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## Canada-Ukraine Partnership Project for Regional Governance and Development (RGD) *July - August 2009*

### Results Achieved

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

The **Handbook on Municipal Infrastructure Project Proposal Writing** was published in Ukrainian. The handbook was prepared and edited by a team of international and Ukrainian experts, including Zbigniew Jedrzejewski (Poland), Duncan Leitch (Great Britain) and Vitaliy Lysenko (Ukraine). Based on training delivered by experts of the RGD Project team, this handbook has been written to provide assistance to municipalities, rayons and oblasts in writing proposals that seek funding from international financial institutions for infrastructure projects. This publication will also be 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 **number of small-scale projects**, led by participants of the Project Management and Strategy Implementation Training (PMT) in Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattya, made significant progress toward full project implementation:

- **Creation Hospice Institution in Vynogradiv Rayon of Zakarpattya:** The project received a grant from the Co-operating Netherlands Foundations for Central and Eastern Europe (CNF-CEE) and the Carpathian Foundation (Ukraine) to commence with the first project stage through establishing a pilot model of hospice in the rayon. The objectives, among others, are to train medical personnel, carry out construction works, and purchase medical equipment. The total budget for this stage of the project is 22 000 Euro, of which 20 000 Euro comes from the CNF-CEE and Carpathian Foundation and 2 000 Euros from the project itself.  
  
The Vynogradiv City Council issued the permit to reconstruct the building allocated for the hospice into the medical-type building. Also, the project team received a letter of support from the Institute of Palliative and Hospice Medicine of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, expressing their support to establish hospice in Vinogradiv through providing methodological, legal assistance and advice to the project team. The letter also proposed to that the Institute establish a branch in Zakarpattya oblast as part of the hospice being developed in Vynogradiv.
- **Developing a Concept Note and Plan for Establishing Euro-integration Centre for Development of Rakhiv Rayon "European Common Home":** Reconstruction works of the building allocated for the center is currently underway with financial support from the Rakhiv City Council. The total budget for the reconstruction is 200 thousand UAH.
- **Establishment of Historical and Cultural Site "Ethnovillage" in Vilnansky Rayon of Zaporizhzhia Oblast:** As part of the project, a cleaning process of the lake commenced on July 30. Also, a dam was constructed to provide greater protection for the lake.
- **Strategy of the Local Producer Support "Buy Zaporizhzhia Products – Choose ours!":** The project has seen an significant increase in support and participation by local producers, increasing three-fold in the period from July to August 2009 (from 6 to 18). All participants pay membership fees which are used for further project development, educational and informational campaigns and support to producers who have been negatively impacted by the current economic crisis. Also, the Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration allocated 60 000 UAH to support the project to develop a 25-minutes promotional video which is to be broadcasted on two regional TV-channels.

Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council received a **letter from the Foundation for Local Self-Government of Ukraine**, confirming that the applications submitted by the following projects meet requirements for the Ukrainian Local Self-Government Contest and were registered as official Contest participants: *Establishment of historical-cultural complex "Ethovillage" in Vilnyansk rayon of Zaporizhzhia oblast*, the *Development of Innovative Ethnic Tolerance Education System in Zaporizhzhia oblast "Zaporiz'ka Zlagoda"* and the *Great Future for a Small Village!*, one of the components of *Development of touristic infrastructure for fishing at Berdyansk reservoir*. The winner of the contest will receive grants to support their project activities.

### Activities Completed

The following specific activities took place in July and August 2009:

The CIDA Monitor, Margot Rothman, visited the oblasts of Zaporizhzhia **on June 30 - July 2** and Zakarpattia **on July 6 - 7**. During her mission, the Monitor had a number of working meetings with RGD staff, experts, and officials of the Zakarpattia and Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administrations and participants of the PMT Program to discuss project results achieved to date. In Zaporizhzhia, visits were made to two small-scale projects in the city of Energodar: *Establishing an Outdoor Museum "Krempoveje Koleso"* and *Establishment of the City Tourist Information Centre*. In Zakarpattia, 5 small-scale projects were visited in Irshava, Vinogradovo, Beregovo and Uzhhorod rayons. All project teams shared their insights on results achieved in terms of their projects' being implemented.

On **July 2**, the Zaporizhzhia Regional Council met to discuss monitoring the implementation of the Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy. A number of indicators as well as a survey for local business were discussed. Also a topic of discussion was the results achieved of RGD's 9-month PMT Program which had just been completed. Approximately 40 people received training in project management and 23 small-scale projects have been developed in accordance to three priorities of the Regional Strategy: environment, tourism development and innovative-investment. Importantly also, the Oblast State Administration has recognized and acknowledged these achievements by allocating funds required for new PMT workshops within the oblast budget starting next year. This will most certainly provide significant impetus for ensuring continued and sustained implementation of the region's development strategy.

On **July 17**, a meeting of the Temporary Monitoring Committee (TMC) on Regional Strategy Implementation took place in Zakarpattia. Committee members discussed and reviewed different sets of indicators for each of the following priorities: Human Development and Improvement of Quality of Life, Developing a Competitive and Sustainable Economy, Expanding Cross-Border and Euroregional Cooperation, Developing Tourism, Recreation and Health Resort Industries, and Spatial Cohesion and Environmental Protection. The TMC also refined the list of working groups which are tasked to collect and analyze the data required for monitoring the implementation Regional Development Strategy. The decision was also made that representatives from the Department of Statistics in Zakarpattia oblast will be part of each working group.

In Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia oblast, the regional conference on *Cluster Models for Local Economic Development* took place on **July 17**. The conference was organized by the RGD project team in association with the Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration to promote the idea of innovative investments, a priority set out in the Zaporizhzhia Regional Development Strategy. The objective of the conference was also to provide assistance toward the implementation of two small-scale projects: *Establishment of Bee-Keeping Cluster "Bees without Boundaries" in the City of Melitopol, Zaporizhzhya Oblast* and *Establishment of Innovative Technological Cluster "Agroboom" in Melitopol*. Both of these projects are the result of the RGD project's PMT Program.

From **July 21 - 24**, representatives from the *Creation Hospice Institution in Vynogradiv Rayon* project had a working meeting with representatives from Mother Teresa Hospice, their partners from Slovakia, on the issue of joint development and implementation of the project. A partnership agreement was signed that sets out continued cooperation and sharing of organizational and scientific know-how.

On **July 31**, the team of the *Creation Hospice Institution in Vynogradiv Rayon* project took part in a knowledge-exchange seminar in Košice, Slovakia, organized by the Joint Managing Authority in cooperation with the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Regional Capacity Building Initiative Program (RCBI). The event was aimed at providing participants with detailed information on the application procedures and various aspects of establishing cross-border partnerships.

During the month of **August**, the team of the small-scale project *Developing Touristic Infrastructure for Fishing at Berdyansk Reservoir* attended a workshop on increasing fish stock in the Berdyansk Reservoir on August 11, 2009.

On **August 3**, meetings of the Temporary Monitoring Committee's working groups took place in Zakarpattya to review and discuss monitoring indicators with respect to two Regional Development Strategy priorities: *Developing Tourism, Recreation and Health Resort Industries* and *Developing a Competitive and Sustainable Economy*. TMC working group members discussed and came to an agreement on monitoring indicators for these two regional priorities.

On **August 4**, the RGD Zaporizhzhia Senior Coordinator, Anastasia Bevz, participated in the Black Sea Basin Partner Forum held in Odessa. This forum was organized by the European Union's Black Sea Cross-Border Program. The objective of RGD participation was to present on the small projects developed through the PMT Program as well as to explore funding opportunities offered by the EU Program. Anastasia Bevz gained useful contacts with other Black Sea Basin countries. Her knowledge on cross-border cooperation acquired will greatly support further implementation of small-scale projects.

On **August 6**, Ludmyla Hrytzak (RGD Regional Expert) and Lubov Koguch (Lead Specialist of the Main Economic Department of Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration) had a working visit to Lviv oblast to learn about the Oblast State Administration's experience in implementing the monitoring system of the Lviv Regional Strategy. The knowledge gained in Lviv will be extremely useful for the development of a monitoring system of the Zakarpattya Regional Strategy.

On **August 6**, representatives from the project *Developing a Concept Note and Plan for the Building to Create Euro-integration Centre for Development of Rakhiv Rayon "European Common Home"* participated in the Partner Search Forum. This forum organized by the Joint Managing and Technical Secretariat of the RCBI Program provided participants with detailed information on the application procedure and training on the specific application forms.

One of Zaporizhzhia supermarkets, "Borodynsky" Commercial House, recently joined the *Strategy of the Local Producer Support "Buy Zaporizhzhia Products – Choose ours!"* project team on **August 7**; they were officially welcomed by the mayor of Zaporizhzhia city Yevhen Kartashov. During this event, all shops that are the project members were able to conduct numerous customer surveys on local brands and product quality. This event had extensive local media coverage.

From **August 7 – 9**, the project team of the *Establishing a Company Employing Energy-saving Technologies in the City of Uzhgorod* took part in and presented its project at the Interregional Exhibition of Alternative Energy Sources and Energy-saving Technologies held in Uzhgorod, Zakarpattya oblast within the "Green Energy Week". Participation at this event was important as it raised awareness of this innovative small-scale project as well as provided opportunities for the project team to network with companies working in the field of alternative energy in Slovakia and Hungary.

On **August 10**, the *Creation Hospice Institution in Vynogradiv Rayon of Zakarpattya* project team met representatives of the Fire Inspection, Health Inspection and Rayon Electric Service in Zakarpattya to discuss technical details of the permits required. Receiving these permits is an important step in implementing the project. The team of this project also successfully prepared an application to the International Renaissance Foundation for a grant from the program entitled "Support and Development of Public Organizations Working in the Sphere of Palliative Care in Ukraine".

From **August 22 - 23**, the team of the *Establishing Tourism Information Centre for the Disabled People in Uzhgorod rayon* project participated in the exhibition "Day of the Blacksmith", in Pirogovo village, Kyiv. The purpose of this exhibition was to present the possibilities for the disabled people to travel in Zakarpattya (where to stay, where to go) and introduce the project to wider public. **On August 26**, the project team organized a recreation and entertainment event for 60 disabled people in the hotel-ranch "Zolota Gora" in the village of Barvynok in Uzhgorod rayon. "Zolota Gora" is one of the first hotels in the region to work with the project team to reconstruct its facilities to provide services to the disabled. Information about this event was broadcasted by the local media.

On **August 31**, a meeting of the Regional Strategy Implementation Council was held in Zaporizhzhia. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the project's selected to participate in the International Standards for Infrastructure Project Development Training to be held in Kyiv. This training will benefit the selected projects to increase their capacity to develop infrastructure investment project proposals in accordance to requirements of international financial and lending institutions. The projects selected are: Pologivsky rayon –

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Organization of construction of solid waste landfill in the city of Pology; Vilnyansky rayon – Establishing waste processing plant; Melitopolsky rayon – Planning and construction of waste processing plant; Berdyansk town – Establishment of industrial ‘green field’ park; and Berdyansk sand-bar protection. A second topic of discussion was the selection of a TV-studio for children, entitled Razom, to develop and broadcast a promotion video on the *Buy Zaporizhzhia Products – Choose ours!* project. The broadcast date is yet to be determined.

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

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