

PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe  
**Black Sea Initiative**  
**Ukraine trip report**

**Introduction.**

**Anneli Kana** and **Aare Hindremäe** (Estonian Village Movement *Kodukant*, Estonia) and **Jacek Wesierski** (Polish Rural Forum, Poland) visited Ivano-Frankovsk oblast' in Western Ukraine 09-13 March 2015 and held a series of meetings with people in the public and civil sectors. They were accompanied in these meetings by **Rostyslav Kos** from NGO Karpatske Kolo, who has long experience of working in rural areas of the oblast.

**Aim of the visit.**

Our aim was to meet key players in Ivano-Frankovsk region (oblast) in order to:

- a. To inform local rural authorities and non-governmental organisations about PREPARE and the Black Sea Initiative;
- b. To gain an updated understanding of :
  - The state of the region's rural areas, as perceived by organisations who attempt to influence development of rural communities and rural economies;
  - The pattern of public authorities who are responsible for policy and action related to the well-being of rural communities and rural economies;
  - The non-governmental organisations and other structures which appear to be active in rural areas;
  - The main issues which concern rural local authorities and organisations;
  - The level of interest in cooperation between these authorities and organisations in the region as well as within the whole country with aim to improve quality of life of rural dwellers and move closer to the EU practices and standards;
  - The key organisations or individuals who might act as PREPARE's partners.

**Meetings.**

We met the following organisations, institutions and people:

Name	Organisation/title	Contacts
Volodymyr Berdan	NGO „Aqua-Vita“ leader Obolon municipality	+38 050 9687724
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Volodymyr Mostovyi	Director of Dolyna Culural centre	+38 050 4334394
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Galina Shatirko	Credit union “Stanislavska”, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chairman of Board	e-mail: <a href="mailto:shatyrko@ukr.net">shatyrko@ukr.net</a>
Taras Parfan	Bogorodchany rayon, Deputy of Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Council (from Bogorodchany)	+38 096 6146009 <a href="mailto:t_parfan@ukr.net">t_parfan@ukr.net</a>
Viktor Dytyenko Igor Nebylovych	Enterprice: goat cheese, plant growing, berry production Rahynya village and Dolyna	+38 050 3386955 e-mail:
Andriy Halyas	Heifer International Ukraine; Director strawberry communities project	e-mail: <a href="mailto:andrii.halias@heifer.org.ua">andrii.halias@heifer.org.ua</a> phone. +38 5513801

Tatiana Tymonina	Association Family and Europe in Ivano-Frankivsk oblast an organisation focused on family values and cooperation for local development both in Ivano-Frankivsk town and rural areas in the region.	tel +380 342 72 57 47, e-mail: <a href="mailto:tati21@op.pl">tati21@op.pl</a>
Taras Myshtynski	Farmer Union of Ivano Frankivsk oblast, a representation of local farmers, medium and large farm owners (52 members). It's a regional branch of the National Farmers' Union	tel. +380 66 5311298
Maria Zub	Association "Economic Cooperation" A small organization based on small farmers' cooperation and other economic activities of rural people.	tel.+380 992088501 e-mail: <a href="mailto:oksanatys@ukr.net">oksanatys@ukr.net</a>

### **Political instability in Ukraine:**

#### *Comments from Rapporteurs:*

*There is no clear and common description of the former situation in Ukraine. After Euromaidan 2014, new presidency and new government, armed conflict and several of actions there is not stability in the society and political field. Talking with people we met during our trip in March we heard several of different opinions about the situation. New Government does not fulfilled all the expectations; people from Western part of Ukraine hope to turn back to normal life and development and are concerned about economic crises, financial situation and continuing of military aggression in Eastern part of country.*

*Different groups of people live in different information environment. We in the European Union have one kind of information, Russian people get other information, people from eastern Ukraine and Western Ukraine using different channels.*

*Just for example the headlines about Ukraine in Estonian newspapers during 31.03-02.04:*

*Ukrainian internal policy "boils"*

*Ukraine invite to army 21 000 soldiers*

*In East-Ukraine lasts humanitarian catastrophe*

*Kiev's militia officer suspected of a crime*

*Kiev is too slow to implementation of reforms... etc.*

*There is no adequate overview but this is understandable because of the situation which is change very quickly.*

### **Agriculture and rural sector in Ukraine.**

*Source: FAO 2012 Report "Assessment of the Agriculture and Rural Development Sectors in the Eastern Partnership countries – Ukraine".*

Among the republics of the former USSR, Ukraine was one of the leaders in agricultural production. But it also had highly developed heavy and light manufacturing industries, the latter including armaments and aerospace. These were supported by advanced scientific and research institutions and a highly educated workforce. The population was socially protected with a stable level of 50 million. After the collapse of the centralized planning economy and the destruction of traditional markets for Ukrainian products, the economy recorded a steep decline, with GDP in 1998 falling to 40 % of the 1990 level.

Between 1998 and 2008 Ukraine enjoyed steady and relatively rapid economic growth, with an average annual increase of GDP of about 7 %. However, in 2009 due to world financial crisis the economy declined, seriously affecting the export oriented steel and chemical industries, though the agricultural sector mostly escaped.

Ukraine's economy returned to growth in 2010-2011, but the recovery remains fragile. After a 14.8 % GDP decline in 2009, the economy grew 4.2 % in 2010, and 5,2 % in 2011. Domestic demand played

an increasing role in driving growth in these years. Industrial production also recovered but with fluctuating growth rates, highlighting the dependence on a few commodities such as steel. Ukraine's economic recovery continued with inflation (about 4.6% per annum) largely under control.

The privatization of key industries laid the foundation for a robust market economy. The Ukrainian people have strengthened their statehood by developing democratic institutions and undertaking a number of legal and institutional reforms. However the EU has expressed disappointment with a number of developments in these areas: specifically certain prosecutions and the conduct of the recent general election. On the other hand following WTO membership in 2008, Ukraine has completed a free trade agreement with EU.

Agriculture comprises around 10 % of Ukraine's GDP and employs 23.1 % of the total work force or 3.3 million Ukrainians. Food processing sector accounts roughly for 8% of GDP. If the industries related to agriculture (farm machinery, fertilisers, etc.) are added, the agri-food sector's share in GDP approaches 25%. In all 31, 2% of the Ukrainian population live in rural areas and 70% of households are involved in small scale agricultural production on small plots.

In 2008 an FAO assessment indicated that Ukraine as a food producer will be a critical player over the next three to five years with the capacity to significantly ameliorate the global food crisis. Development of the sector can also help to further reduce imports and increase rural incomes. The agriculture and food industry has served as a pillar of stability, as one of the only economic sectors which continued to grow during the global economic crisis, overtaking the economic lead from the steel and chemicals industry in 2008. Agriculture is likely to continue to lead Ukraine's sustained economic recovery.

After the decline in 1990s the growth of the sector began in 2000 following significant agricultural land privatization, which dissolved collective and state farms and transferred control to private business. At this time the government replaced its physical supply of inputs with subsidies - cash transfers and subsidized interest rates for credits.

Land reform created a new structure of land ownership and employment in rural areas. As a result of the reform 72, 4% of the agricultural land was transferred to private ownership, including 80, 9% of tilled land for agricultural production:

- 6, 9 million people acquired a land plot, out of which 6, 8 million (98, 6%) had received State Certificate for the land share title as of January 01, 2011.
- 6,6 million State Acts for the land plot title were drawn up and issued in exchange of certificates, this constitutes 97% .of State Certificate owners
- In 2011 the land plot owners concluded 4, 5 million land lease agreements for 17, 3 million hectares, constituting 64% of the owned land area.

Analysis of the structure of employment in rural areas shows that out of 3, 4 million employees in agriculture 0, 7 million (20, 6%) are working in commercial farms and 2, 6 million (79, 4%) are self-employed farming households. Data shows that in the last five years, the level of self-employed people stabilized at around 2, 3 – 2, 4 million people. Further, rural areas are predominately (over 75 %), populated by people over 60 and under 17 years of age, as the economically active migrate to urban centres or emigrate.

Cabinet Ministries of Ukraine Decree 1158 dated 19.09.2007 “Programme of Ukrainian Rural Development to 2015”. The major objective of this programme is “to ensure sustainability of the rural economy, its competitiveness in domestic and foreign markets, to guarantee food security of the country and to preserve the peasantry as the carrier of the Ukrainian identity, culture and spirituality”. The programme is based on the functionality of agriculture and sets out measures including:

- support programmes to develop food markets and competitiveness of agricultural productions in the framework of Ukraine's WTO membership;
- development of SMEs and cooperation in agriculture to encourage job creation in rural areas;
- drafting a Law on Agriculture to set out standards in agriculture and food industry, the rational and ecologically friendly use of land and preservation of rural employment;
- regulating the development of ecological farming and its certification system;
- soil conservation, erosion prevention and the other environmental protective measures with state support;

□ development of a national code of sustainable agrarian economy, setting out the rules of good agro-ecological practices.

On October 17, 2013 the Ministry adopted the strategy of development of agriculture sector of Ukraine until 2020. This document defines the priority areas of agribusiness and methods of regulation by the state in the coming years. Among 15 objectives of the strategy some are dedicated to rural development however linked with agri-food development which remains the ultimate goal of the policy. These are renewable energy, long term contracts with processors, restructuring of land market, subsidies for innovative projects based on public-private partnership, development of farmer cooperation and local food products, subsidies for poor dwellers to purchase food, certification and quality control of agricultural produce and food. The strategy has been in force after political change in Ukraine in 2014 and is continuously amended and updated.

#### Comments of Rapporteurs:

*One of the conclusions of the report states that rural communities should be at the centre of governmental support. Best practices accumulated in pilot projects should be used as a model. Rural communities should have direct access to governmental support, donors, and charity funds. Agri holding using local resources (land, water, etc.) should provide rent payments for resource utilization to rural communities. Diversification of agricultural activity is an important means to improve life quality and human potential development. Learning of EU countries' experience in this sphere and application of best practices should be considered to be extremely important for Ukrainian agrarian policy. As a conclusion in this very important branch there is a need to underline the necessity of further stimulating cooperative development, production associations and land share owners' societies. Their role in the improvement of rural areas needs to be further enhanced. At this point we need to learn from the experience of EU countries about how to increase the level of effective employment and develop small and medium business in rural location.*

*Trends of land using by oligarchs and transnational capital gives cause for concern. The Transnational Institute (TNI) for European Coordination Via Campesina and Hands off the Land network present the report Land concentration, land grabbing and people's struggles in Europe: „They do not only lease land from individual landowners, but also incorporate different agricultural enterprises. Agro-holdings are increasingly integrated horizontally as well as vertically in order to control the whole value chain. They are hailed as the solution for the country's agricultural development since they have the necessary modern equipment, know-how and financial background. Their number increased in recent years and currently the ten largest agro-holdings control about 2.8 million ha.”*

*The problem was also mentioned during meetings with local people and agricultural entrepreneurs.*

#### **Civil Society in Ukraine**

Following numerous discussions and analysis by Ukrainian and international experts, basic elements for a draft strategy were put together by an expert group. In November 2014, at the invitation of the Council of Europe, civil society representatives from Kyiv, Kharkiv, Rivne, Sumy, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zaporizhzhya, Volyn, Vinnytsya and Kirovohrad, representatives of the public administration and international experts met in Kyiv to debate the proposed elements. The outcome of this meeting is reflected in the **Strategic Priorities for Promoting Civil Participation in Decision-Making in Ukraine** proposed herewith. They have been developed by a multi-stakeholder group and are submitted to this Round-table discussion in Kyiv on 8 December 2014 for consideration and recommendations for further action. Document available:

[https://www.coe.int/t/ngo/Source/Ukraine\\_Strategic\\_Priorities\\_Final%20Version\\_en\\_18%20Dec%202014.pdf](https://www.coe.int/t/ngo/Source/Ukraine_Strategic_Priorities_Final%20Version_en_18%20Dec%202014.pdf)

#### *Comments of Rapporteurs:*

- 1) Our aim was not to examine the whole system of civil society all over Ukraine, but different documents, action plans and reports are available. Taking into account the current situation in*

*the country, most of active non-governmental organisations are related with help to army and soldiers.*

- 2) *Comment based on Index of Economic Freedom 2015: Pro-Western Ukrainians hoped their 2014 Euromaidan revolution would dismantle the oligarchic politics and deeply rooted cronyism that allowed business owners to amass wealth by exploiting their access to those in power rather than through efficient management, but that corrupt system is still largely in place under the Poroshenko government. The judiciary remains weak, and contracts may not be well enforced.*

*The corruption perception index 2014 was 26 (0-100) and it places Ukraine position 142 among 175 countries (Transparency International). This rank is not changed until 2015 and this situation makes influence to all sectors, civil society and development.*

### **Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast and its rural areas.**

The main source of information is the “**Development strategy of the Ivano-Frankivsk region for the period until 2020**” which is an official document issued jointly by Ivano-Frankivsk regional state administration and Ivano-Frankivsk regional council in October 2014. The strategy was made with assistance of the EU funded project “Support to Ukraine's Regional Development Policy” and is the most recent planning document including brief characteristics of socio-economic development of the region. However the strategy does not show civil society presence in Ivano-Frankivsk region nor identifies any activities and engagement of non-governmental actors in development of the region including rural areas.

**Ivano-Frankivsk region is situated in the geographical center of Europe**, in the south west of Ukraine. Region shares borders with other five regions and has the state border with Maramures County of the Republic of Romania. It occupies an area of 13.9 km<sup>2</sup> (2.3% of Ukraine) and is the fourth smallest region (oblast) of Ukraine.

Administration: region is divided by 14 districts, 15 towns, 24 villages, 765 settlements (238 of them are granted mountainous).

**Important resource of the oblast is the oil and gas production** concentrated in Dolyna and Nadvirna oil industry areas. The region has a well-developed mining raw material base. There are 163 deposits with 11 kinds of minerals used in construction. 65 deposits are being developed. The region has salt resources, limes for sugar-refining industry, cement raw material, limestone for burning out into lime, gypsum, sand-and-gravel material, brick-tile and expanded clay raw material and mineral waters. It enables to increase the capacity of active pits and exploitation of reserve deposits.

**The demographical situation** of the region has recently changed - after fifteen years of natural population decline in 2012, natural natality was fixed, which in combination with migration caused the population growth in the whole region. At the beginning of 2014 the population of the region constituted 1381.2 thousand people (3.0% of the whole country population), including 43% urban residents and 57% of the countryside. Ivano-Frankivsk region is one of five regions with the highest birth-rate. The gender structure of the region's population is characterized by the predominance of women (52.8%). The region has the fixed population structure characterized by high proportion of older age groups (18,9% are aged 60 and over). The number of children is significantly lower.

**Transport infrastructure.** Ivano-Frankivsk region has an extensive network of auto-roads of local (72.0%) and state (28.0%) importance, which provides the freight and passenger flow of traffic.

*Comments of Rapporteurs:*

*Conditions of roads in local level (in villages, between villages and rural areas) are extremely bad. This is big obstacle for normal transport, getting work and saving cars. There are areas, where 5 km drive takes 20 min. Local people mentioned this top of the problems several times.*

**Communication.** Since 2011, the amount of phones of landline network (public telecommunication) is constantly reducing. The number of mobile phone users has been increasing, at the end of 2013 were 1.7mln numbers (exceeded the region's population index).

The number of individuals connected to the Internet has increased more than 30 times over the last decade and in January 2014 were 57.2 thousand of subscribers.

**Educational infrastructure.** In the end of 2013 the region had 386 pre-schools with 24.7 thousand of places, that educated 32.4 thousand of children. The amount of pre-schools in the region and children,

who attend them, is annually increasing. The level of pre-schools provision in urban areas is 3 times higher than in rural areas. At the same time, infant schools in the region are overloaded. In 2013 the index was 131 children per 100 places oppose to 100 places in 2003, including 139 in urban areas and 116 in rural (in general there are 119 places in the state, 130 in urban areas and 92 in rural).

The skilled worker training is provided by 22 professional technical educational institutions with about 12 thousand of students.

**Public health.** In the end of 2013, there were 72 health facilities operating in the region. The health facilities network has been changed for the last 10 years: the amount of outpatient departments has increased in comparison with 2003 by 18 (13.6%), the amount of rural health clinics has reduced by 18 (3.2%).

The outpatient departments were established on the basis of rural health clinics. They are, principally, the departments of general family practice, the low powered hospitals reorganized into outpatient departments or structural units of central district hospitals.

**The cultural institutions network.** Ivano-Frankivsk region is a unique region with well-preserved authenticity, the recognized masters of professional and amateur stage and outstanding cultural heritage. The network has significantly reduced for the last 11 years. However, the number of libraries 771, the number of clubs 722.

There are 3903 tourist attractions of state-recording in the region. Among them there are 1490 – archaeological sites (including 15 of national significance), 883- history sites (8 of national significance), 155- monumental sites (1 of national significance), 1360- architectural sites and urban development (including 87 of national significance). Two sacral landmarks are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The region has The National Sanctuary Complex «Davnii Halych», «Hutsuliiia» Ivano-Frankivsk National Folk Dance Group and the affiliate of the National Military History Museum of Ukraine - Ivano-Frankivsk “Heroes of Dnipro” museum. The positive impact for the industry has the development and popularization of folk traditions and ceremonies, massive carrying of various folklore and professional festival events.

**Economy and Enterprise.** During 2004-2007 there was a tendency towards increase of gross regional product (GRP) of the region. In 2008 GRP decreased by 2.5% and in 2009 by 10.7%. During 2010-2012 the economic growth (by 0.5%, 6.5% and 3.3% respectively) allowed to restore the volume of output. Contribution of the region to the total production of gross domestic product in Ukraine was 1.9 – 2.2%. Gross added value which is the main component of gross regional product in 2012 was 27043 million UAH in actual prices. Share of gross added value was 2.1%. The amount of gross value added in the region exceeds that one of 2011 by 3.7%. A key role is invariably played by such economic activities as industry (30.2%), wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (13.7%), agriculture, forestry and fisheries (12.2%), construction (6.3%) etc.

**Industry.** For the past eleven years the largest growth of industrial production has been achieved in 2003, accounting for 27.7% and in 2011, accounting for 25.7%. A significant reduction in the output of the production was in 2008-2009 by 21.5% and 22.6% respectively. In comparison with 2003 the industrial output decreased by a quarter. The industrial production of the region is remarkable for its variety of activities. In 2013 in the structure of sales 43.8% accounted for production of processing industry; the supply of electricity, gas, steam and conditioned air made up 44.6%, mining industry and development of quarries – 11.2%. The increase of production in the area was due to development of new competitive types of products, modern technologies, attracting of domestic and foreign investments, and improvement in marketing of products. Ivano-Frankivsk region has considerable industrial potential.

**Agricultural sector.** In the supply of land (1392.7 thousand ha) agricultural land covers 45.3 percent. By the end of 2013 there were 396.7 thousand hectares of farmlands, and 285.7 thousand hectares of tilled soil. In 2013 there were 795 existing enterprises (including farms) in the region, the main activity of which is agriculture. Animal production continues to dominate in the structure of agricultural products. In the development of the agricultural sector, the role of agricultural enterprises is growing, the part of which in the volume of gross agricultural production compared to 2003 increased by 4.5 times and amounted to 31.3 percent. Areas occupied by forage crops (29.6 percent), potatoes, vegetables and melons were reduced; while areas for grains were expanded by 47.1 percent (and for

maize – by 2.4 times), for industrial crops – by 4.1 times. The efficiency of tilled soil usage in the territorial terms differs significantly (somewhere even 2 times). However, this is not such a large index in comparison with other typical Ukrainian agricultural regions.

**Housing construction.** Since 2006, there has been a tendency towards increasing the number of fully commissioned residential property. In 2013 it was per 1000 persons of the resident population, in region totaled 457.6 m<sup>2</sup> of a total dwelling area (in Ukraine – 247.6 m<sup>2</sup>). In urban areas this index has raised up to 491.1 m<sup>2</sup>, in rural areas – to 432.3 m<sup>2</sup>. As for the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2013, residential area of the region made up 34.1 million m<sup>2</sup> of the general area, the larger part of which (58.1%) was accumulated in the rural area.

**Household income.** Over a period of 11 years, there has been noticed a growth tendency of the disposable and real income in the region. In 2003-2013 more than 70% of the total consumption revenue earned per capita were spent in the region; the highest percentage was in 2013 (88.7%), the lowest was in 2005 (71.9%).

In 2013, the real income per capita amounted to 20964.6 UAH.; Still, it is lower than in Lviv region (22622.9 UAH.). Inflationary tendency that occurred in the country greatly influenced the standard of living. In 2013, the nominal wage increased by 5.5%, real wage increased by 6.6% (in Ukraine by 7.9% and 8.2%, respectively).

*Comment of Rapporteurs:*

*Considering continuing inflation the UAH, during our visit the exchange rate was 1€=27.80 UAH. It makes income per capita 754€ (per year). Talking with local people they mentioned some examples- teachers` salary per month 2500 UAH (90 €), mayors` salary per month 3000 UAH (107 €), pension 35€. In the same time purchase power is very low, prices of goods increased during last year 2 times.*

**Labour force.** Occupation level of the population at the age of 15-70 years, numbered 55.4% (it is the lowest index among Ukrainian regions. In 2013, unemployment rate under International Labor Organization methodology (ILO) totaled in 7.2%. It equals the average performance in Ukraine and is even 0.7% lower than in 2012, and 4.8% lower than in 2003.

**Housing and Utility Complex.** In 2013, the residents of 39 cities and towns as well as 738 residents of villages made use of the gas supply services along with natural and liquefied gasification systems. The number of localities which were supplied with natural and liquefied gas accounted for 100.0% among cities and towns; in villages this number accounted for 96.5%. At the beginning of 2014, a single length of street gas network totaled in 10180.4 km, 77.6% of which were located in villages and 22.4% in cities.

*Comments from Rapporteurs:*

*During our visit, in March 2015 the situation in Dolyna: gasification central heating for apartment-houses missed. Every unit (flat owner) have possibility switch the system on and off depends of financial possibilities. Cultural house (town club) is closed for public during winter-time.*

At the end of 2013, 48 localities in the region (15 cities, 14 townships and 19 villages) were supplied with utility water pipelines. There are 68 utility water supply pipelines in the region and 13 separate water supply systems which supply water to the residents, enterprises and organizations for household and practical needs. During 2013 region's water utility provided service to 158.6 thousand water consumers. More than 87.0% are supplied with water meters. In 2013, 1590 heating plants and 2 thermal electric power stations supplied residents with heat for household and practical needs. Thermal and steam -transmission distances (for two-pipe calculation) totaled in 460 kilometers; 21.7% of them are in a critical condition. For 2013, heat loss totaled in 164.4 thousand Gcal or 17.5% out of the volume of heat energy supplied to the network. Over the last three years, a perceptible reduction in production and heat supply to the residents has been a result of arrhythmic work of industrial enterprises in the region and the adaptation of indirect heating and water-heating systems.

**Tourism.** Ivano-Frankivsk region is one of the most inviting and popular tourist regions in Ukraine. The existing recreation facilities sector of various ownership forms (362 units with 17.6 thousand seats) provides an opportunity to increase the wellness, tourism and sporting services also for the international tourists. Today, almost 800 farmers host tourists in their own noble houses. Almost 100 tour operators and tour agents provide different services; almost 14 tourism information centers are

operating now. Over the last 2 years, earnings from the visitor`s taxes have increased by 1.4 times, in 2013, totaled in 956.3 thousand UAH.

**Recreational resources and resort zones.** There are 10 places of public resort in Ivano-Frankivsk region. For the resort therapy climatic treatment, mineral baths and therapeutic muds are used. Separate types of tourism such as balneological and spa tourism may be developed out of these therapies. There is also a popular ski resort “Bukovel” in the region (25 ski-lifts are operating). Water touring and different kinds of active team tourism are very popular nowadays. Water tourism infrastructure is developing in the area of Dnister canyon. Conditions for rafting are provided on the rivers. One of the most popular places for walking tours is the Carpathian Mountains. Walking tours are of different difficulty categories.

**Natural resources and environmental protection.**

**Air.** During 2003-2013, the dynamics of pollutants emission into the atmosphere from the stationary sources located in Ivano-Frankivsk region had cyclical pattern. Load peak onto the atmosphere was recorded in 2006-2007 years. In 2013, 202.9 thousand tons of pollutants were released from the stationary sources, which is 6.2 thousand tons or 3.1% more than in 2012. Out of the total amount of pollutants, methane and nitrogen oxide (oxides of nitrogen) emissions (which belong to greenhouse gases) totaled in 9.2 and 0.5 thousand tons. Except these pollutants, around 11.0 million tons of dioxide were released into the atmosphere (0.3 million tons or 2.7% less than in 2012); this gas influences climate changing as well. The density of emissions from stationary sources per square kilometer of the region`s territory totaled in 14.6 tons of pollutants that is 146.8 kilograms per human. Water resources in Ivano-Frankivsk region are very essential and important for its natural wealth. According to the general records concerning surface waters, the region takes the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Ukraine. These surface waters meet the requirements of enterprises and residents for water supply which are territorially unequally distributed.

**Ground waters.** Taking into account all water reservoirs fresh ground waters are the most essential for water-supply. They are much cleaner than surface waters and have a stable debit. There are 22 fresh ground water reservoirs. All these reservoirs are included into State Register of Mineral Reserves of Ukraine. Nine of them are drinking water reservoirs. Water supply in rural areas is generally provided by means of ground waters. Drinking-water provision of such cities as Ivano-Frankivsk, Kalush, Kolomyia, Dolyna, Nadvirna, Bolekhiv and Yaremche, population of which is one third of the total region number, is carried out by mixed type waters (infiltration water intakes).

**Topsoil of the region terrain is diverse.** There are almost all soil types that are peculiar to forest-steppe zone, foothill and mountain part of the Carpathian region. There are 22 types of soils in the region. The largest area is covered by brown mountain forest soils where forests grow. At the foothill area brownified-podsolic gleyed soils as well as sod, swamp and peat soils in the river valleys dominate. There are light, grey and dark-grey soils in the forest-steppe zone. There are vast massifs of black podzolized and black leached soils on the south-east. In general region soils are fertile and provide high agricultural lands and forest areas productivity.

**Forest resources take the central place in the region natural-resources potential.** 45.7% of the total area is covered by forests, the area of which is 6% of Ukrainian`s forests. The area of forests in the region per capita is 0.5 hectares in comparison with 0.2 hectares Ukraine average. Forests of the region are the part of forest resources of the Carpathians, being the largest Ukrainian raw material base. Nearly 50 % of ripe and overripe state plants concentrate here.

**Regional public authorities and policies**

Currently, significant disproportions in the development of regional territories exist and are being enhanced. They are caused by the imperfection of the system of governing and lack of tangible progress in conducting the reform of the administrative-territorial organization, civil service reform aiming at its professionalization, fiscal decentralization etc. Management mechanisms and tools of regional development require improvement considering the reform of the state regional development management system. These changes, first of all, involve establishing efficient mechanism of coordination of the regional council, regional state administration and local governments` activities to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Strategy Plan. To achieve this objective substantial investments in human capital are also required, i. e. educational and practical programs of professional

development of specialists of local executive bodies responsible for the formation and implementation of management processes of the regional development. **Expected results of Development plan:**

- ◆ development of general layouts and construction schemes of territorial communities in the region;
- ◆ providing support for projects that are implemented on the principles of cooperation of local communities;
- ◆ ensuring effective coordination of the Strategy implementation;
- ◆ increase of the amount of involved funds of international technical assistance for the implementation of the regional development projects

**Indicators:**

- ◆ number of public services provided electronically;
- ◆ amount of involved funds of international technical assistance for the regional development projects implementation;
- ◆ number of established institutions for promoting regional and local development;
- ◆ number of implemented joint projects of local governments.

**Civil society**

Development plan names one aim as Promotion of citizens' awareness and social activity. Traditional Soviet stereotype "I'm alright Jack" is an important factor that limits the possibility of involvement of community members into coordinated decision of local problems. Ivano-Frankivsk region has high unemployment rate, so many young people, people of working age and pensioners have much free time, which mostly is not used as a developmental resource. The experience of many developed countries shows significant opportunities of usage of community activity in the area of improving community development, support of social infrastructure facilities and other social urgent matters, on which traditionally deficient budgetary funds are spent. Long term experience in Ivano-Frankivsk of EU / UNDP project "Local public-oriented development" shows that community mobilization mechanisms can be used effectively under Ukrainian conditions. Therefore, an important task to achieve operational objectives will be spreading the practice of social activity development of the communities, organization of their cooperation, creating conditions for more efficient and effective use of common resources. Support of community initiatives will stabilize social processes and ensure improvement of public confidence in local government. An important task for achieving operational objective is the development of leadership and entrepreneurial skills of the population. These skills are the foundation for the establishing new economic initiatives and creation of new working places, especially in the segment of self-employment. Entrepreneurial thinking skills and business decisions may be generated through the introduction of appropriate methodologies for projects that have successfully proven themselves worldwide.

The formation of a pro-active role of citizens in the issues of environmental culture and a healthy lifestyle - is an effective way to invest relatively small resources today to achieve significant results in the future:

- ◆ increasing social activity of young people;
- ◆ creation of self-organizing bodies of communities in most areas of the region;
- ◆ improving public welfare involving public initiatives;
- ◆ cooperation between public authorities, public, youth sports organizations, churches on the issue of formation of public demand for a healthy lifestyle;
- ◆ improving school training in a healthy lifestyle and formation of environmental culture;
- ◆ raising awareness of the population on the environment in the region and on the introduction of environmental technologies in everyday life;
- ◆ improving environmental culture of employees of companies that provide public utility services;
- ◆ increase of number of infrastructure objects for maintaining environmental behavior of residents and formation of healthy lifestyles.

**Indicators:**

- ◆ amount of financing competitions according to local communities support programs;
- ◆ number of population self-organization bodies;
- ◆ number of regional development projects implemented with the active participation of community residents;
- ◆ number of non-budgetary costs involved in the implementation of projects of local and regional development.

Another document was made up in the area by Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast Council: Oblast-level Programme to Promote Civil Society Development for 2014 – 2015 (the decision was approved by a majority vote at the Council session on 15 November, 2013). These developments were obviously substantially facilitated by a roundtable conducted in Ivano-Frankivsk on 30 October 2013. The roundtable participants discussed the need to adopt the abovementioned programme with participation of chief executives of the oblast State Administration, factions of the Oblast Council and CSO experts. The Programme to Promote Civil Society Development in Ivano-Frankivsk oblast seeks to establish favourable preconditions for further development of civil society in Ivano-Frankivsk oblast, to improve cooperation between local executive bodies, local authorities and civil society institutions, to address jointly issues of social development of the oblast and regional policy, to support socially significant public initiatives, to enhance institutional capacity of public councils. The overall amount of financial resources necessary for implementation of the Programme reaches UAH 850 thousand. The Programme will be financed from funds of the oblast budget. A substantial share of these funds will be directly distributed between NGOs of the oblast through contests of projects and programmes for attainment of regional policy objectives. In particular, they cover the following dimensions: socio-economic development, cultural and educational activities, patriotic education, local studies, protection of historical and cultural monuments, analytical activities and social studies, provision of assistance to socially vulnerable population groups, environmental security, combating corruption, etc.

The Programme implementation also stipulates a number of measures intended: to ensure cooperation between authorities and civil society institutions in the course of development and implementation of regional policies; to enhance professional level and institutional capacity of civil society institutions and authorities in the sphere of application of public participation mechanisms in development and implementation of the state policy; to implement measures for intensification of CSO activities for civil society development.

#### *Comments of Rapporteurs:*

#### ***Main themes arising***

***Ukraine - accountability of elected and appointed officials; anti-corruption activities; cohesion of civil society at national level; think tanks and public policy; support of independent media.***

##### *1. Mechanisms for connecting government and rural stakeholders.*

*The centralised and bureaucratic governance in Ukraine impairs linking NGO initiatives with regional authorities and central government. The community based governance stops at the level of raion and does not reach oblast (regional administration) and central public administration. These two high tiers of the state governance are centralised therefore respective authorities are directly nominated by the government and practically do not participate in civic dialogue with local organisations. It looks to be a gap between local initiatives (village and raion) and regional authorities. Local organisations limit their contacts with authorities practically at the local level.*

*There is no mechanism or at least our team did not learn about any regional network to connecting regional council (government) and rural local initiatives. An exception partly is Karpatske Kolo network which is a soft cooperation platform of four organisations in Ivano-Frankivsk oblast. However it does not develop further after a few years of experiences and*

*needs more substantial assistance to grow and expand its membership as a rural platform for the whole region.*

*2. The role of local grass-root initiatives.*

*As we all know rural are densely populated, and comparing with urban communities are in less favourable position both economic and social. This is much visible in the Ivano-Frankivsk region visited by our team. Just a few local leaders act as initiators and operators of most of development projects which mainly are focused on building or renovating technical infrastructure in rural settlements (e.g. DESPRO programme). There are just a few new initiatives derived from the local needs addressing other needs e.g. tradition, culture, social issues. Examples: Family and Europe Association, Fire Prevention and Sports Society ([www.pstgrim.at.ua](http://www.pstgrim.at.ua)).*

*3. Capacity-building among stakeholders in rural development.*

*This is theme we talked with different stakeholders and we can see some possibilities to continue the project. Based of best practices in Estonian and Polish rural life establish the system for rural actors on different regions and organize the common activating seminars and trainings/ workshops. Combining our expertise and know-how with local initiative, ideas and possibilities.*

*4. Networking and communication*

*Karpatske Kolo is an only initiative that we managed to meet and learn about which attempts to stimulate rural organisations to networking at upper level than local. Other NGO-s we met were usually established just for specific goal or need (water project, youth projects etc).*

*5. Practical themes*

*Possible support to generate rural networking and cooperation can be considered in two ways:*

- Building cooperation capacities of local organisations networking within Karpatske Kolo. This can be a pilot activity. The achieved results need to be then promoted and transmitted to other regions. Following the activity must be round up with initiation of national network of regional and local rural organisations and communities.*
- Identifying national capacities is needed in order to assess capacities that may contribute to development of the Ukrainian structure embracing potential dispersed in different regions of the country. The trip to Kiev to meet centrally based organisations, policymakers and donors who support development policies seems to be necessary if Ukraine (not only one region) is supposed to benefit from the Black Sea Initiative. The mission should identify national potential for rural development networking and cooperation and initiatives, both already existing and those which may arise in the future, which should be stimulated to develop and contribute to the objectives of the BSI.*

***Potential for multinational cooperation***

*The national potential and capacities allowing for participation in international and multi-country collaboration in the Black Sea project need further exploration in the context of serious political instability of the country.*

***Other organisations at the national level who might be involved in the Black Sea project and need to be met***

- *Ukrainian National Farmer Union*
- *DORADA Agricultural Advisory Association*
- *Institute for Rural Development (private entity)*
- *Ministry of Agrarian Policy*
- *Donors (USAID, CIDA, EU, other)*

## ***Need for next steps towards Ukraine's participation in Black Sea Initiative***

*Polish Rural Forum: The current tense situation in Ukraine needs more study and review. The proposed mission to Kiev needs to be organised as soon as possible to reach the general conclusions with regards to the whole country. They need to be realistic, adequate to the current and forecasted situation of the country and enabling to propose feasible activities for achieving the BSI objectives and expected results.*

*To limit Ukraine's participation in BSI to one region only is inadequate to the Initiative's objectives. However to start with one regional activity at the beginning can be an only way to include Ukraine to BSI and initiate the process of pulling rural organisations in other regions into the broader platform for networking and /or cooperation.*

*Estonian Village Movement Kodukant: Our organization does not have any contacts of umbrella organizations of rural development in Ukraine. To establish this kind of co-operation from beginning does not seem for us very reasonable and will take too much time. Furthermore Ukraine is too large and complicated country for short-time and small-budget project as BSI is (until September 2016). As already mentioned, the distance from very local to national level is too long and multistage. Kodukant is not ready to fulfil such kind of aims. But in same time we are ready to cooperate in this field with much bigger organization as Polish Rural Forum is.*

### ***Conclusions and thanks***

*Despite the fact, that the situation in Ukraine was and is complicated and Ukrainians life is quite depressive right now, we experienced incredible warm hospitality and friendliness by the persons we met and all local people. They had good and positive attitude, willingness for co-operation and ideas for that. Last but not least, good service and of course - tasty Ukrainian cuisine. Thank you all!*