



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

- **During the month of September, Zakarpattya oblast worked on selecting small to medium size projects from the five strategic priorities for implementation in 2008/2009.** The selection process was completed in three stages using the methodology and criteria developed by the RGD Ukrainian and International Experts and agreed with Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration (OSA) in July 2008. During the first stage, rayon administrations and city councils submitted their project proposals to the Oblast State Administration. During the second stage, these projects were reviewed and discussed by the regional Working Groups and additional proposals were submitted by the Working Groups themselves based on the operational programs and gender equality principles. The Working Group on Economy, facilitated by Svitlana Slava, RGD Project Planning Expert, met on September 3; the Working Groups on Ecology and Tourism and Recreation, supported by Oksana Stankevych, RGD Planning Expert, held meetings on September 12 and 16, respectively; and the Working Group on Cross-border Cooperation, headed by O. Luksha, RGD Project Planning Expert assembled on September 17. As a result of the Working Group consultations, 39 small and medium sized projects were identified as priority projects for implementation in 2008/2009.

On September 19, during the final stage of the selection process, the list of projects was finalized at a working meeting between the leadership of Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration and the RGD Project staff and expert team. Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration approved 26 of the 39 projects submitted by the working groups, the rayon administrations and city councils. Most of the proposals provided by the working groups were included on the final project list.

- **From September 15 to September 19, a workshop on the International Standards for Evaluation of Infrastructure Investment Projects** was held in Kyiv. This practical workshop was the final training workshop of the Capital Investment Project Proposal Preparation Training Program delivered this year. This final workshop was designed to support the efforts of the Ukrainian government in institutionalizing the international standards for evaluating capital investment projects within the practices of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine (MoE) and the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine (MoRD), the two institutions that are currently responsible for this process. 13 specialists from the MoE and the MoRD were trained.

The workshop was delivered by the team of international experts Zbigniew Jedrzejewski and Jacek Kawala, (LemTech Consulting, Cracow, Poland). During the workshop, the participants learned about the theoretical principles of project evaluation, including assessing the economic, financial, technological and environmental impacts of a project, and evaluating a project's logical framework and its risk mitigation strategy. The workshop also included a discussion of international best practices in evaluating capital investment projects as well as practical exercises in evaluating real project proposals. Workshop participants highly appreciated

3, Triohsvyatytska Str, office 60, Kyiv 01001

Tel.: 390 70 87, fax: 278 07 14

E-mail: info@rgd.org.ua

Regional Governance and Development Project is implemented by the Canadian Urban Institute with funding provided by the Canadian International Development Agency

the level of training and the knowledge and skills they received. They were interested in seeing similar training programs in the future.

- **From September 1 to September 3**, the RGD Project team in Zaporizhzhia held a series of meetings with the leadership of the pilot territories of Tokmak Rayon and City, the Azov Sea rayons and Energodar City to discuss the implementation of their strategies within the framework of the implementation of Zaporizhzhia Regional Strategy. The meetings were held in Tokmak and Prymorsk on September 1, in Berdiansk City on September 2, and in the Energodar City on September 3. During these meetings, the RGD Project team and the leadership of the pilot territories (Heads of the Departments of Economy of rayon state administrations and deputy mayors) discussed a number of issues related to the implementation of Zaporizhzhia Regional Strategy and the local strategies and developed terms of reference for working groups on strategies implementation. Volodymyr Nazarenko, RGD Project Planning Expert also shared the methodological recommendations for the working groups on prioritization of operational tasks and selection of projects for implementation in 2008/2009.
- **On September 24**, a meeting of the **Council on Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy for the period until 2015** took place. During this meeting the results and further plans for the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy were discussed. As the first order of business, the Council finalized the institutional structure for the coordination of the Strategy implementation process. It will consist of the Council itself, which is a multi-stakeholder body including representatives of state authorities, business and the public, and the Regional Working Group, consisting of three sub-committees according to the oblast priorities. The heads of the respective departments of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration were appointed as sub-committee leaders. Secondly, the meeting participants agreed on the procedure for selecting priority projects from Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy. The methodology and the selection criteria included in this process were based on those developed by the RGD Ukrainian and international experts in July 2008. As a result of the meeting, it was decided to select 30 priority projects for implementation in 2008/2009 by the end of October 2008.
- **On September 24 and September 25**, two roundtable meetings were held between Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration and the RGD Project. During these meetings, the RGD expert team **presented the initial results of the reports** on the **Feasibility of Establishing a Regional Development Agency in Zaporizhzhia Oblast** and of the **Organizational Review of Policies and Business Processes of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration**. The feasibility study report discussed the international and Ukrainian experiences in establishing regional development agencies (RDA's) and presented a sample model of an RDA that could be adapted in Zaporizhzhia Oblast. Ella Slepian, Head of the Main Department of Economy of Zaporizhzhia OSA expressed the oblast's interest in establishing an RDA, however, the oblast found that many issues such as the legal standing of such an institution, it's financing, among others, still remained unclear. The final feasibility study report is scheduled for presentation in November 2008. The Organizational Review of Policies and Business Processes of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration was designed to assess the capacity and readiness of Zaporizhzhia OSA to implement the Regional Development Strategy. The expert team reported that the analytical work has been completed and provided a draft of the recommendations for improving the activities of the audited departments. The final report will be presented in October 2008.
- **On September 30**, in Volniansk, Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration held a seminar on Zaporizhzhia Development Strategy implementation for the heads of Volniansk, Zaporizhzhia and Novomykolaivka Rayon State Administrations and the leadership of the village councils from these rayons. In total, more than 50

3, Triohsvyatytska Str, office 60, Kyiv 01001

Tel.: 390 70 87, fax: 278 07 14

E-mail: info@rgd.org.ua

Regional Governance and Development Project is implemented by the Canadian Urban Institute with funding provided by the Canadian International Development Agency

persons participated in the meeting. O. Starukh, Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, opened the meeting. O. Sin, R. Drygynych and O. Bereznyi, Deputy Heads of Zaporizhzhia OSA, presented progress reports in the implementation of Zaporizhzhia Strategy within the priority areas, followed by a discussion of the key issues that affect the participant rayons. Among the issues raised were financing, transportation and education. After the discussion, the participants agreed on the approach for engaging their rayons in the implementation of the Strategy. In the second half of the seminar, V. Nazarenko, the RGD Regional Planning Expert, delivered a presentation called “Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy Implementation.” In his presentation V. Nazarenko underlined the importance of regional development plans and shared information about the basic principles for developing investment project proposals based on a region’s development priorities.

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

3, Triohsvyatyetska Str, office 60, Kyiv 01001

Tel.: 390 70 87, fax: 278 07 14

E-mail: info@rgd.org.ua

Regional Governance and Development Project is implemented by the Canadian Urban Institute with funding provided by the Canadian International Development Agency