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**ADAPTATION OF FOREIGN EXPERIENCE OF PROJECT ACTIVITY
AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES IN POLTAVA REGION**

As the experience of Western democracies shows, a project approach takes an extremely important place in the implementation of local development strategies. It helps orderly and systematically to implement the strategic priorities of the territory and achieve socio-economic benefits of the local community, especially in terms of resource constraints. The development of local self-government in Ukraine is constrained primarily by economic factors, lack of sufficient material and financial resources for implementing tasks and functions of local government. Development and implementation of joint projects involve greater number of people in order to cooperate, to increase interest of people in issues of local government, and to establish feedback from the community. Understanding of self-involvement in the territorial communities and opportunity to participate in solving local problems is an indicator of the prevailing civil society. Today the usage of project technology is of particular relevance, because experience shows that implementing project management tools are carried out unsystematic and irregular.

Using the project approach in public administration and local self-government were proposed by several authors, among which worth mentioning are P. Vorona, Y. Sharov, V. Tolkovanov, V. Babaev, V. Vakulenko, I. Chikarenko, T. Zhuravel etc. However, despite of the relatively wide range of research, problems of local government need constant improvement and further research due to finding new and innovative management practices and building a new system of governance in the country at different levels.

The article aims to summarize and systemize the perspective experience of project activity adapted by local self-government bodies in Poltava region in cooperation with Ukrainian-Swiss project DESPRO, project of the European Union and the UN «Local Development CBA», projects by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH; to present the list of projects of Poltava region that have passed competitive selection in 2014 – 2015 years; to develop recommendations of further ways of adapting perspective experience of project activity in Poltava region.

Local authorities of Poltava region actively participate in international projects, which makes it possible to attract extra-budgetary funding to address the pressing issues and

current problems of local communities. Since 2009 Poltava region participates in a joint EU and UNDP Project «Local Development CBA».

Another of the projects, which local authorities of Poltava region have joined is the Swiss-Ukrainian project «Decentralization Support in Ukraine DESPRO», a leading Swiss technical assistance project in the sector of governance, which aims to establish cooperation with communities, given the priority directions of the state, while using the experience of Switzerland in decentralized service delivery.

Also there are two Ukrainian-German technical cooperation projects initiated by the German Society for International Cooperation: «Energy Efficiency in the community» and «Management Reform in the east of Ukraine». German Society for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH) operates in Ukraine since 1993 on behalf of the Federal Government of Germany.

An analysis of the experience of the project activity of local government of Poltava region allowed to develop the following recommendations to attract more members and improve the quality of projects:

- To organize a meeting of the Coordination Council under the head of the Regional Council to determine the prospects of IMC Poltava region inviting experts of intermunicipal cooperation;

- To organize series of training sessions to develop regional development projects for officers of local authorities, who are interested in participating in the contest.

- Develop a handbook for development projects of regional best projects practices.

- To create the link to the website of Regional Council, which presents a systematic project information on conditions of participation, submission deadlines and contact persons coordinators of projects implemented in Poltava region.

Implementation of project technologies create an enabling environment for sustainable socio-economic development at the local level through self-organization and social revitalization of communities, development and implementation of small-scale community initiatives. But it is necessary to analyze in more detail the financing mechanism for implementation of the projects submitted.