



Information
on activities within the framework of the Canada-Ukraine Partnership Project
for Regional Governance and Development (RGD)
in October 2006

- Within the framework of RGD project capacity development component, two “Regional Civil Society Reports” prepared by Ukrainian experts in Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia were finalized by a Canadian civil society expert, Alan Vigoda, and generalized into an analytical summary entitled: **“Regional Civil Society Assessment: Zaporizhzhia Oblast and Zakarpattia Oblast”**. The summary includes an assessment of the role of civil society organizations and existing civil society-government relationships; a needs assessment and capacity analysis of community-based organizations and NGOs; and an analysis of civil society perceptions of regional government, as well as government perceptions of civil society in the pilot oblasts.

Both English and Ukrainian versions of the summary are available on the RGD Project website at: http://www.rgd.org.ua/en/project_publications/publications_list/

- From October 1 to October 6, 2006, the RGD project held a successful **study tour to Vilnius**, Lithuania, for a delegation of nine representatives of Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia oblasts and the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine. Participants included Serhiy Slyshov, Chief Specialist, Division on Middle and Long Term Planning of Regional Development, Department for Regional Policy, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Mykhailo Petrovtsi, Head of Main Economic Department, Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, Vasyl Brenzovych, Deputy Head of Zakarpattia Regional Council, Leonid Anisimov, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council, Gennadiy Fuks, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, Ella Slepian, Head of Main Economic Department, Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, Serhiy Mogylnyi and Volodymyr Nazarenko, strategic planning experts from Zaporizhzhia, and Igor Sanzharovskyi, RGD project Senior Technical Advisor. Participants of the study tour visited the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Interior of Lithuania, Vilnius municipality, Vilnius Regional Administration, Lithuanian Confederation of Industries and North Town Technology Park, and Association of Local Authorities. The participants learned about strategic planning practices in Vilnius and other Lithuanian regions; procedures for engaging NGOs and businesses in strategic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and these organizations’ experience in participating in these processes; systems for implementing, monitoring, evaluating and modifying strategic plans; Lithuanian experience in improving the environment on the regional and local levels plans; best practices in regional development: case of Vilnius-Kaunas dipolis; and approaches to supporting business development.
- From October 12 to October 21, 2006, the **second study tour to Canada** was held for a group of Ukrainian participants including Pavlo Kachur, President of National Association of Regional Development Agencies, Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of the Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Snizhana Shepel, Head of Section on Monitoring of Regional Development, Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Olena Boiko, Chief Specialist for Coordination of Regional Economic Services, Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, and Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager.

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The purpose of the study tour was twofold:

- to allow Ukrainian participants to learn from Canadian experiences with regional development tools and methodologies, public engagement strategies, regional policy, monitoring and evaluation, and support to economically depressed regions.
- to establish partnerships with key Canadian organizations, departments, and agencies, opening up an avenue for them to participate in future RGD activities.

The study tour took place in the Cities of Toronto and Ottawa. Participants met with representatives from the following federal departments/agencies: Western Economic Diversification, FedNor (Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario, a division of Industry Canada), Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, and Canadian International Development Agency in addition to the Ukrainian Embassy in Canada.

- Within the framework of developing regional strategies for regional development, a number of activities took place in Zakarpattya and Zaporizhzhia oblasts in October.

Zakarpattya Region:

- In the beginning of October, an RGD *joint strategic planning action plan* was elaborated by RGD Regional Office, Zakarpattya Regional State Administration, Institute for Regional Studies of National Academy of Science of Ukraine (City of Lviv) and civil society organizations. The action plan included holding consultations on the draft strategy with specialists, authorities' officials, local self-government bodies' officials, NGOs and other stakeholders. With the purpose of implementing the joint action plan and formulating the strategy for the development of Zakarpattya oblast until 2015, a task force including experts, government officials, and representatives of academia was established.
- *Five "regional workshops"* were held in a number of district centres of Zakarpattya oblast with the purpose of engaging the public in identifying the vision, mission and priorities of the oblast's development. In particular, on October 10, a workshop was held in the city of Irshava, participants of which included representatives of the city of Irshava, Irshava district, the city of Vynogradiv and Vynogradiv district. On October 11, a workshop was held in the city of Svalyava where participants from the city of Svalyava, Svalyava district, city of Mizhgyrya and Mizhgyrya district took part. In the city of Khust, representatives from the city of Khust, Khust district, city of Tyachiv, Tyachiv district, city of Rakhiv and Rakhiv district participated in a workshop held on October 13. A workshop held in the city of Mukachevo on October 16 included participants from the city of Mukachevo, Mukachevo district, the city of Berehovo and Berehovo district. Representatives of the city of Uzhgorod, Uzhgorod district, city of Perechyn, Perechyn district, Berezhnyi and Berezhnianskyi districts participated in a workshop in Uzhgorod on October 17. As a result of these workshops, a vision, mission and priorities for development for each of these districts and cities were elaborated and currently are being analysed by the project's regional experts.
- Cooperation with regional and local *mass media* to inform citizens and get feedback regarding their vision on the oblast's strategic development continued. Through the RGD Regional Office, a *hot line* was established to provide citizens of the oblast with relevant information and get their opinion on the priorities for the oblast's development. Additionally, a *roundtable* with strategic planning experts Oxana Stankiewicz and Oleh Luksha, as well as Regional Project Manager Nataliya Nosa, was held in Uzhgorod and aired on Zakarpattya oblast state TV Company "TYSSA-1".

In addition, the RGD project team in Zakarpattya participated in the *conference* on "Cross Border Co-operation between Civil Services and Economic Organizations: Opportunity and Necessity of Co-operation" organized by the Association KIUT (Hungary) in the cities of Uzhgorod and Mukachevo. At the 2nd Interregional Conference of Ukrainian Union of Entrepreneurs on "Cross Border Cooperation: New Opportunities for Domestic Business", the regional team disseminated questionnaires on the definition of vision, mission and priorities for the region's development among participants and received their feedback on these topics.

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Zaporizhzhia Region:

- As a result of the workshop “*Generation of Future Vision within Zaporizhzhia Oblast Development Strategic Planning*” held within the framework of the RGD project on September 22, 2006 in Zaporizhzhia city, the Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration (ZOSA) instructed all executive committee heads of district state administrations and cities of oblast level to conduct a discussion on the basic vision and mission for Zaporizhzhia oblast’s development.
- During the October *roundtables*, local government and civil society representatives met throughout Zaporizhzhia oblast, with the activities widely covered in the local mass media. The most active districts were Prymorsk, Huliaypole, Zaporizhzhia and Berdiansk. *Questionnaires* were also distributed throughout the oblast. In Prymorsk district, questionnaires were placed in the form of coupons in newspapers and “drop boxes” were placed around the city where completed questionnaires could be returned. As a result, many newspaper subscribers and readers took part in the survey. An analysis of the survey showed that 80% of respondents believed that environmental protection, development of village infrastructure and energy conservation are fundamental concerns for development. Also, 30% of respondents put a significant amount of emphasis on a higher quality of life for the population, social protection, and law and order. One in five questionnaires mentioned the need to reform housing and communal services as a concern.
- *Two visioning workshops* were held in Berdiansk and Enerhodar cities, in which public representatives of Berdiansk and Enerhodar districts and cities, as well as those of neighbouring districts of Zaporizhzhia oblast, took part.
- On October 17, a *meeting of the Public Working Group (PWG)* took place in the regional project office. The meeting’s purpose was to consider the project action plan with regard to public engagement in formulating the strategy of regional development of Zaporizhzhia oblast for the period from September 2006 to January 2007. Members of the PWG suggested expanding the plan by adding measures to include youth and students in the oblast’s strategic planning process. It was also suggested that Volodymyr Glazunov, First Vice Rector of Zaporizhzhia University of Humanities “ZISMG”, be elected as head of the PWG, as well as found the first targeted working group on environmental issues.
- On October 19, a *meeting of the Regional Working Group (RWG)* took place in the regional state administration building. The meeting began with a presentation on the results of the study tour to Lithuania that was held in early October. At the meeting, the RWG Action Plan for September 2006 to January 2007 was approved. The RWG also agreed to accept the Action Plan for September 2006 to April 2007 for creating the Zaporizhzhia Oblast Development Strategy while taking into account suggestions made by RWG members. At the meeting, members discussed the planned activities that aimed to disseminate the basic document of the oblast’s vision and mission, as well as to inform the public about progress made in the strategic planning process through oblast-level and local mass media.

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

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