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

- Within the framework of the RGD Project's capacity development needs assessment, baseline studies on the current status and prospects for strengthening environmental issues were completed. These research findings were presented in "**Regional Environment Reports**" - one for each pilot oblast, Zakarpattya and Zaporizhzhia – which were finalized by a team of Ukrainian experts. A Canadian expert completed a summary based on these two reports. The summary and reports include an analysis of environmental issues and circumstances in pilot oblasts; an assessment of the regional governments' efforts to integrate environmental issues in their policies and activities; a determination of how and why environmental issues are relevant to the Project goals; and a design of Project activities that should effectively address these issues. Both English and Ukrainian versions of the summary are available on the Project website at: [http://www.rgd.org.ua/en/project\\_publications/publications\\_list/](http://www.rgd.org.ua/en/project_publications/publications_list/)
- Another set of baseline studies on gender/youth issues have been completed as well. The "**Regional Gender and Youth Reports**" include an analysis of these issues in pilot oblasts and provide for qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure the progress made by the RGD Project in these areas. The reports were prepared by Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattya local consultants on gender and youth issues and then summarized into one comprehensive gender and youth assessment report for both the national and regional levels by a team of Canadian and Ukrainian experts. Both English and Ukrainian versions of the summary are available on the Project website at: [http://www.rgd.org.ua/en/project\\_publications/publications\\_list/](http://www.rgd.org.ua/en/project_publications/publications_list/)
- In the pilot regions, activities on building partnerships for planning and implementation continued. In particular, in Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattya, efforts to build awareness were undertaken through the Project Communication Strategy, which was developed by a team of Ukrainian experts under the guidance of Canadian consultants. A number of activities took place, including:
  - In Zaporizhzhia oblast, the **Regional Working Group (RWG) on Strategic Planning** was established and convened a number of meetings to strengthen communication and coordination between the regional state administration and other regional stakeholders. Also at the meetings, the RWG members discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the previously prepared "Strategy for Economic and Social Development of Zaporizhzhia oblast for the period of 2004-2015" and began preparations for a press conference to disseminate information about the RWG and the planning process to the general public through the mass media.

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- In Zakarpattya oblast, a number of meetings with the RGD Project's local strategic planning experts and regional stakeholders took place to discuss the best possible approaches to implementing the Strategic Planning **Communication Strategy**. The issue of effective public participation in the planning process was discussed. In particular, a new initiative to establish a coalition of civil society organizations to jointly implement the regional planning process with the oblast government was proposed by civil society organizations and supported by representatives of the Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration.
- Project management initiated and participated in a number of meetings in Zaporizhzhia and Uzhgorod to discuss Project approaches to building partnerships with regional stakeholders and to encouraging wider public involvement under the new national strategic planning legislation. Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager, met with the leadership of regional state administrations and regional councils, the Project's Strategic Planning experts, and the Project's regional staff. The meetings resulted in a better understanding of the coordination efforts of all strategic planning parties. In particular, it was agreed to hold a strategic planning coordination meeting in Kyiv with the participation of national level stakeholders.

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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