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## **Information on Activities of the Canada-Ukraine Partnership Project for Regional Governance and Development (RGD) - July 2006**

### **Policy Analysis and Advice**

From July 2 to July 9, Bohdan Wynnyckyj, Canadian project expert on monitoring and evaluation of strategies and programs for regional development, conducted a mission to Ukraine. Bohdan Wynnyckyj, Manager of the Measures and Best Practices Division, Municipal Performance and Accountability Branch, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Canada, visited Kyiv with the purpose of starting work on the preparation of policy recommendations on **“Monitoring and Evaluation of Strategies and Programs for Regional Development”** by request of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine. Together with a Ukrainian expert on monitoring and evaluation, Myroslava Lendiel, Associate professor of the Political Science Department, Uzhgorod National University, who was selected in All-Ukrainian competition launched by the RGD Project, and Ihor Sanzharovskyi, RGD Senior Technical Advisor, Bohdan Wynnyckyj held a series of meetings with key RGD Project stakeholders.

In particular, a meeting with Olena Nyzhnyk, Director of the Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, took place on July 7. Participants in the meeting included Svitlana Verhogyadova, Deputy Director of the Department for Regional Development of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and Head of Division on Coordination of Regional Economic Services, Tetyana Kravets, Head of Department for Middle and Long Term Planning of Regional Development, Chris VanDooren, Project Manager, Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager, Ihor Sanzharovskyi, Senior Technical Advisor, Bohdan Wynnyckyj, Canadian expert on monitoring and evaluation, and Myroslava Lendiel, Ukrainian expert on monitoring and evaluation. In addition, meetings with senior officials of the Secretariat of the President of Ukraine and the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine took place as well as meetings with senior staff of the International Centre for Policy Studies, Association of Cities and Communities of Ukraine, and National Association of Regional Development Agencies.

Policy recommendations on “Monitoring and Evaluation of Strategies and Programs for Regional Development,” which will provide an analysis of approaches, procedures, and institutional arrangements for monitoring and evaluation of development strategies and programs in European countries and Canada as well as recommendations for Ukraine specifically on monitoring and evaluation of the State Strategy for Regional Development, will be released in January 2007.

### **Capacity Building**

*In July, two **missions from the Canadian regions of Waterloo and Niagara and the city of Hamilton** were held in Ukraine. These visits became the next step in developing a partnership between Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia in Ukraine and Waterloo, Hamilton and Niagara in Canada – an informal partnership that began during the Project’s study tour to Canada in April 2006 in which Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattia senior officials participated.*

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- *From July 10-14*, Zaporizhzhia oblast hosted a delegation of senior officials from Canada. **Michael Murray**, Chief Administrative Officer of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Province of Ontario, Canada, and **Terrance Cooke**, former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the (former) Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, Province of Ontario, Canada, participated in this mission. During their program in Zaporizhzhia, the Canadian delegates met with senior officials from Zaporizhzhia oblast and Zaporizhzhia city, became acquainted with Zaporizhzhia oblast's resource potential, and discussed possible methods of cooperation between these Canadian regions and Zaporizhzhia oblast, particularly in the sphere of regional development strategic planning issues. The Canadian delegation also visited Berdyansk city, where they met with the Head of Berdyansk city, as well as other senior officials of the city, to discuss the current local government situation in Berdyansk and the city's successful experience in strategic planning. Also, on July 14, 2006, the delegates participated in a Roundtable discussion on public engagement in the creation and implementation of Berdyansk's city development strategy.
- During the delegation's visit, the RGD Project's office in Zaporizhzhia was officially opened. The Canadian delegates and representatives of Zaporizhzhia regional state administration and Berdyansk city council were the honourable guests of the RGD Project team at this event.
- *On July 11*, within the framework of the mission by senior officials from Canada, the RGD Project held **an International Workshop** in Zaporizhzhia with the aim of exchanging Canada's and Zaporizhzhia oblast's experiences in strategic planning. Workshop participants included heads of regional state administrations, heads of regional councils of Zaporizhzhia oblast, heads of cities of oblast and region level, and heads of regional administrations of Zaporizhzhia city. During the workshop, participants discussed the following issues:
  - *Canadian experience in regional strategic planning* – Mr. Murray and Mr. Cooke explained the features of Canadian regional governance, regional government competencies, sub-national financing, and defining priorities in strategic planning.
  - *Ukrainian experience in regional strategic planning* – Mr. Goncharuk, First deputy Head of Berdyansk city, and Mr. Mamchak, Head of Socio-Economic Development in Tokmak city administration, talked about their successful experience in regional strategic planning as well as the difficulties of this process, connected mainly to the issue of overly centralized financing.
  - *New perspectives in regional strategic planning* – Mrs. Lekh, Regional Manager, RGD Project, Mr. Nazarenko, Ukrainian expert on strategic planning, RGD Project, and Mr. Sergienko, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Credit Union "Agrar-Credyt", spoke about the opportunities the RGD Project gives to Zaporizhzhia oblast in the process of strategic planning.
- *From July 14 to July 18*, **Mr. Peter Partington**, Chairman of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Canada, and **Mr. Michael Boggs**, Project Manager of the Ontario Centre for Municipal Best Practices and former Chief Administrative Officer of the Region of Niagara, Canada, visited Zakarpattia region. During their visit, Mr. Peter Partington and Mr. Michael Boggs met with Mr. Oleh Havashi, Head of Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, and Mr. Mihailo Kichkovskij, Head of Zakarpattia Regional Council, to discuss possible areas of cooperation between the regions. Furthermore, these leaders of Niagara region had the opportunity to become familiar with the economic and resource potential of Zakarpattia region. They visited Uzhhorod, Mukachevo, Perechin, Svalyava, Volovetskij and Mizhgirrya districts. During the mission, several meetings with Heads of District Administrations and Councils as well as leaders of businesses and NGOs were held to discuss perspectives on bilateral cooperation. These representatives of Niagara region expressed their wish to cooperate on a regional level with Zakarpattia in tourism development, health protection, and education.

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- On July 17, the RGD Project together with Zakarpattya Regional State Administration and Zakarpattya Regional Council held **an International Workshop** entitled **“Experience in the Field of Strategic Planning: Challenges and Opportunities”** in Uzhhorod. During the workshop, Mr. Peter Partington and Mr. Michael Boggs presented the challenges and opportunities of Niagara region’s development. Workshop participants gained information on Canadian experiences with involving the community in the decision making process. Participants also heard about the strategic planning experience of Ukrainian regions from Mr. William Parady, Canadian consultant on the Community Economic Development project in Ukraine, and from Mr. Krzysztof Herbst, Lviv Development Project Director from Poland. Next, representatives of Zakarpattya Regional State Administration, Mr. Mikhajlo Petrovtsi, Head of the Main Department of Economy, and Mr. Olexandr Marchenko, Head of the European Integration and Tourism Development Department, discussed the economic and tourism potential of Zakarpattya region. Mrs. Natalie Nosa, Regional Manager of the RGD Project, briefed participants on the RGD Project’s activities in Zakarpattya and presented a vision for future cooperation between Canada and Ukraine.

On July 12, Ihor Sanzharovskyy, Senior Technical Advisor of the RGD Project, participated in a workshop entitled **“Decentralization: how to achieve a “win-win” situation at all levels?”** organized by the Swiss Cooperation Office in Ukraine. The purpose of this workshop was to assess the current status of decentralization in Ukraine and to provide a forum to exchange ideas on what expected benefits decentralization will bring to the national/oblast/rayon/community levels and what implications it will have for the state powers in Ukraine and local self-governments. Ihor Sanzharovskyy delivered a presentation on the overall objectives of the RGD Project and its current activities as well as briefed participants on Central and Eastern European experience with territorial and administrative reform and regional policy.

From July 19 to July 22, **a research mission to the Czech Republic** was organized for Chris VanDooren, Project Manager, Yuri Polianski, Ukrainian Project Manager, Ihor Sanzharovskyy, Senior Technical Advisor, and Yuri Tretyak, Executive Director of National Association of Regional Development Agencies of Ukraine (RGD Project Secretariat). The purpose of the visit was to learn about Czech experiences with regional policy and regional governance; to identify Czech experts and institutions for further cooperation; and to analyze options for organizing study tours for national- and regional-level RGD Project beneficiaries. Participants had a meeting with Jiri Patocka, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic, as well as meetings with senior staff at the Centre of Regional Development of the Czech Republic, Czech Association of Development Agencies, Training Center for Public Administration of the Czech Republic, and Regional Authority and Regional Development Agency of Usti Region.

From July 22-25, Anna Petrusenko, RGD Project Regional Coordinator in Zaporizhzhia, participated in a conference entitled **“The Perspective of the Euro-Atlantic Integration after Results of the Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine in 2006”**, which took place in Kyiv. The conference was organized by AEGEE-Lviv with the support of IPWG-International Politics Working Group ([www.aegee.org/wg/ipwg](http://www.aegee.org/wg/ipwg)) within the eUr-Project “Democratic Ukraine: with EU and/or Russia”. Different Ukrainian political analysts presented on the current political situation in Ukraine after the parliamentary elections, and discussed the future of Ukrainian foreign policy. Ms. Petrusenko made a presentation on “Strengthening Civil Society”, where she spoke about the role of civil society in Ukraine, and about the RGD Project and its activities on strengthening civil society through its engagement in the government’s decision-making process.

More detailed information about the Regional Governance and Development Project can be found online at [www.rgd.org.ua](http://www.rgd.org.ua)

**August 2006**

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