

Backgrounder

NEW CANADIAN ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN UKRAINE

The projects are part of Canada's ongoing technical and humanitarian assistance programs for Ukraine managed by the Bureau of Assistance for Central and Eastern Europe, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The technical assistance program is designed to support the transition to a market-based economy, to promote democratic development and to increase Canadian trade and investment links with Ukraine. More than 60 projects have been approved to date in the priority sectors of environment, health, agriculture, private-sector development and democratic development.

The three new assistance projects, worth \$11.5 million, will consist of:

Dniopr Rivor Rohabilitation

The International Development Research Centre will implement a three-year, \$5-million project to assist with the environmental rehabilitation of the Dniepr River. The source of drinking water for some 70 percent of Ukraine's population, the severely contaminated river is the country's most pressing environmental problem. Canada will help strengthen Ukrainian environmental management capabilities by training 250 environmental professionals, designing an information management system and assisting the Ukrainian government develop new environmental policies. In addition, a series of practical initiatives will help reduce pollution at the source. Following a study to identify the most heavily polluted sections of the river, demonstration projects with agri-industrial enterprises and wastewater treatment plants will introduce corrective action and Canadian environmental technology.

Osvita Hodical Project

Under this two-year \$2.5-million project whose title translates as "enlightenment," training will be provided to Ukrainian physicians in the areas of maternal and infant health care. Managed by the University of Alberta's Faculty of Medicine in co-operation with the City of Kiev's Department of Health and three children's hospitals, 120 volunteer Canadian physicians will teach in Ukraine and some 40 promising Ukrainian physicians will complete four-month internships at medical institutions across Canada. Canadian laboratory technologists in Kiev will help modernize medical laboratory procedures and improve the quality control of medical testing. In addition, senior Ukrainian medical administrators will study medical systems and models in Canada. Building on an earlier \$900 000 initiative,