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Ukraine

**National Forum of Partner
Municipalities**

**Swiss Agency for Development and
Cooperation**

**United Nations Development
Programme**

MINUTES AND CONCLUSIONS OF UNDP/MGSDP PROJECT COORDINATION MEETING

8 September 2010
Gaspra (AR Crimea)

Present:

Representatives of UNDP/MGSDP:

- 1) Oksana Remiga, UNDP Senior Programme Manager;
- 2) Iryna Skaliy, UNDP/MGSDP Project Manager;
- 3) Movchan Lidiya, UNDP/MGSDP Finance Assistant;
- 4) Osaulenko Olga, UNDP/MGSDP Local Development Specialist.

National experts:

- 1) Lytvynenko Olena, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, National Programme Officer;
- 2) Kartushynska Nataliya, Advisor to Vice-Prime-Minister of Ukraine Tykhonov V.M.;
- 3) Sheremetieva Larysa, Chief of International Relations Division of the Department of Foreign Economic Activity and International Relations of the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Economy of Ukraine.

Representatives of partner municipalities:

- 1) Mandrus Viktor Grygorovych, Kirovske City Mayor;
- 2) Gerasymchuk Roman Grygorovych, Novoozerne Settlement Mayor;
- 3) Kozyckyy Viktor Josypovych, Krasnogvardiyske Settlement Mayor;
- 4) Lakhin Andriy Oleksandrovych, Zuya Settlement Mayor;
- 5) Shevsky Sergiy, MSU Specialist, Evpatoriya municipality;
- 6) Kostiuk Valentyn Andriyovych, Deputy Mayor of Novograd-Volynsky municipality;
- 7) Gerzhov Yuriy Ivanovych, Voznesensk City Mayor;
- 8) Rubanenko Kostyantyn Grygorovych, Local Councilor of Backchysaray City Council;
- 9) Golovko Ruslan, Specialist of Dzhankoy City Council;
- 10) Romash Galyna Gennadiyivna, Municipal Project Coordinator, Pervomayske Settlement;
- 11) Savolyuk Mykhailo Oleksandrovych, Mogyliv-Podilskyy City Mayor;
- 12) Vesnyanyi Valeriy Mychaylovych, Tulchyn City Mayor;
- 13) Boychenko Mykola Ivanovych, Kagarlyk City Mayor.

1. Opening Session

Opening the meeting, **Oksana Remiga**, UNDP Senior Programme Manager, welcomed the participants and expressed gratitude to the representatives of partner municipalities for their efforts. Ms. Remiga explained that the Project Coordination Meeting was organized in order to collect suggestions and advice from city/settlement mayors and representatives of UNDP/MGSDP partner municipalities regarding the further way of their cooperation with the Project. Oksana Remiga said that UNDP is enhancing its activities on the local level. An agreement between UNDP and European Commission has been signed recently. It envisages the creation of Crimean Agency of Regional Development which task will be to coordinate the efforts of the Government and business concerning the development of the territory of Crimea. Ms. Remiga emphasized that UNDP looks at its project "Municipal Governance and Sustainable Development Programme" as strategically important one for its activities and for the development of Ukraine in general. As the opinion and

vision of local authorities is always of major importance for UNDP, this meeting was aimed at identifying the needs of MGSDP partner municipalities and settlements in order to develop recommendations and identify Project's priorities for the next year. To develop recommendations for improving Project operation, Independent Backstopping Mission will be held on September 13-25 by Jurg Christen, Executive Director of Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development SKAT (Switzerland), an international consultant in decentralization.

Olena Lytvynenko, SDC National Programme Officer, greeted the participants and briefed them on plans and existing cooperation between SDC and MGSDP in area of public policy reform in Ukraine. Ms. Lytvynenko said that this Project Coordination Meeting was important for SDC as well as for UNDP as its task was to help to elaborate the vision of UNDP/MGSDP work for the next year. SDC looks at UNDP/MGSDP as a mid-term Project and on this stage it is very important to assess the results achieved and elaborate recommendations for the future, and the mission of International Consultant on Decentralization, Jurg Christen, is aimed at fulfilling this task. Olena Lytvynenko also said that the experience gained by UNDP/MGSDP is of high importance to SDC for expanding its activities to different cities of Ukraine. Ms. Lytvynenko suggested that the participants should discuss not only successful experience of their cooperation with UNDP/MGSDP but also draw attention to problems which need to be solved, question which need to be answered, in order to take the drawbacks into consideration when planning the work for the next year.

Larysa Sheremetieva, Chief of International Relations Division of the Department of Foreign Economic Activity and International Relations of the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Economy of Ukraine, greeted the participants of the meeting and thanked UNDP and SDC for their efforts to build a better life for the citizens of Ukraine. Ms. Sheremetieva presented the Strategy of Housing and Municipal Economy Reform in Ukraine, which is implemented according to the Programme of Development of Housing Sector of Ukraine for the years 2009-2014. In the framework of the Strategy of Housing and Municipal Economy Reform in Ukraine it is foreseen to implement mutually coordinated tariff and investment policy and the policy of development of internal market, realization of effective anti-monopoly policy and investment reforms in the housing sector. Larysa Sheremetieva expressed expectations of the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Economy of Ukraine that thanks to reform in housing sector this sphere will meet European standards.

Nataliya Kartushynska, Advisor to Vice-Prime-Minister of Ukraine Tykhonov V.M., greeted the participants on behalf of Mr. Tykhonov and wished all the participants to have a fruitful discussion.

Iryna Skaliy, UNDP/MGSD Project Manager, welcomed the participants and expressed gratitude to Programme bi-lateral donor – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for continued support to Programme activities in Ukraine. Ms. Skaliy reminded that in the course of the meeting the participants are kindly requested to identify strengths and weaknesses of the activities of the Project in order to improve it in the future. Iryna Skaliy also explained that Project Coordination Meeting is especially important this year in light of the upcoming local elections to take place on 31st October 2010 since after them the mayors can be changed and it will take time to get them familiarized with the Programme approach and strategy. Ms. Skaliy identified two major questions for discussion: the study tour to Switzerland for top local decision-makers in Ukraine, which was held on 28 June – 3 July, 2010 with financial support from the Swiss Confederation, experience gained during the study tour and suggested mechanisms for its application in Ukraine; Independent Backstopping Mission (13-25 September) by Jurg Christen, Executive Director of Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development SKAT (Switzerland), an international consultant in decentralization. Iryna Skaliy also asked the representatives of partner municipalities/settlements to tell about their problems, which can be solved by cooperation with the Project.

2. Presentations of city/settlement mayors and representatives of UNDP/MGSDP partner municipalities/settlements

The experience of Kirovske municipality (Donetsk Region) was presented by **Viktor Mandrus**, City Mayor. He marked that in 2006, when the city became Programme's partner, there were 15 ACMHs in it. Now there are 32 ACMHs in Kirovske mostly thanks to the efforts of MGSDP. Mr. Mandrus said that UNDP approach really worked and helped local authorities and communities to find mutual understanding and unite efforts to resolve social and economic problems through community

initiatives implementation. But this year the major obstacle to cooperation with the Programme was the absence of budget funds. Viktor Mandrus emphasized the importance of housing and municipal economy as a major problematic sphere where the problems need to be solved with the help of UNDP/MGSDP.

Andriy Lakhin, Mayor of Zuya Settlement (AR Crimea), said that Zuya works with the Programme since 2009 and during this time 2 ACMHs were established, official internet site of Zuya settlement was created. Mr. Lakhin also marked the lack of budget funds as a major problem this year. He also stressed the injustice of the fact that all the state subventions and grants of international organizations are provided to cities on a cost-sharing basis, which leads to the situation that poor cities do not have the chance to improve anything. While looking at the example of Switzerland we can see that there on the contrary the distribution of funds goes from more wealthy cities to the poorer ones.

Viktor Kozyckyy, Krasnogvardiyske Settlement Mayor (AR Crimea), said that the main problem, in addition to the absence of budget funds, is irresponsibility of population and lack of knowledge on community based approach that UNDP/MGSDP uses in its activities. That leads to the lack of initiative and fear to be defrauded. Consequently there is a need to organize broad information campaigns on activities of the Programme and its approach.

Roman Gerasymchuk, Mayor of Novoozerne Settlement (AR Crimea), said that they signed Partnership Agreement with UNDP in September 2009 and during this time they learned from the Programme how to work with community and organise it in effective way. Under MGSDP guidance and with its financial support official internet site of Novoozerne settlement was created. 8 community organisations were created during the year of cooperation with MGSDP. And one project is in process of its realization now (installation of heat loss reducing PVC windows in kindergarten). Mr. Gerasymchuk thanked the Programme for the knowledge that it provides and for its activities, he especially marked the training on ACMH creation, conducted by MGSDP Expert, Leonid Tulovsky. Roman Gerasymchuk expressed hope that the problem of housing fund in the settlement will be solved by means of ACMHs creation and added that now there are 45 multiapartment houses in the settlement. Mr. Gerasymchuk thanked UNDP/MGSDP for its efforts and expressed hope for future cooperation.

Sergiy Shevsky, Evpatoriya municipality MSU Specialist (AR Crimea), explained how activities in context of MGSDP lead to launch of 6 community projects and creation of 10 ACMHs during one year of cooperation with the Programme. He also marked the importance of the experience that the Programme gives opportunity to gain during study tours, exposure visits and trainings which it organizes. Mr. Shevsky said that in the framework of UNDP/MGSDP Evpatoriya municipality established cooperation with the city of Poland Slups'k and marked the importance and positive effects of this cooperation.

The experience of Novograd-Volynskiy municipality (Zhytomyr Region) was presented by **Valentyn Kostiuk**, Deputy Mayor of Novograd-Volynskiy municipality. The cooperation with MGSDP helped to break passiveness of the communities and mobilise them for solving local problems in the municipality. Now there are more than 30 ACMHs in the city and no ZHEKs at all. People have learned to solve their problems on their own without any help. Mr. Kostiuk thanked UNDP/MGSDP for their informational and financial support in efforts towards mobilizing communities.

Yuriy Gerzhov, Voznesensk City Mayor (Mykolayiv Region), shared the experience of municipality in engaging local communities to local decision-making process. Mr. Gerzhov stressed the example of Switzerland as a model of democracy with direct and regular participation of the citizens in managing state and local issues through referendums and elections, and noted that this experience is particularly useful for Ukraine. According to Mr. Gerzhov Project priorities for the next year should be the energy efficiency, Solid Waste Management and healthcare of Urban residents. Yuriy Gerzhov also drew attention to the problem of delays in processing project tranches, and said that unlike mentioned by colleagues from Crimea in Voznesensk there is no problem of lack of information regarding UNDP/MGSDP and its approach.

According to **Kostyantyn Rubanenko**, Local Councilor of Bakhchysaray City Council (AR Crimea), the concept of social mobilization is a key point to successful implementation of the Programme in its partner municipalities. He said that as of now Bakhchysaray is not the best example of implementation of the Programme. He explained that by absence of funds in the budget for development and by human factor in the City Council.

Ruslan Golovko, Specialist of Dzhankoy City Council (AR Crimea), named what was achieved during cooperation between the municipality and the Programme: 4 community projects were realized, official internet site of Dzhankoy City Council was modernized and highly appreciated by independent assessment agency, etc. Now the municipality plans to establish Quality Management System in Dzhankoy City Council according to the requirements of international standard ISO 9001:2008. Mr. Golovko also stressed the importance of human factor in successful implementation of the Programme. Among the drawbacks of the work of Dzhankoy City Council Ruslan Golovko mentioned that there are still no ACMHs in the city. He blames that on lack of information campaigns on creation and positive effects of ACMHs. Finally, Mr. Golovko thanked MGSDP for its continuous efforts towards successful community mobilization.

Galyna Romash, Municipal Project Coordinator of Pervomayske Settlement (AR Crimea), said that they signed Partnership Agreement with UNDP in the end of 2008. But the problem of absence of budget funds is a major obstacle in the process of implementation of community projects with the Programme support. Having visited Switzerland last year Ms. Romash mentioned that in Switzerland they provide support to small and middle businesses, which is a very good practice in her view. Galyna Romash said that publication of UNDP/MGSDP Success Stories was a great practice which helped people believe in their own abilities to change their lives and also suggest to make videos illustrating this success stories and activities of the Programme as a whole and make them available for community members.

Mykhailo Savolyuk, Mogyliv-Podilskyy City Mayor (Vinnytsia Region), mentioned that 5 community projects have been realized with support of UNDP/MGSDP and an official internet site for City Council have been created. But the most important thing is that the Programme's approach has been picked up by the municipality and around 100 projects have been implemented by the efforts of the municipality without support of the Programme. According to Mr. Savolyuk Project's priorities should include solving Solid Waste Management problem (for example, by introducing package tax), ACMHs creation, conducting seminars, exposure visits and study tours, making information video clips about activities of MGSDP and advantages of ACMHs creation, energy efficiency (conducting energy audit and installing energy regulating technologies).

Valeriy Vesnyanyi, Tulchyn City Mayor (Vinnytsia Region), agreed with the previous speaker about the need to conduct information campaigns for communities about creation of ACMHs and making video clips available for them. Mr. Vesnyanyi thanked for the continuous efforts of UNDP/MGSDP and especially for its support in creation of official internet site for Tulchyn City Council. Valeriy Vesnyanyi asked to make everything possible to foster financing of community projects and marked the problem of Solid Waste Management as a priority.

Mykola Boychenko, Kagarlyk City Mayor (Kyiv Region), also marked the problem of Solid Waste Management and said that inter-municipal cooperation should be used more actively.

3. Recommendations of the participants of the Project Coordination Meeting

In the process of discussion, the participants of the Meeting worked out the following recommendations which are to be taken into consideration by the management of UNDP and donor organizations in planning the activities of MGSDP for the next year:

- The energy-saving initiatives, problem of Solid Waste Management, creation of ACMHs and implementation of community projects should be a priority for UNDP/MGSDP support in 2011.
- After the Independent Backstopping Mission (13-25 September, 2010) by Jurg Christen, Executive Director of Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development SKAT (Switzerland) recommendation on SWM will be elaborated and disseminated among UNDP/MGSDP partner municipalities.

- UNDP/MGSDP should continue conducting seminars on ACMHs creation, study tours and exposure visits in order to support exchange of experience between cities and settlements of Ukraine. UNDP/MGSDP should support both Ukrainian-Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Swiss exchange of experience.
- The efforts for information and propaganda campaign about Programme experience in establishing ACMHs, service cooperatives, and other forms of sustainable community-based organizations should be increased.
- UNDP/MGSDP should draw attention of its partner municipalities/settlements to informative video clips on UNDP/MGSDP activities and make them available in social networks (Facebook, Youtube).
- There is high demand and commitment of the local partners to introduce municipal services quality management system ISO 9001:2008, strategic plans, one stop shops of municipal services.
- Planning financial element of the Programme should be strengthened by joint consultations of both Parties – UNDP and partner municipalities

4. Closing of the Meeting

Iryna Skaliy, UNDP/MGSD Project Manager, presented CD with materials on the trip to Switzerland for top local decision-makers in Ukraine, which was held on 28 June -3 July, 2010 (materials can be found in section "Project Documents and Publications") and thanked for expressed trust, productive and effective discussion and ensured that UNDP/MGSDP will do its utmost to realize the plans for 2011.

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