Clean Environment is a National Problem

The participants agreed unanimously that the national policy development and implementation of environmental education should be in line with the National Strategy of Educational Development. Consequently, national priorities in the field of ecology should correspond to the national policy priorities. Many speakers emphasized that environmental law of Ukraine needs to be harmonized with relevant EU law.

The project is developed by the Friends Insurance Community Infrastructure and Urban Development Center, headed by Ihor Katernyak. E-mail address: aurveda@btsau.kyiv.ua. Volodymyr Kryzhanivski. E-mail address: iadrp@yahoo.com.ua.


Expected results: formation of a business consultant as a new character in the rural community. The consultant will advise over thirty individuals in artistic activity and computer operations; assist the head of the village community and the village doctor, in their roles as the head of the village community and the village doctor, in their role as the main public authorities.

The project is developed by the Dobrota Charity (Donetsk) headed by Volodymyr Lukyanov. E-mail address: vova@chv.ukrpak.net.

11. Computerization of Financial Management in Local Communities in Ukraine.

Expected result: development and dissemination of software to automate the procedure of local finance management for communities, in particular, the process of the budget preparation. Implementation and adjustment, organization of an advertisement campaign and seminars to present the potential of above mentioned freeware to leaders of local self-governing authorities.

The project is developed by the Ukrainian Resource Center (Lviv) headed by Roman Prokho. E-mail address: oselja@yahoo.com.


Expected results: presentation of scientific methods of forecasting and analysis of members of local (rural) councils followed by the creation (by these members) of a model of the administration of a small town/village. Integration of the methodology into training programs of other organizations that would allow to increase significantly the number of people who possess innovative competencies in the field of information technology.

The project is developed by the European Dialogue public organization (Lviv). E-mail address: dialogueinfo@lviv.ua.

# 5, May 2003

Greetings to the Finalists of the Innovative Ideas Contest 2003

May 26-27, 2003 the winners of the Innovative Ideas Contest announced by the World Bank will be determined in Minre, Ukrainian NGOs from the majority of the country's regions presented 380 projects for the Contest. The Selection Commission of 20 representatives of donor organizations and third sector experts chose 15 of them that qualify for the final:...

1. Creation of the Social Insurance Complex. Children and Their Parents (Bila Tserkva, Kyiv Oblast), headed by Volodymyr Lukyanov. E-mail address: vova@chv.ukrpak.net.

Expected results: development of a two-stage long-term expedition as a means to resolve the problems of the disabled. The project is developed by the Children's Charity DON-PROKHO (Khar'kov) led by Irakli Myaza. E-mail address: myaza@kharv.com.


Expected results: training of a group of trainers for regional educational centers for the deaf. The project is designed in four stages: the first stage included 12 individuals who will be integrated into general school, another 15 physically challenged children will get access to education and 12 students from the Deaf School. E-mail address: audrevo@ittsa.kyiv.ua.

3. Community of Life and Work as a New Form of Assistance to the Dropped-out.

Expected results: active support of individuals from marginal groups, in particular, to the homeless, organization of a community for 10-15 homeless people where they will live and earn their living, training of approximately 30 individuals in artistic and computer operations, dissemination of information on the problems of homelessness through mass media.

The project is developed by the Oselja Mutual Assistance Community (public organization in Lviv) headed by Roman Prokho. E-mail address: oselja@yahoo.com.

4. Interface Models of Local Problems Resolution.

Expected results: presentation of scientific methods of forecasting and analysis of members of local (rural) councils followed by the creation (by these members) of a model of the administration of a small town/village. Integration of the methodology into training programs of other organizations that would allow to increase significantly the number of people who possess innovative competencies in the field of information technology.

The project is developed by the European Dialogue public organization (Lviv). E-mail address: dialogueinfo@lviv.ua.

5. Consulting for the Whole Region (Development of Local Initiative Programs).

Expected results: creation of at least two communities in two cities of the region. The development of the region is juxtaposed village of Zhabokruky), the villages of Ivano-Frankivsk Region, improvement of the information dissemination of information on the problems of homelessness through mass media.

The project is developed by the Oselja Mutual Assistance Community (public organization in Lviv) headed by Roman Prokho. E-mail address: oselja@yahoo.com.

6. Committee for the Whole Region (Development of Local Initiative Programs).

Expected results: formation of a business consultant as a new character in the rural community. The consultant will advise over thirty individuals in artistic activity and computer operations; assist the head of the village community and the village doctor, in their roles as the head of the village community and the village doctor, in their role as the main public authorities.

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When discussing the impact of pollution on human health the speakers stressed that the health issues should be included in sectoral policy and investment programs. They thanked the World Bank for having put this important issue on the agenda and for having provided the NGOs with an opportunity to share their concerns about human health in ecologically dangerous regions with civil servants.

Following the materials of a brainstorming session on ecological priorities conducted by the World Bank Regional Office in Kyiv in February 2003.

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To date, five environmental projects have been completed:

- «GEP Transcarpathian Biodiversity Protection Project» (commenced in June 1994, completed in March 1997) - supporting Ukraine’s measures to protect forest ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife, and biodiversity.
- «Biodiversity Protection Program» - inventing, genetic research, developing guidelines for the protection of endangered species and plans for natural resource management.
- «Management Resources Program» - computer equipment and GIS peripherals, as well as transportation and communication to support execution, protection, and management activities.

Training - communication skills for interaction with interested parties; databases and computer training; how to design national park development plans; and management training.
- «GEP Danube Delta Biodiversity» (1.5 million USD, commenced 1994, completed 30 June 1999). Project goals (expanding the preserve, improving management plans involving all interested parties and land users, organizational strengthening, technical assistance, and computer participation of the public) fulfilled completely.
- «GEP Developing Activity in Biodiversity » - 112,000 USD, commenced in February 1997, completed in 1998. Project was aimed at developing a strategy and action plan to protect the country’s biodiversity and natural resources, including a wide circle of participants, including the public and private sector as well as non-government organizations.

Main results:
- «National Program for Conservation of Ukraine’s Biodiversity» was co-commissioned in co-operation with government agencies and organizations. It was implemented on behalf of the Cabinet of Ministers on 5 May 1998.
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The Bank was satisfied with the excellent level of co-operation between Minekobezpeky (Ministry of Environmental Protection) and the Bank, the results of its implementation. The cooperation was of a high level, and the Bank was well satisfied with the progress.

The Bank believes that a criterion in the environment protection policy should be more clean energy per kilowatt hour. We are not sure that those who are responsible for the nature protection do not think about it. We are sure that the nature protection do not think about it. We are sure that the nature protection do not think about it. We are sure that the nature protection do not think about it.

Mr. Vadim Dyukanov, Chairman of the Ukrainian Society for Sustainable Development, who believes in the potential of nature to improve the quality of life in the world, that the world is full of opportunities. When people speak the same language, the world, the natural environment and other topics will understand each other.

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The Small Grants Program (SmgP) was created in 1983 to promote dialogue and disseminate information about development. The Small Grants Program has been decentralized to World Bank Country Offices.

In 2003 the Small Bank Small Program supports activities related to civic engagement for the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable groups.

The winners were chosen from 130 applicants. They are:

- NGO «New Social Technologies», Crimea
- Psychological and Social Help «Lamory», Liv.
- Donetsky Youth Center «Paros», Vinnytsa.
- NGO «Integration Corps», Stryi.
- «Volunteer».

We congratulate the winners and wish all participants to go further in their work. The project proved that Ukraine has much more initiatives and ideas than those, which can be supported by the Small Grant Program.

Starting in 1993, the World Bank has provided Ukraine ongoing assistance in the area of environmental protection. Supporting the wide scale of work of the Government of Ukraine in this area, the project will have positive results throughout Ukrainian society. The widespread application of ICT is expected to significantly improve decision making by the government and the public, and will also facilitate the implementation of market mechanisms aimed at stimulating and expanding the ICT industry, building up infrastructure, ensuring easier access to online goods and services for the public sector, and also increasing network coverage throughout the country, by introducing the latest models of information and communication technologies (ICT).

The «Ukraine E-Development» project has three main components. The first - e-government entails the introduction of electronic information and communication technologies to serve citizens, enterprises, and other public sector bodies, as well as electronic document circulation, which could significantly increase the effectiveness of public admin.istration in the country and improvement of online services. The second component - Environment for e-commerce - plans to create a new commercial environment for e-commerce. It envisages development of market mechanisms and instruments for subsequent involvement of the public in management processes. The third component - Electronic Dialogue between the Government and the Public - will entail the development of online models and instruments for subsequent involvement of the public in management processes.

Projects being implemented:
- GEF Ozone Depleting Substances Phase-out Project. Project was ratified on 4 March and came into effect on 21 March 1999. The largest grant (25 million USD) for conversion of various enterprises to ozone-safe technologies.
- GEF Biodiversity Conservation of Azov-Black Sea Ecological Corridor. Created based on the example of the GEF Small Grants Program. The Project and the GEF Darube Delta Biodiversity project, to expand Ukraine’s potential for protecting habitats and development of the biodiversity of international importance within the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Projects region encompasses five oblasts and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The project entails the development of a system of preserve territories; support for the best examples of balanced, non-exclusive usage of territories; agrarian reform; an environmental education and monitoring program; and also expansion of Ukraine’s participation in international co-operation. Negotiations conducted 19-21 July 2001; grant agreement signed 29 November 2002; project implementation started in 2003.

- GEF Enabling Activity in Biodiversity I+
- GEF Enabling Activity in Biodiversity II+
- GEF Enabling Activity in Biodiversity III+

Projects are implemented in Crimea successfully implemented the first stage in 1998. Today it is jointly implementing the second phase with the ministry (320 million USD). The aim of this project is to assess the needs for developing programs and projects of nature conservation, and to introduce sustainable development of economic-gov.ernmental and non-governmental organizations; to create the necessary normative-legal base for the management of nature conservation; to promote the development of national natural parks, reserves, and other protected areas. The project will promote development of administrative reforms, this project will demonstrate in the area of environmental protection.

Projects will be carried out in all oblasts, and will be implemented in a step-by-step manner. Each stage includes the development of a detailed action plan for the project, which will be implemented in the next stage of the project, and will be monitored and evaluated. The project will be implemented by three organizations: the Ukrainian NGO environment that under the leadership of the Institute for Nature Conservation and Expansion (SvNT) and the International Institute for Nature Conservation (Institute for Nature Conservation) with the participation of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the National Academy of Public Administration.

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Citizens’ Associations Are the Best Cure for Depression

Elimination of the central-command system, followed by the industrial crisis, have led to the impossibility of managing the territory effectively. This has been done for Ukraine in Denmark. The local community’s position was eroded.

The Donbas. One of the areas of activity selected by the Donbas Regional Development Agency is to rejuvenate public initiative in managing the territories where they live, which have been vacated by their former owners—mines, factories, plants, etc. Civic Initiative (hereafter - the Club) was established as a civic movement to revitalize the territories where they live, which is a common problem in the Donbas.

The former Lenin Club on the territory of Red Star Mining Town No. 6 (Proletarian district, city of Donetsk) stopped working back in 1995; since then, all interest groups and the library have been closed. In 1996, the Red Star Mining management took away all the library’s equipment and furniture. In 2000, the “Ukrvuhlere-strukturyzatsia” State Company closed down the club and the area of the site where the old club was located, sold the land for another purpose, and the Club lost its right to use the land.

In some mining towns, civic centers can even be set up in the schools. But generally, there are five information centers operating on the territory of the region. However, in this case, each center is paid to satisfy the needs of residents at the local level. At the same time, we feel that the ability of civic centers of the Donbas to make an informed decision and reduce external relations is inadequate. Each community and its leaders develop different opinions, and the public, which they close up on themselves, has no opportunity to be acquainted with other community organizations—nor to other communities which could benefit from it. This particularly applies to newly created associations that have little experience.

In order to establish communication between communities, to establish closer relations between their leaders, and also to create a viable association of Donbas communities that could protect and lobby its own interests as well as accumulate experience and knowledge regarding technologies for improving living conditions and combating poverty and unemployment, the Donbas Regional Development Agency, in partnership with the population, and different forms are being tested, including civic centers, working clubs, and information centers. Some of the names may sound strange, but a civic center is no more than a facility housing a community’s information networks, libraries, various recreational interest groups, and consultative services from lawyers or other professionals. And the buildings which used to be called ‘palaces of culture’ or other clubs can be used to great benefit, especially since today many of them are not playing any role whatsoever. In some mining towns, civic centers can even be set up in the schools.

Legal Aid and Agricultural Consulting for the Rural Population

The World Bank has given support to a project proposal titled “Civic Bureau for Legal and Economic Inquiries” (hereafter - the Club) for reform of the Civic Initiatives (hereafter - the Club) organization of small grants competition. The idea itself is a legal aid drop-in center is not new. There are model projects, implemented the method proposed by the Center for Civic Initiatives, but countries of the CEE and post-Soviet area could be seen even innovative.

It is no secret that the low level of legal culture in rural areas, their lack of a legal culture, are often to blame for misunderstandings that provoke social unrest in rural areas; more important, such legal ignorance presents a risk of exposing themselves for all kinds of abuses and cheating of country people during the mass-scale redistribution of property and land that is still ongoing in Galician villages. Often, farming the land does not bring the desired results, also due to the low level of agricultural and economic knowledge of rural people. Finally, rural communities have no resources of funding to develop and properly supply their social infrastructure.

Yet another calamity for rural Ukrainians is the high inflation. Many of the members of the intelligentsia remain who are capable of organizing and taking a leadership role with regard to issues affecting their community. The history of the region during the Soviet period offers no scope for motivation of professionals such as doctors and teachers, have led to the conclusion that civic clubs. Local communities are left without leaders who know what to do and how, and who would take responsibility upon themselves.

Local councils have a large scope of authority for conducting agricultural production. Unfortunately, however, the professional level of deputies at village and rayonal levels is very low. Surveys of deputies at various levels in Stryi rayon show that 80% of them are not familiar with the process of preparing their activities as elected representatives. People do not know their rights or responsibilities.

The project “Civic Bureau for Legal and Economic Inquiries” targets, among others, these deputies. A teaching and consultative system allows them to obtain systemic knowledge about reforming relations in rural areas. It is planned that the civic bureau will be able to assist deputies in preparing draft decisions, and to conduct expert assessments of decisions drafted by government bodies.

Openness and transparency of government are an important element of control as regards the implementation of reforms in rural areas. However, very often tensions are created merely because local management cannot comprehend their actions to people, nor specify the competencies of their legal subjects.

Information and education are prerequisites for any kind of reform. Nevertheless, the attitude to this idea is rather formal, and that is why there is no systematic, well thought out strategy in this area in practice. The civic bureau project aims at developing a model for information exchange between the government and the public that will assist in clearly illustrating complex processes, such as budget formation, defining priorities, redistribution of funds, etc.

As a small illustration, we present the work of the one communities, called Providanska - particularly about the project its members implemented to beautify their park; it is a wonderful example of caring and collective.

The production processes taking place today in rural Ukraine are alarm- ing in their primitive. Production must be modernized, and therefore economic productivity are to be the focus of agricultural consulting and research. The agricultural consultant in this situation, is to assist one’s sights on a realistic yet still fair and just manner. In the case of the interests of both the donor and the beneficiaries are taken into account.

Members of the Providanska Center set themselves the goal of establishing a real cultural center where the mining town’s park used to be.

The community won a grant from DFID to implement a project for improving the town’s environmental situation, and successfully completed it.

Community activities in the Donbas have just begun, but galvanizing. Supported actively with educational, consultative, informational, and technological assistance, the Donbas Regional Development Agency, methodically, and in cooperation with the population, and different forms are being tested, including civic centers, working clubs, and information centers. Some of the names may sound strange, but a civic center is no more than a facility housing a community’s information networks, libraries, various recreational interest groups, and consultative services from lawyers or other professionals. And the buildings which used to be called ‘palaces of culture’ or other clubs can be used to great benefit, especially since today many of them are not playing any role.

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The Lerin Club on the territory of Red Star Mining Town No. 6 (Proletarian district, city of Donetsk) stopped working back in 1995; since then, all interest groups and the library have been closed. In 1996, the Red Star Mining management took away all the library’s equipment and furniture. In 2000, the “Ukrvuhlere-strukturyzatsia” State Company closed down the club and the area of the site where the old club was located, sold the land for another purpose, and the Club lost its right to use the land.

Unfortunately, a whole series of unresolved problems obstruct the movement to a higher level of farming, hanging like a millstone around the neck of today’s villages and their residents. The first steps must ultimately be taken to satisfy the needs of residents at the local level.

What is the solution? A civic center is no more than a facility housing a community’s information networks, libraries, various recreational interest groups, and consultative services from lawyers or other professionals. And the buildings which used to be called ‘palaces of culture’ or other clubs can be used to great benefit, especially since today many of them are not playing any role.

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The Dwina Project (hereafter - the Club) was established as a civic movement to revitalize the territories where they live, which is a common problem in the Donbas. It is planned that the civic bureau will be able to assist deputies in preparing draft decisions, and to conduct expert assessments of decisions drafted by government bodies.

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