

Welcome to the eighteenth issue of the newsletter published by our Project!

Latest News
June 9-10, 2007
Third Annual
Lessons-Learned
Conference on
Community Economic
Development

Cherkasy State Technological University hosted the Third Annual Lessons-Learned Conference on Community Economic Development entitled Community Economic Development: Ukrainian and International Experience. The Conference was attended by almost 100 participants from numerous oblasts and included directors of higher establishments of educations, representatives of public authorities and business, community leaders, and Canadian partners. The objective of the Conference was to summarize and popularize the experience that the Project participants have acquired in community economic development and to learn about successful CED projects in Ukraine.

The participants were welcomed by Yuriy Leha, Rector of Cherkasy State Technology University; Viktor Pavlichenko, the First Deputy Head of Cherkasy Oblast Council; Kristina Wittfooth, Vice-President, International Development Programs, Canadian Bureau for International Education; and Hanna Bielokolos, Deputy Head, Department of International Technical Assistance of US and Canada, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine. William Parady and Bonnie-Lynn Gow, Canadian CED practitioners and experts shared their vision of Community Economic Development in Ukraine.

Tony Berezowecki, CED Project Manager, emphasized a significant component of community economic development – the creation of networks and partnerships between Ukrainian and Canadian organizations. For example, following a lengthy cooperation between Ukrainian and Canadian educational institutions within the CED Project, Cherkasy State Technological University and Uzhgorod National University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Simon Fraser University (Vancouver, Canada) and Concordia University (Montreal, Canada). Perry Calce, Coordinator, Academic Programs, Concordia University gave certificates to Ukrainian university professors who had completed an advanced program in community economic development at Concordia University.

The Project partners presented the results their organizations had yielded and reviewed both successes and issues the communities had faced while implementing projects of community economic development. Vasyl Polujko, President of the West-Ukrainian Resource Centre (Lviv), reviewed the role and position of umbrella organizations in the CED Project. He stressed that, among other things, an institutionalized system for continuous learning had been established due to a working professional team of trainers and the introduction of new principles of cooperation with local authorities. Yaroslav Drobot, Head of Pustomyty Rayon Council (Lviv Oblast), dwelt on the special features of local self-governance in the context of community economic development, analyzing, in particular, the outcomes of cooperation between Pustomyty rayon Council and Ptakh Youth Centre. Yuriy Sheiko, Perechyn core group member (Transcarpathia Oblast) reviewed the role of a core group in the process of the economic development of a community, while Ihor Nazar reported on the features of development of social businesses from concept to implementation.

Nataliya Ilchenko, professor, Department of Economic Theory and Administration, Cherkasy State Technological University, emphasized the role of the educational component in community economic development, as a key area in community economic development in Ukraine.



*Signing the Memorandum of Cooperation,
Cherkasy, 2007*

**June 17-27, 2007
Leaders of CED
Project Community
Partners Study Visit
to Poland**

Poland has extensive experience in terms of community economic development, including establishment of social enterprises and cooperatives. Because almost every study trip participant represented communities of small towns and villages, they found the activities of organizations involved in agriculture and assistance to certain social groups of special interest. Among the organizations they visited and found relevant were the following: (1) the Foundation of Assistance to the Countryside which provides loans to rural projects, supports village-based kindergartens and provides assistance to the elderly; (2) the Zerno (Grain) organization which established several social enterprises, including a small cheese dairy and a small bakery, and is involved in the development of green tourism; (3) the Association of Strawberry Producers which is involved in raising new varieties of strawberry and engaging the village community in all socially significant processes. It is also important that every Polish organization has a wide area of activities and has a multi-faceted approach to resolving social and economic problems that local communities face.

During the study visit, particular attention was given to the activities of educational institutions involved in preparation of community economic development specialists, including Kaszubski Popular University and Warsaw University, which have several educational programs for farmers, educational programs for adults and separate educational programs for communities.

The study trip participants found equally interesting the activities of Polish cooperatives, visiting, among others, such cooperatives as Social Cooperative, Dairy Cooperative, Diamond Agricultural Cooperative, and Internet Services Provision Cooperative. The participants also met representatives of local authorities and community leaders.

**This issue introduces
a partner of the
project – Uzhgorod
City Association
of Afghan War
Veterans**

Uzhgorod City Association of Afghan War Veterans is a nongovernmental organization established in 1989, with a current membership of about 1000. The organization's board of directors is focused on resolving key social issues of the organization's members, including providing veterans with housing, medical assistance, sanitary and resort-based recreation. The association is headed by Serhiy Maksymovych Oleksiyuk, Colonel in Retirement, Director of the Uzhgorod Employment Centre.

Since its inception the association has participated in a number of joint projects with local authorities, local businesses and community-based organizations. Since 2005 the organization has been actively involved in the Community Economic Development Project. Among other things, the organization's members attended workshops and training sessions in Ukraine and went on study trips to Canada, Poland and the Slovak Republic. The association has also independently implemented several projects. With the support of the CED project, a 45-minute video entitled Veterans for Peace was prepared. Over 300 association members contributed to the production of this video, which was shown in classrooms and at public performances throughout Uzhgorod.

The association is actively involved in a number of social projects to help children and grandchildren of veterans, to organize concerts, to look after the graves, to help widows and orphans. The organization provides legal assistance to former military personnel and their family members regarding pensions and benefits and promotes patriotism in young people's education. Currently the association has developed a business plan within the CED Project regarding establishment of a public rehabilitation centre in Uzhgorod and is actively seeking partners and sponsors to implement this project.

Contact Data:

*Uzhgorod City Association
of Afghan War Veterans
Uzhgorod
20 Pravoslavna Naberezhna Str.
Mykola Dydiak, Coordinator
Tel.: 8(050)539-35-51
8(0312) 233316*

**Forthcoming
Events**

- September 5, 2007: A regular meeting of the Strategic Advisory Sub-Committee will be held in Kyiv to consider (1) issues related to delivery of the next cycle of CED courses in two universities and in the communities, (2) project grants and loans to community economic initiatives, and (3) developing a system so that WURC, ANHO and CCI will be able to administer a loans and grants systems after the project ends.

The newsletter is issued within the Community Economic Development Project (January 2004 – December 2007), a Ukrainian-Canadian initiative managed by the Canadian Bureau for International Education and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency.

You can find further information about activities, publications, and other materials of the Project on our web-site at www.ced.org.ua. This web-site contains links to other organizations working in the CED area, presents information about the Project's partners, describes activities of partner communities within the Project, provides materials for CED academic courses and seminars. There are a number of exciting photos – you are most welcome to visit our web-site!!!

*Editor-in-Chief – Vasyl Polujko
Editor – Halyna Lutsyshyn
Provided free of charge.*

*Address: 79008 Lviv, 21 Lysenko Street,
West Ukrainian Resource Center
Tel.: (0322) 97-66-24, 97-68-13
e-mail: gi@zurc.org, www.ced.org.ua*

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