



# CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAM: TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR UKRAINIAN NGO'S

## Workshops in Kharkiv and Lviv

Two strategic planning workshops for Ukrainian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) were successfully held in Kharkiv and Lviv during April 1996. The four-day workshops, each attended by 10 to 12 enthusiastic participants, were organized under the auspices of the Civil Society Program (CSP), funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and managed by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE). The CSP is one of three sectoral program components of CIDA's new Canada-Ukraine Partners Program (CUPP), the other two sectors being Health and Public Administration.

Local organizational responsibility rested with two of the CSP's partners in Ukraine: the Kharkiv Centre for Gender Studies and the West Ukrainian Resource Centre. Their members were the major participants in the workshops, though members of other NGO's also attended. Facilitated by Kate McLaren, an Ottawa-based specialist in NGO management, the workshops were designed to help participants develop a strategic plan for their own organization and also to learn the methodology of carrying out strategic planning workshops. Workshop content included the components of a strategic plan, the planning process itself, assessing organizational capacities and vulnerabilities, and planning for results.

The workshops on strategic planning are a

major event in the beginning of the CSP's work in strengthening Ukrainian non-governmental organizations. They are among the first in a series of training activities in Ukraine. In addition, over 45 Canadians and 25 Ukrainians are expected to take part in study tours, attachments and exchanges. As of February, 1996, the 26-month Civil Society Program provides technical assistance personnel and other support for five selected Ukrainian non-governmental or other community-based organizations actively involved in Ukraine's democratic reform process.

### Goal and Objectives

CSP contributes to the evolution and growth of civil society in Ukraine. There is a growing recognition of the importance of a strong and active civil society to the consolidation of democracy. The CSP emphasizes support for practical project activities designed to strengthen its Ukrainian partners and build their capacity to carry out their objectives. Emphasis has been placed on working with those Ukrainian organizations which closely address the issues of empowerment (giving voice to the people so that their needs are heard more clearly); equity (constructing a new social protection system); employment (providing opportunities for creating new jobs by the people themselves); and environment (raising public awareness of environmental issues).

The objectives of the CSP are as follows:

1. to strengthen national, regional and community-based non-governmental institutions and organizations in Ukraine which focus on education, women, youth and communications so that they can contribute actively and sustainably to the reform process;
2. to support the creation of mutually beneficial partnerships with Canadian NGO's and other community-based organizations with similar purposes; and

3. to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, skills and concepts, with particular emphasis on management and leadership, among Ukrainian NGO's and individuals, and their Canadian counterparts.

The Civil Society Program is demand-driven. As a result, the need for, and the nature of, specific Canadian support for Ukrainian partners are determined by the partners themselves. The partner organizations identify their own needs and set their own priorities.



*Signing Letter of Cooperation between Civil Society Program (CSP) and Kharkiv Centre for Gender Studies (KCGS).*

*L-r: Maryna Vyssotska, interpreter; Tony Berezowecki, Manager, CSP; Irina Zhrebkina, President, KCGS; Olena Horyeva, Sector Specialist, CSP. Background: Pages and pages of ideas generated by their 4-day workshop.*

### Ukrainian Partner Organizations

Five Ukrainian organizations have been selected to participate in the Program:

1. West Ukrainian Resource Centre (WURC), a Lviv-based umbrella organization of NGO's in western Ukraine, providing consulting, training and information services to members.
2. Kharkiv Centre for Gender Studies (KCGS), a women's umbrella NGO, providing consulting, training and information services to members.
3. Democratic Initiatives (DI), based in Kyiv, specializing in public opinion polling, analysis of social and political trends, and provision of training for journalists and analysts.
4. Lviv Board of Education (LBE), with project activities focusing on child-centred, democratically-oriented education and training of teachers in new Western educational techniques.
5. PLAST Ukraine, largest Ukrainian scouting organization, providing leadership training and other youth support skills.



*CSP Strategic Planning Workshop in Kharkiv. L-r: Irina Zhrebkina, President, KCGS; Kate McLaren, workshop facilitator, Ottawa; Tatiana Zhurzhenko, Laryssa Sokovska, Svetlana Pchelina, Maryna Shapovalenko, Maryna Prokopenko, Tamara Bulavina, all KCGS members. This is the first in a series of management workshops for NGO's in Ukraine funded by CIDA through CSP.*