

RGD – Making a Difference

Priority Regional Projects Attract Finance

Last year, 37 projects were designed to implement the strategic priorities identified in Zaporizhzhia and Zakarpattya's regional development plans. These projects were developed as part of RGD's Project Management Training (PMT) Program attended by young public servants and NGO representatives. We are pleased to report that:

- 21 of the 37 have been successful in attracting financing from local or regional budgets or grants from Ukrainian and international sources ;
- A total of 11.5m Hryvnia (\$1.5m CAD) has been allocated so far, 8.5m Hryvnia (\$1.1m CAD) from national or local government, 3.0m Hryvnia (\$400,000 CAD) from the European Union, USA and other donor programs;
- 10 of Zakarpattya's 13 priority projects have received financial support to date, and 11 of the 24 in Zaporizhzhia;
- Across the 2 pilot regions, 8 of the projects are concerned with economic development, and 8 with environmental protection or education. The remaining 5 are social and community projects;
- Decisions are expected in April on further applications totalling 1.5m Euro (\$2.1m CAD) to the European Union's Cross-Border Programmes.

PMT Project Teams Win Major Financing

RGD's PMT results are truly remarkable, considering that only 12 months ago it seemed that there would be no state or local budget money for regional strategy implementation, and neither public servants, nor NGO activists had any practical experience of attracting alternative finance from business, charitable foundations or international donors. Despite their hard-pressed budgets, municipal and district authorities have been prepared to finance well-designed proposals which are not overambitious in scale and meet a demonstrated local need. They have also come to understand that the secret of attracting resources from outside the region is often a willingness to provide co-financing from their own budgets.

Learning How to Access Non-state Funding Sources

In the spring and summer of 2009, RGD's Ukrainian experts led a series of workshops and individual consultations

designed to assist priority project teams to develop successful applications to those Ukrainian and international programs whose criteria matched the projects being proposed. While RGD experts provided guidance, project teams themselves were responsible for completing the often complex application documents. It was important that the teams acquire the skills and know-how they will continue to need long after the RGD Project has completed its work.

The training was completed with a unique Handbook on *Financing of Projects for Local Development in Ukraine*, an RGD publication which gives details of over 20 major donor programs or foundations, Ukrainian and international, which accept proposals from both local government and NGOs, including their conditions and criteria, contact information and application procedures. The Handbook is the first of its kind in Ukraine and can be found on RGD's website at:

http://www.rgd.org.ua/project_publications/publications_list/Handbook_on_fundraising_final.pdf

List of RGD-supported Strategic Priority Projects in Zakarpattya

Project Title and Oblast Strategic Priority	Source of Funding
Cross-Border Industrial Park, Berehovo Rayon (Priority: Economy)	Local budget
Establishing Tourism Information Centre, Mukachevo Municipality (Priority: Economy)	Local budget
New Energy Saving Technology, City of Uzhorod (Priority: Environment)	Local budget
Public Education Centre, Hoverla Mountain (Priority: Environment)	Local & State budgets
GIS System for Land Use Management, Uzhorod District (Priority: Environment)	Local budget
City Canal Improvements, Berehovo Municipality – Flood Gate and Town Beach (Priority: Environment)	Local budget
Establishing District Hospice, Vynohradiv Rayon (Priority: Social & Community)	Local & State budgets Dutch Foundation
Setting Up Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled, Irshava Rayon (Priority: Social & Community)	Local budget
Establishing Social and Cultural Integration Centre 'European Home', Rakhiv Rayon (Priority: Social & Community)	Local budget Hungarian partners
New Tourism Information Service for the Disabled (Priority: Social & Community)	Local budget Private funds



Project Defence, Zakarpattya

List of RGD-supported Strategic Priority Projects in Zaporizhzhia

Project Title and Oblast Strategic Priority	Source of Funding
Developing Machine Tool Cluster "AgroBoom", Melitopol Rayon <i>(Priority: Economy)</i>	Local and Regional budget Business investor
Reform Enterprise Licensing System for Zaporizhzhia Oblast <i>(Priority: Economy)</i>	Regional budget Business investor
Establishment of Beekeepers' Cluster, Melitopol, Municipality <i>(Priority: Economy)</i>	International donors
New Open Air Museum, Energodar Municipality <i>(Priority: Economy)</i>	Local budget
Development of Historical-Cultural 'Ethno Village' Complex, Vilnyansky Rayon <i>(Priority: Economy)</i>	International donors
Tourism Development in Historic Town of Molochansk <i>(Priority: Economy)</i>	Local budget
Creation of Oblast Eco-Monitoring System <i>(Priority: Environment)</i>	State budget Business investor Grant Ukrainian donor
Network of Environmental Education Centres for Zaporizhzhia Oblast <i>(Priority: Environment)</i>	USAID/Ukrainian Foundation
Drinking Water Purification, Energodar Municipality <i>(Priority: Environment)</i>	Local budget
New Waste Management System for Khortytsya Island Nature Reserve <i>(Priority: Environment)</i>	Business investor German foundation
Regional NGO Training and Information Centre <i>(Priority: Social & Community)</i>	Ukrainian foundation US Embassy



Participants of PMT Program, Zaporizhzhia



Project Defence, Zaporizhzhia

As a direct result of RGD's training and mentoring program, approximately 50 mid-level managers and specialists across the two regions have acquired project design and management skills. The training included sessions on social and gender analysis and stakeholder analysis. These skills are essential for the complex task of regenerating local economies. Foremost among these has been the ability to work effectively in partnership with agencies and institutions outside government, including local business, NGOs and community organizations. This style of working has also enabled regional and local governments in both regions to access external sources of income and investment, where previously they were often wholly reliant on finance from the state budget.

Although it is too easy to say that every crisis brings an opportunity, it is nevertheless true that accompanying the last 18 months of deepening financial problems in Ukraine there has been a growing realization of the urgent need to generate alternative income streams for local and regional government. RGD's role has been to assist with the acquisition of the practical skills and know-how to turn this aspiration into a reality. This may be one the most useful and lasting contributions of the RGD project to its two partner regions.

Project Information

The Regional Governance and Development (RGD) Project is a five-year (2005-2010) cooperation project of the Canadian Urban Institute, supported by the Canadian International Development Agency. The Project promotes civic engagement in regional governance, providing opportunities for Ukrainian citizens and communities to shape their common future and to put their region on the path towards sustainable development.

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