



# REFORM THROUGH KNOWLEDGE:

## *AUCC Supporting Higher Education in Ukraine*

**L**ike many parts of Ukrainian society, the higher education sector is experiencing wrenching change. Altered funding mechanisms and significant reductions in government budget outlays have put tremendous pressure on institutional capabilities. Democratic and economic reform have required the introduction of new content and methods into university research and teaching. Institutional governance and administration have had to respond to contemporary challenges. Reform of the higher education sector is a vital component of the overall reform process in Ukraine, and will clearly require a substantial and ongoing effort.

Reform Through Knowledge, a cooperation program managed by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) on behalf of Human Resources Development Canada, is intended to support economic and democratic reform in Ukraine by targeting technical assistance to Ukraine's system of higher education. The program is currently at its halfway point, with three selection competitions remaining to be held before the completion of its mandate on September 30, 1997.

Reform Through Knowledge was initiated as a complement to other AUCC-managed Government of Canada technical cooperation programs in Ukraine and the rest of Central and Eastern Europe. These include the Professional Partnerships Program, which provides grants for international travel for brief, focused technical assistance projects in the region; and the Research and Training for Reform, which brought professionals and policy-makers from Ukraine, Russia and the

Baltic states to Canada for intensive training and internships.

The program was originally designed to enable Canadian academics and professionals with acknowledged expertise in their fields to undertake short-term placements within the Ministry of Education and/or at universities throughout Ukraine. Up to 30 participants per year would advise on educational policy, administrative reform and the introduction of new curricula, particularly in the areas of law, environment, and management.

Through the first three competitions, a wide array of projects have been supported. These include the development of graduate programs in environmental science; assistance in the development of a career counseling centre; the implementation of new information systems and INTERNET capabilities. These three projects took place at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Each of these involves creating programs or structures responding directly to the expressed needs of Ukrainian institutions.

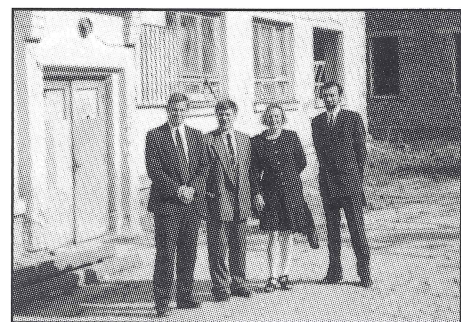
Program activities are not restricted to Kyiv. Projects have been approved for a variety of locations in Ukraine, including Odesa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipropetrovsk, and Lviv. In the latter case, the Lviv Institute of Management has been very active in pursuing new developments in its management programs. These include the development of a Bachelor's program in Business Administration, as well as strengthening the delivery of Executive-MBA courses. The Institute is also actively engaged in pursuing international linkages with a view to internship and co-op placements abroad for its students.

The broad desire on the part of progressive higher education establishments to forge international links has resulted in the opening of Reform Through Knowledge to the participation of appropriate Ukrainian specialists. As a result, the most recent Spring 1996 competition saw fully half of its project submissions come from Ukrainian applicants. All of them represented a continuation of projects initiated by earlier program participants.

Thus, the UKMA systems administrator, Dmitry Kohmanyuk, will be coming to Carleton University in

order to strengthen his network development skills. This will prove an important step in using UKMA as a base for the creation of FREENET and SCHOOLNET-type information networks in Ukraine. Student enthusiasm for exploiting INTERNET capabilities demonstrates the importance of this type of project to Ukraine's future leaders.

The continuing collaboration of UKMA and Grant MacEwan Community College has also found support through Reform Through Knowledge. Earlier support was given to the strengthening of the student and career counselling centre at UKMA. Most recently, UKMA's Vice-President of Institutional Development, Dr. Sophia Pokhodnia, and the



*The new home of the Lviv Institute of Management, under construction. L-r: Ross Maclaren, AUCC; Dr. Ivan Vasiunyk, Director, LIM; Nikki Lemley, U.S. Peace Corps; Serhiy Gvozdiy, Director of Academic Programs, LIM.*

Assistant to the President Ms. Natalia Shumkova, were approved to come to Canada to gain experience in fundraising, community and public relations, and student services. This last topic will also form the focus of activity for Ms. Natalia Andrievsky, recently appointed Dean of Students at UKMA, during her time at the University of Ottawa. The focus on student needs as a priority is a positive development in higher education reform.

With three competitions remaining in the program, it is hoped that the next year of the program will see both a broadening of the number of Ukrainian institutions included in the program, as well as a deepening of the established relationships between Canadian and Ukrainian partners. The application period for the upcoming competition is Sept. 1 - Oct. 31, 1996

*For additional information, contact:*

*Ross Maclaren, AUCC,  
600-350 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 1B1  
tel. (613) 563-3961 ext. 301,  
fax: (613) 563-9745  
e-mail: rmaclare@aucc.ca*



*Meeting to discuss RTK and other Ukraine programs. L-r: Dr. Bohdan Budzan, International Renaissance Foundation-Kyiv; Kevin O'Shea, Dept. of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Viktor Batiuk, former Ambassador of Ukraine; Christian Pouyez, AUCC; Doris Bradbury, AUCC; Vyacheslav Pokatylo, IRF-Kyiv.*