

THE ROLE OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

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Increasing demand on goods and services, growing number of people on the planet and further development of the world economy led to creation of a new consumer behavior versus nature. Such attitude attracted attention of the scientists and non-government organizations in the 1960-1970s forming a new concept –the concept of sustainable development.

Since introduction of sustainable development to the world it has become the focal issue for the number of international and local non-governmental organizations. These organizations represent the main force towards implementing sustainable development strategies on the state level. As the result of discussions and promotion sustainable development according to United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development 82 states members of the United Nations have reported the implementation of national sustainable development strategy in 2007. This corresponds to 43 per cent of all countries, and 79 percent of all countries for which information is available. Unfortunately, Ukraine is not one of them. Currently, there is only one law regulating sustainable development in the country. However, besides this law any other steps towards implementing sustainable development strategy have not been taken by the government.

While Ukrainian government is keeping silence concerning performance of the sustainable development strategy, international and local non-governmental organizations following experience of the foreign partners took initiative in their hands.

Thus, as the example two main projects implementing currently sustainable development in Ukraine should be highlighted. They are the Community Based Approach to Local Development Project and more domestic - TACIS Project Sustainable Local Development in Ukraine

The first project launched its activities in September 2007, funded by the European Commission within the framework of Tacis technical assistance Program and is co-financed and implemented by the United Nations Development Program.

The Project aims to create enabling environment for long-term self-sustaining community development at local level by promoting local self-governance and community-based initiatives throughout Ukraine.

A total of 200 districts were selected based on the level of socio-economic hardship facing them and their willingness to support local development with community participation.

The project provides small grant to community organizations to implement their priorities on a self-help basis and within the framework of public-private partnership, whereby each partner shares a portion of the development cost. According to the conditions of the project half of the budget must be financed with contributions of local community members (not less than 5%), the private sector, and the central and local budgets while the project will contribute up to remaining half of the cost. The community takes responsibility to maintain, with support from the local authorities, the resulting output and reap benefit from it on a sustained basis.

Knowledge gained from the project implementation is expected to be utilized to make policy recommendation to enable community-financing within the framework of local sustainable development in Ukraine.

The second project - TACIS Project Sustainable Local Development in Ukraine aimed to improve quality, access and sustainability of essential services in selected municipalities and to pave the way for sustainable local development.

It is expected that, by the end of the project in 2010 in four medium sized cities - Izyum (Kharkiv oblast), Romny (Sumy oblast), Sverdlovsk (Lugansk oblast) and Pryluky (Chernihiv oblast) a significant part of essential municipal services infrastructure (such as water supply and wastewater networks) will be renovated. Also sustainable local development initiatives should be launched with various co-coordinated actions with projects in the areas of co-operation of the TACIS Indicative Program, such as education and training, local financing, energy, public health and social sectors. Management tools for efficient municipal services delivery and socio-economic development should be operational. The essential outcome of the project expected to be development of a model for the sustainable local development in Ukraine.

Hence, the projects depicted above are the biggest two within Ukraine which proves the vital role of non-governmental organizations and local communities in the country. While government is still working on development of the national sustainable strategy non-governmental organizations with support of local government and financial support of international institutions are already promoting sustainable development and implementing locally sustainable development strategies.

Such experience should be taken into account and considered by the government as an effective mechanism of development and further implementation of the national sustainable development strategy.