



edge and skills gained from health sector technical cooperation links with Canada, the U.S., Britain, Germany, France, Slovakia and other countries. It is producing a monthly information magazine for health professionals and plans to hold seminars, training sessions, and an annual health reform conference in Ukraine.

Ukraine is sharing its newly acquired experience in health reform with other countries in Eastern Europe. In December, 1997, Ukraine's Ministry of Health, UCICH, and the School of Health Administration together organized the Ukraine-Canada Partners In Health Conference. Focussing on effectiveness in health reform, the conference attracted nearly 200 Ukrainian health professionals, a World Bank speaker, and health professionals from Canada and the Trans Caucasus.

One of the key factors in health reform is the development of replicable models. In this respect, PIH has been successful at both the national and community levels. Nationally, PIH has assisted with formation of the Ukrainian Nurses Association. After this association was launched officially in May 1997 with a democratically elected executive, other health professionals began to study the association's model and how their own profession could benefit from using some of the guidelines. The Ukrainian Partners for Nursing (the MOH's personnel and education department and the Nursing Association) are now leaders and trainers for medical professional association development in Ukraine.

Other PIH national-level activities have included health system information and healthy schools programs. Meanwhile, at the regional level, PIH has assisted in establishing nine training centres and 51 pilot sites in various regions in Ukraine.

Community involvement remains a key contributor to successful reform. The Healthy Schools, Community Health, Rehabilitation, and Mental Health projects, which target behaviour and attitudes for healthy living, have encouraged segments of the population to organize small community awareness activities. For example, the Community Health/Health Promotion project included a train-the-trainer workshop for a group consisting of social workers, police, health professionals, a drug-user, and a street-worker. This activity was organized collaboratively with UNAIDS and the President's Committee on AIDS.

The PIH Healthy Schools project in particular is an example of the positive im-



Members of the Ukrainian Nurses Association, a partner of the PIH program in Ukraine.

pact that collaboration by professionals from different sectors, in this case health and education, can have on the community. Healthy Schools have trained teachers to deliver a health package to students focusing on AIDS prevention, smoking cessation, hygiene, and nutrition. There are 13 Healthy Schools pilot sites in Ukraine. This project was a factor in Ukraine's admission to the International European Council's Project and European Commission of Healthy Schools.

The Education Ministry and its Canadian partner, Saskatchewan Education, participated in a business-related health education conference in Kyiv in February. The conference provided the Ukrainian Healthy Schools partners with an opportunity to display educational materials, inform the general public of their work, and encourage publishing companies to publish healthy schools material.

The Ministry of Family and Youth has expressed an interest in incorporating the healthy schools project into the mandate of their recent draft policy on youth and health promotion. It plans to discuss the project further with UNICEF and the health and education ministries. The project has been endorsed by UNICEF to serve as a model for school programs in other central and eastern European countries such as Russia and Belarus.

Says Schatz: "This project has contributed to the development of a critical mass of health reformers in Ukraine. Furthermore, PIH has cultivated relationships with other donor agencies in Ukraine, including UNICEF and the World Bank. Experience has shown that working with such donors will make an even bigger impact."

Planning for the next collaborative project in Ukraine is well underway among potential Ukrainian partner organizations. Ukraine's government has made a commitment to improving the health of children and youth, and Canada has decades of experience and expertise in both the theory and practice of health promotion. CSIH has already submitted a proposal to CIDA for

the "Youth For Health Reform" project to match this Canadian expertise with Ukrainian needs.

■ PARTNERS IN CIVIL SOCIETY

The overall goal of the Partners in Civil Society Program has been to contribute to the evolution of Ukrainian civil society by developing and strengthening Ukrainian NGO's (non-government organizations) and other community-based organizations actively involved in Ukraine's reform process. The aim was to develop the capacity of these partners to carry out training on their own and to become self-sustainable and capable of helping other NGO's in their regions to do their work at the grass roots more effectively. An underlying thread was to accomplish this in a manner that would also promote stronger relations between Canada and Ukraine.

Civil society is still in the early stages of growth in Ukraine, with some 5,000 registered NGO's at this time. This is a sharp contrast to 32,000 in Hungary, 17,000 in Poland, 70,000 in Canada and 600,000 in France, which has about the same population as Ukraine. While the NGO sector, completely suppressed in Soviet times, is now expanding rapidly, it needs sustained support if it is to fulfill its mission of developing a healthy, capable and energetic Ukrainian civil society. Stronger civil society organizations in Ukraine will promote accountability and transparency at all levels of government and society. Citizen's groups working in cooperation with local authorities can and do provide important social services during Ukraine's transitional period, contributing toward the stabilization of society. Through such contributions, a strengthened civil society in Ukraine will be able to play a significant role in Ukraine's development by supporting democratic institutions and the democratic process.

Partners in Civil Society worked with five Ukrainian organizations. The program