

PILOT PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2008 — FEBRUARY 2009

The Russian-Danish pilot project of development of local self-government in Vologda Oblast (Kirillov Municipal District) is being realized within the Danish Cross-border Co-operation Programme and aims to support networking, exchange and co-operation between local decision-makers of Denmark and Russia.

The project is aimed at the implementation of the following overall goals:

- To facilitate effective performance of local self-government and improvement in public service delivery
- To assist local self-government in social and economic development

These goals had been planned to be achieved through the realisation of the following two project objectives:

1. To carry out a functional analysis of performance of the Kirillov Municipal District Administration
2. To assist the Kirillov Municipal District Administration in the elaboration of a long-term strategic development plan for Kirillov District

Under **Objective 1 (To carry out a functional analysis of performance of the Kirillov Municipal District Administration)**, an analysis of questionnaires filled by the administration officials had proceeded throughout September 2008.

Final results of the functional analysis were expected to be produced by mid-October and presented at the regional working group meeting for discussion.

Unfortunately, due to the restructurisation of the Vologda Oblast Administration, replacement of project curators from the administration and revision of the project priorities, operational activities under the first project objective were terminated in mid-October.

Project activities under **Objective 2 (To assist the Kirillov Municipal District Administration in the elaboration of a long-term strategic development plan for Kirillov District)** proceeded in accordance with the project working plan and the agreed organisational technology for strategic planning. Organisational and technical arrangements as well as definition of development targets had been accomplished by the beginning of September 2008. As a result, an overall strategic development goal and five regional development priorities had been identified. Five working groups were established to pursue each of development priorities:

- To promote and develop tourism
- To promote a better business and investment climate throughout the district
- To promote agriculture and processing industry
- To promote public utilities and accessible housing

- To promote social infrastructure and youth policy development

Throughout September 2008, the working groups had proceeded with research and identification of top priority target municipal programmes and key projects.

From October through December 2008, the project had prepared and organized the following events: training seminars on “**Strategic plan realisation mechanisms**” and “**Presentation tools and techniques**”, a jointly prepared Russian-Danish conference “**Strategic planning as a performance improvement tool for local self-government**”, and a round table session for youth “**Greater youth involvement in social and economic development process in Kirillov District**”.

In total, over 80 participants have attended the events. The seminar programmes and the conference agenda, as well as handouts, are presented in Appendices 1—5 to the present report.

The municipality of Bornholm (Denmark) was visited in the framework of a study tour. An insight was provided into performance improvement experience of the municipality of Bornholm and innovative tools developed by local self-government authorities. During the tour, discussions were held on a wide range of issues of local self-government development. The Bornholm experience of one-stop-shop approach to public service delivery was explored, along with best practice of public service delivery by local self-government.

Advice and assistance have been provided to the working groups established to pursue each of development priorities and to the strategic planning group. Assessment has been made of the project progress. Key target programmes and projects are identified as strategic plan goals.

Consultations have been provided to the working groups engaged in the following development areas: promotion of public utilities and accessible housing, promotion of agriculture and processing industry, tourism development, youth policy, promotion of business and investment climate, and the strategic planning group.

In the course of consultations, the following activities have been agreed on with the leaders of the strategic planning group:

- To produce 1000 copies of an information leaflet based on the content developed by the working groups (an artwork is to be submitted for approval by Mr. Kulikov) by October 7 to be disseminated to the local community.
- To request the Co-ordination Council to extend the framework for youth policy development to include the issues of social infrastructure development.

- To suggest that the group for public utilities and accessible housing development convert the issue of outdoor urban amenities into a separate development programme.

Consultations on establishing region-district relationships are carried out with the leaders of Vologda Oblast Administration. Series of consultations are performed with leaders of the neighbouring districts (Belosersk and Vashki Districts) to discuss prospects of co-operation and intermunicipal partnership.

Summary of developments

1. A draft strategic plan of social and economic development of Kirillov District till the year 2030 is developed
2. Training is being provided to officers of Kirillov District administration and administrations of settlements within the district
3. The strategic plan implementation team is being built up
4. Social partnership involving authorities, business and local community is being developed. A co-operation contract has been signed and intermunicipal co-operation is evolving between Kirillov District, Belosersk District and Vashki District of Vologda Oblast. A mechanism for region-district co-operation is being put in place.

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