



**Canada-Ukraine Partnership Project for
Regional Governance and Development (RGD)
November 2009**

Results Achieved

The RGD Project continues to achieve great success in working toward sustainable regional development in the two pilot oblasts of Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhia, as well as collaborating with national government agencies to implement the State Strategy for Regional Development. In November, the following specific results have been achieved:

Several **projects** identified as strategic priorities, led by participants in the Project Management and Strategy Implementation Training (PMT) in Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia, continued to make significant progress toward full project implementation:

“Establishing a hospice-type institution for providing palliative care in Vynohradiv rayon of Zakarpattia” project team submitted an application to the nationwide competition for projects and programs in the field of local government development announced by the Foundation for Local Self-Government of Ukraine and received a significant grant in the amount of 500 000 UAH.

“Power of the community lies in joining efforts” project is aimed at increasing the role of Zaporizhzhia NGOs in addressing local community problems, facilitating political and economic reforms at the regional level and increasing cooperation between local NGOs and the state authorities in regional policy development and implementation. In working toward the identified project goals, the project team compiled a database of NGOs working in the oblast. The database also outlines the obstacles NGOs are facing and their needs in order to optimize their work. One identified area in need of improvement is with respect to organizing media campaigns. To respond to this, a workshop entitled *Media-NGO Cooperation* was held in November 2009 in Energodar. Participants gained skills in preparing press releases and organizing press conferences. The participants found this workshop extremely helpful in improving their communication skills. As a result, the project team applied for funding to hold two more workshops in Zaporizhzhia City and Berdyansk. They were granted \$8000 from the “Vidrodzhennya” Foundation and \$7000 from the Embassy of the United States of America. The team’s success in accessing various funding sources can certainly be attributed to their participation in RGD’s PMT training that consisted of several workshops on how to complete funding applications to international standards.

“Establishing a historical and tourist complex «Mennonite Yard» in the town of Molochans'k of Zaporizhzhia oblast” project’s objective is to improve social infrastructure within the town, to preserve its the historical and cultural heritage as well as to attract tourists. The project also aims to improve environmental education for youth and address the problem of unemployment. 15 000 UAH were assigned from the local budget for the initial phase of project implementation. During this phase, the team will commence building the complex as well as identify areas of cultural significance.

“Developing a concept note for establishment of the industrial park with logistic elements «Bereg - Karpathy» on the territory of Berehovo rayon of Ukraine and Sabolch-Satmar-Bereh region of Hungary” and *“Development of the concept note of an alternative transport corridor involving infrastructure resources of Zakarpattia”* project teams are working on establishing good cooperative relations with foreign partners and neighboring countries. On November 11-12, project representatives participated in the International Conference “Establishing a joint Ukrainian-Hungarian industrial park on the border of Ukraine and Hungary” held in Niredhaza (Hungary). Representatives of the Ministry of National Development and Economy (Hungary) also participated in the Conference.

It is also important to note that public officials from Vynogradiv, Beregovo and Mizhgyrya rayons, who participated in the Training Program on Project Management and Strategy Implementation (PMT) and the Capital Investment Training supported by RGD Project, are actively involved in the UNDP Program "Community Based Approach to Local Development". Using the knowledge and skills they garnered during RGD training workshops, they have so far prepared 14 small projects as part of the UNDP program. The projects seek to promote local self-governance and instigate long-term sustainable community development.

Activities Completed

The following specific activities took place in November 2009:

Ludmyla Hrytsak, RGD Monitoring expert in Zakarpattya oblast, collected extensive data required for monitoring two strategic priorities identified in the Regional Development Strategy for Zakarpattya: "Human Development and Improvement of the Quality of Life" and "Developing a Competitive and Sustainable Economy." These data were compiled into a report and submitted to the Monitoring Committee. This report was reviewed by the committee during its December 4th meeting, and will provide a solid foundation for the process of monitoring, evaluating and improving the Zakarpattya regional strategy.

On November 5, the short video called "Implementing the Zakarpattya Regional Development Strategy through Successful Projects", along with a presentation of the most successful strategic initiatives developed with RGD support, was presented to the Zakarpattya Oblast Council in Uzhgorod.

Zakarpattya RGD project staff disseminated the "Handbook on Municipal Infrastructure Project Proposal Writing" prepared by RGD Project experts to key project partners and stakeholders including the oblast administration, rayon administrations and town municipalities. It is anticipated that the handbook will be widely used by the local administrations' staff to develop and implement infrastructure projects in the future.

On November 19, a regular meeting of the Strategy Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Council was held at the Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration (OSA) to sum up the results of the Strategy implementation activities held in August - October 2009. The main topic discussed was the process of finalizing the system of monitoring indicators, established by three committees each responsible for one of the strategic priorities (environment; attracting innovative investment; cultural and historical tourism). After the indicators were discussed, the Head of the Zaporizhzhia OSA announced that a Multisectoral Working Group (MWG) should be created with the responsibility to monitor the regional strategy. The meeting resulted in the decisions to finalize the monitoring system indicators taking into account the comments and suggestions made during the working session, as well as to increase the participation of business and public organizations in the process.

During this meeting, RGD Project's Regional Experts also presented information on a regional competition for business projects organized by the Oblast Entrepreneurship Support Fund in cooperation with the "Priorytet" Regional Development Agency (RDA) that was officially established in November 2009. The oblast authority has allocated funding support to business initiatives that are designed to address the strategic priorities of the regional development plan. The winners of the contest will also have access to low-interest credit. This program will be of great benefit to project teams that participated in RGD's Capital Investment Training, such as the team from Berdyansk that is planning to build an industrial park that will promote environmentally sound practices.

November 23-30, Elena Dinu (Canadian Project Manager) and Evelyn Gere (Canadian Project Officer) met with the RGD team in Kyiv to discuss progress to date on strategic priority and infrastructure investment projects, ways to further incorporate social and gender impact assessments into the projects' activities, and RGD activities planned for the upcoming period. During their visit, they also travelled with Ihor Sanzharovskiy (Ukrainian Project Manager) to Zakarpattya to meet with representatives of the Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration: Viktor Pogorelov, Head of the Main Economic Department, Ernest Nuser, Head of the European Integration, External Relations and Tourism Department and Vasyl Papp, Deputy Head of the Main Economic Department. These meetings further solidified the OSA's support of the RGD Project and commitment to strengthening the strategic planning process in Zakarpattya.

More detailed information about RGD 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

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