

## Editorial

**This issue of the newsletter focuses on visioning.** A long-term vision for the future of a city is a crucial element in planning for sustainable development and improving the life of its citizens.

Similar to the motto of the programme 'Making Better Cities Together', a 'better' vision is about producing a vision together. A vision is not just a future dream, but a long-term perspective that takes into account the municipality's assets, opportunities and doesn't ignore its problems and challenges. And of course, dreaming is part of it too.



These aspects are witnessed by stakeholders from our counterpart municipalities. Articles by CEOs, planners and civil society representatives are insightful contributions reflecting different angles on the very diverse 4-day visioning experiences. A special feature was the participation of citizens through the informal councils of civil society, established as part of the planning process. We thank all the authors for their valuable contributions.

The municipal development plan of Peja/Pec is the first one in Kosovo that

has been approved. This is an important milestone. Peja/Pec has also created a long-term vision, which is incorporated in their plan. However, the plan is not the end and a plan as such will not make things happen. It is now planning (for implementation) that matters, rather than the plan. People are the important factor in planning and the catalyser or implementers of change and development. Political will and support are crucial for real change to happen.

While various informal peer learning activities are initiated among municipalities and prove encouraging, this edition offers a window on one of the formal peer-to-peer fora such as the Kosovo-wide *Conference on the State of Play of Municipal and Urban Development Plans*.



At the time of writing, the EU has adopted the 'Leipzig Charter'. For the first time, ministers at the Informal Council of Ministers for Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion have signed a text laying down guiding principles for urban development. This goes hand in hand with new governance involving lo-

cal players more closely. The key word is 'integrated planning'. We will discuss more on this topic in future newsletters.



Also recently UN-HABITAT and UITP, the International Association for Public Transport, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Both organisations aim at strengthening cooperation for support to sustainable urban transport for urban areas in general and to public transport in particular. In addition, the 21st UN-HABITAT Governing Council led to various resolutions reflecting a most needed support to engaging urban youth in development and strengthening local authorities and decentralisation among other.

I hope that this newsletter provides inspiration for all Kosovo municipalities and that it will lead to the advancement of envisioning events, both in informal as well as formal fora and become an integral part of their municipal development process.

**Elisabeth Belpaire,**  
CTA/Programme Manager

## PEJA /PEC HAS MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MDP) AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN (UDP)

On May 14th 2007, Peja/Pec Municipal Assembly approved the MDP and UDP for 2006-2025. "These plans have vital importance for the economic development and protection of the environment and the cultural-historical heritage of the municipality", it was said in the Municipal Assembly. The above mentioned plans

received the consent from the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and are regarded to be in accordance with the Kosovo Spatial Plan.

On this occasion, Ali Lajçi, the Mayor, acknowledged the work of the Directorate of the Environment and Urban and Ru-

ral Planning and all the participants who contributed to the successful completion of these plans, while emphasizing that Peja/Pec was the **first municipality to finalise these development plans and would be a model for the other Kosovan municipalities.**

Source: [www.peja-komuna.org](http://www.peja-komuna.org)

## A CITY NEEDS A VISION

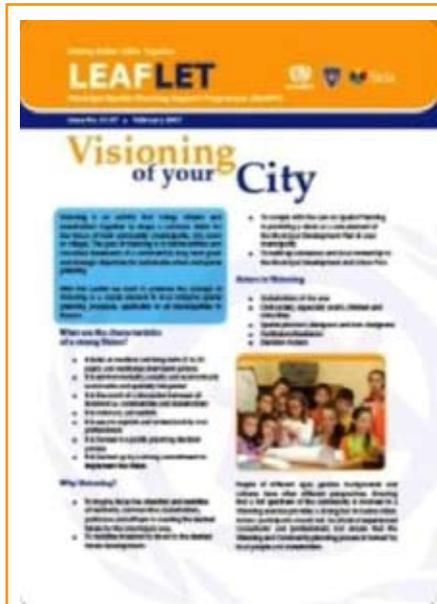
A tolerant, contemporary, prosperous, clean, green, and accessible riverside city that provides economic, educational and cultural opportunities and an environment attractive to all.

An attractive place with dynamic development; Regional terminal; An open city with perspective; Bridge for economic, and cultural development; a port to the mountains; a place with unique bifurcation and recreation. An integrative city between capitals; a place with investment potentials for its citizens; an ecological friendly city where it is worth of living.

These are in a nutshell the vision statements, for Mitrovicë/Mitrovica (North and South) and Ferizaj/Urosevac, drafted by civil society representatives, in collaboration with city planners.

Visioning is an activity that brings citizens and stakeholders together to shape a common vision for the future of their community (municipality, city, town or village). The goal is to derive written and visualized statements of a community's long term goals and strategic objectives for sustainable urban and spatial planning.

With a special Leaflet "Visioning of your City", we want to promote the concept of Visioning as a crucial element in local inclusive spatial planning processes, applicable to all municipalities in Kosovo.



We also want to put theory into action and learning practices. So far MuSPP has organised 4 vision workshops, together with the municipalities, local NGO's and informal councils of civil society. Participating municipalities namely Mitrovica, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Gjilan/Gnjilane and Prizren, used the workshops as an opportunity to undertake reconciliatory efforts and to define the local development vision in collaboration with civil society organisations. The workshops provided a training opportunity for the participants, as well as a platform for building trust. It also broadened the participant's horizon. These envisioning events were an eye- and-mind opener. The workshops followed a similar structure. All aimed

and succeeded at bringing together civil society and government representatives. However the approaches, use, outcomes and results were diverse. They reflected those involved, the specific municipal planning and political context, the stage of the planning process and the conducive environment and openness of various actors. The collective intention from participants to "hand over" their vision to the decision makers was a common element in all the workshops. It is important to note here that developing a vision and handing over that vision to decision makers, develops and strengthens the civil society as well as giving them sense of ownership of that vision.

Once a vision is drafted, a successful communication and public debate is necessary for reaching broader commitment within the entire community. This gives the vision wider publicity and keeps it alive. Monitoring and reporting the achievements regularly to the public is crucial to transforming the vision into reality. A Vision for a City is not static; it should be revised or even replaced by a new vision, whenever the circumstances of planning have changed profoundly. Visioning is clearly a work in progress to be continued in the other two "MuSPP-municipalities" and eventually all over Kosovo.

**MuSPP Team**



## A FLIGHT INTO THE FUTURE OF A TOWN

*Impressions from the workshop on visioning of Ferizaj/Urosevac involving municipality and civil society representatives*

*"We would be very happy if we could create a new image for our city, we would be very happy if, tomorrow, this image becomes part of the identity of a new Ferizaj/Urosevac"*

During three days of our stay in Ohrid, we were, perhaps, its weirdest residents. Whereas the people of Ohrid tended to their daily business by the lake, we, a group of people from Ferizaj/Urosevac, had flown into the future of our town by creating visions for it. We should have been good pelicans to fill in the imaginary space that opened up in front of us. We knew that it was not going to be easy for us, moreover we felt that questions were being raised, such as: "why are you going to Ohrid", or "look, look you want to become architects, huh?"

But we broke the ice and we opened the memory book of the town, in corners of forgotten memory we started noting the emergence of images of parks, swimming pools, steel bridge, etc. We started identifying distinctive features, we placed the bifurcation of the river at the center of the town, and its branches followed the road juncture and were making space to terminal. Words such as productive, ecological, mobile, modern, jewel, golden, green ... were at the heart of our thoughts in an attempt to create a city identity. Our visions looked like a fog on the lake in the early morning hours. They were coming furiously, full of emotion and were sometimes naive.

From a long distance we were doing lots of things to the town; expanding, cleaning, erecting new neighborhoods, adding a lake to it, determining an industrial zone, recreational, sports and cultural center. We proclaimed it as a mountain port, bridge of many banks, we put the railroad under the surface, in one way, we were providing urban breathing space for the city...

On the maps, everyone was drawing a part of the future. Spatial observation of the town had to be closed in couple of lines that we were not drawing



correct enough. Somewhat late in time and space, we understood the sense of creating maps, of towns, something very futuristic. In fact, we became part of a planning effort, part of a contemporary concept of the citizen being participant in the construction and planning of its town. "Making Better Cities Together" is the slogan of this concept promoted by the UN-HABITAT programme.

Ideas, one after another, were shaping up our desire for the town. As a town between two capitals, we wanted it to have a totally different style from the one it has today, we wanted it to be a golden emblem in the plain of Kosovo. As those in love try to project the image of their loved person, we projected the image of our town. We were far from it only for couple of days, but upon our return we were overtaken by senses of remorse, wondering whether we exaggerated with our visions. The town emerged grim; as if it was cautioning us for having "cut" its new clothes to loose.

In fact it did seem to us full of dust, very narrow and noisy. A couple of days later, we made our visions public, they covered our town as unknown clouds. Some did not bother, others started saying "you did great; this town must have an identity". We, very humble, to some extent because we took the responsibility, continue to be part of the drafting of the municipal and urban development plan, ready to convey emotions of the people for a contemporary town.

Retouches are, perhaps, not welcome, but remodeling can certainly be imposed. We were convinced that our town needs remodeling, a different viewpoint and treatment, a new vision. We would be very happy if we could create a new image for our city, we would be very happy if, tomorrow, this image becomes part of the identity of new a Ferizaj/Urosevac.

### **Afrim Demiri**

*Member of the ICCS (Informal Council of Civil Society)*

## CIVIL SOCIETY HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE SPATIAL AND URBAN PLANNING PROCESS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GJILAN/ GNJILANE

The MuSPP/UN-HABITAT programme in Kosovo, Municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane–Department for Urbanism, Reconstruction and Environment (DURE), and the Informal Committee of the Civil Society in Gjilan/Gnjilane have organized a Visioning workshop for Gjilan/Gnjilane, which took place in Ohrid.

This was a four-day workshop, with an aim to develop a Vision for the future of the Municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane. Participants in this workshop included representatives from the Civil Society, municipal officials and professionals, and representatives of the MuSPP/ UN-HABITAT.

During the workshop participants were divided into 5 working groups i.e. infrastructure group, environment and land use group, demography and social matters group, economic development group, and municipal planners' group, which covered all the topics.

Throughout the four days, the level of commitment by all the participants was brilliant; there was also a warm and cooperative attitude between the

participants thus demonstrates that, the Municipality is closely connected with all planning actors, particularly with the Civil Society. The workshop was considered successful and MuSPP deserves our appreciation for facilitating and funding of this workshop.

In the workshop there was a brief presentation on the background of the Municipality, which was then presented in a map. A SWOT analysis was then conducted on the Vision for the Municipality; objectives and priorities were presented in a chart form and were discussed by all groups. These presentations brought new and extremely good ideas and it also became clear that people in Gjilan/Gnjilane are broadly concerned about similar issues, and that the proposals or solutions were overlapping.

The Civil Society, greatly contributed to this workshop, and committed itself to future involvement and assistance to the planning process. It is worth mentioning that this was not the first contact with the Civil Society in the Municipality.

Outcome of this workshop in Ohrid was then presented to the people of the municipality and institutional structures on 17 April 2007, in a meeting there were more than 200 participants, where they were asked to give their thoughts, either supporting the presented ideas, or to introduce any new idea, so that the draft Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and the Urban Development Plan (UDP) can be further complemented. This would create the sense of ownership to all the participants and the wider community in Gjilan/Gnjilane with regards to these two documents, and that all together would continue to work on their implementation.

This work report is a continuation of many previous activities, which will go on until the adoption of the MDP/UDP.

### **Sevdije Maliqi,**

*Director of Directorate for Urbanism, Reconstruction and Environment*



## BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE VISION OF GJILAN/GNJILANE 2015+ BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY

As a representative of the NGO "Kosovar Center for International Cooperation", I had the pleasure of being part of the Civil Society during the Visioning exercise for the Municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane covering the period from 2007-2015+. Although this was something new for me and for the other from the Civil Society in the Municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane, this was yet another opportunity for us, ordinary citizens, to represent our nice dream and aspirations with regards to our municipality in the not so distant future, Vision for Gjilan/Gnjilane 2015+.



The workshop held in Ohrid from the 30 March–4 April offered positive results. Perhaps the favorable working environment alongside the workshop structure i.e. breaking into groups contributed to the constructive outcomes.

The workshop kicked off with each participant expressing their nostalgic view of what Gjilan/Gnjilane was in the past, it quickly moved on to the current problems that concern the citizens of Gjilan/Gnjilane and finally developed a vision. These were broadly the areas covered during the workshop. The analysis of the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) of the existing situation contributed to the development of the Vision of how Gjilan/Gnjilane would look like as a municipality in 2015+. With regards to the strengths, the analysis identified the following components: young and educated population, convenient cross-national climate, strong diaspora, fertile soil, Gjilan/Gnjilane as a border municipality, etc. Regarding weaknesses, the following were highlighted: poor leadership, high levels of unemployment, unfavorable fiscal and credit policies, informal construction, transformation of fertile land into wasteland, etc. Opportunities: foreign investments, attracting donations through good

projects, privatisation and revival of enterprises, rational use of land, construction of an irrigation system and road infrastructure, etc., and at the end the following was identified regarding threats: non-definition of the status of Kosovo, outbreak of dissatisfaction because of severe social situation, lack of economic subsidies, lack of electric power, decentralisation, etc.

The elements of the analysis, and others not mentioned here, encouraged participants to reflect on the future so that this vision does not remain a nice dream only, but rather a reality. Therefore, the whole work of the group at the end of the workshop was presented via a Vision Statement for Gjilan/Gnjilane 2015+:

*Gjilan/Gnjilane of integration, a bridge between different cultures and sound urban and rural environments, with its youth, natural potential and diaspora towards Europe*

At the end, we must underline the recommendations drawn for the institutions:

- Institutions at the local and central level which are responsible for the spatial planning area need to be more effective in terms of their functioning in compliance with the applicable laws, and address any needs for adoption of new laws and

regulations, which would increase efficiency in the field. Thus, there should be a better coordination between DURA, MESP, police etc.

- Any development or regulatory plan drafting initiative should be followed by a moratorium of the situation in the field – to stop urgently any construction without permit.
- There should be an involvement by all relevant factors to increase the awareness of the citizens so that everyone gives its contribution for the implementation of the vision for a better municipality, respectively for a better place – schools, NGOs, other institutions...
- Cooperation between institutions (at all levels) and civil society as a necessity and opportunity to move processes forward in a rather certain way.

In this context, civil society of Gjilan/Gnjilane expresses its readiness to continue working in this process. Perhaps, we will have the support of the citizens and that of institutions, whereas we should also recognize and unreservedly appreciate the great work and support UN-HABITAT has extended to the civil society, to the institutions, and Kosovo in general.

### **Enver Këqiku**

*Executive Director of NGO "Kosovar Center for International Cooperation"*

## PRIZREN MUNICIPAL PROFILE – WHAT NEXT?

On the 28th March 2007, the Municipality of Prizren in collaboration with MuSPP/UN-HABITAT organised a workshop titled "Prizren Municipal Profile – What Next?" The workshop involved members of the Civil Society, the Informal Council, of Civil Societies Organisations (ICCSO), the Municipal Planning Team (MPT) and other stakeholders within the municipal area.

The purpose of the Workshop was to appraise the draft Municipality Profile prepared by the MPT and MuSPP/UN-HABITAT with a view to identifying key issues and challenges via a SWOT analysis.

UN-HABITAT kicked off the workshop with a presentation on what is a SWOT and how to undertake a SWOT analysis, followed by two presentations by the MPT introducing the draft Profile and investment capacity. The presentations provided the participants with the background knowledge that enable them to critically appraise the profile.

The workshop seamlessly continued with interactive discussions on capacity investments and the planning process. The participants also expressed their interest in contributing to the next stage of this process.

This workshop as well as providing useful comments and contributions to the draft profile also provided the opportunity for the Civil Society and municipality planners/officers to work together in the spirit of inclusive participatory planning process, alongside some elements of capacity building.

Finally the above exercise also added value to the bigger picture of spatial planning in Prizren by providing a strong base for the Visioning Workshop which is the next step toward developing a robust Municipal Development Plan (MDP) for Prizren.

## VISION WORKSHOP PRIZREN 2015+

*"Prizren, it starts here..."*

With the above motto, a group of citizens and professional planners from Prizren expressed in clear terms that Prizren needs a new future, bearing in mind its tremendous history and cultural heritage. The motto was accompanied by an elaborate vision statement.

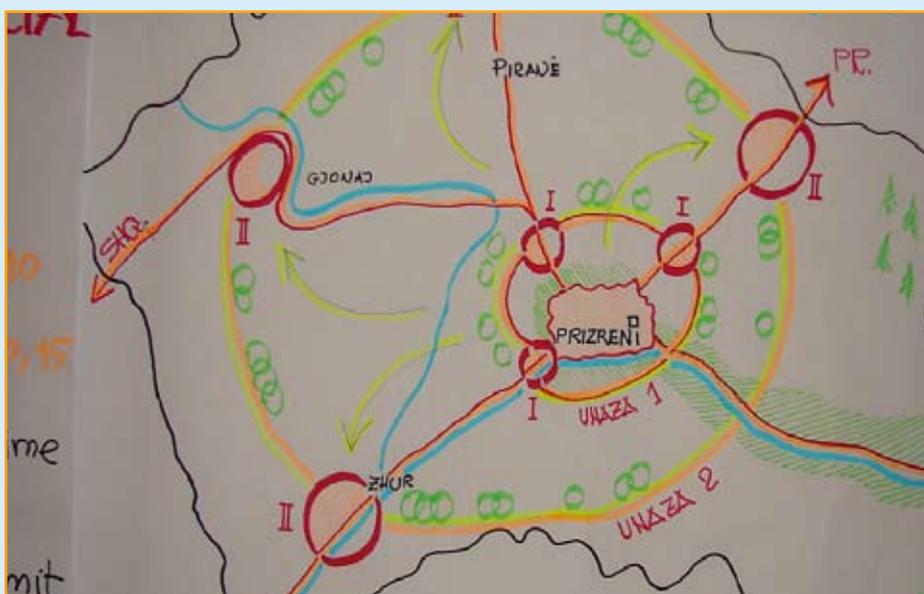
Just like the Visioning workshops for Mitrovica/Mitrovica, Ferizaj/Urosevac and Gjilan/Gnjilane, a group of citizens

and professional planners was selected to draft a common vision during a 4 day workshop from 3 to 7 June in Ohrid. Furthermore the committed participants went through the whole planning cycle: learning the ABC of planning, making collectively a memory map, selecting topics and key issues, going through a SWOT analysis, identifying strategies and objectives, and above all visualizing the desired spatial structures of

Prizren. But the good thing about using this 'standard visioning format' for the visioning workshops done so far is that the outputs are always specific and different.

Every city and locality deserves its own future and should not have a vision imposed to a municipality from elsewhere i.e. a 'copied-pasted' exercise. All partners of the Visioning workshop, the participants and the organisers were very satisfied with the results and the format of the workshop of working together for the sake of inclusive and participatory spatial planning in Prizren.

On 18th of June, the Prizren Vision was publicly presented in the Municipal Assembly Hall, with participation of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr Mybera Shala-Mustafa and covered by the local and national media. The CEO welcomed the vision as a crucial input for the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and counts on the civil society and UN-HABITAT for continued commitment to work together with the municipal authorities towards a truly inclusive MDP.



## GJAKOVA/DJAKOVICA APPLIES URBAN GOVERNANCE INDEX

How is the budget of the municipality composed? Does the municipality conduct a Customer Satisfaction Survey? Is there a Vision Statement? Is there a published statement acknowledging the right of citizens to access basic services?

These and many more questions are part of the Urban Governance Index (UGI), a tool developed by UN-HABITAT to analyse adherence of local governments all over the world to the norms and principles promoted under the Global Campaign on Good Governance.

The set of 25 indicators falls into four categories reflecting the principles of effectiveness, equity, participation and accountability.

Following a general introduction to the

UGI, presented in Pristina to a number of stakeholders and partners that included local and central institutions of Kosovo and international organisations, the municipality of Gjakova/Djakovica volunteered to use this tool to assess its performance.

Over two days, a team of municipal officers, representatives of public utilities, members of the Municipal Assembly and representatives of civil society discussed the indicators and provided detailed answers to the set of questions.

Once all the necessary data is collected and the calculation spreadsheet is filled, the municipality will receive results and will be able to compare its performance versus 24 other cities

all over the world which have already taken part in the exercise.

Gjakova/Djakovica is not the first Kosovo city to work with UGI.

During the development phase, Pristina was invited to take part in the field testing of this tool. The municipality of Ferizaj/Urosevac has also showed a major interest in applying the tool in the near future.

After discussions with the Ministry of Local Government and Administration (MLGA), the MuSPP team and Ministry of Local Government and Administration will work together to develop specific indicators relevant for Kosovo municipalities.

## "ZATRA" LOCALITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PEJA AS A TEST CASE FOR THE URBAN SETTLEMENT PLAN

"Zatra" locality is identified as one of informal settlements and priority project in the Municipality of Peja/Pec according to the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Urban Development Plan (UDP).

The NGO "Syri i Vizionit" (Eye of the Vision) has, in partnership with the Municipality of Peja/Pec, and the MuSPP/UN-HABITAT office in Peja/Pec, with the support of the atrc, IREX, USAID, initiated the project "Urban planning for the neighbourhood "Zatra".

Main objectives of the project are:

- Mobilisation of the community for the initial phase of the consultative process for the drafting of the Urban Regulatory Plan (URP) for "Zatra" neighborhood, and
- Carrying out of the socio-economic and urban analysis for the Zatra Settlement.

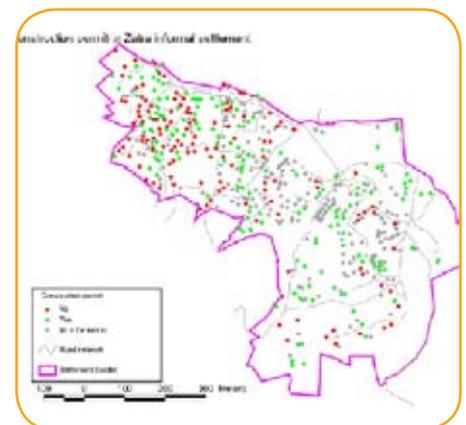
Initially we set-out consultations for the area, meetings with the residents of "Zatra", where they were informed of

the MDP/UDP. During these information meetings, residents of Zatra discussed the needs and concerns of the people, and how these concerns and suggestions could be incorporated in the URP, so that they are incorporated in a rather long-term perspective.

Assessment of the situation through SWOT analysis was done as part of another workshop, where selected subject themes were: housing, environment, infrastructure, employment, economic development, sports, tourism, etc. Outcomes of this analysis could be used following the development of the urban plan.

Part of this project was a survey of the area, for a better understanding of the existing situation in urban, environment, and socio-economic terms.

To that end, specific questionnaires were developed for data collection in each of 350 households in this locality. Data collected in the questionnaires will be organised and entered into the mu-



nicipal data base.

NGO "Syri i Vizionit" will follow the next phase of the work and the possibility of getting involved in other informal settlements by providing assistance to the community for a direct participation in the decision-making processes for their community as a livelihood.

**Fatmir Ramaj**

*Project coordinator of NGO "Syri i Vizionit"  
– Peja/Pec*

## POSITIVE EVALUATION REGARDING THE DRAFTING THE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MDP) AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN (UDP)

The Mayor of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Mursel Ibrahim, the Chief Executive, Sadri Ferati and the director of the Directorate for Planning Urbanism Construction and Housing, Fejzullah Haxhani, during the meeting with the director of the Consulting company "Lin Project" Jusuf Haxhimehmeti, drafting the MDP/UDP, discussed the current situation with regards to the planning process, work that has been done so

far, and the way of averting obstacles, difficulties and eventual weaknesses that can occur during the process.

Participants positively evaluated the work done so far, and they agreed that while the draft document of the first phase will be amended according to the planner's suggestions, the work on the second phase should continue, which means defining the vision for the future

of the city, principles and goals for sustainable economical development.

In defining the vision, it was said during this meeting, that the fundamental element of the third phase of the process would consist of preparing the future development concepts.

*Source: Municipal Newsletter NO.1/2007, on 30 April*

## LEARNING FROM SWISS EXPERIENCES

Currently municipality of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica is in the process of drafting MDP/UDP. A local company – Lin-project in cooperation with Swiss company METRON Raumentwicklung from Brugg were appointed to serve as support consultants for the municipality during the process of drafting the development plans. As part of planning process, from April the 16th- 18th, three municipal planners and two planners from the consulting company LINPROJEKT had a working visit to Metron in Switzerland.

The main purpose of this workshop was the presentation and finalisation of the report on the draft-document on situation analysis of urban and municipal development.

Part of the workshop was a field study visit to Schlieren municipality, who presented their experiences from drafting to the implementation of a development plan for an area of the city done by Metron Company. This presentation was followed with great interest as Schlieren with its industrial past is similar to Mitrovicë/Mitrovica.

Proposed concepts such as, mixing housing with employment, stream



line existing traffic flows, designation of pedestrians and cyclists paths, creating conditions for vacant and green areas, recreational areas, as well as the concept of where high rise buildings could and could not be constructed. The issues the above mentioned concepts are trying to address where seen as similar to the ones of municipal planners are addressing.

Zoning proved to be a powerful mean, whereby investors are bound to closely cooperate with the municipality, thus preventing illegal construction, a feature which to the surprise of planners from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica

was also present in Switzerland too. The workshop proved again that with out direct contacts between all of these key actors in the strategic planning, there can be no viable planning.

Authors:

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## UN-HABITAT CORNER

## POVERTY REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL MECHANISMS AS THE FOCUS OF THE 21ST GOVERNING COUNCIL

Every two years, UN-HABITAT's work and relationships with its partners are examined in detail by a Governing Council composed of 58 member countries of the United Nations.

It is a high-level forum of government representatives at the ministerial level that sets UN-HABITAT's policy and approves the agency's work programme and budget for the next two years.

The 21st Session of the Governing Council (GC21) of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, (UN-HABITAT) was held from 16 to 20 April 2007 at the UN-HABITAT headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and focused on the main theme of Sustainable Urbanization: local action for urban poverty reduction with an emphasis on finance and planning.

Apart from the high-level ministerial meetings, this session of the Governing Council offered a number of interesting parallel events attended by experts, civil society organisations, and local government officials. With the focus on poverty reduction and sustainable finance, these paral



el events provided an insight to the progress on achieving Millennium Development Goals in the rapidly urbanising world, pro-poor and gendered land management policies and sustainable financial mechanisms to help improve living conditions of the poor through the public-private leverage mechanism.

The Governing Council passed repective resolutions which urge UN-

HABITAT, and national governments to address these issues.

The session of the Governing Council gave the opportunity to the Chief Technical Advisors and senior staff of country programmes operation under the Disaster Management Programme (DMP) to meet, share experience and discuss issues of common interest such as exchange of staff within the existing programmes to benefit from the in-house expertise.

They agreed to work on thematic papers based on the experience in the field and documenting lessons learned. DMP runs programmes in Somalia, South Sudan, Pakistan, Kosovo, Indonesia, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka and has focal points in Lebanon and Uganda.

The Governing Council also approved UN-HABITAT's mid-term strategic plan and budget.

*Read more on Governing Council on UN-HABITAT's webpage: [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)*

## UN-HABITAT PITCHES FOR URBAN PLANNING

UN-HABITAT this month reaffirmed its position that urban planning has become increasingly important in managing climate change because well planned cities provide a better foundation for sustainable development than unplanned cities.

In a representation on her behalf at the Climate Negotiations held in Bonn, Germany, UN-HABITAT Executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka noted, that starting from 2007, some fifty percent of the global populations were living in urban areas.

"Urban planning has a direct impact on climate as urban areas are major producers of greenhouse gas emissions and therefore have a significant impact on climate change.

UN-HABITAT deals with climate change and urban development, a key element of which is urban planning, as part of its mandate. This is expressed in the Habitat Agenda under the Global Plan of Action: Strategies for Implementation," she said.

Mrs. Tibaijuka explained that the Agenda, adopted by all member states of

the UN, states Habitat's commitment to sustainable energy use and sustainable transport, key issues in climate change mitigation as well as key elements of urban planning.

As a result of this mandate, UN-HABITAT must work with Habitat Agenda partners to use urban planning and development as a mitigation measure for climate change.

*Source: [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)*

## TRI PARTITE REVIEW MEETING (TPR) ON MUSPP PROGRAMME

Representatives of the UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP programme in Kosovo, Swedish Government/ Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) and six municipalities including civil society representatives met in Prishtina on May 10th 2007 to review the current activities of the MuSPP programme, discuss the challenges and further programme development. Ms. Elisabeth Belpaire, the Chief Technical Advisor of UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP Programme, reported on the programme's progress and challenges. Counterparts from the MESP, Mr. Merxhan Avdyli the Deputy Minister, Ms. Karen McDonalds, Director of Sida in Kosovo, and Sazan Ibrahim, director of the Association of Municipalities of Kosovo acknowledged the work done by MuSPP/ UN-HABITAT, (supported by Sida) aimed at improving living conditions and contributions to economic development. Good practices need to be shared and the TPR meeting is a good occasion for this. Achievements in the planning process in municipalities within the MuSPP programme are numerous and vary from one municipality to the other.

- The **Ferizaj/Urosevac** presentation showed political and civil society willingness to support the planning process. The "Visioning Declaration" integrating the voice of citizens was submitted by civil society to the Mayor; "Mobility for all" translated into a "Mobility Center Project" with public and private partnership; a new ring-road proposal and identification of Informal Settlements with a Youth NGO engaged to undertake a survey are just a few examples of the progress in the planning process.

- **Gjilan/Gnjilane** municipality is committed to an inclusive planning process. Achievements include the strong inter-sectoral cooperation with a set of sectoral reports and strategies; Visioning with Youth on World HABITAT Day 2006 was a starting point of getting the vision for the city followed by the Civil Society Vision Workshop and Public presentation and integration of the results in the MDP/UDP.
- Treatment of informal settlements as

part of the planning process to ensure a better life of its citizens is one of priorities for **Gjakova/Djakovica** municipality. Achievements of the MuSPP programme in this municipality include also the Mobility Improvement Plan developed for MDP and establishment of Informal Council of Civil Society (ICCS). Establishing a Planning Unit remains a challenge for the programme.

- Despite the political situation in **Mitrovicë/Mitrovica** which challenges the planning process, the MuSPP programme achieved the bringing together of representatives of civil society and



planners from both parts of the city to work together in improving the living environment for their city through a visioning workshop in January. Further work continues to improve mobility and transport for each scale of the city.

- **Peja/Pec** municipality is an interesting case as the first municipality in Kosovo with the MDP endorsed by MESP. Drafting a plan is not the end of the planning process; a real planning process starts with plan implementation and municipal planners/officers should be in a driving seat for finalizing the MDP/UDP and insuring that lessons learned from this case are shared with other municipalities.

- The undertake of an In-house product by engaging civil society, the minority community and inter-level and inter-departmental cooperation is considered still a challenge for **Prizren** municipality.

- **Informal Settlements (IS)** still continue to be a top priority for the **MESP**, but nothing can be implemented unless civil society is involved and informed. A Kosovo-wide awareness campaign

on Urban Upgrading and Regularization of IS, workshops on experience sharing, and learning from cases at a local level are considered as achievements of the MuSPP programme.

- Having **civil society** as a partner in the planning processes (in some cases through the established ICCS) was evident in each MuSPP activity.
- Provision of expertise on **mobility** issues affecting the planning process and **legislative support** to municipalities to deal with planning challenges adds value to the programme and to partner municipalities.

- A set of tools developed to build **co-operation and experience sharing** on planning activities with and among municipalities and wider audience were considered achievements of the programme.

Conclusions and focus areas for the coming months:

- Advancement of the current planning cycle, finalisation and submission of draft MDP's for approval by end October 2007. An approved plan is an important basis for the next planning cycle and capital investments.

- Structural dialogue between MESP and municipalities with constructive feedback mechanism and focus on crucial areas

- Replication and exchange good practices between civil society organisations, municipalities

- Moving to action and visible results, linked with UDP/MDP; not ad hoc

- Continuous communication with citizens and political support for planning



## SWEDISH DELEGATION VISIT PRIZREN

As part of the Tri-Partite Review Meeting, representatives of the Swedish Government and Sida (the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency) in Kosovo, and representatives of MuSPP/ UN-HABITAT visited Prizren municipality. The delegation was welcomed by Mr. Eqrem Kryeziu, Mayor of Prizren, Mrs. Mybera Mustafa, CEO and other municipal officials.

This meeting gave the opportunity of exchanging ideas on planning issues and provided concrete suggestions for the future cooperation between the municipality and MuSP programme.

"Prizren as tourist and trade centre; the best municipality in vineyards; a university city that complements the University of Prishtina", is the vision for the future development of this

town, articulated by the Mayor of Prizren.

The site visit of the city, the presentation of the state of play of planning in Prizren by municipal planners and inter-active discussions made it clear that Prizren leaders and professionals are committed to make the planning process work better in Prizren.



Family Picture of MuSPP team

## PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT MEETING OF UN-HABITAT/MUSPP

The Programme Development Meeting (PDM) of UN-HABITAT/Municipal Spatial Planning support programme in Kosovo was held on the 9th March 2007 with the six participating Municipalities and other programme partners. The focus of the meeting was on the strengthening participatory planning via Informal Councils of civil society organizations and restructuring planning departments to accommodate spatial planning.

The idea behind setting up Informal Councils of Civil Society Organisations (ICCSO) is to bring civil society and local governments closer together in their efforts to improve the quality of life in their respective municipalities and towns through participation of citizens and their organisations in the planning process. Although there are many NGOs and active citizens, their efforts are not always coordinated and complimentary to the work done by the municipal administration. Therefore, the establishment of a common platform through which the knowledge, skills, and technical resources of civil society can be better utilised seems a very practical solution.

Working with municipal planners and officers for gender issues, information, communities and returns MuSPP teams facilitated the establishment of such councils in Peja/Pec, Gjakova/Djakovica, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Gjilan/Gnjilane and Prizren. Members of the Informal Councils have been taking active role in the preparation of the visioning workshops and are instrumental in fostering cooperation between civil society and local government in longer terms.

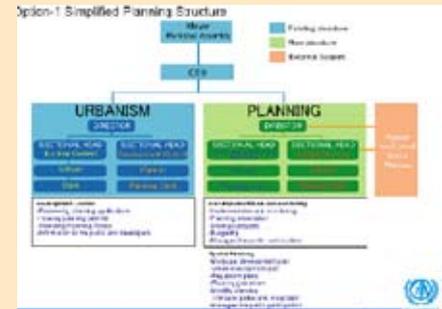
The role of the ICCSO is not to replace the Council of Planning Experts, whose primary task is to provide expertise and technical advice on the planning process, but to represent broader interests of citizens and to assist in making their voice heard.

The tasks of the Informal Council of Civil Society Organisations are focussed on promoting civil society's participation in public debates, assist local governments in mobilising active engagement of citizens in urban consultations, initiate such meetings in cooperation with local governments and last but not least facilitate the establishment of sustainable cooperation mechanism between civil society and local governments.

The discussion on municipal planning units, the second topic, began by examining the current situation within the six participating municipalities in relation to their duties and responsibilities in implementing the law on spatial planning alongside the capacity of departments/directorates of urbanism in carrying out planning activities (it then highlighted the need for planning departments to be restructured to enable them better respond to the present and future challenges in the context of an urbanizing and globalising world).

As regards the planning unit, the discussion paper presented went forward to propose four alternative options (see pictures) for large and small municipalities with a view to stirring spatial planning in Kosovo closer to European and international standards. The options varied in terms of the number of municipal staff engaged in the planning process; degree of their engagement and the placement of the unit within the municipal structure.

UN-HABITAT/MuSPP stressed that the paper was a discussion paper and an evolving one and called for a free and open discussion on the paper. This led a seamless interactive discussion among participants and a range of issues concerns were raised on the proposed options. However most importantly there was recognition among participants for a shift from the current state of play with regards to the structure of planning departments and



most of them broadly welcomed the proposed options but needed some tweaking. In the light of those concerns and comments UN-HABITAT/MuSPP intend to further revise the paper to accommodate the comments made by participants and further consult all parties concerned.

## MEDIA CORNER

In the Media Corner we select some interesting headlines and quotes from news with regard to urban planning and developments in Kosovo. The original articles can be copied in request

### MITROVICË/MITROVICA

#### Citizens in planning, the key to good governance

This article provides insights from the roundtable debate titled "Democracy implementation on good governance from the planning perspective". Attended by civil society partners from the north and south side of Mitrovica, the roundtable concluded that representation of citizens and civil society on planning issues is a key for good governance.

Citizens and civil society representatives are actors in visioning of the city, and the City Vision is important in having a better life in the municipality. The Vision for Mitrovica is part of the programme "Making Better Cities Together" which is the slogan of the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme of UN-HABITAT in Kosovo funded by Sida.

Source: *Koha Ditore*, 26/03/2007

### FERIZAJ/UROSEVAC

#### Ferizaj/Urosevac aims to promote citizens' investments

Political leaders of the Ferizaj/Urosevac municipality consider the municipal and urban development plan as a capital project that the Municipality is dealing with. Soon it will be open for public discussion.

The article states that the municipality was late in holding the public discussion as the project needed to be more elaborated. The Mayor of Ferizaj/Urosevac municipality complimented the work of civil society and UN-HABITAT representatives for active involvement in the planning process.

According to these plans, Ferizaj/Urosevac will be an attractive city, with dynamic development in all aspects of life.

Source: *Kosova Sot*, 27.04.2007

### GJILAN/GNJILANE

#### Citizens, contributors to development plan

"There will be no municipal and urban development plan without taking ideas from citizens" states Sevdije Maliqi-Hyseni, Director of the Directorate for Urbanism, Reconstruction and Environment in Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality.

This article also provides information on the planning process, and collaboration with different stakeholders.

Acknowledgments are given to the Swedish Government for supporting the UN-HABITAT's programme which provides on-job assistance in the planning process to Gjilan/Gnjilane and some other municipalities in Kosovo.

Source: *Kosova Sot*, 26/03/2007

### PEJA/PEC

#### Peja/Pec municipal and urban development plan is approved

This article carries information on the approval of the Peja/Pec municipal and urban development plan for the period of 2006-2025.

The plan is prepared by a Dutch company and is the first Municipal Development Plan in Kosovo endorsed by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.

Source: *RTK*, 14/05/07

### PRIZREN

#### Municipal Government intends to invest in environmental projects

This article provides information about priority areas of development in the municipal agenda, including the creation of green oases in Prizren this year.

In this regard there have been, two proposals accepted for the projects: "Creating spaces as per Urban Plan" and a continuation of the project: "Bank

reconstruction of the Lumbardhi river". Their implementation will contribute to the creation of green spaces in the city.

Source: *Koha Ditore*, 12/03/2007

### GJAKOVA/DJAKOVICA

#### A digital city – a vision for this year

Based on the Sustainable Development Strategy, approved by the Municipal Assembly in 2005, Gjakova/Djakovica is foreseen to be "a digital city" by the end of this year.

All institutions shall be equipped with telecommunication infrastructure based on optical fibres which is expected to provide the necessary infrastructure for integrating different services for the benefit of citizens, businesses and institutions in the municipality. The article states that the completion of this project will make Gjakova/Djakovica a leader in this field.

Source: *Koha Ditore*, 05/03/2007

### Ljubljana 2025: The Capital as an Investment Project

This article provides interesting inputs regarding the development of the Vision of Ljubljana. Ljubljana's development vision should encourage the formation of the city's self-image, indicating what the city means to its inhabitants, and what their expectations are regarding its development. It is also a dominant factor for economic and social development. It helps to uncover the city's advantages and new opportunities for development, and is especially crucial in making initial strategic plans.

Since the vision also strives to create a collective consciousness among the city's people, the broadest public should have a say in it.

Source: *Slovenia Times*, 11.05.07

## NETWORKING

### CONFERENCE ON THE STATE OF PLAY OF MUNICIPAL AND URBAN PLANNING IN KOSOVO - SHOWCASE PEJË/PEĆ

On 19th of April, a Kosovo wide conference the state of play of municipal development planning was organized by Pejë/Peć Municipality, MuSPP/ UN-HABITAT, the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AMK) and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP).

The conference was held on the occasion of the conclusion of the approval procedure of Pejë/Peć's Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Urban Development Plan (UDP).

Mr. Ukë Kelmendi, head of Pejë/Peć's Directorate for Urban and Rural Planning and Development and Environment, considered the approval of the plans as a major achievement by his directorate.

Mr. Frank D'hondt, spatial planning coordinator of the UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP programme, however stated that planning activities don't stop with the approval of the development plans, but that this only marks the start of an advanced municipal planning culture. About 120 participants, mainly



planners and decision makers from Kosovo, as well as representatives from civil society organisations attended the event.

Contributions were made by the staff of Pejë/Peć's directorate for urbanism, as well as by the municipalities of Suharekë/Suva Reka, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Kamenicë/Kamenica, as well as NGO "Syri Vizionit" which is involved in the implementation of the MDP/UDP of Peja/Pec in Zatra Informal

Settlement. The large attendance proves the importance of the Pejë/Peć plans as a learning case for other municipalities. The conference ended with a field visit to the project sites of the Zatra Informal Settlement and the future extension of the industrial area.

The last step in the approval procedure was finally achieved on the 14th of May, with the adoption of both the Municipal and the Urban Development Plan by Pejë/Peć's Municipal Assembly.

### KOSOVO DELEGATION AT PUBLIC TRANSPORT INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN SKOPJE

"Sustainable urbanisation cannot even begin to occur without taking into account the role public transport plays in securing quality of life in our cities and towns" Mrs. Tibajjuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, said at the occasion of signing a memorandum of understanding with the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) in Helsinki on 24th May.

She underlined that UITP was "a strategic partner that brings a wealth of experience and can foster transfer of knowledge worldwide".

The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) is the international organisation for public transport authorities and operators, policy decision-makers,

scientific institutes and the public transport supply and service industry. It is a platform for worldwide co-operation and the sharing of know-how between its 2,900 members from some 90 countries, including Kosovo.

In association with the public transport enterprise of Skopje (JSP), UITP held a Balkan regional workshop on 7th and 8th June.

The Kosovo delegation, organised by Ministry of Transport and Communications, included representatives of Kosovo's medium sized cities, supported by the MuSP Programme.

Kosovo can take pride in itself for a well functioning, high capacity, inter-urban

coach system. Today's challenge is to establish a coherent system linking urban and municipal transport services, in order to secure and develop the share of public transport in Kosovo's motorised mobility.

"Political will is an essential ingredient for achieving sustainable mobility in our cities and regions" declared Hans Rat, UITP Secretary General.

In order to translate understanding into action, UITP and UN-HABITAT will team up to support all local actors in further building the capacity to achieve this goal and to establish an integrated public transport system within the coming months and years.

## FIELD WORKSHOP ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN GJAKOVA/DJAKOVICA

Dealing with informal settlements (IFS) through the planning process is one of the main priorities of the Municipality of Gjakova/ Djakovica. In Gjakova/Djakovica, based on the criterion for informal settlements as indicated in the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) guideline, the following three neighbourhoods have been identified as IFS: "BREKOC", "KOLONIA" and "PISKOTA".

For the purpose of experiencing i.e. seeing, feeling and touching IFS, the Municipality of Gjakova/Djakovica, together with MESP, Kosovo Association of Municipalities, OSCE, and UN-HABITAT/MuSPP, organised a workshop on the 26th April 2007. This workshop was also aimed at contributing to the drafting of local and central policies within the action plan on Informal Settlements, explore ways on how the Urban Plan can avoid new informal settlements from developing and how to improve the existing ones, alongside contributing to the development of a network for studying IFS, as well as raising awareness.

The workshop provided the opportunity for several visits to the above mentioned neighbourhoods, in each occasion participants had the opportunity to see for themselves the reality about the IFS, the achievements of the Municipality in improve living conditions of the people living in these neighbourhoods, in particular Brekoc, as well as what could be done more for these IFS.

During the discussion within this field workshop, the following recommendations were drawn:

### **Brekoc:**

- Directorate of Urbanism and Planning is too busy to take over the process of IFS identification, thus there is a need for a designated agency for this matter.
- Municipality needs staff for the identification of IFS. An action plan is needed with detailed responsibilities, which is more practical than a strategy.
- Brekoc has its urban regulatory plan with the analysis of urban situation, but



property matters remain still unresolved

- Additional credible cadastre information is needed as well as other information
- Funding must be visible. Donors should be identified, including Stability Pact which is working in the Regional Capacity Strengthening programme. In addition; the municipality should also allocate funds.
- Training for the community is needed, and it must be consulted on any decision taken in view of their area.

### **Kolonia:**

- Involvement of the central level (Ministry) and Kosovo Trust Agency in resolving property matters and provision of security to the inhabitants in the area
- Inhabitants in these settlements should work together to improve living conditions, by using public transportation and improving access to health services. Social housing could offer a solution. It is necessary to have public debates on the vision of this area when drafting municipal and urban development plans.

### **Piskota:**

- Short and long-term intervention is

needed.

Short-term intervention: construction of the road, installation of the power network, provision of sewage and waste collection services, construction of dykes

Long-term interventions: fixing legal status of the land, 50% of the families do not have appropriate ownership documents.

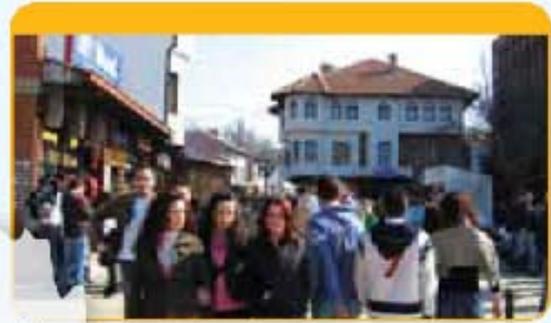
- Consider resettlement of the population in consultation and negotiation with the people. There could be difficulties as some of the people do have valid document and may resist to the resettlement.

I hope that recommendations drawn in this workshop will be translated into specific actions to make these IFS an integral part of our town.

I believe that the exchange of experiences between us, and lessons learned from this field workshop, will greatly help other municipalities in trying to manage the challenges of informal settlements.

### **Pal Lekaj,**

*Chief Executive Officer of Gjakova/Djakovica municipality*



Mitrovicë  
Mitrovica



Pejë  
Pec

Gjakovë  
Djakovica



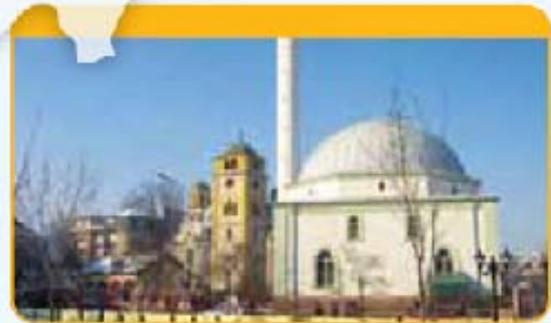
Prishtinë  
Pristina

Gjiçan  
Gnjilane

Ferizaj  
Urusevac



Prizren



## MAKING BETTER CITIES TOGETHER

To ensure a better life to all its citizens, Kosovo needs better cities. This can only be achieved by planning and working all together. "Making Better Cities Together" is the motto of the Sida-funded Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme, through which UN-HABITAT will support the municipal spatial planning in Kosovo. Kosovo cities and towns are in the process of drafting the municipal and urban plans. The plans are to be strategic and action oriented, detailed in the urban regulatory plans and implemented through private and public investments. The six secondary cities of Kosovo - Pejë/Pec, Gjakova/Djakovica, Prizren, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Ferizaj/Urosevac and Gjiçan/Gnjilane - can contribute to a more balanced development of Kosovo and reduce the ongoing migration of population to the capital city, Prishtinë/Pristina. Through integration in the European urban network, the Kosovo cities and its citizens will be connected with other European cities. This can be achieved by attracting investments in sustainable urban development and improving access for all. Private investments are needed to match the public funds in order to provide better services to the citizens: decent social housing, hospitals, schools, roads, public transport and last but not least attractive public spaces to respond to the needs of the changing society.

## IMPRESSUM



UN-HABITAT



Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo

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