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

- From October 8 to 9, RGD staff and experts attended a seminar on “**Assisting the Implementation of Territorial and Administrative Reform in Ukraine and its Adaptation to European Standards: Polish Experience.**” This seminar was held in Zaporizhzhia and was organized by a joint initiative of the National Association of Regional Development Agencies (NARDA), RGD Ukrainian project partner, and the East European Democratic Center from Warsaw. The goal of this Polish-Ukrainian initiative is to share Poland’s experience in decentralization and fiscal policy reform with representatives of Ukrainian oblast, municipal and village councils, NGOs, and the mass media. This year, it held activities in five oblasts of Ukraine, including Zaporizhzhia. Irina Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Oblast Project Manager, and Orest Zakydalsky, RGD Project intern, participated in the seminar. Irina Lekh delivered a brief presentation about major activities of the RGD Project in Zaporizhzhia oblast. As a result of the seminar, it was agreed to pursue further cooperation and information sharing between the RGD Project and the Polish-Ukrainian initiative of NARDA and the East European Democratic Centre.
- On October 11, **Zaporizhzhia Oblast and Rayon State Administrations held a joint strategic planning session** in the Main Economic Department of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration. The participants of the session included Valeriy Tcherkaska, Acting Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, Ella Slepyan, Head of Main Economic Department, heads of other departments of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, first deputy heads of Rayon State Administrations, heads of the Departments of Economy of Rayon State Administrations and executive committees of City Councils of major regional cities. RGD Project staff and strategic planning experts also participated in this session. 28 women and 22 men were present at this session. During the meeting women were more active in discussions. Youth and the elderly were also represented. Each territory had about two representatives, one woman and one man.

During the meeting, Ella Slepyan informed the participants about the Decree of the Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, according to which, every rayon of Zaporizhzhia oblast had to identify strategic directions/priorities for their development and then formulate business plans for projects that will be used to achieve those priorities. The rayons were asked to prepare a presentation about their progress on this activity by December 1, 2007. RGD Strategic Planning Experts for Zaporizhzhia oblast shared strategic planning methodology with the participants from the rayons. Volodymyr Nazarenko described a process that can be used to identify strategic priorities for regional development, and Sergiy Mogylny talked about strategic planning experience of Zaporizhzhia’s Azov Sea rayons. Additionally, the experts disseminated materials such as the “Practical Textbook on Preparing the Report about Strategic Priorities for Development Identification.”

- In October, the results of the **oblast youth contest “I Create the Future of My Region”** were finalized. The purpose of the contest was to engage youth into the strategic planning process in Zaporizhzhia oblast. According to Zaporizhzhia oblast strategic priorities the following topics were envisaged:
  1. Zaporizhzhia oblast – safe environment of the region;
  2. Zaporizhzhia region as historic cultural and tourism center of South-Eastern Ukraine;
  3. Development of innovative investment in the region.A jury reviewed all the submitted proposals and selected 8 winners in different nominations from different cities and rayons of the oblast. The award ceremony will take place on November 6, 2007 in Zaporizhzhia.

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Information on the results of the contest is available on the project website at: [http://www.rgd.org.ua/latest\\_project\\_news/youth\\_contest\\_zap/](http://www.rgd.org.ua/latest_project_news/youth_contest_zap/)

- In Zakarpattya, several priority working group meetings took place during the month of October. These working groups are formulating operational programs for the regional priority areas. The **working group on the priority of Human Development and Improvement of the Quality of Life** held a meeting on October 23. Participants of this meeting worked on developing an action plan for the operational goal of “providing access to high quality education”. Tetiana Rizak, director of TEC “Prolisok”, made a presentation entitled “Vision of the Future through Access to High Quality Education.” She emphasized fundraising as an important source of funding for the development of the education system and implementing education reforms. During the discussion, several ideas for education reforms were brought up, such as the establishment of specialized private schools.

On **October 26, a meeting of the working group on Spatial Cohesion and Environmental Protection was held.** The meeting of this working group focused on the operational goal of “improving environmental protection.” The key issue considered during the meeting was waste management. Oksana Stankevych, RGD Project Expert, spoke about Zakarpattya’s Concept of Processing of Hard Waste. She emphasized the importance of holding public consultations on legislation such as this one through the mass media.

- As a result of the tendering process, **Zaporizhzhia University of Humanities “ZIDMU” was given the responsibility to draft the final document of the Regional Development Strategy until 2015.** Following this decision a meeting of the Coordinating Council took place on October 30. A contract for drafting of the Strategy was signed between Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, represented by Ella Slepyan, Head of the Main Department of Economy, and University of Humanities, represented by Viktor Ogarenko, Rector of the University. Following the signing ceremony, Ella Slepyan delivered a presentation about the main requirements for the task at hand. Irina Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Oblast Project Manager, remarked on the University’s involvement in the oblast’s strategic planning process and expressed her confidence that the Strategy document will be reflective of the cooperation established during this process. After the meeting, RGD regional experts Serhiy Mogylny, Volodymyr Nazarenko and Vitalyi Lysenko facilitated three specialized working group meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the operational plans for each of the strategic priorities. These operational plans will become a part of the final Regional Development Strategy.
- On October 30, a meeting of the RGD Project **Regional Steering Committee** took place in Uzhgorod. It was held in the building of Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration. Viktor Pogorelov, Head of Main Department of Economy chaired this meeting. In his opening remarks, he highlighted some of Zakarpattya’s key achievements in strategic planning over the last six months. In particular, he drew attention to the strategic planning process at the local level, noting that six rayons, Beregovo Rayon, Irshava, Mizhgirya, Rakhiv, Svaliava and Tiachiv Rayons, as well as the City of Beregovo, have already developed their strategies. These local strategies were developed through joint efforts of government authorities, local self-governments and RGD project experts. Additionally, he mentioned the project’s support towards publishing of the presentation version of the regional strategy and producing a video about the regional strategy. Natalia Nosa, Regional Project Manager in Zakarpattya, noted the project’s ongoing success in establishing cooperation between the government and the community. Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager, spoke about RGD project’s work at the national level and described major activities planned for the next quarter.
- During the month of October, RGD Project finalized and published several national and regional reports.

The background studies on **Innovative Investment priority for Zaporizhzhia Oblast Development and Cultural and Historical Tourism and Resort Industry Priority for Zaporizhzhia Oblast Development** were prepared by RGD project experts Volodymyr Nazarenko and Sergiy Mogylny. These reports contain information on resources, needs and systems in the subject priority areas. This information is presented in a structured and accessible framework, and will be used to facilitate the development of action plans for these priority goals (Innovative Investment and Cultural and Historical tourism and resort industry). Additionally, the background studies facilitate stakeholder input and knowledge sharing and will inform project activities related to the formulation of strategic plans and action plans in priority areas. These reports were reviewed

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by the Ukrainian Gender Expert Olga Pischshulina to ensure inclusion of gender equality issues. The reports are available on the RGD Project's website at: [http://www.rgd.org.ua/project\\_publications/publications\\_list/](http://www.rgd.org.ua/project_publications/publications_list/).

The analytical reports entitled ***“Inventory of Legislation and Documentation Related to Available National and Regional Public Programs, Sector Plans and International Technical Assistance Programs and Projects”*** were finalized in Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhia. These reports were prepared by RGD project experts Mariya Popadynets in Zakarpattia oblast, and Vitaly Lysenko in Zaporizhzhia oblast. The reports present results of the research in a structured and accessible framework, which can be used to facilitate the implementation of regional development strategies. These studies will contribute towards enhancing the capacity of regional stakeholder to implement regional development strategies by providing information on the existing international, national, and regional programs and resources for the selected priority areas. These reports were reviewed by Ukrainian Gender Expert Olga Pyschulina to ensure inclusion of gender equality issues. These reports are available on the RGD Project's website at: [http://www.rgd.org.ua/project\\_publications/publications\\_list/](http://www.rgd.org.ua/project_publications/publications_list/).

The analytical report and policy recommendations on ***“Tools for Overcoming Economically Depressed Regions: Experience of Developed Countries”*** was published in Ukrainian. This report was prepared by a team of RGD project experts, including Svitlana Slava (Ukraine), David Amborski (Canada), Peter Szegvari (Hungary) and Markiyan Datsyshyn (Ukraine). It contains a comparative analysis of Ukrainian and international practices in addressing the issue of depressed territories, including specific measures to overcome the depressed status of such regions. Information on international experience and case studies were collected from various European Union countries and Canada. This report also includes samples/copies of regulations on overcoming problems associated with depressed territories. This report will enhance the Ministry of Economy's awareness and understanding of international experiences, practices and approaches towards solving problems of depressed regions. This report is also available on the RGD Project's website at: [http://www.rgd.org.ua/project\\_publications/publications\\_list/](http://www.rgd.org.ua/project_publications/publications_list/).

A handbook on ***“Monitoring and Evaluation of Programs for Regional Development”*** was published in Ukrainian. The handbook was prepared by a team of RGD project experts, including Bohdan Wynnycky (Canada), Myroslava Lendel (Ukraine), Justyna Ratajczak (Poland) and Ihor Sanzharovskyy (Ukraine). It contains methodology and tools required to carry out monitoring and evaluation of programs for regional development. This handbook is also available on the RGD Project's website at: [http://www.rgd.org.ua/project\\_publications/publications\\_list/](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](http://www.rgd.org.ua).

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