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**Information**  
**on Activities within the Framework of the Canada-Ukraine Partnership**  
**Project for Regional Governance and Development (RGD)**  
**in September 2006**

- For the purpose of regional capacity development needs assessment, baseline studies on the current status of regional governance and development in the pilot regions were completed. An analytical summary entitled “**Current Status of Regional Governance and Development in Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts**” was prepared by Ukrainian expert Myroslava Lendel. The summary was based on research findings in the pilot regions. The summary covers the needs assessment of pilot oblasts; current status of regional governance and development; evaluation of where the pilot oblasts are today in terms of their development strategies and in terms of their mechanisms for facilitating public participation; identification of capacity development and participatory planning needs; analysis of the existing strategic planning framework and recommendations on its improvement; and recommendations on the possibility of a shared approach to financial support for the implementation of regional development strategies.

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/](http://www.rgd.org.ua/en/project_publications/publications_list/)

- Following the Cabinet of Ministers’ Resolution of 21 July 2006 # 1001 on the approval of the State Strategy for Regional Development and inherent in its instructions for the Oblast State Administrations to develop draft Regional Strategies for Development, the Ministry of Economy’s Department for Regional Development and the RGD Project arranged **a coordination meeting** with key stakeholders involved in developing regional strategies in the pilot regions. The meeting took place in Kyiv on September 11 and participants included Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of the Department for Regional Development of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Mykhailo Petrovtsi, Head of the Main Economic Department, Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration, Ella Slepian, Head of the Main Economic Department, Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, RGD project strategic planning experts, and RGD project staff. The group agreed to a schedule of joint activities under the new legislation.
- On September 18-19, **a strategic planning ‘train the trainers’ workshop** was held in Kyiv. Two Canadian experts, Beate Bowron and Gary Davidson, led the workshop, with the participation of RGD’s project manager, Chris VanDooren, and project officer, Andrea Roberts, from Canada and the Kyiv-based project staff. The workshop was targeted at the project’s Ukrainian strategic planning experts, representatives of the regional authorities, and regional project staff, and focusing on Canadian experience in methods and techniques of creating a vision for oblast development within the greater framework of elaborating a Regional Strategy for Development. This workshop also aimed to train Ukrainian strategic planning experts to hold visioning workshops in the regions.
- As the next step of the ‘train the trainers’ workshop, **two workshops on visioning for regional development** were held in Uzhgorod and Zaporizhzhia on September 22. The goal of the workshops was to involve stakeholders, in particular members of the councils and working groups for regional development, to build a

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common understanding of strategic planning steps and approaches, methodology, and practical steps to developing a vision in each pilot oblast.

- In Zakarpattya, representatives of the local executive authorities, self-government bodies, Regional Development Council, Coordination Council on the Development of a Strategy for Regional Development, the coalition of NGOs “For Future of Zakarpattya” and other civil society organizations, and representatives of business and academia participated in the workshop, which was facilitated by RGD Project regional strategic planning experts, Oleg Luksha and Oxana Stankiewicz. A Canadian strategic planning expert, Dr. Gary Davidson, advised on the workshop’s approaches and format.

During the workshop, participants discussed and defined the major priorities of Zakarpattya oblast’s development. As a result of the workshop, a joint vision of Zakarpattya oblast’s development was elaborated: “Zakarpattya is an economically autonomous, pollution-free, tourism and recreation focused, CEE and boundary region of Ukraine with its unique nature, distinctive culture and historical heritage, high educational level of its citizens, and revived old traditions of community self-governance. It is a region that ensures sustainable development, equal opportunities for all residents, balanced development of urban and rural territories, business development, and friendly, mutually beneficial relationships with neighbouring regions and countries.”

- In Zaporizhzhia, representatives of the regional authorities, members of the Regional Strategic Planning Working Group, and members of the district Working Groups participated in the workshop, which was facilitated by RGD Project regional strategic planning experts, Volodymyr Nazarenko and Sergiy Mogylnyi.

Workshop participants had the opportunity to learn from the Canadian methodology for generating a vision and engaging the public in this process, which was presented by a Canadian strategic planning expert, Beate Bowron. The Ukrainian experts prepared guidelines on collecting a vision and disseminated them to the participants to assist them in the next stage of Zaporizhzhia oblast’s strategic planning.

As a result of the workshop, a basic version of Zaporizhzhia oblast's development vision and mission were developed by the participants.

These workshops aimed to strengthen further collaboration among all project stakeholders to develop and implement a strategy for the development of the pilot oblasts. Based on the results of the workshops, the second stage of the strategic planning process – creating a vision with the input of the public – has begun in Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattya oblasts.

- In the framework of strategy development activities, other coordination events and working meetings among regional stakeholders were facilitated by the RGD Project. A series of coordination meetings took place in Uzhgorod with the participation of the leadership of Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration, RGD management and RGD Project strategic planning experts, and representatives of Lviv Institute for Regional Studies. Discussions on their vision of oblast development were held between specialists on regional development and strategic planning from all sector departments of the Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration. On the basis of these discussions, questionnaires on defining priorities for the development of the region until 2015 were elaborated and disseminated to all districts of Zakarpattya oblast. As a result of the meetings, the leadership of Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration adopted a decision regarding the establishment of a working group responsible for developing a strategy for regional development that will include specialists from the main economic department, representatives of academia and RGD project experts.
- In Zaporizhzhia, the RGD Project **Regional Initiative Working Group** together with the project’s regional team finalized the Communication Strategy with the purpose of disseminating information on the RGD Project and the strategic planning process in the oblast. The Communication Strategy implementation plan included over 30 activities aimed at engaging all stakeholders, such as government, business and the general public, in the process. These activities covered three directions – organizational, training and methodical, and informational.

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- On September 14, the first meeting of the **Regional Working Group (RWG) on Strategic Planning** was held at the Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration. Forty permanent members of the RWG (local government, business and NGOs representatives), as well as the RGD Project's regional team and head of the public relations department, attended. During the meeting, the following issues were discussed: importance of strategic planning for Zaporizhzhia oblast, State Strategy for Regional Development until 2015, basic principles of the Zaporizhzhia Oblast Economic and Social Development Strategy for 2004-2015, and the RGD Project's participation in the regional development strategic planning process.
- On September 29, a meeting of **Regional Initiative Working Group** was held in Zaporizhzhia, where group members discussed the draft of Zaporizhzhia oblast's Communication Strategy of the second stage of strategic planning. They suggested including several additional activities to engage NGOs, youth, and women in the process. At the end of the meeting, a press conference was held, which aimed to inform the mass media of the basic steps of the strategic planning process in the region and the RGD Project's activities, as well as to discuss the Communication Strategy for public engagement in the process of generating a future vision of Zaporizhzhia oblast's development.

More detailed information about Project events and activities can be found online at [www.rgd.org.ua](http://www.rgd.org.ua)

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