

## The first steps on implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy of the City of Olexandriya until 2030

On September 16, 2016 the City Council of Olexandriya (Kirovogradskiy region) has adopted Sustainable Development Strategy of the City of Olexandriya until 2030. Simultaneously it was adopted a decision to establish Strategic planning Department of the City Council and communal enterprise “City Development Institute”.



The Strategy has become the first strategic document in Ukraine developed based on UN Sustainable Development Goals. This document was developed by the Academy of Public-Private Partnership under assistance of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence “PPPs for cities” and active participation of local specialists.

The initiative of Olexandriya was supported by the UNECE experts and specialists that have practical experience in field of transformation of cities into Smart and Sustainable cities because of the following reasons.

Firstly, today the preparation / adaptation of city development strategies to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is one of the priority tasks of international community and special attention in this issue shall be paid to the developing economies. At the same time at the moment there is no established methodology for preparation / adaptation of strategic documents in compliance with SDGs.

Secondly, for the development of Sustainable Development Strategy of the city of Olexandriya it was used new innovation approaches that are interesting not only for Ukraine, but also for many developing economies.

Thirdly, now Ukraine is attracting the attention of the whole world. Unfortunately, in most cases the news about our country is of negative nature. In such conditions it is extremely important to attract the attention of international community to positive events and successful projects that are being implemented in our country. One of such positive examples could be the project of transformation of Olexandriya into Smart and Sustainable city in the understanding of the United Nations.



Taking into account the above, the implementation of the City Strategy shall be performed at the high level. For this purpose the efforts of the City Council of Olexandriya and leading

international and Ukrainian experts on city sustainable development and PPP shall be combined.

The first step on implementation of goals and tasks of Sustainable Development Strategy of the city has become a visit of Ukrainian delegation to Spain in November 2016. The visit took place on invitation of Sant Cugat city - one of the most successful cities of Europe that has been transferred into Smart and Sustainable. The delegation included: the Mayor of Olexandriya Stepan Tsapiuk, the Secretary of Olexandriya City Council Olena Bogoyavlenska, the deputy of Olexandriya City Council Volodymyr Dozhdzhanyk, the head of the Strategic Planning Department of Olexandriya Council Ludmila Markovska, the head of Informational and Analytical Policy of Olexandriya City Council Inna Moskovchenko, the deputy head of Kirovorad Regional State Administration Olexandr Malto, deputy Mayor of the city of Svitlovodsk Anna Nesterenko, and also the president of the Academy of PPP, professor, doctor of economic science Irina Zapatrina, the executive director of the Academy of PPP, PhD Anna Shatkovska, representative of private business Vladyslav Shapovalov.



The program of the visit was very intensive.

The delegation has visited Sant Cugat city and learned the experience of implementation of projects on smart city lighting, introduction of modern efficient waste treatment system, creation of pedestrian zone in the central part of the city, organization of work of public transport.

Management of all life support systems of Sant Cugat is performed from the single Control Center located in the Municipality. It allows solving problems of citizens related to public services provision in the real time regime, to take into account the wishes of citizens on city infrastructure development, and optimally maintain and repair the equipment used for operation of these systems. The activity of the Control center is ensured by a private company that cooperates with the city on the basis of public – private partnership.



Despite the fact that Sant Cugat is a well-known project of creating smart city and is considered to be the most successful not only in Spain but also in the world, its management does not stop at the achievements and actively works on introduction of new innovative projects that will

improve the quality of life of citizens. Among these projects are organization of feedback from citizens on issues that are important to them; introduction of elderly care system using advanced technologies etc.



Sant Cugat is ready to share its experience with Olexandriya and provide assistance in implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy adopted by the city.



Cooperation between the cities will be organized in accordance with Cooperation memorandum that was signed by the Mayors of Olexandriya and Sant Cugat on November 14, 2016. The Memorandum specifies directions of cooperation, in particular, exchange of experience on implementation of city development projects aimed at achieving SDGs; increasing of institutional capacity of public authorities on issues of cities transformation into Smart and Sustainable in the framework of joint seminars and round tables; assistance in setting work relations with private companies that cooperate with public authorities in infrastructure development; organization of cultural exchange etc. It was agreed that in the nearest future the

cities will appoint their representatives for coordination of activities of the parties in accordance with Memorandum.

In the framework of the visit Ukrainian delegation also had meetings with other institutions that are active players in building Smart and Sustainable cities in the understanding of UN Sustainable Development Goals and in implementation of projects on increasing energy efficiency of municipal infrastructure.



On November 15 took place a meeting with company "Ardana Consultants" (<http://ardanaconsultants.com/?lang=en>), that participated in development and implementation of infrastructure projects on local development in Spain, Algeria, Peru, Columbia and other countries of Latin America and Africa. The general director of the company Eva Bufi is a member of UNECE Team of experts on PPP, she was initiator of establishment and the first

executive director of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence “PPPs for cities”, took part in consultations for the city of Olexandriya on issues of development of Sustainable Development Strategy.

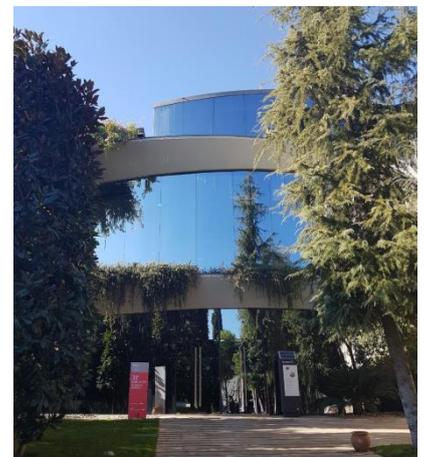
Ukrainian delegation received an information about the experience of “Ardana Consultants” on implementation of transport and urban infrastructure projects in the developing economies;



problems that appear on the way to implementation of such projects with private business participation; and means of solving them. It was discussed the opportunities of further cooperation between Olexandriya City Council, “Ardana Consultants” and the Academy of PPP (Ukraine) on implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy of the city and infrastructure projects aimed at achieving of its goals.

As a result of discussion the parties have signed Cooperation Memorandum that provides for exchange of information, experience and materials on issues of development and implementation of city development strategies; dissemination of knowledge on the PPP role in cities’ strategic development, including conduction of joint educational and informational events, organization of educational visits, preparation and organization of capacity building and communication programs, performance of joint research and publications; development of institutional basis for PPPs at the local level; joint participation in preparation of infrastructure projects with private business attraction; and ensuring joint participation of representatives of cities in international programs with other cities in the world.

The same day the delegation has visited the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence “PPPs for cities”, got acquainted with its current activity and plans for the future. The Mayor of Olexandriya Stepan Tsapiuk has informed the management of the Centre about establishment of Association “Smart and Sustainable cities of Ukraine” initiated by the city. The Association includes also the city of Svitlovodsk, the deputy Mayor of which Anna Nesterenko was also a member of Ukrainian delegation during the visit to Spain. In the process of discussion with the management of the Centre it was revealed many issues that are interesting for cooperation between the parties. In particular, for specialists of “PPP for cities” it was



very interesting to know about methodological approaches used while developing Sustainable development Strategy adopted by Olexandriya, that plan to review them in details in order to disseminate them for other cities of developing economies.



The experience of the city of Olexandriya will also be used in preparation of International standard on cities development through PPP, development of which has recently started on UNECE initiative. Among the members of the work group on preparation of the Standard are leading experts of UNECE and Centre “PPP for cities”, General

Director of “Ardana Consultans” Eva Bufi and president of the Academy of PPP, professor Irina Zapatrina.



In the opinion of the management of Centre “PPP for cities” the experience of Olexandriya would be also interesting for other countries that make their first steps on adaptation of their strategic plans to UN Sustainable Development Goals. In this connection the management of the Centre has proposed to prepare and to sign in the nearest time Cooperation Memorandum with the recently established Association “Smart and Sustainable Cities of Ukraine” and to plan participation of member cities

of the Association in international events organized together with Centre “PPP for cities”. In particular, it would be very useful to present the potential of Ukrainian cities at international specialized exhibitions on Smart and Sustainable Cities. This would be very important for increasing of the image of Ukraine in the world as one of pioneer countries that has actively started implementation of the new UN Agenda until 2030 and for private business attraction to modernization of infrastructure of Olexandriya that is critical form the point of achieving SDGs. Acquaintance with the best practice of city management is extremely important for using modern innovation technologies and for increasing quality of life and rational use of energy and human resources for public services provision.

There is also a large potential for cooperation with Centre “PPP for cities” in field of organization and conduction of training programs for public authorities, private business and civil institutions on issues of sustainable development, strategic planning of cities and public-private partnership. The above cooperation directions are proposed to be reflected in Cooperation memorandum between the Centre and the association.



Another important event in the framework of the visit of Ukrainian delegation was participation in the round table dedicated to discussion of the existing opportunities of the city on implementation of projects in field of energy efficiency, namely, the project of complex modernization of outdoor city lighting system and the project of thermo-modernization of public buildings. Bothe projects

are planned for implementation in form of public-private partnership.

It was very useful to understand the interest to participate in these projects of the private business that has experience in implementation of similar projects. The round table took place



on November 16, 2016 in the head office of Association “Catalonia Energy Efficiency Cluster”. The members of the association are more than 120 companies and research centers, activity of which is related to energy efficiency. Representatives of 6 companies

took part in the round table.

The Mayor of Olexandriya Stepan Tsapiuk has presented investment potential of the city to the participants of the round table; described energy efficiency projects that are planned for implementation in the first place; acquainted the participants with plans of the city on implementation of the recently adopted Strategy. The president of the Academy of PPP Irina Zapatrina has answered the questions of the participants of the round table regarding institutional and legal framework in field of PPP in Ukraine and provided clarifications on possible mechanisms of launching such projects with initiation of private business.

It was agreed that, the proposals presented by Ukrainian delegation will be reviewed by the members of Association “Catalonia Energy Efficiency Cluster” to determine the opportunities of Catalonia private business participation.



On November 17 the delegation has visited International exhibition “Smart cities” (this year its motto was “Cities for citizens”) and also the conference “Transformation of cities into Sustainable and Smart” organized by UNECE International Center of Excellence “PPPs for cities”.



About 800 cities from different countries of the world took part in the exhibition, they presented strategic plans on transformation of their cities into Smart and Sustainable, demonstrated new technologies of providing public services to citizens, shared plans for the future.

The Mayor of Olexandriya Stepan Tsapiuk got acquainted with the best practices of cities management on principles of sustainable development, agreed about cooperation with representatives of public authorities of Madrid (Spain), Graz (Austria), Ramat - Gan (Israel) in part of their assistance in using the experience of city infrastructure management and public services provision to citizens in the framework of implementation of Sustainable development Strategy of the city of Olexandriya.



President of the Academy of PPP Irina Zapatrina has participated in the conference “Transformation of cities into Sustainable and Smart” with presentation “Key issues of city management for ensuring success for PPPs”. In her presentation she has underlined importance of support by international organizations and donor- countries of small and medium-sized cities that initiate and implement sustainable development strategies in compliance with UN Sustainable Development Goals until 2030; informed the participants about innovation

methodological approaches used by specialists of the Academy of PPP while developing the Strategy of the city of Olexandriya.



Sustainable Development Strategy of the city of Olexandriya has attracted interest of international experts, in particular, representatives of Moldova, Brazil, China and other countries.

Taking into account the above, the Head of PPP program of UNECE Geoffrey Hamilton has proposed to the Mayor of Olexandriya to publish Sustainable Development Strategy until 2030 adopted by the City Council at the UNECE web-site, making it available for review to other cities from the developing economies. In his opinion, it would also be interesting to present the experience of Olexandriya at the second International conference on PPP for Sustainable Development that will take place in 2017 in Sothern Korea.



During the Conference the Mayor of Olexandriya Stepan Tsapiuk and the president of the Academy of PPP, professor Irina Zapatrina have been interviewed by Marina Formoso, the correspondent of "Partnerships Bulletin" on achievements of the city of Olexandriya in the context of implementation of the new UN Agenda until 2030. The interview will be published in the 4<sup>th</sup> issue of the magazine.