

Dear Colleague, The EU project « *Assistance to regional development in Ukraine* » assists the **Volyn Oblast** located at the frontier with Poland and Belarus in implementing its economic development strategy; we did attend beginning of October a conference in Lvov, with representatives from the CADSES secretariat (Mr Stoeger) who encouraged us to take contact with national contact points; **we are looking for partners which might be interested in adding Ukrainians to their proposal** ; beginning of October, it was already much too late to build new projects, so we are enquiring on possible proposals you might know of, in which Volyn could take part .

Volyn is a region in rapid development, thanks partly to foreign investors , mostly in the automotive industry and wood processing ; it tops among the 5 most rapidly developing regions of Ukraine ; population around 1 ,1 million inhabitants , half of them living in rural areas which badly need new economic activities ; it offers huge natural resources (forests and lakes) for recreational activities .

The present strategy for the next 3 years puts emphasis on:

- building a favourable climate for investors with the aim of fostering innovation
- building a dynamic labour market
- deepen the process of cooperation with the EU in all fields
- diversify the economy of rural and natural areas thanks to tourism
- set up the conditions for the development of basic infrastructures (transport, waste management).

Would you see among the proposals to be submitted to the JTS by beginning of November, some which could correspond to the above priorities? I could send to possible partners the detailed list of actions foreseen under each priority if they wish.

At the regional Administration (Oblast), contacts should be taken with either:

- The deputy Governor in charge of economic affairs, Mr Vassil Baytsym (38 050 351 51 21) ,
- Mr Vladimir Magera, Head of the Economic Department of the Regional Administration (38 0332 77 81 08)
- Mr Andrei Lomaha, Head of the External Relations Department (38 0332 77 81 20) .
- Mr Volodymir Onishko, Regional Center for Business support 38 050 378 36 22

You can also join me directly in Kiev at the EU project,

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