



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

- In the month of October, the **RGD Project's Semi-Annual National Steering Committee Meeting and the Regional Steering Committee Meetings** were held. The purpose of the Steering Committees is to provide ongoing strategic advice and guidance regarding the overall design and implementation of Project activities. The semi-annual meetings are also meant to engage the Project's main national and regional stakeholders in the review and endorsement of the Project's activities and results.

The National Project Steering Committee met in Kyiv on **October 24**. The meeting was co-chaired by Andrew Farncombe, RGD Project Director, Canadian Urban Institute, and Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of the Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine. The Steering Committee members discussed the Project's results during the first half of the current fiscal year and the cumulative progress towards achieving the anticipated outcomes at the end of the Project. The sustainability of the Project's results was also addressed at the meeting. Olena Nyzhnyk expressed the Ministry's satisfaction with the Project's support and results achieved to date. She announced that Zaporizhzhia Oblast has expressed its intention to sign a Regional Development Contract with the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and encouraged Zakarpattia oblast to do the same. Representatives of the Project's pilot oblasts, Oleksandr Sin, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration, and Ernest Nuser, Head of the Department of European Integration, External Economic Relations and Tourism, Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, shared the Ministry's approval of the Project's activities and expressed the interest of their oblasts in continued cooperation with the Project.

- **Zakarpattia Oblast Regional Steering Committee Meeting** was held on **October 7**. Vasyl Brenzovych, Deputy Head of Zakarpattia Oblast Council and Victor Pogorelov, Head of the Main Department of Economy of Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration co-chaired the meeting. Maria Popadynets, RGD Regional Manager in Zakarpattia Oblast, presented results achieved through RGD Project's activities during the period of April to September 2008 and the Project activities planned for the period of October 2008 to March 2009. Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager, outlined the key events planned for the next and final year of the Project's implementation. He invited Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration to collaborate in the planning of the Project's activities for next year and in documenting and sharing the Project's results. Ernest Nuser, Head of the Main Department of European Integration, External Economic Relations and Tourism and Victor Pogorelov noted that Zakarpattia Oblast began undertaking practical steps in the implementation of Zakarpattia Regional Development Strategy and expressed the oblast's satisfaction with the Project's support in this process. They underlined that the Capital Grants Training Program was effective in training specialists at the regional and rayon levels to prepare infrastructure investment project proposals in accordance with international standards. This supports the oblast's efforts in attracting international investments in the implementation of the Regional Strategy.

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- **Zaporizhzhia Oblast Regional Steering Committee Meeting** was held on **October 22**. Irena Lekh, RGD Regional Manager in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, spoke about the results of the project activity during the first half of this year. One of the key results highlighted at the meeting was the approval of Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy in June 2008. The Steering Committee members also discussed activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the Regional Strategy, capacity development and institutional strengthening of the regional and rayon governments that were implemented since April 2008. Actions and tasks to be completed over the remainder of this fiscal year were identified and discussed. The Regional Steering Committee members approved the RGD Project's work in the first half of this year as successful and satisfactory. The meeting was also attended by the Mila Minarolli, International Development Officer, CIDA. She emphasized the importance of developing a strategy for sustainability of Project results and strengthening the Project's dissemination strategy.
- **From October 20 to October 22**, CIDA monitoring mission of the RGD Project was held. Mission participants included Margo Rothman, CIDA Monitor, Mila Minarolli, International Development Officer, CIDA, Sherry Greaves, First Secretary (Development), Embassy of Canada to Ukraine and Valentyna Telychenko, Interpreter. *The delegation visited Zakarpattia from October 20 to October 21 and Zaporizhzhia from October 21 to October 22.* During the monitoring mission a number of meetings with RGD regional office staff and experts, and project partners and stakeholders were held. A wide range of issues regarding the project activity in the regions during the period of December 2007 – September 2008 and results achieved were discussed.
- **During the month of October, Zaporizhzhia oblast continued the process of identifying priority operational tasks from the Regional Development Strategy for implementation in 2009.** The process was completed through the following activities.

From October 9 to October 15, working meetings of the Innovative Investment Priority Committee were held. The purpose of the meetings was to determine several priority tasks (projects) that will be implemented in 2009. Volodymyr Nazarenko, RGD Planning Expert in Zaporizhzhia oblast, facilitated these meetings. More than 50 project proposals from cities and rayons of Zaporizhzhia oblast were considered. At the first meeting, on October 9, the projects were evaluated against the selection criteria, which were determined in July 2008. The proposals that did not correspond to the criteria were removed from the list. The representatives of the projects that met the selection criteria were invited to participate in the second meeting on October 15, 2008. They were given an opportunity to explain in details the content of their projects and to answer questions of the Committee members. As a result of the identification process, a draft list of priority projects for implementation in 2009 was prepared. 19 projects corresponding to the criteria were included on the list.

The meetings of the Cultural and Historical Tourism and Resort Industry Priority Committee and Environmental Priority Committee were facilitated by Vytalyi Lysenko, RGD Planning Expert in Zaporizhzhia oblast. The procedure used to select projects in these priorities was the same as for the Innovative Investment priority. As a result of the meetings, 9 projects for the Environment priority and 14 projects for Cultural and Historical Tourism and Resort Industry priority were selected.

On October 17, a meeting of the Regional Working Group on Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Zaporizhzhia Regional Strategy with the participation by the three priority committees was held. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and to prepare the final list of projects for submission to the Regional Council on Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Regional Strategy. As a result of the meeting 41 projects from Zaporizhzhia Regional Strategy were selected for implementation in 2009.

On October 22, a roundtable meeting of the Regional Council on Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Regional Development Strategy of Zaporizhzhia oblast until 2015 was held. The key goal of this meeting was to approve the final list of priority projects to be implemented in 2009. After an engaging and thorough discussion the Regional Council shortlisted 34 of the 41 projects submitted by the

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Regional Working Group. The selected projects were aimed at developing tourism sites and infrastructure, addressing key environmental problems in the rayons and cities of the oblast, and promoting investments in the regional economy. Representatives of the teams of selected projects will have an opportunity to participate in the Project Management Training Program during the next six months. The project teams will use the knowledge and skills received during the training in the implementation of their projects. The training program will be supported by highly qualified and skilled international and regional experts.

- ***The First Module of the Project Management Training was delivered in Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia*** at the end of October. The Project Management Training Program has two main objectives. The first objective is to train a number of middle level managers from the regional and local level governments in project management. The second objective is to begin implementation of priority projects by April 2009. The training is delivered in a series of two-day training workshops. Each workshop includes a theoretical and a practical portion. In the first training module the participants were introduced to the project management approach to Strategy implementation and the basics of project design. During the practical part, the participants worked on developing the project proposals, including problem analysis, project description and project logical framework. The theoretical part of the training was delivered by Valentin Ratch and Olga Medvedeva, RGD Project Experts. The practical portion of the training was facilitated by Regional Experts, Svitlana Slava and Yaroslav Boyko in Zakarpattia and Volodymyr Nazarenko and Vytaly Lysenko in Zaporizhzhia. In this module, the participants were also provided with practical examples of project development and implementation from international experiences. These examples were presented by Beate Bowron and Gary Davidson, RGD Project Canadian Planning Experts. They described the experiences of the Toronto Fashion Incubator and the Huron County Tourism Association as case studies of successful project implementation, emphasizing lessons learned in project management.

In Zakarpattia, the first Project Management Training workshop was held **on October 23 – 24**. 33 people among them 27 public officials took part in the training session. At the end of the training session the Canadian experts provided additional consultations to the training participants, who expressed their interest in getting more information in this field. They worked with the “European Common Home” project from Rahiv, represented by E. Reparuk and with the “Hospice Psychological Support Institution for People with Serious Illnesses and Members of Their Families” project from Vynogradiv, represented by I. Borysenko.

In Zaporizhzhia, the first module of the Project Management Training Program was held on **October 30 – 31**. Representatives of 34 small projects identified by the Regional Council on Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Regional Strategy were invited for participation in the training. At the opening of the training Oleksandr Starukh, Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, stressed that people are the most important resource of Zaporizhzhia oblast and that the training will help government specialists to better work within the new economic environment. He underlined that state funding for the implementation of the projects will be allocated through a competitive process. He also noted that Zaporizhzhia oblast is very close to signing of Regional Development Contract with the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the participation in the six-month training program would be an asset in this process. Zaporizhzhia Project Management Training was attended by approximately 40 people, representing the 34 projects. Over half of participants were women and there was a good balance between younger and older people participating in the training. Participants were actively participating in group discussions and asked relevant questions from the instructors and the Canadian experts.

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

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