

Turning Policy into Practice: Sida's implementation of the Swedish HIV/AIDS strategy

Ukraine

Ulrich Vogel

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List of Abbreviations

AFEW	AIDS Foundation East West
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ARV	Anti-retroviral
CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
DFID	Department for International Development, United Kingdom
EU	European Union
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HO	Head Office
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IOM	International Organisation on Migration
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
TB	Tuberculosis
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States (of America)
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation

1. Introduction

Case studies in four selected countries, Bangladesh, Ukraine, Ethiopia and Zambia constitute the third part of the evaluation of Sida's implementation of Sweden's HIV/AIDS policy "Investing for Future Generations" (IFFG).

The present case study will assess how the IFFG, through the country strategy, has been converted into concrete action, i.e., how effective it has been in enabling Sida to contribute to an appropriate and adapted response to HIV/AIDS in Ukraine.

The country mission to Ukraine was undertaken between December 4 and 11, 2004. Due to the upheaval in connection with the national elections in November, the mission was rescheduled at the request of Sida. The original dates (December 1 to 11) could not be maintained. Due to the shortened time, it was agreed that the visits to Odessa and Kherson oblasts where most of the Swedish direct support to HIV/AIDS is concentrated would be cancelled and the mission concentrated on contacts and interviews with institutions, partners and authorities in Kyiv.

After a short description of the country's HIV/AIDS situation and Sida's development cooperation (Chapter 3), the detailed findings of the evaluation mission are first listed and then analyzed (in Chapters 4 and 5), where after a set of recommendations are provided to (Chapter 6).

The itinerary of the mission as well the list of persons contacted is to be found in Annex 1. The writer was assisted and accompanied to all meetings by Dr. Oleksiy Mykheev, a local consultant.

The writer would like to thank all persons contacted and especially Ms Radvan at the Swedish embassy for all the arrangements. Despite the mobilisation of the population in Kyiv and the political turmoil, all meetings could take place and all persons contacted were most willing to share their information and appreciation with the mission.

2. Summary of findings and recommendations

Findings:

- Ukraine is a country with a mature HIV/AIDS epidemic. However, the impact of AIDS is not (yet) very visible in the society. Using the same scoring system as in the desk study, where country strategy documents were reviewed, it would have the maximum score of three (3), indicating a serious HIV/AIDS situation.

On the other hand, if Sida's work in Ukraine had to be summarized, one could say that, up to October/November 2004 it reached only a middle score (two) on the scale of intensity of mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in development work. But that situation has started to change, particularly with the preparation of the new country strategy. It is now official policy to review all new projects according to their potential relationship with the epidemic. Equally, the expansion of the HIV/AIDS focus beyond the health and social perspectives into a human rights concern is already in process. This indicates that applying the guiding frame of the IFFG to a specific country situation depends very much on the perception of the epidemic in the country held by the main actors of Swedish cooperation. This perception is, of course, related to the knowledge concerning the dynamic of the epidemic in the country. The recent instructions by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and by Sida's head office have certainly contributed to the increased attention and focus on HIV/AIDS.

- Political life in Ukraine was dominated for six months by the national election process which culminated between October and December 2004, and which led to a widespread mobilisation of large parts of the population organised by the opposition parties. The political events have also come to dominate the development cooperation agenda and have contributed to a delay in the finalisation of the new Swedish country strategy.
- The IFFG has been the general guideline for the Swedish support in recent years. However, due to the complex country situation of a major epidemic threat with still low visibility and impact on society, the application of the policy has mainly consisted in direct support to selected geographical areas with signs of increased HIV transmission, and to national information and awareness campaigns. Only very few projects related to trafficking or to children and adolescents have integrated aspects of HIV/AIDS.
- HIV/AIDS has not been mainstreamed into wider sectors of development cooperation. In the context of the new country strategy, HIV/AIDS concerns will be introduced stepwise in new projects beyond the health and social sectors, however.
- The treat of HIV/AIDS for Ukraine is presented in the draft of the new country strategy for 2005 to 2007. However, HIV/AIDS will not be a specifically identified area for cooperation. Funding for HIV/AIDS related activities may increase in the near future, though.
- The Sida coordinator as well as the Swedish ambassador are well aware of the epidemic threat and appear, in line with recent instructions by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as by Sida's head office, ready and willing to increase the support of Sweden in that field. Concrete measures are already discussed with the cooperation partners (particularly organisations of the UN system and international NGOs) and will be further explored once the new government will be in place.
- Sida technical capacity in the country consists of just one coordinator. There is no national professional staff working on development cooperation issues. Substantial cooperation work is still provided by a desk officer acting from the head office in Stockholm. Neither has HIV/AIDS workplace policy been an issue in Ukraine.
- Sida has very good working relations with international and bilateral development partners and coordinates its work with them. Representatives from Sida have also taken part in diverse coordination issues on HIV/AIDS.
- The influx of major funding (from World Bank, the Global Fund, as well as bilateral funding) together with the prevailing weakness of the national HIV/AIDS structure poses substantial coordination problems.

Recommendations:

- To continue and to strengthen past interventions and activities, while advancing mainstreaming step by step.
- To be open for new developments and challenges and develop a policy regarding support in such cases.
- To address the issue of coordination and harmonization.
- To situate the support to Ukraine in a context of dealing with HIV/AIDS in the Eastern European region as a whole.

3. Background: General information, the HIV/AIDS situation and Sida's cooperation with Ukraine

3.1 General information

Ukraine is the largest country in Europe and has approximately 48 million inhabitants. It became independent in 1991. The country has a traumatic history in which short periods of independence have been followed by forceful integration/occupation by major powers, especially Russia. The country suffered enormously in the period of forced collectivisation of the agriculture in the thirties and during World War II. Historically, geographically, politically, and even personally, Ukraine has strong links with Russia. A common national identity that is independent of the Russian influence has started to develop only recently.

The recent national election process saw a dramatic rise in national identity building. Against widespread electoral fraud, popular protest was mounted and brought the country to a standstill for many weeks. Thanks to popular support especially in the capital Kyiv and in the western and southern parts of the country, the protest movement achieved the re-run of the second round of election. The voting of December 26, 2004 confirmed the victory of the so-called "Orange Revolution". These events have pushed the country onto the European and even world agenda.

3.2 The HIV/AIDS situation in the country

Ukraine is thought to have the highest HIV prevalence rate in Europe among the sexually active population (15–49 years old). While infection rates are particularly high among injecting drug users and sex workers in the southern oblasts, HIV has already spread into the so-called 'general population'. More than a quarter of all HIV transmission is believed to be heterosexual. Nearly 70,000 persons are officially registered with HIV/AIDS, and it is estimated that the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS is about 360,000.¹

Ukraine has a framework of a national HIV/AIDS programme for 2004 to 2008 and a "Strategy Concept" supposed to hold up to 2011 (which corresponds to the time-frame of the "European Choice" perspective by the government which foresees integration into the European Union by 2011) was approved by the government in March 2004. Strategies and interventions are situated in the context of the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment. National efforts are complemented by a 62 million US\$ loan from the World Bank (for five years) and a 92 million US\$ grant by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) (2003–2008). Substantial additional funds are available bilaterally and through international NGOs.

The national response has been in place since 1995. However, it still contains major gaps, especially in the area of treatment and support for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Access to anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment has only recently been introduced by the government. Even so, the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Programme is based on a joint government-UN review and seems effective and promising.

Appropriate services and approaches for drug-injecting persons (substitution therapy, social-psychological support) are still widely missing. Stigmatization and discrimination are widespread even within the medical services. Another area of particular concern is HIV transmission in prisons and other closed institutions.

¹ UNAIDS, "Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic", 2004.

While there has been considerable progress with regard to the harmonization of the indicators for monitoring and evaluation, and with regard to systems used by the different projects in recent years,² a complex situation continues to exist with regard to coordination of the distinct programmes/projects by major agencies, NGOs and the government. Up to five coordinating and often parallel bodies³ seem to exist in the field. UNAIDS has been asked by the government to address the coordination issue through the application of the “Three Ones Principle”.⁴

3.3 Sida’s cooperation with Ukraine

Swedish cooperation with the country started in 1995. Since then the scope of the programme has increased and further strengthening of the cooperation is foreseen during the coming years.

In the country strategy covering the period between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2004, three guidelines were highlighted:

- to promote systemic change and integration with European cooperative structures
- to promote the development of relations with Sweden and
- to adopt a gender equality perspective in all development cooperation.

The sectors identified for cooperation were:

- Common security
- Deepening democracy
- Economic change
- Social security
- Environment
- Education and research

The list of ongoing Sida-funded projects in the country contains 32 entries.⁵ Two of them are dedicated to HIV/AIDS issues. In a few others (trafficking of human beings, disabled children and alcohol consumption) HIV/AIDS is being considered.

HIV/AIDS in the country strategy for 2002 to 2004

In the overview of developments in Ukraine and the reform process, HIV/AIDS is mentioned as one factor of vulnerability. The strategy acknowledges the efforts of the government to tackle social problems including HIV/AIDS. In the review of past cooperation, sexual health together with HIV/AIDS is mentioned as one area of support.

In the country fact sheet on Ukraine issued by Sida in June 2002 which supposedly summarizes the areas of cooperation, HIV/AIDS support is not mentioned at all, though.

However, gender equity figures prominently in the analysis and in the review of past cooperation. This is also true for the perspective of cooperation, which states that *“All development cooperation between Sweden and Ukraine is to be informed by a gender perspective”* (page nine).

2 Verbal communication by the programme coordinator of the HIV/AIDS Alliance.

3 Verbal communication by UNAIDS’ country coordinator.

4 This entails “One agreed HIV/AIDS Action Framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners. One National HIV/AIDS Coordinating Authority, with a broad-based multisectoral mandate. One agreed HIV/AIDS country-level Monitoring and Evaluation System.”

5 See Annex 3.

HIV/AIDS support is envisaged with regard to the control of infectious diseases (including tuberculosis), for the prevention of mother to child transmission and the promotion of youth health.

No attempt to 'mainstream' the HIV/AIDS issue has been undertaken.

HIV/AIDS in the development of the new country strategy

By December 2004, the new country strategy had not yet been officially approved. The delay was caused by the political events of that autumn which were connected to the national election.

However, in the analysis contained in the draft country strategy it is mentioned that Ukraine is facing one of the fastest spreading epidemics, and that the disease brings stigmatization and increases poverty. In the outline of future cooperation, HIV/AIDS is treated under the heading "Social Safety Nets". It is then stated that Swedish support should assist the government to develop sustainable safety nets and to increase poor peoples' access to social services.

Concrete support will be along the lines recommended by the "Mapping HIV/AIDS" mission (see below), strengthening the implementation of the National Plan and continuing the specific support to the Kherson oblast through the UN organisations.⁶

As part of the preparation of the country strategy, Sida had in 2003 commissioned a report reviewing the poverty situation and the antipoverty strategies of the government as well the contributions by international partners.⁷ This report contains proposals for Sida's contribution for the coming strategy period.

HIV/AIDS is referred to in the general descriptions of poverty aspects as well as being mentioned as an acknowledged area of intervention of government policies supported by external agencies (DFID, World Bank etc.) including Sida. Even so, there is no specific or in-depth analysis of the potential impact of HIV/AIDS on the poverty dimension in general or specific population groups in particular.

It is also worth noting that despite the fact that the report mentions the gender equity orientation as one of the three main orientations of Swedish development cooperation with the country, the report focuses neither on its analytical-empirical part nor on its policy part or its recommendations with any particular emphasis on that subject. When the report addresses the proposals for the next cooperation phase, there is emphasis on strengthening local actors and the need of a development of a medium to long term perspective. Neither support to the health sector nor HIV/AIDS is specifically mentioned.

As a clear sign of how serious the HIV/AIDS issue was regarded in preparations for the country strategy, Sida had commissioned a mission: "Mapping HIV/AIDS" from a Swedish NGO specialised in HIV/AIDS. This detailed report summarizes the state of the epidemic in the context of the region, the national responses by the government and major donors/agencies including NGOs, identifies gaps and makes recommendations for the continuation of Swedish support.

However, the report does not contain any analyses or identification of opportunities to mainstream HIV/AIDS into other sectors of Swedish development cooperation with Ukraine. (The only activity recommended by the author of the report in this regard is training local staff in HIV/AIDS.)

⁶ Communication by Ms M. Peterson, Sida Stockholm.

⁷ Hultén, H, 2003 (see List of Documents).

4. Detailed findings of the evaluation

4.1 Sida country staff

4.1.1 Working relationships with head office, the HIV/AIDS secretariat and other embassy staff

Sida has only one coordinator working in the embassy. At the time of visit that person had been working there for three months. Much of the planning, programming and budgeting of the technical assistance (TA) is still done by the former Sida staff who works the Ukraine desk in the Department for Europe at Sida's head office.⁸ That person had been in the country for a longer period and therefore acquired substantial local knowledge and networks.

The new person and the former Sida coordinator work closely and consult each other on a daily basis. Contact with the sectors departments in general and the HIV/AIDS secretariat in particular are occasional.

During the process of preparation of the new country strategy in 2004, discussions were held with the HIV/AIDS secretariat on elements of the country strategy (especially mainstreaming as will be discussed below).

The new Sida coordinator also benefited substantially from a mission to identify the future Sida strategy on HIV/AIDS in Russia this year which she undertook together with the head of the HIV/AIDS secretariat. Her technical and programmatic knowledge on HIV/AIDS issues is therefore substantial.

Sida has no local technical staff in the embassy, but has access to 50 per cent of the time of a local administrative staff who is shared with the embassy. The recruitment of one local technical staff for the entire TA cooperation is foreseen for 2005.

HIV/AIDS is not an item on the agenda of the regular meetings in the embassy. Altogether there are six staff members from Sweden and 16 local staff at the embassy of which six are based with the Swedish chamber of commerce.

At the time of visit the ambassador had been in the country for three months and had been completely absorbed by the political events of the recent weeks and months.

4.1.2 "AIDS competence"⁹

There has not been any specific undertaking to develop "AIDS competency" among the staff of the embassy. Due to the very limited number of professional staff, HIV/AIDS issues have been the prerogative of the Sida coordinator. She is, as mentioned above, through her professional background and recent involvement in HIV/AIDS related missions sufficiently equipped in technical issues, however.

Local staff has not received any special attention from Sida or other members of the Swedish embassy in this regard. However, they were invited and encouraged to take part in UN sponsored HIV/AIDS activities in recent years which include information on HIV/AIDS as well as public awareness activities like "AIDS runs".

The ambassador himself has not specifically been exposed to any in-depth HIV/AIDS training or discussion. However, he was aware of the Swedish international strategy and the recent memorandum by the

⁸ Fortunately, this person was in Kyiv during the week of the mission and participated in many discussions. Her information and appreciations were very helpful for understanding the local situation.

⁹ The AIDS Competence Programme of UNAIDS/UNITAR (UN Institute for Training and Research) describes 'AIDS competence' as follows: "AIDS Competence means that we – as people in families, communities, in organisations and in policy making – acknowledge the reality of HIV and AIDS, act from strength to build our capacity to respond, reduce vulnerability and risks, learn and share with others and live out our full potential."

state secretary of international development cooperation, and seemed to be open towards an increased involvement in different fora.

4.1.3 Familiarity with, and attitude towards the IFFG

IFFG is known to the Sida coordinator as well as the ambassador. The recent memorandum and ‘instructions’ by the state secretary of international development cooperation have also been received and reflected upon. Due to the recent political crisis all attention was focused on the political agenda, even on the World AIDS Day on December 1.

4.1.4 Attitude towards mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into development work

HIV/AIDS was not mainstreamed into the current country strategy which expired at the end of 2004. However, in preparation of the new strategy, the issue was discussed at length with the HIV/AIDS secretariat. The preliminary conclusion was to mainstream HIV/AIDS into the entire development cooperation as suggested by the Swedish policy. This is apparently a conclusion which also applies to other country cooperation in the European region.

Mainstreaming will be implemented through a stepwise approach, drawing on experiences already achieved in some projects during the years 2003 and 2004. All new projects will review their connection to HIV/AIDS and discuss the issue. As social and health reform issues will quite probably increase in importance, HIV/AIDS will become a bigger issue than before. The cooperation with the International Organisation of Migration on trafficking of human beings where HIV/AIDS is already a concern will be expanded to work in the prison reform project. While HIV/AIDS was considered as not relevant in the anti-corruption and forestry management projects, it will most likely be part of the Labour Market Programme. Therefore, HIV/AIDS will not only be viewed from the health or the social perspective, but equally as a human rights issue. Additional focus will be on new projects in areas of social concerns or when “target populations” like children or young people are involved.

4.1.5 Relationships with:

– National cooperation partners

Although Sida’s policy in the country is to strengthen national capacity and responsibility, Sida has in the past nearly exclusively cooperated with the UN system and international/national NGOs. The Ministry of Health and its HIV/AIDS unit have no official contact with Sida nor do they receive information on projects supported by Sida. The reason for this is that Sida judged the performance and the cooperation spirit of the government as insufficient and therefore concentrated its efforts along other lines.

However, through the cooperation between the MoH and different UN organizations (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF), the government is aware of Sida’s activities. For example: the planned solidarity campaign by the AIDS Foundation East-West, which is largely funded by Sida, would have been launched by the Minister of Health.

The projects themselves, naturally, cooperate with local government authorities and institutions.

– Other development partners

Cooperation is very well developed with other partners, especially the members of the UN system which have been privileged partners of Sida for many years. Close cooperation also exists with the EU, the World Bank, and major international NGOs like the HIV/AIDS Alliance (which is the temporary beneficiary of the GFATM project) and the AIDS Foundation East-West.

– *Sida's workplace policy on HIV/AIDS*

Local staff is covered by a social and health insurance package which will also entitle them to treatment of AIDS. However, the issue has not been discussed yet with the staff.

4.2 Projects and programmes supported by Sida

4.2.1 Specifically targeted to HIV/AIDS

In the program period between 2002 and 2004, Sida supported two HIV/AIDS projects. Both were included in the social protection area under the heading "Health Care".

1. UN HIV Prevention Programme

This programme is implemented by the UN organisations UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, and it forms part of their common "Act Now" programme. The interventions and activities supported by Sida are concentrated in the Kherson Oblast in the South. Components of the programme include:

- Targeted education/prevention measures including condom promotion for vulnerable groups but also for young people; based on the peer-group approach substantive health promotion activities were undertaken by young people (IEC materials, special events etc.). It also included training of medical staff, families and dependents of vulnerable groups and introduction of harm-reduction approaches including substitution therapy. Over 1.7 million condoms were made available in the oblast. The project also included a larger KAP study on the sexual and reproductive health of youth. (UNFPA)
- Promotion of human rights of vulnerable groups. Innovative approaches to fight stigma and exclusion were developed with local NGOs and health and social services, including needle exchange, legal and psychological support. Moreover substitution therapy for injecting drug users was introduced. The combined measures have substantially changed medical practitioners' attitudes and treatment of persons living with HIV/AIDS. A study on "Gender and HIV/AIDS in Ukraine", which included a collection of "good practices" and questions/discussions for future work was also commissioned. (UNDP)
- Support to the nationwide programme on prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV. The programme was extended to the entire oblast. It combined medical and social aspects (follow-up of children and family), formation of self-help groups and also sensitization of local media on these issues. The national programme has already been reviewed by the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF and is regarded as one of the most successful programmes in the entire region. (UNICEF)

2. HIV Mass Media Campaign

This project was planned and implemented by the international NGO "AIDS Foundation East-West" (AFEW). The project aims to develop, implement and evaluate three countrywide HIV/AIDS/STI-related mass media campaigns in Ukraine. In addition the project includes training and support to the Ukrainian counterparts in government and civil society regarding these issues. On a regional level the project will support governmental agencies and NGOs in at least four cities which will be co-ordinated under the umbrella of the country wide campaigns. The campaign will concentrate on safer sex and solidarity with persons living with HIV/AIDS.

The last of the campaigns planned for late 2004 had to be put on hold due to the upheaval following the national elections. Had it taken place, it would have been the first time that the Minister of Health would have launched this national campaign.

4.2.2 Overall development projects/programmes including HIV/AIDS components

In the current cooperation, there are only few HIV/AIDS aspects included in other development projects.

In the sector of democratic development, under the heading of human rights, Sida supports the mission of the International Organization of Migration (IOM) in “Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Ukraine 2003–2005”.

In the rehabilitation and social health medical assistance part of that project, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS are included in the conditions to which the returning persons (the overwhelming majority of whom are women) are entitled. These conditions are also monitored and documented.

4.2.3 Other development projects/programmes

In the social protection sector a project concentrating on the prevention of alcohol abuse by adolescents and children with disabilities also has discussed the issues of HIV/AIDS. The project tries to prevent children and adolescents to ‘slide’ into conditions of HIV vulnerability.

In the cooperation between Sida and the European Union on health sector reform, and between Sida and the World Bank on poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS also is an issue which is taken into consideration.

An umbrella organization for the strengthening of NGOs has also been encouraged to actively seek out suitable NGOs and invite them for the contact conferences, through Sida’s large HIV/AIDS support to the NGO sector. However, to achieve this qualified Swedish NGOs must act as a partner for the Ukrainian organizations and such contacts are often lacking. Therefore no specific activity has been planned under this scheme.

4.2.4 Planning process:

- *Partners involved:* Planning is in general done by the implementing partners which may be UN organizations or NGOs. Sida receives the funding request and review and discuss it with the requesting organization. There is no technical assistance from Sida or through specialized consultants for the planning process. National/local partners are involved if and when the implementing agency works with them. There are no national planning meetings between the HIV/AIDS unit of the Ministry of Health and Sida.
- *Country needs:* In the preparation of the new country strategy, Sida Ukraine commissioned an HIV/AIDS Report: “Mapping HIV/AIDS in Ukraine and Belarus”. (A similar report was prepared for Russia. That report was elaborated by Sida’s HIV/AIDS secretariat with the support of the person now serving as Sida’s coordinator in Ukraine). This report reviews in detail the HIV/AIDS responses in the country and the cooperation which Sida had maintained, while outlining general and specific areas for the future support of Sida. It is comprehensive and well written. Although the authors of this report had contact with local national structures in Kherson oblast where most of the Sida support is concentrated, there was no evidence of a feedback loop or exchange with the national level, however.
- *Coordination with other development partners:* Sida works closely with a variety of development partners, especially from the UN system. This cooperation dates back a few years and has developed into a continuous and close relationship. In the past, the Sida coordinator has attended coordination meetings of the UN or the Global Fund. Technical consultations occur mostly bilaterally and when the need for them arises.
- *Monitoring and Evaluation:* This is done as part of the distinct project components. All projects have an integrated monitoring and evaluation system.

4.3 The future cooperation in HIV/AIDS

The two main projects that Sida has supported in recent years have already ended or will end soon. Negotiations are underway with the UN organisations for the continuation or refocusing of the combined project in Kherson oblast. It is envisaged to expand the experiences of Kherson to other oblasts in the South (Mykolaev, Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk and the Crimea). Discussions also continue with the AIDS foundation East-West with the goal to build local capacities to take over the information and education activities.¹⁰ In addition, the mapping report entails some recommendations which need to be further explored.

The responses to HIV/AIDS in the country are fast evolving. The important project funded by the World Bank loan has only started its work a few weeks ago. The huge project funded by the grant of the GFATM is in an intermediary stage as the HIV/AIDS Alliance acts as temporary principal recipient and no country coordinating mechanism (CCM) exists at the moment.

At the national level, the final outcome of the disputed national elections and the policies of the new government will have a major impact on the social policies in general and on HIV/AIDS in particular.

It is therefore not evident where and how additional support may best be placed by Sida. An important area could be support to strengthen national and donor coordination in cooperation with UNAIDS and other interested parties (for example DFID).¹¹ (This was identified in the mapping report.)

5. Analysis of the evaluation findings

5.1 Relevance of the IFFG

Ukraine is a country with a mature HIV/AIDS epidemic even if the impact of AIDS is not (yet) very visible in the society. Ukraine has the most severe HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Given the level of HIV prevalence in the general population and in some specific population groups like intravenous drug users, prostitutes, etc. there is, according to international terminology, a generalised epidemic in this country. The government and international agencies and donors like the UN agencies, the EU, World Bank, and The Global Fund are well aware of the potentially dramatic situation. Up to now, the transmission of HIV was essentially confined to more or less well defined population groups. However, this pattern is changing rapidly and heterosexual transmission is on the increase and affecting the so-called 'general population'. Using the same scoring system as in the desk study, where country strategy documents were reviewed, it would have the maximum score, three (3), indicating a serious HIV/AIDS situation.

The IFFG remains relevant. However, it does not contain any particular orientation for countries like Ukraine which are faced with an important epidemic but are still in a situation where the epidemic is not very visible or acknowledged by the general public.

If Sida's work in Ukraine had to be summarized judging the period up to November 2004, one could say that, it still reaches only a middle score of two (2) on the scale of intensity of mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in development work. However, the increase of the focus on HIV/AIDS has been continuous in the last years

¹⁰ This information is based on e-mail communication by the Sida desk officer for Ukraine Ms M. Peterson on January 5, 2005.

¹¹ In the e-mail communication of January 5, 2005, Ms Peterson confirmed that negotiations are already underway with development partners (DFID, KfW, Swiss, World Bank, EU etc.) on how to support the new government in strengthening its capacity and its coordination role.

and it accelerated in 2004 with the preparation of the new country strategy. According to the most recent information, mainstreaming will be an issue to be discussed in all projects/programmes in the future. This indicates that applying the guiding frame of the IFFG to a specific country situation depends very much on the perception of the epidemic in the country by the main actors of Swedish cooperation. This perception is, of course, related to the knowledge of the dynamic of the epidemic in the country and how this is viewed by technical organisations and activists. The recent instructions by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by Sida's head office have certainly contributed to the increased attention and focus on HIV/AIDS.

5.2 Effectiveness of the implementation of the IFFG

With regard to development cooperation work

HIV/AIDS activities are part of Sida's cooperation with Ukraine. The responsible staff at the embassy are well aware of the challenges. There is widespread consciousness about the potential threat of the epidemic to the country (and the region). HIV/AIDS has been addressed in the country strategy. However, due to other development priorities, HIV/AIDS does not figure prominently in the cooperation. Only two out of 32 projects are directly concerned with this issue and only less than a handful were in one way or the other relevant to the theme of HIV/AIDS. No systematic efforts have been undertaken to 'mainstream' HIV/AIDS in the past. This situation is changing rapidly, however. It is therefore quite likely that (direct) support to HIV/AIDS will increase. Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS will be an issue in all new development projects. The focus will expand from the health and social sector to include human rights perspectives.

With regard to embassy staff

Sida has only one staff member in the country. Other embassy staff, especially the local colleagues have been encouraged to participate in education and information sessions organised by the UN system. No specific 'AIDS-competency' measures were deemed necessary or undertaken for the staff, though.

5.3 Impact of the IFFG on country planning and on projects/programmes

In the country strategy for 2002 to 2004 which, reference is made to the threat of HIV/AIDS and interventions have been undertaken to strengthen the national response with regard to prevention and promotion (often concentrated in a specific oblast). During the last years, Sida in Ukraine and the relevant desks at the head office have increased their understanding of the epidemic threat and strengthened their cooperation with development partners. Sida has also actively participated in the development of the request to the Global Fund.

In the preparation of the new country strategy for the years 2005 to 2007, the actors involved were well aware of the challenges and the dynamic of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country. In most preparative documents which analyse the country situation, HIV/AIDS is clearly stated as one of the key factors for the country also with regard to the poverty situation. Moreover, the mapping exercise reviews in some detail past efforts by the government and by donors, and provides some useful orientation for the future collaboration.

5.4 Constraints and barriers to the implementation of IFFG

It seems that the constraints to go beyond the present conceptualisation of HIV/AIDS for the country strategy are related to three aspects which are in turn partly related to the internal Sida discussion and partly to the national context:

- Although the situation in Ukraine is judged as a "general" epidemic in a "high-prevalence" country by international classification and Swedish documents, HIV/AIDS is still not a top priority for development cooperation as expressed in the country strategy. Despite the acknowledgement of the poten-

tially dramatic impact of AIDS on the country (and the region) in the analysis, HIV/AIDS is only presented as one of many factors which may (potentially) impact on development. Its concrete impact is not analysed and therefore not conceptualised. In this regard, the Ukraine situation is not very different from situations in countries with similar epidemic threats.

- It seems that there have been some discussions between Sida's Department for Europe and the HIV/AIDS secretariat in which the position not to mainstream HIV/AIDS into the entire spectrum of development cooperation in the European countries was confirmed.¹² The countries in the region are not considered development countries on par with the countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Although most of them are facing enormous economic, social and political problems during their so-called transformation period (from a 'socialist' to a 'free-market' oriented economy), the factors (and the potential to come to terms with them) which cause their specific poverty situation are regarded as distinct from those of the 'classical' developing world.¹³
- Mainstreaming is not yet very advanced in the national context. Despite the strategic planning exercise undertaken in the country and the fact that the national plan calls for a broad multisectoral approach in dealing with HIV/AIDS, mainstreaming has not yet happened in any specific sector of the national structure. Neither have other donor agencies yet made use of that concept in their dealings with HIV/AIDS.

5.5 Opportunities exploited, opportunities missed

As mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS has not yet happened on a major scale, opportunities which have presented themselves to Sida to advance the HIV/AIDS concerns have not been exploited. Looking from the outside at some of the topics in the cooperation (e.g. gender and the work with journalists and media) it seems that a more proactive approach on addressing HIV/AIDS concerns could have been promoted.

5.6 Lessons learned, including a comparison with other cross-cutting issues

5.6.1 Facing the challenge of a major but still not very visible and acknowledged epidemic

In Ukraine, Sida faces a challenge which is similar to the one in other countries where HIV/AIDS has not yet reached dramatic proportions. It is a kind of contradictory situation: on the one hand, Ukraine has already an epidemic with more than one per cent of its sexually active population living with HIV/AIDS. By international standards that is an alarming situation. And this situation can easily deteriorate in the coming years if appropriate measures are not taken.

Still, the epidemic is still not very visible and the general public and even most development cooperation actors do not regard HIV/AIDS as a major priority to be addressed. There are still more pressing needs.

This contradiction is evident in the fact that HIV/AIDS concerns have entered the development cooperation and the issues are recognised, but they are not specifically attended to or analysed. The terms which are applied to HIV/AIDS are mostly very general. As long as this situation remains, Sida will have difficulties to convince colleagues and partners in wide sectors of development cooperation to address issues related to HIV/AIDS in their own work.

¹² As an indication of the HIV/AIDS secretariat's position on mainstreaming in that part of the world, a quotation from the report "HIV/AIDS in Russia" elaborated by the head of the HIV/AIDS Secretariat in may be illustrative: "With the current prevalence level in Russia it is hardly relevant to see HIV as a crosscutting issue in all sectors and programmes. However, one ought to initiate discussions regarding what kind of programme that is adequate for integration of HIV/AIDS, and that may be within the social sector. It is also relevant to pursue the discussion on whether HIV/AIDS should be integrated as a separate issue, when it should be part of a SRHR-perspective and when it should be part of a larger public health perspective." (translation from Swedish by the evaluation team).

¹³ See, for example, the discussion of the poverty analysis in Hultén, 2003, p. 1–2.

There is a need to undertake more (generic and specific) studies to analyse the relationship between the epidemic, its social, economic, cultural roots and implications and the specificity of distinct sectors of development cooperation in that part of the world. This can only be done by the HIV/AIDS secretariat in conjunction with the Department for Europe.

5.6.2 The restrictions of human technical capacities

It is relatively easy to state that HIV/AIDS should become a major development priority. But in order to translate that policy into action every organization needs human capacities to do so. The capacity dimension has a quantitative (how many persons are there) and a qualitative (how well equipped are these persons) aspect. In Ukraine Sida only has one staff in the embassy for the entire spectrum of development cooperation, which in 2004 consisted in six sectors with 32 projects. In addition, an experienced Sida staff supports the Sida coordinator from the head office and undertakes missions to the country. This staffing situation imposes enormous restrictions on Sida's direct involvement and participation in major discussions on the ground. The high turn-over of staff in the last year aggravates this situation. Fortunately, the staff involved is well versed and experienced in HIV/AIDS issues (which might not always be the case in other countries and embassies with a similar structure).

5.6.3 Identifying cooperation partners

Sida has channelled a substantial part of its support in HIV/AIDS through the UN system. UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA have been executing agencies for Sida. This seems to be a reasonable approach. The UN system provides technical support and has permanent staff on the ground with the capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate projects and programmes with local partners from the public sector and civil society. Through the mediation of the UN organizations, Sida also interacts with the central government.

At the same time, the UN system, which plays a strong role in overall national coordination, is strengthened and in a better position to cooperate with the government and with other cooperation partners.

5.6.4 Addressing medium- and long-term development perspectives

Ukraine has substantial funds available to address the challenge of HIV/AIDS. As in many countries of the world today, lack of funds is not the major barrier or constraint for a successful national response. Instead, the lack of human resources, organizational limitations, management issues, disruption of coordination and the overall environment of the social, educational and health services of a country (the poverty environment) impact on the fight against HIV/AIDS. It is therefore necessary to pay increased attention to the entire political and social environment in which HIV/AIDS work is supposed to take place. The fight against poverty and the democratization of social structures (including the gender relations, but also development towards a more tolerant and less exclusive society) are essential medium- and long-term conditions on which successful HIV/AIDS programmes will depend.

5.6.5 Gender equity

No systematic comparison with the treatment of other cross-cutting issues has been undertaken during the mission. However it can be noted that the issue of gender equity (GE) figures prominently in the cooperation with Ukraine. It is one of the three leading guidelines (see above). Moreover, in the discussion with the Sida representatives, it was frequently mentioned that GE has been mainstreamed across the entire spectrum of development cooperation and that this is Sida policy since years. The concrete outcome of the mainstreaming has not been assessed by a specific study or evaluation.

Somehow surprisingly, in two major preparation studies on poverty and on HIV/AIDS mapping (see list of documents items no. 3 and 4), the analysis and recommendations are not very gender sensitive or specific.

6. Recommendations

The new country strategy for 2005 to 2007 which will provide the general orientation of the development cooperation in the coming years is nearly finished. That strategy will provide ample opportunities to increase support to HIV/AIDS issues. However, there is need and opportunity to fine-tune the specific elements of the cooperation. This is necessary for the support of the national response to HIV/AIDS. Sida's advantage is that its support can be very flexible and is not constrained by signed agreements which are difficult to change and adjust.

6.1 To continue and to strengthen past interventions and activities, and advance mainstreaming step by step

The mapping report provides a number of recommendations which can guide the future support. Many of them are related to the continuation and strengthening of the past cooperation activities with the UN system or in Kherson oblast. Discussions at that level should continue.

Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS is a complex issue. It is the official policy of the Swedish government and already common practise of Sida in many highly affected countries. In countries which have a mature epidemic but where the visibility and public recognition of the epidemic is still low, the mainstreaming process encounters more difficulties. Time and resources are needed to advance mainstreaming in a meaningful way (and not just by paying lip-service to a policy). Sida should continue and strengthen its approach in Ukraine. As already planned and acted on, new projects should from the very beginning review their connections to HIV/AIDS and address the issue accordingly. By demonstrating meaningful mainstreaming in some sectors, the experiences will hopefully spread to more complex sectors and eventually influence the widest development spectrum possible. Technical assistance in developing the distinct mainstreaming approaches may be obtained from the HIV/AIDS secretariat. It should be emphasized that in order to effectively control the epidemic and keep the prevalence rate at a relatively low level, Ukraine and its partners will need to develop their response further. Mainstreaming in wide sectors of the society is one of the major approaches in this endeavour.

6.2 To be open for new developments and challenges and develop a policy line of support

The increased impact of larger support projects (funded by the World Bank and the GFATM), which have only recently started along with the repercussions of the controversial national election contribute to a very complex overall picture of the national response to the epidemic. This complexity increases the challenge for Sida to situate their contribution in an optimal way. What has been necessary in the past (for example support to the mother to child transmission efforts) or what even a few months ago has been recommended (by the author of the mapping report) (like the support to resistance monitoring for the AIDS centres) may at the beginning of 2005 not longer be a priority for the Swedish support. Sida therefore needs to continue its contacts with the new government, the UN system (especially UNAIDS) and its bilateral and civil society partners in order to make an optimal use of their resources. The comparative advantages of Sida's cooperation as well as the restrictions imposed by the stark limitations of its human resources on the ground will have to be taken into consideration.

Together with the Swedish ambassador, Sida should clarify the future role it wants to play in the Ukraine in HIV/AIDS. Its will certainly not be the role of a major donor. It may be more the role of a 'disinterested' (meaning having no own agenda to advance) supporter of the national response addressing pressing needs and filling gaps left by other donors and agencies. In order to do this, a more or less continuous presence and participation in relevant national/regional discussions is necessary. Still this may be difficult to achieve under the prevailing staffing situation.

6.3 To address the issue of coordination and harmonization

One area which has also been discussed during the mission is potential support to the diverse coordination efforts. The Ukrainian government has asked UNAIDS to provide some technical assistance to review the existing coordination structures at different levels (national, donors, programmes/projects) and to propose a more coherent and effective way of coordination. Sida could join UNAIDS (and other donor agencies that may have a particular interest in that pressing issue) in that effort to work towards the goal of the “Three Ones”.

This issue has two dimensions:

1. the development of a more effective and efficient coordination structure which puts the national authorities “in the driving seat” and
2. the continuous efforts by external agencies and donors to ‘harmonize’ their instruments, procedures and requirements for the benefit of a stronger national response.

For both dimensions, Sida may be in a position to play a very productive role: as a major supporter of the multi-lateral approach via the UN system in general and in Ukraine in particular, Sida may contribute to UN efforts to increase effective coordination beyond the UN system and at the same time support the capacity of the national authorities to assume their prime responsibility for the national development. Moreover, Sida’s international position and reputation to be at the forefront of donor-harmonisation efforts may also lend some credibility to such efforts in the field of HIV/AIDS. Sida may use its connection to the Nordic group as well as with the “like-minded group”¹⁴ of countries (the Nordic countries plus UK, Ireland, and the Netherlands) to build up a strong partner support among the bilateral countries.

6.4 To situate the support to HIV/AIDS in Ukraine in a regional context

Sweden treats the Baltic countries and Russia with special interest due to the geographical proximity. Ukraine is not part of that special attention. However, due to the links between the states and due to the dynamic of the epidemic in which migration plays a major role, Ukraine will play an important role in that part of the world for Sweden, especially if changes in the government will accelerate the process of integrating Ukraine into the ‘European house’ (one of the priority goals for Sweden).

Sida’s ideas on how to support the national response to HIV/AIDS are guided by the general recommendations and policies (like the IFFG, the recent policy instructions by the MFA, etc.) but also by internal discussions in Sida’s Department for Europe. Given the similarity of the epidemic challenge and the connections between the states of the region as well as regional initiatives like the Baltic Sea initiative, it is advisable and necessary that the Department for Europe together with the HIV/AIDS secretariat develop a regional approach to Sida’s support. The Sida coordinators in the region could profit from exchanges among them and share experiences. They may also use their scarce human resources to supplement each other on specific assignments. It may also turn out that Sida (and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with its ambassadors) may want to use some inter-country political channels to promote HIV/AIDS concerns.

¹⁴ Sida and its partners in the “like-minded” group already exchange experiences with regard to HIV/AIDS on a more or less regular basis. In October 2004, Sida invited representatives of these countries for an exchange on mainstreaming approaches. In some countries (see Country Report on Zambia) the group also acts at country level.

Annex 1: Mission Time Table and Persons met

Saturday, 4 December

13.00	Arrival Kiev/Borispol
Check-in	Hotel Lybid r Ploshcha Peremohy (Victory Square)

Sunday, 5 December

Monday, 6 December

10.00–11.00	Meeting at the Delegation of the European Commission in Ukraine Mr Serhij Polyuk, Project Manager, Social Sector
11.30–12.30	Ms Olena Bekh, World Bank
13.00–14.00	Lunch
14.00–15.00	UNDP, Ms Helen Petrozzola, Programme Manager, Ms Irina Grishayeva, Project Manager (HIV/AIDS programmes)
16.00–17.00	Ms Kristina Salomonsson, Sida Representative to Ukraine, Ms Mirja Peterson, Sida Stockholm

Tuesday, 7 December

10.00–11.00	MSF in Ukraine, Mr Zahedu Islam, Head of Mission, Ms. Zhanna Parkhomenko, Ass. Head of Mission
11.30–12.30	Medical Informational and Analytical Centre “Vector” (NGO) Mr Victor Serdyuk, Director
13.00–14.00	Lunch
15.30–16.30	UNICEF, Mrs Tatjana Tarasova, Ass. Programme Officer HIV/AIDS, Ms Olena Sakovych, Ass. Programme Officer, Young People’s Health and Development

Wednesday, 8 December

10.00–11.00	Ministry of Health, Mr Oleg Zalata, Head of HIV/AIDS Unit, Ms. Olga Sidorova, Deputy Head, International Department
11.30–12.30	Nash Mir (Our World) Gay and Lesbian Centre (NGO) Mr Andriy Maymulakhin, Coordinator, Mr. Vladyslav Topchev, Project Coordinator

13.00–14.00	Lunch
14.00–15.00	ICF “International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Ukraine”, Mr. Mikhail Minakov, Programme Director
17.00–18.00	AIDS East-West Foundation, Ms. Anja Teltschik, Regional Director

Thursday, 9 December

09.00–10.00	UNFPA, Dr Boris Vornyk, Ass. Representative
10.30–11.30	Sida’s Project “Children at risk: Children with disabilities and Drug and alcohol problems of teenagers” Mr. Viktor Burlaka, Senior Consultant (at the Embassy of Sweden)
13.00–14.00	Lunch
14.00–15.00	UNAIDS, Mr Arkadiusz Majszek, Head of the Office

Friday, 10 December

10.00–11.00	Mr John-Christer Ahlander, Ambassador, Ms Kristina Salomonsson Meeting at the Swedish Embassy
11.00–12.00	Ms. Mirja Peterson and Ms. Kristina Salomonsson Forum Syd, Mr. Bengt Olof Johansson
16.00–17.00	International Organisation of Migration, Mr Fredric Larsson, Deputy Head of Mission, Dr Els Duysburgh, Public Health Specialist

Saturday, 11 December

Check-out Hotel Lybid
Departure to Boryspil

Annex 2: Documents consulted

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Country Strategy for development cooperation, Ukraine, January 1, 2002 – December 31, 2004, October 2002.
2. Sida Swedish Embassy Kiev, Ukraina: Resultatanalys 2002–2004 (Ukraina: Result analysis 2002–2004), February 2004.
3. Sida Swedish Embassy Kiev, Bilateral och multilaterala givare i Ukraina (Bilateral and multilateral donors in Ukraine), May 2004.
4. Sida Kyiv, Country Facts Ukraine, June 2002.
5. Sida, Landstrategi för utvecklingssamarbetet med Ukraina 2005–2008 (Draft country strategy Ukraine 2005–2008), August 2004.
6. Lagus, Maria, Jämställdhet i Ukraina ett strategiunderlag (Gender equality in Ukraine. A basis for strategy), April 2004.
7. Wagberg, Erik and J.O. Morfeldt, Mapping HIV/AIDS in Ukraine and Belarus, Mission Report, Final Draft, August 2004.
8. Hultén, Peter, Strategies for Poverty Alleviation in the Ukrainian Society, Implications for Sida's Development cooperation Strategy for the Ukraine, 2003, 5th draft.
9. Lagus, Maria, Jämställdhet i Ryssland ett strategiunderlag (Gender equality in Russia. A basis for strategy), April 2004.
10. Molin, Anders, Hiv/aids i Ryssland, May 2004.
11. UNDP, Ukraine, Gender and HIV/AIDS: A new approach to prevention and policy, 2004.
12. UNFPA/Sida, Situation Analysis in Sexual and Reproductive Health of Youth, Kiev 2003.
13. Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO, Review of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV Prevention System in Ukraine 2001–2003, Kyiv 2004.
14. Ministry of Health, National Program to ensure HIV prevention, care and treatment for HIV-infected and AIDS patients for 2004–2008, Kyiv 2004.
15. Government of Ukraine, Strategy Concept of the Government action aimed at preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS up to the year 2011.
16. HIV/AIDS Alliance/The Global Fund, Overcoming HIV/AIDS Epidemics in Ukraine, Programme Update, December 2004.
17. AIDS Foundation East-West, Annual Report 2003.
18. Médecins Sans Frontiers, Annual Report 2003.
19. Connect plus e.V., HIV/AIDS in der Ukraine, Aktueller Bericht, Oktober 2004.

Annex 3: List of Sida supported projects

October 2004

Sida-funded projects in Ukraine

On-going projects

Common security

Migration and asylum

Söderköping process

No/Date of approval: 2003-06-26 (395/03)
Country/ies: Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus
Project period: 10 months, start June 2003
Swedish counterpart: The Swedish Migration Board

Local counterparts:

Estimated contribution: SEK 1,051,836

Project brief: Sweden has during a long period co-operated within asylum and migration with the Baltic States. Some years ago a similar co-operation with Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova started. In 2001 the Swedish Migration Board invited four countries – Lithuania, Poland, Belarus and Ukraine to Söderköping to discuss asylum and migration issues. The meeting resulted in the so called Söderköping process, in which today ten countries participate to discuss and elaborate asylum and migration policies. This project aims to continue the process with one seminar in Söderköping and to cluster meetings for two different groups.

Migration support: Ukraine

No/Date of approval: 2003-07-0 (435/03)
Project period: 1 year, start July 2003
Swedish counterpart: The Swedish Migration Board
Local counterparts: State Committee for Nationalities and Migration
Estimated contribution: SEK 1,177,031

Project brief: The project comprises workshops in identity classification and asylum process as well as a visit to Sweden to study reception centres.

Non-proliferation and control of nuclear materials

Support on nuclear non-proliferation, 2004–2007

No/Date of approval: 2004-06 (304/04)
Project period: 36 + 6 months, start June 2004
Swedish counterpart: Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate/ski

Local counterparts: SNRCU, Energoatom and others

Estimated contribution: SEK 9 130 000

Project brief: The Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate (SKI) has conducted co-operation projects with Ukraine since 1992. This project will run for three years and cover former cooperation areas such as illicit trafficking and nuclear accountancy. Furthermore, an initiative to assess overall needs and establish a strategic plan for the non-proliferation area is included.

Technical assistance and support regarding software for nuclear control

No/Date of approval: 2003-08 (521/03)

Project period: 18 months, start September 2003

Swedish counterpart: The Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate/SKI

Local counterparts: State nuclear Regulatory Committee of Ukraine

Estimated contribution: SEK 562,700

Project brief: During 2002 and 2003, Swedish software has been delivered to four nuclear power plants and to the responsible authority, State nuclear Regulatory Committee of Ukraine, with the aim to improve the system for reporting and accounting for civil nuclear activities. Technical assistance and support during one year is included in the delivery. This period has to be extended in order for Ukraine to maintain the quality of reports and to fulfil the non proliferation treaty requirements.

Information campaign and training on export control

No/Date of approval: 2003-08 (520/03)

Project period: 18 months, start October 2003

Swedish counterpart: Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate/SKI

Local counterparts: Scientific Centre on Export and Import of Special Technologies (STC)

Estimated contribution: SEK 939,000

Project brief: Project activities include an information campaign (newsletter, website) for exporting companies and workshops for management in relevant companies.

Cooperation in the field of the radiation protection with the Baltic States and a preparatory study regarding cooperation with Russia, Ukraine and Belarus (regional)

No/Date of approval: 2003-03-27 (204/03)

Countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus

Project period: 21 months, start March 2003

Swedish counterpart: The Swedish Radiation Protection Agency (SSI)

Estimated contribution: SEK 4,723,000

Project brief: The Swedish Radiation Protection Agency has co-operated with the Baltic States during several years. Sida financed this cooperation since 2000. The aim of the new projects is to continue activities in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as well as to prepare possible cooperation with Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Democratic development

Gender

Promotion of cooperation between women and men on gender politics, programme “Olga and Oleg”, 2004–2006

No/Date of approval:	2003-12-01 (685/03)
Project period:	36 months, start January 2004
Implementing agency:	Springboard Development Consultants
Local counterparts:	Women in Media
Sida contribution:	SEK 6,200,000

Project brief: The project is the third (final) phase of the “Olga” programme. The aim of the project is to establish knowledge on gender among local and regional politicians, to get the local political action plans on gender implemented, to improve cooperation between women and men for a gender balanced society, to increase the number of women in politics.

Promotion of men’s gender awareness for future good cooperation with women, programme “Oleg”, phase 2, 2004–2006

No/Date of approval:	2003-12-01 (686/03)
Project period:	36 months, start January 2004
Implementing agency:	Springboard Development Consultants
Local counterparts:	Men Against Violence in Vinnitsa and Women in Media
Sida contribution:	SEK 4,100,000

Project brief: The long-term objectives of this project are: 1) to change stereotyped gender roles, which prevent men from being social fathers, live a healthy longer life and from a good private and professional cooperation with women; 2) to support men in crisis; 3) to change the stereotyped gender roles of men and women.

Supporting equitable access to opportunities

No/Date of approval:	2003-02-13 (116/03)
Project period:	3 years, start April 2003
Implementing agency:	UNDP
Sida contribution:	SEK 4,000,000

Project brief: The project supports the UNDP gender programme for the period 2002–2005. The Swedish support will cover following components: 1) support to make national policies gender sensitive; 2) support access to justice; 3) support gender education and media.

Human rights

Combating Trafficking in Ukraine 2003 – 2005

No/Date of approval:	2003-03-17 (177/03)
Project period:	3 years, start April 2003
Implementing agency:	10M Mission in Ukraine

Local counterparts: several Ukrainian ministries and authorities, NGOs

Sida contribution: SEK 9,000,000

Project brief: The project is designed with the aim of preventing and discouraging trafficking in women and children and strengthening the capability of relevant authorities and civil society in Ukraine to more effectively combat this phenomenon. Three integrated and interrelated aspects will be addressed: protection and reintegration assistance through support to victims of trafficking who are returning/ have returned to Ukraine; prosecution and criminalization by supporting law enforcement and judiciary structures to more effectively act against crimes of trafficking in women; and prevention through dissemination of information to further increase public awareness and change attitudes.

Media

Cooperation with Ukrainian schools of journalism

No/Date of approval: 2002-10-16 (628/02)

Project period: October 2002 – July 2005

Implementing agency: FOJO (Swedish Institute for further education of journalists)

Local counterparts: Ukrainian School of Journalism in Kyiv

Sida contribution: SEK 2,750,000

Project brief: Training for 36 teachers from universities in Kyiv, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk and Uzhgorod. Topics for training will be: methodology; role of the journalist and the function of press, radio and TV; development of good practices; project management; specific teaching matters, i.e. gender and journalistic ethics; challenges for the future, development of new media technology.

Media Viability Fund (regional Ukraine, Russia)

No/Date of approval: 2001-12-07 (696/01)

Project period: 5-7 years, start December 2001

Implementing agency: Media Development Loan Fund; Eurasia Foundation

Sida contribution: SEK 5,000,000

Project brief: Media Viability Fund supports independent media in Russia and Ukraine through low-interest loans and training. The overall objective of the programme is to assist in creating conditions for the development of independent, objective and analytical journalism in Russia and Ukraine and thereby strengthen the development of democracy in the region.

Media Development Loan Fund: Ukrainian Independent Media Project

No/Date of approval: 2003-08-18 (436/03)

Project period: 3 years

Implementing agency: Media Development Loan Fund (MDLF)

Sida contribution: SEK 2,500,000

Project brief: The project aims to support the establishment of independent media channels in Ukraine. Two subprojects: 1) to support the financial and editorial independence of a newspaper through a credit; 2) technical assistance to MDLF's Ukrainian clients.

Monitoring of elections

Support to OSCE's monitoring of the presidential elections in Ukraine

No/Date of approval: 2003-11-07 (633/03)

Project period: 12 months, start November 2003

Implementing organisation: OSCE

Sida contribution: SEK 1,000,000

Project brief: The Swedish contribution will be coordinated by OSCE's office in Kiev. It will be earmarked for training of election officials (supervisors).

Swedish support to the Exit Poll Project

No/Date of approval: 2004-09-02 (400/04)

Project period: 7 months, start September 2004

Implementing organisation: Democratic Initiatives Foundation

Sida contribution: SEK 115,000

Project brief: The Swedish contribution is linked to the project which is implemented by a consortium of four agencies experienced in polling: Democratic Initiatives Foundation, socis, Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, Social Monitoring and the Razumkov Center. The project has three components:

1) pre-election rolling poll, 2) exit poll, 3) public opinion information and dissemination. In addition to Sweden the project receives support from nine other donors: The Renaissance Foundation, the United States, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, the Eurasia Foundation and The National Endowment for Democracy.

Economic transformation

Agriculture and rural development

Implementation of New Methods in Ukrainian Agriculture, Phase 2

No/Date of approval: 2002-12-05 (738/02)

Project period: 3 years, start November 2002

Implementing agency: ScanAgri

Local counterparts: Cherson Oblast State Administration, Zmiyivka local council

Sida contribution: SEK 8,108,000

Project brief: The main objectives of this second phase are the following: 1) to establish a comprehensive and effective locally based pilot agricultural advisory service, including professional on-farm advisory service, field trials and demonstration fields, which has the medium-term potential of becoming sustainable and replicable; 2) to improve private farmers' production, management and marketing skills, as well as their access to financial services, resulting in increased quantity and quality of agricultural produce that raise farmers' income; 3) to enhance co-operation among private farmers for interest representation and the realisation of economies of scale and scope in production, input supply and produce marketing.

IFC: Vegetable Supply Chain Project in Mykolajiv

No/Date of approval:	2004-06-21 (305/04)
Project period:	July 2004 – July 2007 (36 months)
Implementing agency:	International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Sida contribution:	SEK 13,090,000

Project brief: The project aims to support the development of the agricultural sector in Southern Ukraine. IFC will work with vegetable supply chain development among selected processors, wholesale and retail outlets. The project includes training in farm management, product quality, modern sales and marketing techniques. The participant farms will also learn how to develop cooperative marketing and other contractual arrangements.

Vinnitsa Dairy Supply Chain Development Project

No/Date of approval:	2004-06-23 (EUR 317/04)
Project period:	3 years, start July 2004
Implementing agency:	International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Sida contribution:	SEK 10,683,000

Project brief: This project sets out to support milk producing farmers in the Vinnitsa region. The project will develop local milk producer's capacity to deliver larger quantities of quality milk, improve their access to finance and enable investments in modern production technology.

Private sector development

Scholarship programme: "Master of Science in Land Management" (regional)

No/Date of approval:	2002-10-01 (604/02)
Countries:	Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizstan, Tadzhikistan
Project period:	Three years, 2003-2006
Implementing agency:	Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm
Sida contribution:	SEK 28,680,000

Project brief: The programme (a new round) will span a three study-year period and is planned and carried out by KTH. 32 students per year from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizstan and Tadzhikistan will be selected by KTH. The studies will concentrate on urban land management; law, economics and investment theory; real estate planning and development; land information systems (National Land Survey is responsible for this course) and real estate valuation.

StartEast Programme (regional)

The StartEast programme was launched in March 1994. It supports Swedish small-scale companies' investments in local companies in Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. StartEast offers financial support to small-scale Swedish companies in the starting-up phase of a joint project with a local company. The loans are risk-capital and co-financing of training activities and equipment. The objective is to set productive and profitable activities in motion as quickly as

possible by transferring know-how from the Swedish companies to develop skills in the partner companies. The programme shall also stimulate the establishment of small-scale Swedish companies in the host countries.

Co-operation Chambers of Commerce

No/Date of approval: 2003-03-06 (98/03)
Project period: 3 years, start May 2003
Implementing agency: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Southern Sweden, Chamber of Commerce Mälardalen, Stockholm Chamber of Commerce
Local counterparts: Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Sida contribution: SEK 4,000,000

Project brief: The project will include the following components: training programme for staff elected officers and member companies; strengthening and development of services, including member recruitment; strengthening and widening of business relations.

New Managers for Ukraine

No/Date of approval: 2003-04-28 (273/03)
Project period: 20 months, start May 2003
Implementing agency: Föreningen Norden
Sida contribution: SEK 2,200,000

Project brief: The project is aimed at training of Ukrainian managers and the creation of a platform for contacts between companies in Ukraine and Sweden. This is the Swedish response to the so called Ukrainian initiative.

Svensk handel: Sub-supplier project with Ukraine

No/Date of approval: 2003-12-03 (500/03)
Project period: January 2004 – December 2004
Implementing agency: Swedish Federation of Trade, Lamtrac AB
Sida contribution: SEK 690,000

Project brief: The purposes of the project are: 1) to develop export competence of Ukrainian small and medium enterprises; 2) to identify Ukrainian sub-suppliers for Swedish companies (engineering and building materials industry).

Institution building

Support to improvement of public procurement system in Kherson

No/Date of approval: 2003-12-19 (749/03)
Project period: 12 months, start January 2004
Implementing agency: SIPU International AB
Local counterparts: Ministry of Economy and European Integration of Ukraine

Sida contribution: SEK 6,833,000

Project brief: The public procurement reform project in Ukraine from 1997 has as its last phase to support reform work at the regional level. The specific objectives of the project are i.a. to support planning and implementation of reforms of the public procurement systems in Kherson region, to conduct trainings, and thereby create a model for further regional work.

Ukrainian Forestry Sector Master Plan, phase 2

No/Date of approval: 2001-04-02 (184/01)

Project period: April 2001 – October 2004

Implementing agency: Scandiaconsult Natura/National Swedish Forestry Board

Local counterparts: State Committee of Forestry in Ukraine

Sida contribution: SEK 6,130,000

Project brief: The project aims to assist the Ukrainian State Forestry Committee in its effort to develop a Forestry Sector Master Plan. The expected results include a draft National Forestry Policy and proposals on amendments in the forest legislation.

Assistance to the Ukrainian WTO negotiating group

No/Date of approval: 2003-10-24 (615/03)

Project period: 14 months, start November 2003

Implementing agency: Swedish expert Lars Anell

Local counterparts: Ministry of Economy and European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sida contribution: SEK 243,000

Project brief: The project sets out to assist the Ukrainian delegation in their negotiations for WTO accession. The task of the Swedish expert is to assist the Ukrainian delegation – upon their request – to identify critical issues.

Oversight Panel – Swedish Expert Assistance (State Tax Administration Modernisation Project)

No/Date of approval: 2003-11-14 (617/03)

Project period: 18 months, start January 2004

Implementing agency: Swedish expert Mats Henriksson

Local counterparts: State Tax Administration, World Bank

Sida contribution: SEK 300,000

Project brief: The contribution is linked to the World Bank's and State Tax Administration's Modernisation Project. Sweden will finance participation of a Swedish expert in the oversight panel, which has the task to conduct periodic reviews of the State Tax Administration's accomplishments in becoming a professional, transparent, equitable, efficient and accountable public institution.

Social protection

Health care

UN HIV prevention programme

No/Date of approval:	2002-06-03 (410/02)
Project period:	2 years, start August 2002
Implementing agency:	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA in Ukraine
Sida contribution:	SEK 4,000,000

Project brief: The UN HIV prevention programme consists of three main components: 1) targeted education and condom promotion for HIV/AIDS prevention in vulnerable groups in Kherson oblast; 2) promoting human rights of vulnerable population by increasing HIV prevention services in Ukraine; 3) prevention of mother to child transmission. The programme will be implemented in Kherson oblast.

HIV Mass Media Campaigns

No/Date of approval:	2002-09-04 (565/02)
Project period:	2 years, start October 2002
Implementing agency:	AIDS Foundation East West
Sida contribution:	SEK 3,000,000

Project brief: The project aims to develop, implement and evaluate three countrywide HIV/AIDS/STI related mass media campaigns in Ukraine and will include training and support to the Ukrainian counterparts, both government and NGO, in organising, implementing and evaluating a HIV/AIDS/STI mass media campaign. On a regional level the project will support governmental and/or NGOs in at least 4 cities in the development, implementation and evaluation of regional HIV/AIDS/STI related campaigns which will take place under the umbrella of the country wide campaigns.

Social services

Children at risk: Children with disabilities and Drug and alcohol problems of teenagers

No/Date of approval:	2002-04-15 (304/02)
Project period:	3 years, start May 2002
Implementing agency:	Lunconsult AB
Local counterparts:	Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs, Education, Health and Internal Affairs
Sida contribution:	SEK 10,000,000

Project brief: The project aims to introduce and develop new methods on how to work with disabled children and young people with alcohol and drug problems. Activities include study trips to Sweden, analysis of existing systems and methods, and practical work in expert teams in Sweden and Ukraine.

Crimean Integration and Development Programme: Local Governance and Social development

No/Date of approval:	2003-01-22 (54/03)
Project period:	2 years, start March 2003
Implementing agency:	UNDP/Crimean Integration and Development Programme (CIDP)

Sida contribution: SEK 5,000,000

Project brief: The project will mainly focus on the following: 1) support to community self-help initiatives in social development, in particular in education, health and culture; 2) support to sub-regional, regional and republic level initiatives that promotes integration among the different ethnic groups and that link FDP community with other communities; 3) encourage the establishment and strengthen the capacity of regional and Crimea-wide network of community organisations, village councils, regional state administrations and regional councils, schools, health facilities and cultural institutions to improve delivery of social services and response to social development needs.

Design of the Ukrainian Social Investment Fund's system of social care service micro projects

No/Date of approval: 2003-12-12 (723/03)

Project period: 3 years, start November 2003

Implementing agency: Zenit International

Local counterparts: Ukrainian Social Investment Fund (USIF)

Sida contribution: SEK 9,030,000

Project brief: The larger USIF initiative is financed by a World Bank loan, as well as funds from local and international donors. The aim of the Swedish contribution is to assist USIF in the identification, design, appraisal, implementation and monitoring of innovative social care service models, which could be initiated by local entities involved in social care services provision.

Environment

Water sector

Water and wastewater treatment in Lviv

No/Date of approval: 2002-

Project period: years, start 2002

Swedish counterpart: to be procured

Local counterparts: Lviv vodokanal, Lviv city

Sida contribution: SEK 48,000,000

Project brief: Lviv is one of the prioritised hot spots identified in the Environmental Joint Comprehensive Programme for the Baltic Sea. A project with the objective to improve accessibility and quality of water supply and wastewater services in Lviv has been prepared under supervision of the World Bank. The project will consist of three components: water supply, wastewater treatment and institutional support. The contribution from Sida will finance wastewater investments (services and supply contracts) and is subject to successful Ukrainian loan negotiations with the World Bank.

Energy

Energy efficiency in Kyiv

No/Date of approval: 2000-11-30 (No. 1998-004152)

Project period: 3 years, start November 2000

Swedish counterpart: Hifab International, SWECO

Local counterparts: Kyiv District Heating Company

Sida contribution: SEK 12,752,135

Project brief: Sida participates, together with the World Bank, in a project for improvement of energy use and supply in Kyiv. The Sida support concentrates on improved energy efficiency in public buildings. The investment project will target 1100 schools, day-care centres, hospitals and other public buildings. The total project cost is estimated to 25 MUSD.

Electricity Market Reform – project preparation

No/Date of approval: 2002-11-05 (No. 641/02)

Project period: 8 months

Swedish counterpart: Econ

Local counterparts: National Energy Regulatory Commission (NERC)

Sida contribution: SEK 346,100

Project brief: The electricity sector reform in Ukraine is an important element in transforming the energy sector in the direction of market economy and environmental sustainability. Co-operation in this area would draw on the specific experience gained in Sweden as a result of its reform. The first step for a possible cooperation will be carried out in the form of an identification workshop in Sweden.

Environment

Environmental Management Systems

No/Date of approval: 2001-10-10 (No. 530/01)

Project period: 18 months, start September 2001

Implementing agency: The Baltic University Secretariat in Uppsala

Local counterparts: Baltic University Network, universities in Lithuania, Belarus and Poland

Sida contribution: SEK 3,049,200

Project brief: The Baltic University Programme – with a network of 160 universities around the Baltic Sea – is developing (start September 2001) university courses in Environmental Management Systems. Teachers' training is also included in the project. The universities in the network will be able to offer the courses at their universities using material compiled in the project. It is estimated that 2000 students will participate in the courses until 2006.

DemoEast: demonstration programmes of equipment for the environment and energy sectors (regional: Ukraine, Russia)

Project brief: The programmes are funded from the so called Baltic Billion Fund 2. The overall aim of this fund is to stimulate the development of industry and trade in the Baltic Sea region. The specific aim of the DemoEast programmes is to make it possible for purchasers in Ukraine and Russia (North-West Russia and the Moscow region) to test and gain experience of Swedish equipment in the environment and energy sectors.

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