



Information
on activities within the framework of the Canada-Ukraine Partnership Project for
Regional Governance and Development (RGD)
in February 2007

- On February 1, a workshop on “**Development of Strategies for Districts and Cities**” was held at the Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration for the heads of the main economic departments of the district state administrations and municipalities. This workshop was initiated by the Main Economic Department of Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration and was attended by Yuriy Popovych, Deputy Head of the Main Economic Department, Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration, Lyudmyla Hrytsak, Head of Division on Regional Development Prognosis, Deputy Head of the Main Economic Department, Vasyl Pap, Head of Division on Regional Development Analysis, Nataliya Nosa, RGD Zakarpattia Oblast Project Manager, Svitlana Slava, Oksana Stankevych, and Oleh Luksha, RGD strategic planning experts for Zakarpattia region, as well as heads of economic departments of district state administrations and municipalities. Participants learned about the “Regional Strategy for Zakarpattia Oblast until 2015” endorsed by resolution #206 of the Regional Council on December 28, 2006, as well as methodological recommendations by the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine regarding the elaboration of regional development strategies. Svitlana Slava, Oksana Stankevych and Oleg Luksha, RGD strategic planning experts, presented the details of strategic planning and expanded on international experience in elaborating regional development strategies, as well as discussed the experience of creating the regional development strategy for Zakarpattia until 2015. They also suggested mechanisms for elaborating district and city strategies and expressed their willingness to provide consultation and methodological support in this endeavour. The experts suggested using the “Regional Strategy for Zakarpattia Oblast Development until 2015” as an example for district and city strategy development. At the workshop, a plan for further cooperation between Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration and the RGD project on developing strategies for districts and cities was agreed.
- From February 4 to February 19, the RGD project held a successful **study tour on strategic planning to Niagara Region (Canada)** for a group of Ukrainian strategic planning experts and representatives of Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration. This study tour became the next step in developing a partnership between Zakarpattia in Ukraine and Niagara in Canada – an informal partnership that began during the Project’s first study tour to Canada in April 2006. The primary objective of this study tour was to allow participants to learn from Canadian experiences with regional planning, including plan development, implementation, financing, monitoring and revision. The participants had a two-week placement with the Regional Municipality of Niagara to observe and learn from the strategic plan review process that the region was about to undertake. The participants observed Niagara Regional Council Meetings and City of Thorold Council Meetings, participated in the Niagara Prosperity Summit, and met with representatives of Niagara Region Planning and Development Department, Niagara Economic Development Corporation, Niagara Parks Commission, and Niagara Falls Tourism Office, among others. The participants of the visit were Lyudmyla Hrytsak, Deputy Head of Chief Economic Department, Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration, Oksana Stankevych and Oleg Luksha, RGD strategic planning experts for Zakarpattia oblast, and Nataliya Betsa, RGD Project Coordinator.
- From February 5 to February 12 in Zaporizhzhia, within the framework of the strategic planning process, **six round tables** took place on the following topics: economic development; governance and self-governance; tourism and culture; social issues; environment; and human rights protection and gender equality. The goal of these events was to carry out a SWOT-analysis (identification of strengths and weaknesses, as well as opportunities and threats) in each of the suggested areas that resulted from Zaporizhzhia oblast’s future Vision statement. More than a hundred regional

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and local government, as well as business, NGO, and academia representatives participated. At the round tables, expert groups were created to develop “scenarios for oblast development” in each of the six areas mentioned above. The responsible experts were tasked with presenting the final versions of their respective scenarios at the final workshop on oblast development priorities identification, which will be held in late March 2007. The strategic planning experts for Zaporizhzhia region are processing the information collected at the round table discussions and continue to gather information in these areas from the general public of Zaporizhzhia oblast through sociological surveys and other information collection methods.

- On February 13, the Zaporizhzhia Press Club held a meeting entitled “*How is Zaporizhzhia Oblast viewed by the Government, Businesses, and Community*”, where all the key partners of the RGD Project on the regional level took part. Among the key speakers who delivered presentations on the strategic planning process in Zaporizhzhia region were Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of the Oblast State Administration, Leonid Anisimov, Deputy Head of the Oblast Council, and Volodymyr Glazunov, Head of the Regional Public Working Group on strategic planning. In addition, Irina Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Oblast Project Manager, presented the results of the oblast contest of children’s drawings and essays on “Zaporizhzhia Oblast through the Eyes of Youth,” which was held within the framework of the strategic planning process in Zaporizhzhia region. The Contest Panel chose five winners in the following categories:
 - “The Best Children’s Drawing”
 - “The Best Essay”
 - “The Best School Essay”
 - “The Most Active School”
 - “The Best Logo for the Regional Development Process”.

“*Zaporizhzhia Perspective*” was unanimously chosen as the motto for the regional development process. Volodymyr Kaltsev and Iryna Lekh congratulated the winners from different parts of the oblast, and presented gifts and certificates. This event was extensively covered by regional and local mass media.

- With the purpose of providing advice to regional partners on the strategic planning process, Tibor Frank, RGD Project Lead International Expert, and Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, undertook *missions to the Project’s pilot regions*.
 - From February 13 to February 16, the team conducted a mission to Zaporizhzhia. During the visit, they met with a number of stakeholders, including Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, Leonid Anisimov, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council, and Oleksandr Sin, Head of the RGD Project Regional Steering Committee. Also, a round table meeting was organized to bring together representatives of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration senior management, members of the Regional Working Group on Strategic Planning (RWG), as well as the RGD Project team. Participants discussed issues related to Action Plan implementation for the period from January until March 2007. The strategic planning process in the region was discussed and recommendations for the following period, which starts in April 2007, were proposed.
 - From February 21 to February 23, the team also visited Uzhgorod. During the mission, Tibor Frank, RGD Project Lead International Expert, Yuri Polianski, RGD Ukrainian Project Manager, and Peter Szegvari, RGD Regional Development Expert from Hungary, met with Volodymyr Hoblyk, Deputy Head of Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration, Viktor Pogorelov, Head of Chief Economic Department, Lyudmyla Hrytsak, Deputy Head of Chief Economic Department, Ernest Nuser, Head of Main Department of European Integration, Foreign Economic Relations and Tourism, Vasyl Brenzovych, Deputy Head of Zakarpattya Oblast Council, representatives of the Regional Development Council, and representatives of NGO coalition “For the Future of Zakarpattya”. During the meetings, next year’s draft Project work plan was presented, the strategic planning process in Zakarpattya region was discussed, and next steps were identified. Stakeholders in the region identified the implementation of demonstration projects within the strategic priorities for Zakarpattya Oblast Development until 2015 as very important. The importance of engaging districts in the development of investment projects for local development was stressed. The group highlighted economical development and tourism among the priorities for the development of investment projects.

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- On February 19, **two round table discussions on the Project's national level policy pieces** were held in the RGD Kyiv office:
 - Svitlana Slava, RGD expert, presented her research findings on *“Tools for Overcoming Economically Depressed Regions: Experience of Developed Countries”* to representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine – Tetyana Kravets, Head of Division on Medium and Long-term Planning, and Hanna Naumenko, Head of Division on Stimulating Regional Development. Tibor Frank, RGD Lead International Expert, and Peter Szegvari, RGD Regional Development Expert, provided their comments on the content of the report and provided advice on its completion.
 - Igor Yakovenko, RGD expert, presented his research findings on *“State Financial Support for Regional Development”* to representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine – Tetyana Kravets, Head of Division on Medium and Long-term Planning, and Hanna Naumenko, Head of Division on Stimulating Regional Development. Tibor Frank, RGD Lead International Expert, and Peter Szegvari, RGD Regional Development Expert, provided their comments on the content of the report and provided advice on its completion.
- On February 20, a round table discussion on *“Monitoring and Evaluation of Strategies and Programs for Regional Development”* was held in the RGD Kyiv office. Myroslava Lendiel, RGD expert, presented the findings of the expert working group that includes Bohdan Wynnyckyj, Manager, Best Practices Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Province of Ontario, Justyna Rataiczak, Member of the Board, Polish Evaluation Society, Professor of Warsaw University, and Dr. Myroslava Lendiel, Associate Professor, Uzhgorod National University. A draft monitoring and evaluation handbook was presented to representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine – Olena Nyzhnyk, Head of Department for Regional Development, and Tetyana Kravets, Head of Division on Medium and Long-term Planning – and Tibor Frank, RGD Lead International Expert, and Peter Szegvari, RGD Regional Development Expert, provided their comments on the content of the handbook and provided advice on its completion.
- On February 20, in the office of the Zaporizhzhia Oblast Council, a regular meeting of the Oblast Council Presidium took place with senior officers of the oblast administration and oblast council, as well as deputies of regional, district and local councils, among the participants. Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, Leonid Anisimov, Deputy Head of the Oblast Council, and Irina Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Oblast Project Manager delivered presentations on the major activities of the RGD Project in Zaporizhzhia, and the strategic planning process in particular. The key message throughout the presentations was that joint planning increases government accountability to the local community. More active participation by the regions' council members is encouraged when determining the oblast's development priorities.
- With the purpose of **donor coordination**, a number of meetings between the RGD project and other technical assistance projects operating in the field of regional and local development took place in February:
 - On February 1, the RGD project held a donor coordination meeting with representatives of DFID's *“Democratizing Ukraine Small Project Scheme”*, in particular with Christine Forester, Strategic Program Consultant, Lyudmyla Yelcheva, Program Director, and Vitaliy Kuchynskiy, Program Manager. The DFID team shared their very good experience in organizing and managing small-scale community projects. The project's priorities were working through NGO coalitions and building partnerships with local authorities, businesses and mass media. The goal was to create a dialogue and build capacity in working together. The priority areas were poverty reduction and marginal groups, among others. The aim of the meeting was also to discuss lessons learned in small projects management. Some of these projects were about training participants in identifying a problem, developing project proposals, and managing and reporting funds. An interesting case was the City of Drohobych in Lviv Region, which received a grant to develop a vision for the city's future. This project's lessons will be very useful for running RGD's small demonstration projects scheme.
 - On February 2, the RGD project participated in the official opening of the TACIS *“Sustainable Local Development in Ukraine Project”*. The overall objective of the project is to improve quality, access and sustainability of essential services in selected municipalities and to pave the way for sustainable local development. Purposes are as follows: to upgrade municipal services infrastructure; increase efficiency in the co-ordination of municipal socio-

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economic activities; improve management capacity at local level; elaborate a comprehensive sustainable local development strategy.

- On February 14, an international conference entitled “*Partnership for the Future*” took place in Zaporizhzhia upon the initiative of Russian Aluminum Company “SUAL-Holding” together with the RGD Project. This event was a first step in combining the efforts and resources of the local community and international donors for regional and local development. The conference was about developing private and corporate philanthropy as the first step in building private-public partnerships. The participants of the conference included the Governor of Zaporizhzhia oblast, deputies of the Governor, the Mayor of Zaporizhzhia City, representatives of businesses, oblast NGOs, as well as international foundations’ and institutions’ representatives. Irina Lekh, RGD Zaporizhzhia Oblast Project Manager, and Oleksandr Sin, Head of the RGD Project Regional Steering Committee, delivered a presentation on the RGD Project’s activities and future plans in Zaporizhzhia oblast. Regional development strategic planning and priorities setting were noted as being very important for future investments.
- On February 15, in the office of the Zaporizhzhia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a donor coordination round table meeting between representatives of international technical assistance projects operating in Zaporizhzhia region was held. The meeting was about building synergy between international technical assistance projects in Zaporizhzhia region. Participants in the round table included representatives of the RGD project, Yuri Polianski and Irina Lekh, SUAL-Holding, USAID Project for Private and Corporate Partnership Development, World Bank Project for Ecological Partnership for Zaporizhzhia, USAID, OECD, Eurasia Foundation, UCAN-Global Development Alliance, and other donors and projects. The Chairman of the meeting was Volodymyr Kaltsev, Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration. The participants decided to appoint a person from Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration, who would coordinate the international projects’ activities in the oblast. They also agreed to provide each other, as well as a coordination centre that was established for this purpose, with their monthly updates on project activities and plans.

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

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