



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SBEDIF PROJECT:

CANADA TO HELP UKRAINE DEVELOP SMALL BUSINESSES

August 17, 1996... In Ste. Rose du Lac, Manitoba, Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, on behalf of Jon Gerrard, Secretary of State for Western Economic Diversification, announced a partnership between Manitoba's Parkland Region and Ivano-Frankivsk, Western Ukraine, and additional trade links between the two countries.

The announcement was a component of the SBEDIF project designed to help develop small businesses in the city and region of Ivano-Frankivsk. A similar statement was made this summer by Stan Dromisky, MP for Thunder Bay - Atikokan and Joe Comuzzi, MP for Thunder Bay - Nipigon, on behalf of Pierre Pettigrew, Minister for International Cooperation.

Confederation College is leading the SBEDIF project, through a Canadian consortium which also includes the University of Waterloo's School of Urban and Regional Planning, Manitoba's Parkland Community Futures Corporation, the University of Saskatchewan's Centre for Second Languages, and International Trade Canada.

CIDA will contribute \$5.5 million to this project over the next five years.

"This project will lead to numerous benefits for Manitoba and Ukraine through working partnerships in training and economic development between agencies, businesses and residents of both countries. The two communities will gain knowledge and experience in developing international trade links," said Minister Axworthy who will be leading a trade mission to Ukraine in October.

"A successful transformation from a centrally-planned to a market economy cannot be achieved without the development of a viable small business sector," said Dromisky. The SBEDIF initiative will help Ukraine establish an ongoing structure to support start-up and growth of small businesses in the region. It includes entrepreneurship training, a small business loan fund, training in business English, a pilot business and local Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Office.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN CREDIT UNIONS

July 3, 1996... Canada will help establish a network of one hundred credit unions in Ukraine, announced Pierre Pettigrew, Minister for International Cooperation.

"Credit unions are the only provider of financial services for many Ukrainians," Minister Pettigrew stated. "Under this program, supported by the Canadian International Development Agency, Ukrainian-Canadians are sharing their expertise to help set up a national credit union movement in Ukraine that is viable and well-managed."

The program, managed by the Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA) in partnership with the Council of Ukrainian Credit Unions of Canada (CUCUC), will provide intensive training to managers and staff of 20 model credit unions across Ukraine. Once trained, these staff members will guide others in setting up another 80 credit unions, 25 of which will be in rural communities.

"This initiative will restore a Ukrainian tradition of credit unions, which was lost during the Soviet era," said Maurice Bugera,

Vice-President of CUCUC and general manager of the North Winnipeg Credit Union.

"Strong credit unions will help young families get mortgages, and businesses get startup loans. They are a vital link in Ukraine's transition to a market economy."

The credit unions to be established will emphasize small business loans, as well as ensure the full participation of women in their management. The program also provides for Canadian advisers to assist with drafting of regulatory and tax legislation to govern the credit union system.

The five-year program will be financed with \$4 million from CIDA, and a total of \$1 million from CCA and CUCUC. Funding for this initiative was provided for in the March 1996 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

Our heartfelt congratulations on five years of independence. We are honoured to have shared, in a very small way, in your courageous journey. We remain convinced that Ukraine will soon fulfill its destiny as a leader among nations.



Jim Fox
President
CBIE

CBIE Canadian Bureau for International Education
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UKRAINE - QUEBEC BUSINESS COUNCIL

**JOINS
IN THE CELEBRATION
OF THE FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF
UKRAINE'S
INDEPENDENCE!**

