

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

The Community Economic Development Project has come to a close.. During four years, representatives of Ukrainian communities, NGOs, local authorities, and universities from Zakarpattya, Cherkasy and Lviv Oblasts attended courses and trainings, learned about community economic development in other countries (Canada, Poland and Slovakia), exchanged experiences and found their own ways of doing community economic development.

In this issue, several CED Project partners share their impressions regarding their participation in the Project and analyze the accomplishments reached within this time.



Olha Rekun, Executive Director, “Association of Specialists in Industrial Management” NGO, Cherkasy:

– The Community Economic Development Project is one of the first initiatives in Ukraine implemented on the national level, and we were very happy to be part of it. The most precious thing for our organization and for me personally is the practical expertise I could get from our internships in Canada and Poland. Another significant experience was the joint efforts of universities and communities, as practical steps in CED Project implementation could not be taken without a proper learning component.

At present we actively spread CED knowledge among other communities and organizations and by doing so we can say that interest in CED is continuously growing. One of the facts which can prove that is the recent enlargement of the number of cooperatives and social enterprises in Cherkasy region and more dynamic involvement of local authorities and businesses in the process. We also value the established relationships with other communities in Ukraine which will be not only maintained but intensively developed in future.



Vasyl Shekun, CED Project Regional Coordinator, Stryj Rayon, Lviv Oblast:

There is no doubt about the huge accomplishments of the Community Economic Development Project. Having said that, I would like to highlight several key aspects:

1. It's important that the CED Project has supported the initiatives in the regions where the communities were prepared to put into practice their initiatives using their previous experience;

2. The CED Project has become an impulse for the institutionalization of the community economic development process. A number of community organizations were created; the universities opened Community Economic Development Centers; some social enterprises started their operation. An example would be the Regional Development Agency: “Prospects of Stryj” which we created within the Project.

3. The Project gave us an opportunity to cooperate with different regions of Ukraine and this helps a lot to propagate the CED philosophy intensively. A strong network among organizations was formed. It will be maintained and expanded.



Halyna Taran, Director, History and Culture Museum, Kanjanka, Cherkasy Oblast:

– The CED Project has done a lot for the development of our community, especially in terms of education and cooperation with Ukrainian communities. It opened new possibilities for our community to get more mobilized and to implement the first initiatives in community economic development. Today we have more confidence in our capacity and understanding that by joint efforts a community can solve its problems even if with only small financial support.

We also see a need to create more social enterprises which will work for the benefit of the community. Our first community economic development ideas were quite small, but their successful results encouraged the next steps.

We learned to write business plans, to lobby community interests, to work closer with the City Hall, and to engage the heads of local enterprises in the process of finding solutions to community problems.

Oleksandra Pankevych, Director, Kindergarten of the Village of Semenivka, Pustomyty Rayon, Lviv Oblast:

– Due to the Community Economic Development Project, we learned how to work with the community and involve its members in the process of finding solutions to the most critical issues. Eventually we realized that any community is capable of implementing successful projects. For the representatives of our community, it was very interesting and valuable to learn more about the lives of the communities from other regions, in particular from Cherkasy and Zakarpattya. We understood that regardless of the differences among the communities (cultural features or resources) there are always common problems. For instance, the majority of communities are not prepared to start the community economic development process, and that is why the CED Project has become an enormous stimulus in community economic development in Ukraine.

Participation of the representatives of our community in training sessions was very helpful as they taught us to do fundraising for community development and to cooperate with local authorities and business.

Olena Melnychenko, Lecturer, Department for Economy and Management, Cherkasy State Technological University:

– I would like to say that participation in the Project brought me more than I had expected. First of all, my level of knowledge has grown dramatically. In particular, we learned about CED programs delivered in Canadian universities and it became clear that in Ukraine community economic development is practically not studied as a subject, leaving out the fact that the market economy also includes cooperatives and social enterprises. In addition to that, due to the CED Project the University lecturers developed a CED course which will now be delivered to the students of Cherkasy State Technological University and Uzhgorod National University. It's important that the CED course combines deep theory and practical experience of Ukrainian communities as well as communities of Canada, Poland and Slovakia.

Our continuous work with Ukrainian communities, along with a deep analysis of their needs allowed us to better understand what community economic development is.

And one more thing: due to the Project I found my personal happiness.



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@zure.org, www.ced.org.ua*

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