

Backgrounder

NEW CANADIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR POLAND

The projects announced today are part of Canada's ongoing technical assistance program with Poland managed by the Bureau of Assistance for Central and Eastern Europe, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The program is designed to support the transition to a market economy, to promote democratic development, and to increase Canadian trade and investment links with Poland. Approximately \$26.7 million has been committed to date in support of 95 projects in the priority sectors of private sector development, agriculture and education.

The new projects include:

Entrepreneurial Training

Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology of Thunder Bay, Ontario, will implement a three-year, \$950 000 project to provide small business and entrepreneurial training to Polish entrepreneurs. Working in co-operation with the Polish Centre for Privatization, a government agency whose mandate includes management training, the project will establish self-sustaining training programs for entrepreneurs in eight district labour offices across Poland. By mid-1997 over 1000 unemployed persons will receive training in the start-up and running of a small business, some 360 current business owners will benefit from advanced level enterprise management instruction, and close to 200 Polish labour officers will be trained as business counsellors and trainers. Building on the success of an earlier \$415 000 Canadian initiative, this project will contribute to the continued growth of small business in Poland.

Agricultural Trade

An innovative \$2.1-million co-operative initiative between Canada, Poland and Ukraine will work to modernize dairy and related agricultural industries and promote inter-country agricultural trade. Under the four-year project, a consortium of Canadian companies will work with private dairy farms and a local dairy processing plant in L'viv Oblast, Ukraine, approximately 40 kilometres from the Polish border, to improve management capabilities and upgrade milk quality to international standards for the export of dairy products to Poland. The consortium will also work with a private feed mill in eastern Poland to improve the quality and diversity of its feed products and nutritional supplements for export to Ukraine. The Canadian private sector consortium is led by Ault International of Etobicoke, Ontario, and includes Semex Canada, Maple Leaf Foods International, Davis & Lawrence and Shur-Gain Division.