



RGD – Making a Difference

Contributing to Environmental Sustainability in Ukraine

In order to address Ukraine's environmental issues strategically and to promote a sustainable approach to the country's development targets, on December 21, 2010 the Ukrainian Parliament passed the Law on "The State Strategy for Environmental Protection of Ukraine till 2020" (SSEP) and on May 25, 2011 the Cabinet of Ministers adopted the "National Action Plan for Environmental Protection for 2011-2015" to implement the SSEP. Integrating environmental sustainability as a cross-cutting theme, the RGD Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Program enabled its trainees to participate in the design and implementation of practical projects connected with their specialist interest and aligned with the strategic priorities of their home oblast. All projects were required to include components that contribute to ensuring and enhancing environmental sustainability at regional and local levels. Moreover, some of the projects were even more focused on environmental sustainability in an attempt to bring about change in policy and regulation development and enforcement at local and national levels. Lessons learned through the execution of these practical projects can become an effective tool to inform new strategic plan cycles and more effectively implement action plans.

SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AS A CROSS-CUTTING THEME OF THE TOT PROGRAM

Working in Ukraine since 2005, the CIDA-funded RGD project is a perfect example of practicing a project management approach for strategy implementation and supporting environmental sustainability as a cross-cutting theme. Taking into account the importance of regional and local environmental priorities, participants of the RGD ToT Program were required to integrate environmental components into their practical projects. Although not all projects developed are focused on environmental issues, all of them must incorporate some environmental components. Most of the 39 development projects designed and presented within the ToT Program smoothly integrate economic or social components while trying to achieve ecological benefits. Therefore the projects are primarily aimed at satisfying major social needs, including the need to create and enhance environmental sustainability. Some of the projects developed within the ToT Program with a strong environmental focus include:

- **Cherkasy oblast:** *Reconstruction of Local Dendropark (Architectural and Landscape Monument of 18th Century): Implementation of Sanitary Felling and Planting of New Trees*
- **Donetsk oblast:** *"Introducing Fuel Saving Technologies through the Reconstruction of Heating Supply in Horlivka";*
- **Luhansk oblast:** *"Renewal of Sewage Disposal Facilities in Alchevsk";*
- **Vinnytsia oblast:** *"Construction of Solid Waste Site with Mechanical-biological Waste Processing Plant» and «Construction of Drainage Pumping Station with Pressure Manifold in Khmilnyk";*
- **Ternopil oblast:** *"Reconstruction of Sewage Disposal Facilities in Ternopil";*
- **Lviv oblast:** *"Expanding the Centralized Urban Sewage Network and Building a Local Water Purification Station in Yavoriv";*
- **Zakarpattia oblast:** *"Renewal of Water Supply System in Khust" and "Reconstruction of System for Water Purification and Treatment Facilities in Mukachevo".*

TOGETHER WE WILL PRESERVE THE LONGSTANDING HISTORICAL PARK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The best example of an environment-focused project is the "Reconstruction of Local Dendropark (Architectural and Landscape Monument of 18th Century): Implementation of Sanitary Felling and Planting of New Trees" developed by the team from Kozatske Village, Cherkasy oblast. The dendropark in Kozatske village is 200 years old and covers over 115 hectares. It was established by the Princess Varvara Holitsyna in 18th century. The main priority of the Kozatske village residents is to manage and preserve the park from various plant diseases. Infected trees transmit their diseases to the neighboring agricultural lands causing large-scale crop damage. Liudmyla Strashna, Head of Department of Economy, Zvenyhorod Rayon State Administration, and Valerii Kocherha, Head of Kozatske Village Council, joined the RGD's ToT Program with the idea to manage and protect the ancient



Park in the village of Kozatske (archive photo)

park. The project team aimed to beautify the 18th century park by increasing tree coverage and introducing organic gardens. The project budget is about 500 thousand UAH. The project was widely supported by the state institutions and local public, including village community, village council, NGO "Vidrodzhennya", agricultural service cooperative "Kozatskiy", rayon and oblast state administrations, local secondary and vocational technical schools, local forestry and Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. People have come together to save the historic park for future generations.

LOCAL COMMUNITY AND TOURISTS WILL ENJOY A BEAUTIFUL PARK

The problems with the old park are not recent ones. In order to ensure the preservation of the historic park, one had to clearly understand the root causes of its problems, and find appropriate means to address them. The ToT training allowed participants to review and analyze the project proposal relative to international best practices. These discussions helped formulate the steps to be taken in order to achieve the project objectives, which include partnership agreement with the co-owner, raising UAH 350,000 of donor funds, greenfield area improvement, planting 500 trees, alley surface repairs and installation of 30 lights, as well as rehabilitation of public green areas.

With ToT trainers' support, the project team has developed the required documentation. As RGD always advocates public participation to be included in the project design and implementation, the project documentation provides a clear description of all the necessary steps to engage the community in the decision making process, including the general community meeting, public hearings, creating an initiative group, concluding agreements on cooperation and project implemen-

tation. The village mayor says: "Our team includes key stakeholders; these are seven people whose authority and energy are important for achieving the expected result. We will proceed in the following sequence: clean up the park, put in order the orchard and alleys, plant new vegetation, and do some land improvement".



Kozatske village community members

Future objectives to be addressed upon the project completion, have also been identified. Why is this important? Because, often while looking at ways to address a persistent problem, we tend to focus too much on local details and overlook a more strategic perspective. In the case of the dendropark, this includes not only the preservation of the environment and the development of ecologically clean horticulture, but also growing the agricultural sector, as sales of agricultural products are expected to increase by 25-40%, thus enhancing food safety and quality, as well as creating green tourism in the area as an additional source of revenue to the local budget.



Park in the village of Kozatske (current photo)

Project Information

The Regional Governance and Development (RGD) Project is a seven-year (2005-2012) initiative that promotes regional economic development (RED) in Ukraine. RGD's current efforts focus on working with its Ukrainian partners to establish a practice-based in-service training program on RED for some 600 civil servants from 13 oblasts across Ukraine. This program will improve the capacities of local leaders and civil servants to promote sustainable economic development, to close the country's infrastructure deficit, and to manage regional finances more effectively.

RGD is a cooperation project of the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). RGD is implemented in partnership with Ukraine's National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) and the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service (NAUCS), Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing (MRDCH) and Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT), and in association with the Foundation for International Training (FIT) and the National Association of Regional Development Agencies (NARDA).

CANADA

555 Richmond Street West, Suite 402
P.O. Box 612, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 3B1
email: cui@canurb.org
phone: 416.365.0817
fax : 416.365.0650
www.canurb.org

UKRAINE

Triohsvyatytska 3, Office 60, 01001 Kyiv
email: info@rdg.org.ua
phone: + 38 044 390 70 87
fax: +38 044 278 07 14
www.rgd.org.ua

