

Welcome to the twenty-third issue of the newsletter published by our Project!

This issue presents another CED Project partner: the “Center for Civic Initiatives” Charitable Fund, Perechyn, Zakarpattya.

**Mission
and Objectives
of the “Center
for Civic Initiatives”
Charitable Fund**

The “Center for Civic Initiatives” (CCI) Charitable Fund is a non-governmental organization which has been operating in the town of Perechyn in Zakarpattya Oblast since 1996. During that time it has become one of the most active and influential organizations in the region, not only developing its own capacities to carry out initiatives in Perechyn but also helping other communities outside of Perechyn.

The mission of the organization is to create social conditions which will foster citizen activism, establish civil society principles, and enhance effective solutions to diverse community problems: educational, social, cultural and scientific.

Today the organization has three key objectives:

- To assist non-governmental organizations in Zakarpattya by providing trainings and consultations;
- To enhance the development of local self governance and community economic development processes;
- To work with talented young people.

Training services provided by the organization take a special place among its activities. Qualified trainers-consultants work with representatives of local communities, leaders of non-governmental organizations, local authorities and business to help develop collaborative relationships among the various sectors.

In addition the Center for Civic Initiatives has established cooperation with the Counterpart Creative Center, West Ukrainian Resource Center, “Majbuttya” Charitable Fund, Carpathian Foundation, and Eurasia Foundation.

Since 2002 it has become a tradition for Perechyn to organize public hearings to discuss issues important for the community. The CCI Charitable Fund has created a permanent consulting center which deals with the issues of local self governance development and participation in community economic development processes. For that, the Fund started a number of projects like “Self Governance Academy” and “Active Public Participation - the Way to Democracy”, financed by Eurasia Foundation.



A. Vyshniak and N. Beley: training for the local community. The town of Perechyn. November, 2007

The Center for Civic Initiatives has prepared a data base of NGOs in Zakarpattya, Chernivetska and Ivano-Frankivsk Obalsts which is constantly updated. The organization has an enormous supply of information needed for local community development: in particular, it started a library for NGOs with an extensive collection of materials and educational literature. The next step to maintain this initiative will be a project to create community media centers in rural areas (with support of European Commission Representation in Ukraine) aimed to provide information support to local initiatives and to guarantee participation of marginalized categories of citizens in community life.

Participation in the CED Project

Since 2003 the organization has been associated with the Community Economic Development Project. During this time it has implemented a number of projects with social and economic purposes, and took part in trainings, workshops and internships abroad. Two representatives of the CCI Charitable Fund (Andry Vyshniak and Natalia Beley) completed the courses delivered by the CED Project and in 2006 received Simon Fraser University (Canada) certificates.

In the framework of the CED Project in 2006 the core group renovated premises in "Teremok" kindergarten and together with Perechyn City Council equipped a studio for children's creative development. Another successful example was publishing an illustrated book about Perechyn which engaged a great number of local citizens. According to Andry Vyshniak, head of the board of the CCI, due to the book the community was mobilized and became encouraged to work further to solve common critical issues together.

At present the organization plans to provide support to the community to start a souvenirs store which will sell local crafts; to open a local history museum, to create a coordination center for green tourism development, to set up greenhouse business, and to assist in a number of other initiatives.



Presentation of promotional materials about Perechyn, 2007



Ivan Pohorilyak, The Mayor of Perechyn presenting the community activities results, 2007

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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!!!

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