

3. The banking system in Crimea is old-fashioned and inflexible. It serves the interests of those who control the large industrial enterprises and collective farms which still play an important role in the Crimean economy, and is linked to politicians and businessmen who are widely believed to have connections with organized crime. This banking system is very unresponsive to the needs of those with modest savings or who require small loans to renovate old buildings, complete new houses, or start a new business.

Credit unions could play a key role in providing essential services to the numerous individuals and groups which are neglected by the traditional banking system in Crimea. Ukrainian-Canadian credit unions, in conjunction with the credit union association to which they belong, have been active in establishing new credit unions in several regions of Ukraine, and they should be encouraged, and aided, to spread their activities to Crimea. It is likely that credit unions would be most popular among groups such as the Crimean Tatars, which already have a strong tradition of self-organization and self-help. However, if these credit unions prove to be successful, then their influence would quickly spread beyond individual ethnic communities.

4. The members of the Canadian team are not experts in the field of economic reform, and therefore this important issue is only referred to briefly in this report and its recommendations. However, all the members of this team were impressed by Crimea's great tourism potential. In addition, those of us who briefly extended our stay in Crimea had an opportunity to learn more about some of the creative ways in which this potential can be developed.

Crimea has a well-developed tourist infrastructure, although it catered almost exclusively to domestic tourists during the Soviet period and most of its facilities are poorly adapted to post-Soviet conditions. In addition, the mainstream tourist industry in Crimea has been thoroughly infiltrated by organized crime syndicates, which have established a very strong presence in Crimea. Thus it is almost impossible for "outsiders" who would like to develop their entrepreneurial skills to break into this market.

However, some enterprising individuals have begun to investigate the possibility of beginning modest tourist ventures along the lines of "bed and breakfast" establishments which would bypass the mainstream tourist industry. In particular, they are interested in taking advantage of the growing interest, in Europe and North America, in various forms of heritage tourism. Crimea, with its combination of varied landscapes, rich and picturesque historical legacy as a crossroads of various civilizations in the Black Sea basin, and fascinating mix of ethnic groups, is an ideal location for such heritage tourism. It is therefore recommended that a project be initiated to help transfer Canadian expertise in this field, which would include training courses for those interested in promoting various forms of heritage tourism.