the University of Economics Prague. The theme of this years conference was "Regions: The Dilemmas of Integration and Competition?" The purpose of RGD Project's participation in this conference was to collect and disseminate best practices in regional governance and development to a larger stakeholder community and enhanced network. The representatives of the RGD project delivered a presentation on "Citizen Engagement into Planning and Implementation: Ukraine Case" in the Democracy and Regions Workshop of the conference.
- A **Handbook on Strategic Planning and Implementation for Regional Development** was published in Ukrainian. This report was prepared by a team of RGD project experts, including Alan Vigoda, Beate Bowron and Gary Davidson (Canada), and Ivan Fediv, Valentyna Mamonova and Ihor Sanzharovskyi (Ukraine). It introduces a step-by-step process of strategic planning for regional development, which is based on Canadian strategic planning model. The handbook covers the following: 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. It also identifies best practices in strategic planning in Ukrainian oblasts, including a review of the current Ukrainian legal framework on strategic planning. The handbook will increase the awareness of Project stakeholders of international and Ukrainian best practices in strategic planning. The handbook is targeted at civil servants at the national, regional and local levels, local self-government officials, professors, consultants and anyone who is interested in strategic planning or regional development. This report 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 at www.rgd.org.ua.

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