

BULLETIN

Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP)

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

funded by
Sida

THE MUSPP “LEARNING BY DOING” METHOD IN THE “IN-HOUSE” APPROACH OF DRAFTING PLANNING POLICY DOCUMENTS AND PROJECTS

Since 2006, various Kosovo Municipalities have been supported in the field of spatial and urban planning by the Municipal Spatial Planning Programmes (MuSPP), funded by Sida and implemented by UN-HABITAT. In its first phase from 2006-2008 the Programme’s focus was on-the-job-assistance and guidance to municipal planning bodies in the local government, civil society in drafting Municipal and Urban Development Plans. The second phase of the Programme shifted from this advice to the direct support to the municipalities in drafting municipal/urban plans and urban design projects to full engagement of municipal and MuSPP staff.

MuSPP teams composed of municipal staff and UN-HABITAT local and international staff are located in five larger municipalities (Ferizaj/Urosevac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovica, Peja/Pec, Prizren) and three newly established small municipalities that were created following the decentralization process (Junik, Hani i Elezite/General Jankovic, Mamusha/Mamusa). The lack of staff and budgeting in small municipalities requires increased effort and engagement; therefore MuSPP Programme with its staff is engaged on a full time basis where the “in house” method of drafting municipal plans is being applied. The “in house” method engages the MuSPP and municipal staff in working together on a daily basis applying the method of “learning by doing” in the planning process of drafting Municipal, Urban, Regulatory plans and project design of Capital Investment Projects. This method serves as a tool to build capacities, raises ownership and is cost efficient. It involves many parties including local organizations which ensure efficient and reliable data collection; and the Institute for Spatial Planning within the Ministry of Spatial Planning, which was involved in the scenario building workshops as well as the thematic workshops developed through the drafting process. In some of the municipalities a Geographical Information System was established and the municipal staff were enabled to prepare maps for their municipality’s plans. Public participation, inclusiveness of different stakeholders in the planning process and transparency are crucial principles of good governance applied in the process of drafting the plans and project designs in MuSPP municipalities. Moreover, this working method contributes to strengthening cooperation between the municipalities and civil society community and representatives, central government, public and private businesses as well. Additionally, positive effects of the inclusive and participatory way of working have been noticed in the empowerment of the civil society through establishment of associations and women NGO’s in municipalities.

Another programme attribute is understanding the strategic spatial planning approach by applying it in practice, which leads to strengthening organisational and project management skills of the project staff involved. Developing the sense

of ownership and willingness to learn more from these processes of “learning by doing” are the added value to the process.

With all this in mind, by developing “in-house” planning policies and project designs, MuSP Programmes show alternative solutions for drafting MDP/UDP and URP and project design



Hani i Elezit/
Gen Jankovic



Mamusha/Mamusa



Junik

solutions in comparison to outsourcing it to private companies as is the usual practice applied in Kosovo. The “in-house” approach implies less cost for the municipality than outsourcing, makes optimal use of professional expertise of the staff involved in the planning process and increases prospects for implementation. Consequently, strong commitment of both municipalities and donors to this way of working is strongly required therefore an assessment of human resource capacities of partners involved is of crucial importance.

Lumnije Gashi,
UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP Officer

Tour de Culture



for more page 11

Editorial



Dear Readers

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the new edition of the MuSPP Bulletin. Information about the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme has been available on the www.unhabitat-kosovo.org web page from the beginning of the Programme. With this issue, we decided to resume the publication of a print-out version of the Bulletin to ensure that it reaches also those, who have no regular access to internet or do not usually look for information on the website. This Bulletin provides a summary of important developments in the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme and its executing agency, UN-HABITAT, over the last few months. It presents the transition

of MuSPP from an advisory assistance programme to the one more strongly focussed on the direct support to smaller municipalities in drafting their own plans and presents scenarios for meeting the urban challenge in the 21st century.

This experience will be further shared in future publications.

You will find here a detailed report on a study tour to Sweden paid by the Mayors of MuSPP partner municipalities last May. The purpose of it was to familiarise the participants with the Swedish local government system, its organization and function, roles and responsibilities and with particular emphasis on strategic development issues.

One of the key developments in UN-HABITAT was the election of Joan Clos as the new Executive Director of this organization by the UN General Assembly last August. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Clos said he was honoured to have been elected to this position and committed himself to build on the achievements of his predecessor, Anna Tibajuka. October was the month for celebrating World Habitat Day. This year the global observance was held at the Shanghai World Expo 2010. The motto of the WHD 2010 is Better City Better Life and links to the World Urban Campaign. We covered also the events organized in Kosovo to mark the World Habitat Day. The Bulletin carries the coverage of the Tour of Culture organised in Kosovo for the third time. The event gathered a record 300 participants and combined recreational biking with visiting interesting cultural and nature sites along its route. The Bulletin

reports on presentations of MuSPP work on international platform, including Real Corp conference in Vienna. It also brings a report from a Review Meeting of the signatories of the Vienna Declaration for Informal Settlements, which served as an opportunity to present MuSPP support to one of its partner municipalities in drafting a regulatory plan for an informal settlement.

The issue of Informal Settlements was a special topic of discussion at the 5th World Urban Forum held in Rio de Janeiro earlier this year, which is also covered in this Bulletin. A special feature article discusses disaster risk assessment management and how the issue is addressed by MuSPP.

The Bulletin reports also on the progress of capital projects co-funded by MuSPP and partner municipalities. A full presentation of the Capital Projects will be done separately. The Bulletin closes with letters from MuSPP interns who came to Kosovo from Australia, Ireland and U.K. to join the Programme team and gain practical experience in planning.

We hope that this issue of MuSPP Bulletin will give you a better knowledge of the MuSPP's work and encourage you to follow the Programme's activities in Kosovo.

Krystyna Galezia,

CTA/ Head of UN-HABITAT Kosovo Office



**FOR MORE:
WWW.UNHABITAT-KOSOVO.ORG**

SWEDEN HOSTS MUSPP'S MUNICIPAL MAYORS STUDY TOUR IN SWEDEN

A delegation of 16 participants representing mayors of Kosovo municipalities, MESP, MLG, the AKM and the MuSPP2/UN-HABITAT attended a study tour to Sweden from 25 to 28 of May 2010. The participants were afforded

their activities. The average, overall local tax rate is 30% out of which 20% goes to the municipalities and 10% to the county councils and regions. Approximately two-thirds of the total income of Sweden's municipalities, county councils

the impact it makes on the global environment. Representatives from the city planning office highlighted two ambitious development projects among 18 within Stockholm's Climate Positive Development Programme. Firstly, The Royal Seaport project faces the challenges of transforming a current harbor and run-down industrial area into one of Europe's most attractive living environments that includes residential area, office spaces and a modern port. New methods and technology will contribute to a substantially lower carbon footprint. By 2030, the district will be free of fossil fuels and climate positive. Secondly, the 'Sustainable Järva' programme involves Stockholm's vision to transform a large devoid post-war suburb (monotonous architecture, poor maintenance, low energy efficiency and a segregated social structure) into an attractive district with energy-efficient housing and varied urban environment. New urban environmental and housing conditions will be developed for a sustainable Järva including a more than 50% cut in energy consumption, greater use of renewable energy sources, development of sustainable transport, educating residents about energy saving and evaluation of the necessary means and measures. The participants found the study tour very valuable and they expressed their appreciation for the hospitality and the willingness of the hosts to share their experience and knowledge. They have stressed that despite the lack of resources and trained expertise many of the "best practices" which were observed should be considered and applied at the level appropriate in Kosovo. This could be achieved with the support of Sida's programmes and other partnerships. In regards to Kosovo, Sida's overall goal is to facilitate EU integration and contribute to country stability and economic growth. Based on Kosovo's own priority objectives, the following sectors will be addressed: Environment and Climate, Education and Democratic Governance and Human Rights.



an opportunity to expand their knowledge within fields of spatial planning and environmental management and their interrelation to sustainable development and how institutional arrangements between different spheres of government and other entities operate within Sweden. The programme consisted of a number of briefings and site visits to cities of Stockholm, Gavle, Falun and Borlange. The delegation was hosted by officials from (SKL/SALAR), Sida, city mayors and representatives of different municipal departments. The presentations were very well prepared and a lot of informative reading material was distributed. The main purpose of this professional visit was to become familiar with the Swedish local government system and its function (municipal organization, roles and responsibilities, financing and budgeting as well as local democracy matters and citizen participation). Sweden has three levels of government - national, regional and local which are elected in general elections that are held on the same day every four years. Local government has a long tradition in Sweden. The country's municipalities, county councils and regions are responsible for providing a significant part of all public services. They have a considerable degree of autonomy and have independent powers of taxation which allow municipalities, county councils and regions to levy taxes in order to finance

and regions, comes from tax revenues. Sweden's 290 municipalities are also major employers, responsible for a large share of public services in the fields of care (childcare and preschools, elderly care), social services, education (primary and secondary education) and infrastructure (planning and building issues, the National Road Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency are the state departments relevant for spatial planning issues that are responsible for formulating policy objectives, steering documents and guidelines and monitoring and evaluating implementation of government policies. A particular interest is paid to increased civic participation in planning processes at all levels, and different methods and tools have been developed to facilitate this, such as citizen panels with ICT, dialogue with young people, participatory budgeting, new services, dialogue in governance, municipal quality reports, etc.

The visit also aimed at getting an insight into environmental planning and management issues. Stocn Capital award is a new annual competition established by the European Commission where the winner city, which has a consistent record of achieving high environmental standards, is committed to ongoing and ambitious goals for further environmental improvement and sustainable development, aiming to improve the quality of life of its citizens and reduce

WORLD HABITAT DAY '10

WORLD HABITAT DAY CELEBRATION: WORLDWIDE

The global observance of World Habitat Day this year was held at the Shanghai World Expo 2010. Hosted by China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Urban and Rural Construction and Transport, the celebration of World Habitat Day was a major concluding highlight of the Expo at which the United Nations had its own pavilion. The Shanghai World Expo presented an excellent venue for the global observance because its theme, Better City, Better Life made it the first global exposition dedicated to the potential and the problems of urban living in the 21st century. The Expo showed exciting new ideas to make our cities much better places for the next generation, when a projected 70 percent of humanity will be living in towns and cities. The United Nations Pavilion depicted the theme, One Earth, One UN. Coordinated by UN-HABITAT as the lead UN agency on urban matters, it showcased the best of the United Nations in making our urban environments better and smarter when

it comes to reducing poverty, crime, fuel consumption, pollution, waste, and so many of the ills that afflict our daily lives, especially in the developing world. The exhibition has displayed our knowledge, many best practices, and our unity of purpose in bringing the new World Urban Campaign for better, more sustainable cities to a wide global audience. The Better Cities, Better Life theme highlighted our vision of a sustainable urban world that harnesses potentials and possibilities, mitigates inequalities and disparities, and provides a home for people of all cultures and ages, both rich and poor. The global observance of World Habitat Day was closely linked to a special meeting on the Livable City in a Harmonious Society hosted by the city of Hangzhou and co-sponsored by the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China and UN-HABITAT. It is one of six major such discussions on key urban topics including sustainability, urban development, the environment, economy, cultural heritage, science and

innovation. The meetings culminated in a Summit Forum at the close of the Expo on Urban Innovation and Sustainable Development attended by world leaders, city mayors, and other global urban movers and shakers.

Typically living in developing countries, and largely powerless, disenfranchised and under the age of 25, the urban poor are too often condemned to a life without basic rights, hope of an education or decent work.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, 2009

"Today half of humanity lives in towns and cities, and the trends show that this figure will increase to two-thirds within the next two generations. This is why the theme chosen for World Habitat Day, Better city, better life is so important to all of us"

Inga Björk-Klevby, Officer-in-Charge of UN-HABITAT

source: www.unhabitat.org

WHD celebration in Kosovo: Pupils present their views on Better City, Better Life



As in many cities around the world, World Habitat Day was also celebrated in Kosovo's historic city of Prizren. On this occasion UN-HABITAT was joined in organizing the event by the Prizren Municipality and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The award granting ceremony took place in the Municipal Hall of Prizren Municipality. Present to mark the day were representatives from the local authority, UN-HABITAT's Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme and OSCE, as well as the pupils who had taken part in the essay-writing competition, the media, and representatives of other international organizations. The event

began with courtesy speeches by the organizers, who highlighted issues and problems concerning the life in urban areas in the 21st century. The focus was also on the need to develop smarter, innovative and inclusive approaches to address challenges of urbanization. All pupils were awarded a certificate for participation in the competition and had an opportunity to read their essays to the audience gathered in the Prizren's Town Hall. This led to an interactive debate, and pupils were able to put questions directly to municipal authorities in relation to the municipal vision concerns, plans and obstacles to local projects, and different urban

issues. The essays covered a range of global issues such as: global warming, greenhouse effect, lack of public urban transport, social housing, protection of cultural heritage, alternative energy sources, economic development and many other contemporary issues of concern worldwide. World Habitat Day is celebrated worldwide since 1986. It is an annual event which is held on the first Monday of October with a new leading theme launched by UN-HABITAT each year which addresses key urban challenges of the times.

Rudina Qerimi,
UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP Officer

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTS JOAN CLOS AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN-HABITAT



The United Nations General Assembly today elected Joan Clos as the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT at the level of Under Secretary-General of the UN. He is expected to begin his tenure on 18 October for a period of four years.

The former Mayor of Barcelona, Joan Clos, has a long career in the Spanish Government both at the local and national level. Between 2006 and 2008, he was appointed Minister of Industry, Tourism and Trade in President José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero's cabinet. Prior to this, between 1997 and 2006, Joan Clos served two terms as Mayor of Barcelona. He is currently Spain's Ambassador to the Republics of Turkey and Azerbaijan. On hearing the news, Joan Clos said he was honored to have been elected by the UN General Assembly as the new Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and thanked the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon for nominating him.

"I am deeply committed to my new task

and look forward to building on the achievements of my predecessor, Anna Tibajuka. I am a long time believer in sustainable cities that practice participatory urban governance and which provide shelter and basic services for all," he said. "With over half of humanity now living in cities we must prioritize both urban poverty reduction and environmental sustainability, especially as there are now almost one billion slum dwellers. Through collaboration and partnership with governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and all Habitat Agenda partners, our urban areas can be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. I look forward to making my modest contribution to the future of cities."

Source: www.unhabitat.org

WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN

MEETING THE URBAN CHALLENGE OF THE 21ST CENTURY

The next two decades of the 21st century will be an unprecedented moment in human history.

The global population will move from 50 percent urban to 70 percent. This transition to a predominantly urban world is irreversible and it brings with it equally irreversible changes in the way we use land, water, energy and other natural resources.

This transition also places cities at the centre of the climate change agenda. With just over half of humanity living in urban areas, cities already consume 80 percent of global energy output, generate more than 70 percent of all waste, and contribute directly to more than 60 percent of green house gas emissions. At the same time, cities are the primary victims of climate change. Many of the world's major metropolises are coastal cities that are prone to flooding and erosion; many other cities are located in drought-prone areas and are already suffering from water-stress.

There are two basic scenarios for the short- to medium-term future. In the first, cities, lacking requisite resources and policy priorities, fail to meet the needs of the urban future. In less than a generation, some two billion people

end up living in sub-standard housing and informal settlements. Many people living in poorly planned urban areas lack access to adequate shelter and basic services. Few will be recognized as urban citizens and many will end up working in the informal economy. Fewer still will realize their productive potential. The other scenario is one where the urban challenge rises to the fore of public policy and is matched with public and private investments in smart urban growth. This includes rigorous and rational land use planning, improved urban infrastructure and basic services, and the full exploitation of technology to reduce our ecological footprint. The emerging paradigm is one of greener, more resilient and more liveable cities and the creation of jobs and business opportunities that provide decent work and livelihoods and lift millions of people out of poverty.

The social, economic and environmental consequences of the above scenarios are quite evident and simple to comprehend. Major motion pictures such as *The City of God* (Latin America), *The Constant Gardener* (Africa) and *Slum Dog Millionaire* (Asia) offer a glimpse of the social realities on the ground, while New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina

serves as a stark reminder of the need for a coherent set of policy options, tools and practical actions. At the same time, hundreds of cities and towns are each in their own way grappling with how to manage the urbanization process, be it in the form of urban sprawl, urban decay, shrinking cities or slum formation. Some are achieving success against great odds. An increasing number of governments are also beginning to promote national policies to make municipal and local action for sustainable urbanization possible. But their efforts remain, for the most part, piecemeal.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands of organizations, are setting precedents, developing tools and offering policy options to meet the urban challenge. Yet these actions are disparate. Their work is rarely recognized or assessed and the collective impact of their actions is not realized. More than ever before, these are the main reasons why the World Urban Campaign is so important and so necessary.

Source: www.unhabitat.org

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS

IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC SPACE THROUGH CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS

As a living organism, which should grow in regards to the needs of its inhabitants, the city, or part of the city, requires mechanisms and tools to enable control of the development and expansion. These mechanisms should always consider the socio-economic development of the area itself and quality of life of the city's inhabitants.

According to the Kosovo's Law on Spatial Planning, these mechanisms are Municipal Development Plan (MDP), Urban Development Plans (UDP) and Urban Regulatory Plans (URP), in compatibility with national spatial plan (Kosovo Spatial Plan). Implementation of MDP/UDP is the last step of the strategic planning process, in which a plan's strategies, policies, priorities and vision are put into action. This is realized mostly through Capital Investment Projects, identified from the vision of the MDP/UDP.

Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme – phase 2 (MuSPP2), UN-HABITAT Kosovo, in co-finance with the Municipalities, is developing various CIPs through cities of Kosovo, addressing different issues and themes, but always in compatibility with the MDP/UDP.

The list below presents themes of CIPs and city where the CIP is being developed:

Theme	City
Develop school infrastructure	Mitrovica, Junik
Manage mobility & transportation	Mitrovica, Junik, Prizren, Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic
Protection of historic & heritage value	Prizren
Convert industrial zone to public space	Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic
Improve landscape, waterfront and public space	Peja/Pec, Mitrovica
Disaster and risk assessment management	Ferizaj/Urosevac, Gjilan/Gnjilane
Revitalization of riverbanks & green corridors	Mitrovica

As the above list shows, CIPs through the cities of Kosovo are selected mainly in public spaces (squares, waterfronts, mobility lines, landscape, transportation routes, and heritage zones) or publicly used space (school yards, disaster and risk assessment, conversion of industrial zone into the public realm, green corridors and riverbanks). The primary objective of this being to revitalize part of the urban area used by the inhabitants, by making city streets and public space more vibrant and pedestrian friendly.

However, the intention of developing CIPs isn't just to improve, revitalize or protect a city area, but to engage municipal counterparts in the new methods of inclusive planning, community engagement, capacity building for municipal staff to properly manage and develop further CIPs in the future.

Motto of all CIPs is "putting the people first", and is based on simple principles:

- Use of public outdoor space improvement as the catalyst for

city area revitalization

- Build up the connection to neighborhoods, waterfront, and the landscape features
- Build up the existing strength of the area, such as adaptive re-use of heritage structures and highlighting the natural geographic context of the city (socio – cultural element)
- Make city living attractive by initiating streetscape improvement, and encouraging private investment (land use development and management)
- Generate retail and commercial activities within diverse neighborhoods (economic growth)



Figure 1: CIP Hani i Elezit/Gen Jankovic



Figure 2: CIP Ferizaj/ Urosevac

These principles can be achieved through initiatives such as:

- Wider and safer sidewalks
- More trees with continuous green boulevards
- Full accessibility for all age and user groups (i.e. implementing Urban Braille and other accessibility standards)
- Better light standards
- Road improvements including special treatment of intersections
- Enhancing existing character with the use of design themes, and enrichment of public spaces with public art

Included in the list of CIPs being explored and developed throughout various cities of Kosovo, currently three of these are detailed design project proposals that have been developed and one is under construction work. They are mostly improvement works developed in conjunction with other construction on the street. see pg 7

List of the CIP's and their stage status:

1. Peja/ Pec – Skenderbeu Square – under construction
2. Prizren – Revitalization of "Farkatareve" Street – under construction
3. Mitrovica – 2nd CIP – "Lushta River – Green corridor" – approved
4. Mitrovica – Improvement of access to the primary school "Meto Bajraktari" – finalised.
5. Junik - Improvement of the school yard - under construction

Fadil Dalipi and Jillian Bywater ,
UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP Officers

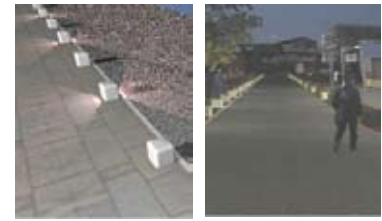


Figure 3: CIP Prizren

DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT (DRAM)

Natural or man-made disasters lead to serious disruption of the function of communities and/or societies causing widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses. Disasters can be caused by natural factors (earthquake, flood, erosion, land slide, forest fire, tsunami, and cyclone/hurricane) or by human driven error (air/industrial pollution, nuclear catastrophes, land, water contamination, river draught, land-mine, draught, avalanche, heat, and cold waves).

After 1999, there was a development boom in Kosovo despite the fact that most of the municipalities did not possess Municipal and Urban Development Plans (M/UDP) in order to properly control the development. As a result, in some cases settlements were built in high risk areas. As a consequence, Gjilan/Gnjilane being located in the most sensitive seismic zone in Kosovo and Ferizaj/Urosevac being located in a very flat flood prone area, both municipalities expressed their concern on how to properly treat DRAM policies in M/UDP in order to tackle this issue.

Throughout the discussions for cooperation between UN-HABITAT/MuSPP and the municipalities in Southeast Kosovo (Gjilan/Gnjilane and Ferizaj/Urosevac), the municipalities requested support from MuSPP for assessing the Municipal and Urban Development Plans (M/UDPs) from the point of view of disaster risks. As a result, the team for assessing the M/UDP documents was composed by Municipal and UN-HABITAT staff. The assessment resulted in the need for retrofitting DRAM in M/UDPs as such aspect was not properly included originally.

The activities which DRAM cluster conducted were: examining laws and prac-

tices on DRAM in Kosovo; collection and formulation of Spatial Information Database for DRAM analysis; provision of training to municipal counterparts; implementation of disaster surveys; formulation and implementation of DRAM pilot projects and draft DRAM policy for retrofitting the M/UDP.

During 2009, UN-HABITAT/MuSPP and the municipality implemented a field survey in identified flood prone areas in Gjilan/Gnjilane alongside Stanishorka River and in Ferizaj/Urosevac alongside the Nerdoime River. The database was formulated and data from the survey were analyzed.

Results from the survey show damages to the buildings and property adjacent to the river caused by chronic floods.

Due to geo-tectonic characteristics of Municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane, particularly in the urban area due to high density, the municipality requested to undertake field survey and research in order to assess seismic vulnerability of public use buildings, in particular school buildings, and to identify one educational building to be reinforced and upgraded.

Two pilot projects were formulated. One pilot project for building reinforcement was initiated in Gjilan/Gnjilane. Ten school buildings were selected and engineering studies were conducted by the consultants from the Institute for Seismic Engineering in Skopje to assess the vulnerability of those school buildings and select a school for structural reinforcement. The school for retrofitting was selected through the recommendations of the consultant and discussions among stakeholders.

A pilot project for flood reduction in Ferizaj/Urosevac was also formulated. Based on earlier studies several commu-

nity meetings were organized. Further hydrological engineering studies were conducted and the area for the implementation of the project was selected. The concept design of the project was drafted through community design workshops.

Those pilot projects as part of DRAM will be examples on how to tackle DRAM issues. The DRAM policy for M/UDP of both municipalities will be a source for land use restriction in the disaster prone areas and also form the basis for drafting the urban regulatory plans.

The municipality will take into consideration those restricted zones. The right building code will be applied in the areas of high seismic events. The public buildings damaged by the earthquake 2002 will be assessed and reinforced if required after the assessment.

continues in pg 8



Flood vulnerability map
of Ferizaj/Urosevac

DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT (DRAM)

from pg 7

The process of preparation of DRAM component and of identifying a school for reinforcement has involved all concerned stakeholders. During this process a number of presentations/consultations were held and involved various stakeholders and civil society representatives. After its finalisation the DRAM component will be approved by the Municipal Assembly as an integral part of Municipal and Urban Development Plans.



Earthquake vulnerability map of Gjiłan/Gnjilane

**Pren Domgjoni and
Besnik Keka,**
UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP Officers

EXPERIENCE SHARING OF KOSOVO CASES IN THE INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM

THE 6TH REGIONAL VIENNA DECLARATION REVIEW MEETING ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

The 6th Regional Vienna Declaration Review Meeting was held on 3-4 June 2010 in Budapest. The meeting was organized by the UN-HABITAT Warsaw Office, in partnership with the Hungarian Urban Knowledge Centre Nonprofit Ltd.

The member states of the Vienna Declaration on Informal Settlements, respectively the countries of South-East Europe (SEE), were represented by central government representatives, regional experts from local government, NGOs and academia, as well as international experts and organizations. The key achievements and challenges (since February 2009) were presented and discussed for each SEE country. Regarding the integration of informal settlements and vulnerable groups in practice, there were many case studies presented. Implementation, tools and lessons learned were also raised during the interactive discussions. The delegation of Kosovo, which consisted of representatives of Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (Housing and Construction Department), Municipality of Pejë/Pe and UN-HABITAT Kosovo Office, presented the Urban Regulatory Plan of Zatra informal settlement in the Municipality of Pejë/Pe. The presentation was made by local planners Mrs. Vjollca Zatriqi Shala and Mr. Shkelqim Daci. The representative of Association of Kosovo Municipalities as part of NALAS (Network of Association of Local Authorities in South-East



Europe) also participated. The Urban Regulatory Plan of Zatra informal settlement, being drafted "in house", demonstrates a good example of how to address and regularize in formal settlements through regulatory plans. The plan's objectives are regularizing properties and existing buildings, improving the living conditions of the neighborhood and last but not least leading to an organized expansion of the city according to its Urban Development Plan. Member states also had the opportunity to hear about the devising of a monitoring system for the Vienna Declaration which was introduced by Dr. Sasha Tsenkova from the Calgary University in Canada. The discussion was focused on a proposed programme document for the Regional Capacity Strengthening Programme implementation phase (strategic orientations, activities, institutional

arrangements, etc.), financial and political support and recommendations for the way forward. The Regional Vienna Declaration Review Meeting gave the opportunity to share different experiences and information between SEE countries on the existing situation of informal settlements, legalization processes, and future planned projects aiming at upgrading and improving the living conditions in these settlements. Kosovo is a signatory to the Vienna Declaration and has been participating in the meetings since 2005. Regular meetings provide for the presentation of achievements of the member states in addressing informal settlements.

Gloriosa Hisari,
UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP assistant

JUNIK MDP PROCESS PRESENTED IN REAL CORP CONFERENCE IN AUSTRIA



Representatives of UN-HABITAT Kosovo Programme, Junik Municipality, CHwB and Institute of Spatial Planning attended the 15th International Conference 'Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society', which tackled the issue of 'CITIES FOR EVERYONE: Liveable, Healthy, Prosperous Promising Vision or Unrealistic Fantasy?'. The conference was held in Vienna (Austria) from 18-20 May 2010 and it was attended by numerous field professionals and representatives of public, private and voluntary sectors of operations from all over the world. There were in total 189 presentations and 3 all-day workshops spread in four simultaneous sessions over the duration of conference. The conference mainly addressed the issue of whether cities can be liveable, healthy and prosperous for everyone. Is this a promising vision we should work towards or is it an unrealistic fantasy? Is it possible to maintain and even improve the advantages of cities and reduce the negative effects? What

are the possibilities and contributions of urban planning and real estate development? How can ICT, urban, transport and environmental technologies help to improve the quality of our lives in cities? MuSPP and Junik Municipality representatives had previously submitted a conference paper which described the common working methodology on developing Junik Municipal Development Plan (MDP) 'in-house', targeting the conference subject of 'Advanced analytical and planning tools and methods'. The presentation focused on the applied 'in-house' methodology of policy development which results in municipal capacity building, greater ownership of the policy document, a better prospect of implementation and lower financial costs. During the experience sharing presentation, representatives of Kosovo neighbouring countries were able to comment and provide feedback due to the similarity of issues that they come across in their field of work. Experience sharing of Kosovo cases

in an international platform has proved once again that many issues have a common ground across regions and therefore experience sharing and professional cooperation becomes one of the main tools for success in contemporary planning approaches. In conclusion, it is understood that cities are very complex and indeed the conference raised many questions still to be answered.

However, it is important that issues that planners are dealing with on a daily basis are discussed amongst field professionals and RealCorp provided just that – a stage for field professionals to meet, discuss and learn from each other. For more detailed information of each of proceedings please follow this link:

<http://programm.corp.at/cdrom2010/en/proceedings.html>

<http://programm.corp.at/cdrom2010/en/proceedings.html>

Dukagjin Bakija,
UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP Officer

WORLD URBAN FORUM

Within a few years, the World Urban Forum has become the world's most important conference on cities.

The Forum was founded by the United Nations to study one of the most urgent problems facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and related policies.

UN-HABITAT as the leading organization of this event organized its 5th bi-annual World Forum from the 22nd-26th of March, 2010. According to available statistics nearly 14,000 people from 150 countries participated in this year's event which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This year's title was 'The Right to the City: Bridging the Urban Divide'. It means all people should have an equal opportunity to the city, regardless of gender, ethnicity or age and that income gaps should be reduced. Dialogues, thematic open debates, networking and training

events, different presentations, roundtables, gender and youth assemblies ran in parallel to explore this theme.

There were 140 exhibitions at the forum including those by international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and urban professionals. These showcased their missions and achievements, regarding sustainable settlements in developing countries.

One of the training events was Housing policies to mitigate informality – land and housing, organized by Lincoln Institute. At this event, the participants were introduced to the key issues as to why informal settlements are created. The positive and negative effects involved with implementing subsidies to the inhabitants of an informal settlement were also explored.

During the forum it was possible to take part in favela tours which made possible to visit these informal settlements. The

tours were organized by the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro. Our trip went to an up-graded favela. In the settlement the municipality had a small team of architects who helped the inhabitants with construction drawings and building permits, as the settlement had an approved Urban Regulatory Plan. At the closing ceremony, the government of Bahrain was presented as the host for the sixth WUF in 2012.

UN-HABITAT's executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka ended the forum by reminding us all of the meaning of sustainable development, 'that we should think of what kind of future we want to leave behind for the generations to come'.

Caroline Johansson,
UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP Officer

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE IN MUSPP PROGRAMME

Dear Lydia

As you know, I have arrived in Kosovo to do an internship as a town planner for UN-HABITAT. I have always wanted to return to Kosovo since travelling through five years ago as it gave me the inspiration to do my town planning degree, so to actually return and work as a planner is amazing. Pristina is still the hot dusty city that I remember but there seems to have been many improvements and it is beginning to feel very cosmopolitan; they make a very good coffee called a Macchiato. I expected Pejë to be very small and much less developed than it

actually is. I had heard that much of it was destroyed in the war and so it is a big shock to come and find a lovely little town with good restaurants and many shops. I have found a small apartment which has a lovely view of the Rugova Mountains and (to my unfortunate surprise) a Balkan disco right below it! I am getting used to it now. The sounds of the disco, the minarets and the barking pariah dogs are the soundtrack of Pejë. One thing that surprised me is how safe I feel at night, much safer than in Manchester. The people here are very friendly; every morning on my way to work there is a

small chain of people whom I always greet, I feel like I have lived here much longer than two weeks. My work is very interesting; I have mostly been working on a proposal for a Capital Investment Project for a local community. At the weekends I have either been walking in the hills, which are very beautiful, or visiting neighbouring countries such as Greece and Montenegro. I shall miss working and staying here once I leave. See you soon,

Vikki Drummond,

*Intern with MuSPP in Peja/Pec,
July - August 2010*

Dear Friend

I arrived in Pristina on the 5th of June with little knowledge of the society or culture (other than the limited information on the internet). Not knowing what it would be like, I decided to expect the unexpected. So you can imagine my relief to find that Pristina was not worlds apart from any other city I had visited! Over my first weekend here, I tried to form an impression of the transport issues in the city, in preparation for the work ahead. Attempting to walk from one place to another - dodging passing cars, weaving my way through the parked cars along the footpath - was quite the challenge! Becoming accustomed to crossing a dual carriageway with no signalised crossing, but only a zebra crossing, was another feat for me to overcome. I paid my first visit to Ferizaj on my third working day. This was the city in which most of my work would be based. It seemed quite a pleasant place, with a beautiful square and small, quaint streets. Little did I know, that would be the first of five, very long and

very detailed field visits to Ferizaj. Now, having spent the past six weeks gazing at its maps, analysing its paths network and surface quality, I feel I could walk the streets of the Ferizaj study area with my eyes closed...almost! Following the provisional route of the "Culture Tour 2010" from Loyola to Mamusha was quite the adventure. We followed the route in the UN HABITAT jeep using a GPS device, feeling every bump and pothole as we negotiated the tracks, soaking in the culture as we passed. Among the sights were vineyards, cows quenching their thirst in the river and a very old, disused bridge shaking with the weight of a small boy crossing the river. The fun ended when the jeep broke down in Mamusha. Then we were "rescued" and taken to Prizren, a beautiful city in the south west and then on to Dragash, which is a small, rural village in the mountains. I took part in the more formal side of things as I attended the MuSPP2 staff meeting in Germia (a beautiful park on the outskirts of Pristina), and the Tripartite meeting with Sida. I enjoyed the

presentations about the Capital Investment Projects that have been completed or that are undergoing works. I was also interested to hear the issues that were raised and the discussion of measures that could be taken to solve such issues. As I sit here in the Pristina office, in the final week of my internship, I wonder what I have learned, what I have contributed, what Kosovo will be like in another ten years... I feel I have learned a lot, but the effects of which will not be evident until I arrive home in Dublin and everything is put into perspective. I am not sure if my small contribution on paper will be fruitful, but, of course, I hope that it will. As for Kosovo, I feel that it is bursting with potential, and that the right steps are being taken to realise this, through the work of the various organisations and programmes such as MuSPP2. I believe it might take some time for Kosovo to achieve its goals, but, as the somewhat overused saying goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day". Regards,

Jean Ryan,

Intern with MuSPP working on the transport & mobility issues

Dear Fiona

I hope you've been well and that everyone back home is having fun. I've heard the weather back in Sydney is amazing! The weather here in Prishtina is very different to what I'm used to - it's been snowing for almost a week! The snow doesn't last long, but it paints a very nice backdrop to the landscape and buildings. For most of this week I've been in the Prishtina office assisting in the preparation of a strategic planning report, but on Tuesday and Wednesday I was lucky

enough to travel to different parts of the region. My boss is managing other projects in offices located in the south-east region of Kosovo, so we travelled there to touch base with other staff and meet with the Mayor for one particular public domain improvement project. The first thing I noticed was how quickly we were able to get to other parts of the region. The drive to the south-east provided vast views of the landscape, mainly of agricultural/farming land, flood plains and small villages along the way. There

was one distinct scenic view of a range of snow-capped mountain tops, which I thought was a beautiful backdrop to our journey. I'm back in Prishtina now, and I'm looking forward to meeting up with some friends tomorrow night in the city. I don't live too far from the centre, but in any case, the city is quite small so it's nice to be able to walk everywhere! Anyway, I hope things are fine back home. Speak to you soon! Love,

Yi-Juan Koch,

*Intern with MuSPP in the
South - East Regional Office*

TOUR DE CULTURE '10



More than 300 cyclists joined the "Tour de Culture '10" on Sunday, September 19th. "Tour de Culture" is part of the European Mobility Week and the European Heritage Days as it promotes sustainable mobility and the cultural heritage of Kosovo at the same time, in a unique festive atmosphere.

This year the Tour de Culture started in Prizren, under the European Mobility Week Motto: "Travel Smarter, Live Better". The cyclists enjoyed cheerful dancing performances in the sunny square of the "League of Prizren" building and then toured Prizren city centre and old town, which was closed to car traffic for the pleasure of all residents and visitors.

Then the entire group of 300, comprising males and females from 6 to 60 years, set off to discover the lovely country side from Prizren to Mamusa and further to Hoca e Madhe / Velika Hoca, using mostly car free and direct field trails and secondary roads through small villages, forests, fields and vineyards. In Mamusa, the dancing continued and the cyclists could enjoy the excellent fresh produce of the fields they just had passed in order to fill the energy required to cross the hilly terrain through Retije to Hoca e Madhe / Velika Hoca, where excellent local dishes and drinks fed the celebration of Kosovo's beauty and diversity as much as of many personal sporty achievements.

Tour de Culture is an initiative of UN-HABITAT's Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP) and Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHWB) both funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and supported by the European Union / Council of Europe Joint Project "Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity", Youth Initiative for Human Rights and other local partners.

Tour de Culture has visited Peja/Pec, Isniq/Isnic, Deçan/Decane, Junik, Gjakova/Djakovica and Rahovec/Orahovac in previous editions and in 2011 will invite you to discover the cultural and natural beauty of other parts of Kosovo or, of course, retrace the Tour de Culture itineraries any time, with friends and family.

Rudina Qerimi,
UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP Officer

MUSPP SHARES EXPERIENCE IN ORGANIZE OF "NOMADE IN METZ"



Organized by the Moselle Prefecture of Metz and NGO's "Tabullarasa" and Abe Pierre's "Emmaus", Festival "Nomade in Metz" will take place in the city of Metz, in France for its second time, from 10th until 19th of September. In order for this festival to be better organized, organizers decided to hire young professionals from abroad who will facilitate on the preparation of the festival and at the same time fill the gap and enrich the festival with new experiences.

A representative of MuSPP was one of the facilitators hired by the organizer to work on the preparation of the festival especially on the way of involving communities in the preparation of the festival and at the same time to do a media campaign and to look for possible donors.

After a month of preparation of the festival "Nomade in Metz" it was visible that the experience brought from MuSPP Kosovo was very helpful and now it is a time for the results to be seen in September.

The importance of the festival which was organized for the first time last year is to bring together communities and ethnic groups that live in France.

Festival features all forms of expression such as literature, street entertainment, music and dancing, movies, drama, exhibitions of photographs, paintings, conferences and as well as food and cuisine in the districts of Metz and outside the city.

The festival mobilizes professionals, associations, schools, universities, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, artists, citizens and it intend to become traditional.

Special emphasis to the festival was to make the French community familiar with the Gypsy Travelers, who live in surrounding of Metz, and their traditional life

Astron Mahmutaj,
UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP assistant

Next Edition

- CONFERENCE ON ENVISIONING AS PARTICIPATORY PLANNING TOOL
- LAUNCH OF JUNIK MDP
- SIGNING MOU WITH MAMUSA
- EXCHANGE OF AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION WITH HANI I ELEZIT
- OPENING CEREMONY OF SAFE SCHOOL PROJECT, CIP IN MITROVICA

MAKING BETTER CITIES TOGETHER

MuSPP2 is the second and a more advanced phase of the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme. Its concept was developed in cooperation with partner municipalities to ensure consolidation of the planning activities conducted under MuSPP1. The programme's design was consulted with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP), Association of Kosovo Municipalities and Sida. The programme addresses the need for strengthened capacities of the local authorities and their professional officers for the implementation of municipal and urban development plans developed under MuSPP1. It also relates to the existing expertise and experience in local and central bodies responsible for the planning activities (e.g. municipal departments of urbanism, Department of Spatial Planning and the Institute of Spatial Planning at the MESP). The cooperation at the central level is focussed on addressing issues which are not within the scope of municipal competencies and where support of the central level is essential. MuSPP2 seeks a more direct involvement of civil society organisations in the implementation of the programme through the system of co-operation agreements. Based on the lessons learned from the earlier experience, the delivery of technical advice and support is done this time through a project-based approach with a strong orientation results.

IMPRESSUM

UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Making Better Cities Together

Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo

Chief Technical Advisor/
Head of Office

Krystyna Galezia

krystyna.galezia@unhabitat-kosovo.org

Office: UN-HABITAT Kosovo
Rilindja Ministries Building
10th Floor,
10000 Prishtina, Kosovo
Tel: +381/38/517835
Fax: +381/38/517836

More on UN-HABITAT Kosovo:
www.unhabitat-kosovo.org

More on UN-HABITAT:
www.unhabitat.org

Editing: Krystyna Galezia, Rudina Qerimi

English Editing: Jillian Bywater

Translation: Astron Mahmutaj

This Newsletter is made possible by the Government of Sweden through Sida. All views, opinions and conclusions are those of the authors. Contributions regarding municipalities do not necessarily reflect the position and decision of the municipalities concerned. The content of these articles do not necessarily reflect UN-HABITAT's position on issues raised or statements made and do not necessarily reflect the views of Sida, or the Government of Sweden.