

EDITORIAL

Making Planning Work

Making Planning Work is the title of an excellent book that was presented and distributed at the third World Urban Forum and the World Planning Congress in Vancouver in June 2006. Making Planning Work shows how successful development and governance of human settlements depends upon collaboration and establishing effective partnerships, and how much can be achieved by working together, sharing skills, being creative, and learning on the job. Making Planning Work features extensive case studies from some 20 different countries, with a focus on pro-poor planning. The book is essential reading for all those engaged in the processes of planning and managing towns, cities, and settlements from the very local to national and international levels. Making Planning Work is a source of inspiration to make our mission successful. "Making Plans" – the Municipal and Urban Development Plans in particular – is certainly important, moreover it's our first priority. But a plan is only useful



when it 'works' in practice. Not only as a legal framework to control development, but more as an active instrument to prioritize actions and urban interventions. The book makes clear that Action planning does not have to wait until all legal plans are approved. Urgent problems need urgent interventions, framed by a strategic vision of course. In this newsletter we focus on **Informal Settlements** within the broader scope of the wild urbanization after the conflict. While the municipalities need to get a vision on those informal settlements within the overall development of the municipal area, the real challenge is to undertake

actions to upgrade the most poor and problematic settlements where and when appropriate. As the book also demonstrates that planning can only work with true and direct involvement of stakeholders and citizens, MuSPP has launched a series of 'Visioning' workshops in all 6 secondary cities, with direct involvement of local communities and civil society organizations. The first Visioning workshop for Mitrovica proved indeed that 'ordinary' citizens from different ethnic communities are capable to express a common and strong vision with a full spectrum of long and short term actions and urban interventions to improve the living environment of all citizens. Only by combining Visioning and spatial interventions, can we make planning in Kosovo work.

Frank D'hondt
Spatial Planning Coordinator MuSPP

For more go to www.communityplanning.net/makingplanningwork

Announcement

We are pleased to announce that UN-HABITAT Kosovo MuSPP programme is launching a new website which will run under the domain

www.unhabitat-kosovo.org

We hope this will be a useful instrument in communicating with the public about UNHABITAT programmes, activities and events in relation to spatial and urban planning and management in Kosovo.



Headline Content

Informal Settlements – the Way Forward	2
UN-HABITAT and Informal Settlements	2
Visioning Workshop "Making Mitrovica Better"	5
Workshop on Urban Upgrading and the Regularization of Informal Settlements in Kosovo	9
Ferizaj / Urosevac meets Lund	10

INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS – THE WAY FORWARD

Informal settlements are nothing new and are not limited to Kosovo. Municipalities in Kosovo, like many other places in the Balkans, are confronted with a legal and physical challenge to regulate and upgrade these settlements while creating sustainable conditions for livelihoods.

In many cities of the developing world, nearly half of the urban population lives in informal settlements that are not legally recognized by the city authorities. While these constructions may be taken as a sign of an economic growth, their uncontrolled development puts an additional burden on municipal budgets. In most of the cases these informal areas of the cities do not enjoy many of the benefits of ac-

cess to services, nor secure property tenure. Governments around the world have formally recognized universal rights to adequate housing and living standards. However, the reality falls short of these standards and access to secure property title, land and housing remains difficult.

Resolving the issue of informal settlements is one of the priorities of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP). This was reconfirmed with the signing of the Vienna Declaration and is reflected in the Standards' Implementation Plan and the European Partnership Action Plan.

The workshop on Informal Settlements organised jointly by MESP,

OSCE and UN-HABITAT on November 16, 2006 launched the debate on how to address the existing informal settlements and how to prevent the emergence of new ones, offering some conclusions and recommendations for all the key stakeholders in the process.

The recommendations from the workshop were shared with other participants of the 4th Vienna Declaration Review Meeting held in Belgrade on Nov.23-24, 2006 and were publicly presented in a press conference launching an information campaign on informal settlements.

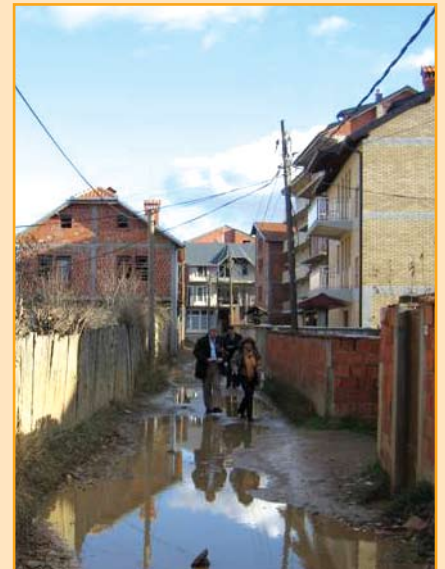
MESP, UN-HABITAT and OSCE plan to cooperate on this issue in the future alongside other partners.

UN-HABITAT AND INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

1. UN-HABITAT Kosovo organized a workshop on "Urban Upgrading and Regularization of Informal Settlements" on November 16, 2006, jointly with MESP and OSCE.
2. As an input for this workshop, UN-HABITAT/MuSPP prepared a discussion paper entitled "Improvement of Informal Settlements". This paper identifies the existing legal provisions to tackle the issue of Informal Settlements in Kosovo. It also explores potential models for spatial interventions regarding Informal Settlements.
3. As a follow up of the workshop, a joint paper was prepared with recommendations to the Government of Kosovo, the Municipalities and the inhabitants of informal settlements.
4. This paper is available in a summarized brochure form, which is still available for further distribution.
5. A Working Group on Informal Settlements has been established with MESP, UN-HABITAT and OSCE as main players. The aim is to organize field workshops and provide expert-advice for upgrading and regularization of Informal Settlements in practice.

The notion "Informal Settlements" is defined by the Kosovo Standards' Implementation Plan: "Informal Settlements are human settlements which do not allow inhabitants to enjoy their rights of a permanent living standard, especially appropriate housing. As such, Informal Settlements may have the following characteristics:

1. *Informal or insecure tenure;*
2. *Inadequate or deprived access to basic services;*
3. *Inadequate or lack of participation in governance;*
4. *Vulnerability to discrimination."*



6. The UN-HABITAT municipal teams are identifying the existing Informal Settlements in the six secondary cities in Kosovo. This is in combination with an action strategy to integrate Informal Settlements in the overall spatial vision of the municipalities and to prioritize concrete actions and interven-

tions to upgrade the spatial quality of sustainable Informal Settlements.

Despite the focus on Upgrading and Regularization of Informal Settlements, the first priority of sustainable planning is to halt and avoid new Informal Settlements in Kosovo.

IMPROVEMENT OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

The MuSPP legal expert prepared a paper on **“Improvement of informal settlements”** with the purpose to help planners and municipal officers of urbanism and municipal planning teams, in clarifying and creating guidelines on regularization of informal settlements in the process of drafting and approval of municipal development plans, urban development plans and urban regulatory plans.

The theme of this paper was informal settlements in general but focused on a model of regularization and consolidation of informal settlements, which can be considered at the municipal

level. The paper also looks at the institutional framework and forms of covering for the demands of inhabitants in the municipality, in an urban area, in accordance with the UNMIK Regulation No. 2000/45 on Municipal Self-Government.

Three potential reaction models to deal with regularization of informal settlements provided in this paper are:

- **Improvement of the existing situation**
- **Demolition and reconstruction and**
- **Demolition and dislocation,**

while having always in mind the objectives which are aimed to be complemented by improvement of environmental, social and economic conditions of inhabitants. It also identifies the factors to be considered when urban interventions are planned with the community support, such as: the scale of the problem, ownership, community participation, financial structure etc.

The paper provides information on the typology of projects on improvement and urban legalization of informal settlements and includes guidelines on project management and project cycle stages.

MUNICIPAL CORNER

CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOP IN FERIZAJ/ UROSEVAC

Ferizaj/ Urosevac municipality and the MuSPP programme of UN-HABITAT organized a workshop as part of activities dedicated to civil society involvement in the planning process in Kosovo municipalities. It was held on December the 12th, 2006, and was attended by civil society and municipal representatives, representatives of UN-HABITAT MuSPP and the local media.

During this workshop participants had an opportunity to learn more about inclusive strategic local development, and were also given the opportunity to express their concerns in regards to their involvement in planning processes and management. The main concerns raised in this meeting were: illegal constructions, local economic development, involvement of citizens in democratization of civil society, and the empowerment of women in decision-making. Representatives also shared concern as to the lack of civil society organizations that deal with spatial planning and environmental issues in their municipality. This activity was followed by another workshop held on January 30 in the



same place with same people. This time discussions were oriented toward the concerns of Civil Society involvement in solving the raised issues such as: Stonebreaker in Nerodime zone; Economic Development – Railway in the middle of the town; Improvement of electrical energy supply; Development of production businesses and construction of housing and commercial buildings in construction land where is no development plan.

This workshop resulted in the for-

mation of an informal council that constituted 7 participants from Civil Society Organizations and citizens who committed to give contributions towards improved Urban Governance in Ferizaj/ Urosevac.

When this issue of the newsletter is being prepared for printing, 30 representatives of the municipality and Civil Society Organizations participated in a Visioning Workshop in Oher/ Ohrid. An article about this event will be provided in the next edition of the newsletter.

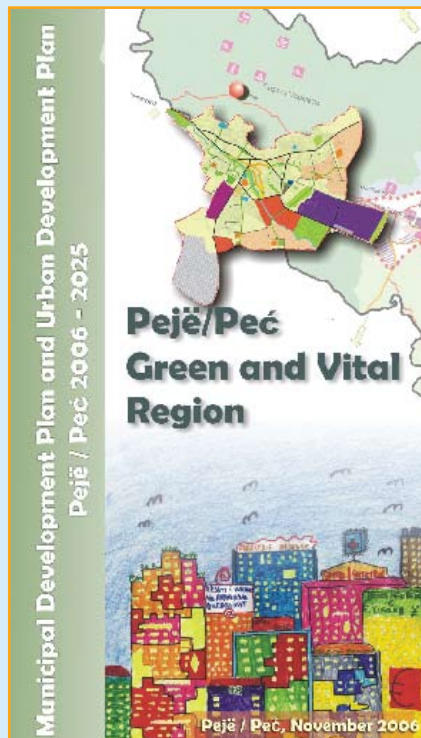
PEJA/ PEC MUNICIPAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Municipality of Pejë/Peć is one of the first municipalities to produce a Municipal Development Plan that is inline with the approval procedure for both the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and the Urban Development Plan (UDP). The Municipality is currently awaiting the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) with regards to the approval of the MDP.

The MDP has been evaluated in relation to the Kosovo Spatial Plan to ensure conformity, which appeared to have done well with exception of several minor remarks and suggestions by the MESP. These have been addressed by the Directorate for Urban and Rural Planning and Development and Environment (DURP-DE), and the revised document has again been submitted for consent.

After consent is given by the MESP, both plans will be forwarded to the Municipal Assembly (MA) of Pejë/Peć for approval. This decision is expected to be made in the first meeting of the MA Pejë/Peć in February.

Following the approval of the plans, the Municipality will engage in implementation, beginning with the



process of drafting Urban Regulatory Plans (URP).

Currently the Municipal Planning Team (MPT) has been re-established and is regular having biweekly meetings, in each of its meetings several issues to be discussed are raised by in the respective working groups:

- drafting of a mobility policy
- drafting of a spatial-agricultural policy
- communication and information strategy
- centralization of spatial information
- urban regulatory planning

In cooperation with the relevant directorates of the municipal administration and the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP) of UN-HABITAT, the DURP-DE is drafting the roadmap for the first stage of implementation of the MDP and UDP. So far, six priority objectives have been identified, alongside defined actions and expected outcomes. This roadmap is expected to be approved in the next meeting of the Board of Directors. The first activity will be urban regulatory planning, with informal settlements considered as a top priority while other regulatory plans are prioritised accordingly.

Merita Kuraja

Urbanist in the Directorate for Urban and Rural Planning and Development and Environment in Peja

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW INDUSTRIAL AREA FOR PEJA/ PEC

On Tuesday 6th February, the Pejë/Peć MuSPP team organized a workshop on the development of the new industrial area for the city. The session received large attendance from MESP officials, central level PISG representatives, KTA, municipal planning officers from other parts of Kosovo, and many other partners involved in the spatial planning efforts in Pejë/Peć. The joint presentation made by the Municipality and UN-HABITAT involving the details of the development of the industrial area proposal, were in line with the development policy included in the Municipal Development Plan. The main features of the presentation were the necessity

for a modern and functional industrial area, which is included in and has easy access to the urban area, strategically located in relation to infrastructure, and ultimately provides a good opportunity for business development and job creation. The proposal recommends the Municipality to establish a Municipal Development Agency, which would set this project in motion, and subject to its success, continue with the further development of the industrial area. Most of the participants expressed genuine intentions to contribute in the realisation of this plan, on which further consultations will be organised in the very near future. The organisers are

also expected to distribute the conclusions and recommendation resulting from this workshop.

This initiative was congratulated on its importance to economic development by all partners involved, and especially the president of the Municipal Assembly who made the opening speech. A concern which was highlighted during the session was related to possible property issues, as the area identified for this development is partly private and entails complicated procedures, which could affect the project implementation period.

Based on the Daily Report from UNMIK Pejë/Peć, 6th February 2007"

CIVIL SOCIETY WANTS TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN PRIZREN

On December 12th, 2006, a workshop on "Inclusive strategic local development" took place in Prizren. The workshop was organized by the Municipality of Prizren and UN HABITAT- MuSPP and participants included representatives of the Municipality, Civil Society organizations and other local citizens.

Participants in this workshop had the opportunity to share their views on specific topics such as agriculture, cul-

tural heritage, and urban planning. Regarding the engagement of Civil Society in the local planning process, participants made it clear that Civil Society in Prizren is not well organized yet. Hence it was strongly recommended that Civil Society need to be more active, but also that Municipality should put more emphasis on involving the Civil Society in the urban planning and development of Prizren. The workshop followed up earlier

meetings where the decision was taken to create an informal council, composed by independent professionals and members from the local civil society organizations. This council will function as a linking bridge between the Municipality and Civil Society regarding strategic urban development and planning.

At the end of the workshop, participants expressed their interest to continue with similar workshops.

WORKSHOP "MAKING MITROVICA BETTER"

From January 11 to 15, a creative and intensive workshop took place in Skopje - FYR Macedonia, involving representatives of civil society, media organisations professional planners and citizens of Mitrovica South and North as well as members of staff from UN-HABITAT in exploring issues and ideas of improving the quality of the living environment in Mitrovica.

The workshop was organized by UN-HABITAT Kosovo in collaboration with the Centre for Civil Society Development, Radio Contact Plus, Community Building Mitrovica and Radio-TV Mitrovica. The participants were mobilized by the co-organizing civil society and media organisations. The workshop was kindly supported by OSCE (providing transport for participants), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung assisted in facilitating the workshop and the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (presented the final results).

The purpose was to explore in a relaxed atmosphere possible key issues and actions of improving the quality of the living environment of all citizens in Mitrovica. The current economic crisis and poor quality of life, that people from both parts of the city (North and South) are experiencing was a starting point for the brainstorming exercise and the



dialogue between the two communities. In expressing their concerns and preferences, people from both parts of the city identified common issues and worked together in developing solutions that could benefit all.

The workshop engaged and empowering the civil society and media organisations in Mitrovica South and North. It also strengthened the dialogue and cooperation between civil society organizations and professional planners from North and South Mitrovica. By using the method of Multi Visioning all possible ideas were explored in a very creative manner. Multi Visioning the living environment of Mitrovica means that everybody was free in

expressing their own vision and ideas, without the need to integrate those ideas in a single vision.

Although this approach allows different visions for North and South, the aim was to discuss openly the common and conflicting elements of the elaborated visions and ideas, resulting in a common Vision Statement for the future development of Mitrovica in the short term (2012) and longer term (2022). Ann-So-fie Nilsson (SIDA/Swedish Office) and Alastair Butchart-Livingston (OSCE Mitrovica Region) attended the presentation of the results and expressed their hope that there will be follow up and implementation of concrete projects in the nearby future.

LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP IN GJILAN

On January 16, 2007, a workshop initiated by the Directorate for Public Utilities and Services of the Municipal Assembly of Gjilan, and the UN-HABITAT Municipal Spatial Planning Support Program (MuSPP), was held. The Legal Advisor of UN-HABITAT, Mr. Lazim Salihu, presented an overview of the Law on Road Transport, the Law on Roads, and the Law on Waste, for the municipal officers from different departments of the Municipality.

The primary objective of the workshop was to increase the professional capacity and knowledge of municipal officials in relation to these laws, but also to discuss their relevance to spatial and urban planning. During the presentations, other clarifications were provided in terms of municipal responsibility

dealing with matters regulated by the aforementioned laws.

A few obstacles mentioned during the debate included that the laws need to be coordinated and harmonized, and that the municipalities are limited in their authority to implement these laws. It was also stated that these issues must not hamper the municipalities in undertaking activities in regulating public matters in municipalities. Speakers also requested support from the relevant ministries in interpreting laws for the municipalities, in creation of official evidence with the help of Geographical Information Systems (GIS), in identification of norms and standards for the implementation of these laws in accordance with the EU Directives, etc.

A strong consensus was made in that similar meetings and workshops which help interpret other laws, especially those related to spatial planning, are very welcome.

It is worth mentioning that based on the assessment of the workshop made ultimately by the participants, we can conclude that the workshop was well-prepared, both in the technical and substantial aspects, while specifically accenting the preparation of the lecturer and the manner of presentation.

Agim Salihu

Director of the Directorate for Public Utilities and Services in Gjilan/ Gnjilane Municipality

PUBLIC REVIEW OF URBAN REGULATORY PLAN FOR INFORMAL SETTLEMENT AT BREKOC - GJAKOVA/ DJAKOVICA



The Municipality of Gjarkova/ Djakovica has identified Brekoc as an informal settlement, and an urban regulatory plan has been prepared for its regularization. On the 22nd of December 2006, the Urbanism Directorate of Gjarkova/ Djakovica municipality organized a public review of the plan. This was undertaken in the neighborhood "Florida" restaurant. The public review of the plan was preceded by information activities through the Municipal Information Office. Due to holidays and low levels of participation of community members the public

review was kept open for a longer time than required by the law. During this period, the Municipality, together with community representatives and the designing company (Urban +), organized a two day debate held on 23rd and 24th of January. The debate was held separately for urban blocks. During this debate the plan was explained in detail and the opportunity was given to the representatives from the municipal urban sector and the community to give their remarks and suggestions regarding the plan. These were then forwarded to the company to

review and incorporate in the plan where it seemed reasonable. After the review the plan will be discussed by the Council of Planning Experts, Board of Directors, and Urbanism Committee and to the Committee of Politics and Finance and then submitted to the Municipal Assembly for legal approval.

Based on the report on recent public review of Urban Regulatory Plan of Brekoc informal settlements prepared by Ms. Nescrete Ajroni/ DU of Gjarkova/ Djakovica

UN - HABITAT CORNER

UN-HABITAT MEDIUM TERM STRATEGIC AND INSTITUTIONAL PLAN FOR 2008-2013

On Thursday, the 19 of December Nicholas You, Special Advisor on Policy and Strategic Planning from the office of the Executive Director, visited UN-HABITAT staff in Kosovo.

The aim of the visit was the presentation of the draft Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) for 2008-2013 of UN-HABITAT. This plan was in response to the complex issues

that human settlements are facing, particularly in rapidly growing slums, which if not addressed can become a cause of instability, affecting human beings and the natural environment.

The six-year MTSIP is pivotal to the vision of livable, productive and inclusive cities offered by sustainable urbanization. It recognizes that sustainable urbanization requires a stake-

holder-supported roadmap. From the outset, UN-HABITAT has understood that to be a true catalyst, one must make the process participatory.

The MTSIP calls for ongoing and increasing alliance building with all those committed to making a difference- the Habitat Agenda Partners. MTSIP presentation was followed with an interactive discussion.

UNIVERSITY OF LEUVEN PLANNERS VISIT THE BALKAN

Andre Loeckx and Jef van den Broeck are both professors in spatial planning and urban design at the University of Leuven (Belgium). Between 23 and 29 November last year, they visited the Balkan region to identify challenging cases with a view to establish a regional urban design and planning seminar in collaboration with UN-HABITAT HQ. During their short trip in the Balkan they also identified specific sites for a urban design master class in situ.

The MuSPP team in Kosovo organized a short but intensive programme to introduce the professors in Kosovo and its planning challenges. On Sunday morning (26 November), a MuSPP delegation accompanied the two professors from Skopje to Ferizaj, by train! The train arrived as usual well on schedule and the delegation was



welcomed by representatives from the municipality of Ferizaj/Urosevac. They gave a presentation on the planning progress in general and the action plan for the Mobility Center in particular. The field visit made clear that there is still a long way to go from reality to dream. An urban design exercise could certainly contribute to bridge this gap. After lunch, the professors were guided to Gjilan/Gnjilane, where they visited two specific sites: the Mirusha River in the city center and the informal settlement Zabe-

li I Sahit Agës at the edge of the city. Both visits made clear that the municipality is looking for planning methods with appropriate involvement of stakeholders and citizens. On Monday the two professors presented their mission at the Pristina office of UN-HABITAT. Thanks to the presence of representatives of the Department and Institute for Spatial Planning, the Association of Kosovo Municipalities and the University of Pristina/Faculty of Architecture, there was a lively debate on planning challenges and the role of urban design as a tool to achieve 'urban pacts' between all relevant stakeholders, through a process of 'negotiated urbanism'.

Later this year the two professors will present their report and recommendation when and where the Balkan seminar and site exercise should take place.

UN-HABITAT HOSTS WORLD SOCIAL FORUM WOMEN'S COURT

Nairobi 22/01/2007- Hundreds of delegates to the World Social Forum currently underway in Nairobi, Kenya on Monday converged at the UN-HABITAT headquarters for a special session highlighting the troubles women face worldwide.

Known as the "World Court of Women on Poverty: lives, livelihoods, life-worlds", the session heard testimonies

from women in developing countries on problems of poverty, pain, survival and resistance to the structural causes of poverty and destitution. The testimonies were received by a jury of wise women and men from all parts of the world.

In a key note address to the participants, UN-HABITAT Executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka said that the World

Social Forum 2007 was being held at a critical time in human history, when half of the world population will live in urban areas.

Mrs. Tibaijuka challenged the participants to appreciate the problem of slums and the hardships that slum dwellers went through.

Source: www.unhabitat.org

MEDIA CORNER

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

The furthering of the informal settlement issue is aimed at

This article provides information about the workshop on informal settlements organized by MESP, UN-HABITAT and OSCE Mission in Kosovo. With the motto "For a better life in our municipality" the workshop was aiming at raising awareness on urban upgrading and regularization of informal settlements and development of strategies for resolving the issue, in line with Vienna Declaration and the European Partnership Action Plan.

Source: *Zëri*, 17/11/06

PRISHTINA/ PRISTINA

A capital city with seven thousand illegal constructions

For the first time after the war, the Municipal Assembly (MA) of Prishtina will discuss illegal buildings. Despite demands of deputies from the MA to give more attention to this issue, the Municipal leadership has decided to discuss this problem only on grounds of information provided by the Inspectorate. The Inspection has stated that there are 7 thousand buildings build without permit in Prishtina.

Source: *Lajm*, 12/02/2007

GJAKOVA/ DJAKOVICA

Gjakova in 2015, 5 urban centers and the railway

Article provides us with information on the contents of the Municipal and Urban Development plan for Gjakova/ Djakovica, which is ongoing. Within the Development Plan, Gjakova planned to have 5 other local, urban and administrative centers to be established in the largest five villages. The creation of these centers would prevent the population migrating towards the center.

As noted by MA Aqif Shefu, the orientation of municipal and urban development should be guided towards the Gjakova/ Djakovica Mountains (Malesia e Gjakoves), with the aim of Northern Albania benefiting from the development as well, such as Tropoja, Bajram Curri etc.

Source: *Koha Ditore*, 13/12/06

GJILAN/ GNJILANE

There are no new developments by old plans

Knowing that good spatial planning represents a capital interest for the day, and for the generations to come, Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality has begun its work of drafting the MDP/UDP. Sevdije Maliqi, Urbanism, Reconstruction and Environment Director, stated that Gjilani/ Gnjilane is in great need of these plans, in order to respond to the citizens requirements in a sustainable manner. In this regards, several debates have been held with citizens and interest groups, while the final draft of the plans will be subject to a public review. In several debates in the past, it was stated that the generations would have live with the legacy left by today's good or bad planning.

Source: *Infopress*, 06/09/06

MITROVICA

An action to improve traffic flow

The Municipality of Mitrovica has undertaken an action to the flow of citizens and vehicles, by removing physical obstacles in roads and sidewalks. The Director for Inspection, Ismet Sylja, stated that a group has been formed in order to monitor circulation of taxis, taxi-vans and buses, to conclude if their activity is legal, and to designate adequate parking plots.

Source: *Lajm*, 09/02/2007

PEJA/PEC

An amphitheater in a lay of wild animals

Article provides interesting insights about a project (amphitheater in the Drelaj village in Rugova), the investor is a businessman from Rugova working currently in Denmark. The project estimated an investment of 1 million Euros for the artistic work to be made, the first of its kind in Kosovo. With this development, the investor is convinced he will set to change the social mentality. According to municipal representative, Violeta Ukaj, the amphitheatre shall serve to make the people nobler.

Source: *Koha Ditore*, 12/12/06

PRIZREN

Numerous challenges for urbanism and spatial planning

Challenges in urbanism and spatial planning in Prizren municipality are numerous, and they will be very difficult to overcome with the current conditions. The lack of a population census, lack of cadastre aerial photography and imagery are only some of the elements that are a key problem for the drafters which are trying to put some order to the field. All these statements were made by the experts of the field themselves, in a meeting of the "Debate Club", organized in Prizren by the NGO "FID". According to the Urbanism and Spatial Planning Department in MA Prizren, Refki Muzbeg, Prizren does not have a Municipal Development Plan, which would be the establishment for drafting other plans. Still, positive steps have been made in this direction, because together with UN-HABITAT, the drafting of such a plan has already begun.

Source: *Koha Ditore* 04/01/2007

FERIZAJ/ UROSEVAC

Traffic is designed by norms

This article highlights important insights on the urban traffic in Ferizaj/ Urosevac. Ferizaj/ Urosevac, as a new town, handicapped by the road network only. Considering the daily rate of circulation, and knowing that it is a regional traffic axis, the rules on good and passenger transport must be viewed as the most important ones. The local government has put forward a draft regulation, which foresees the arrangement of travel routes and times in certain roads, local stations for commuters, register establishment and inspection, luggage and passenger transport, traffic sign establishment, internal and external public bus designs bus stops (local stations), billboard placement conditions, etc. The public discussion would enrich this regulation, the NGO network has been appealing to citizens for days, them and their interest groups to participate in this debate to discuss this draft regulation.

Source: *Koha ditore* 19.12.2006

NETWORKING

WORKSHOP ON URBAN UPGRADING AND THE REGULARIZATION OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN KOSOVO

On the 16 November 2006, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, UN HABITAT and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo organized a joint Workshop on Urban Upgrading and the Regularization of Informal Settlements in Kosovo.

The purpose of the workshop was awareness rising about urban upgrading and regularization of informal settlements and to develop strategies for resolving the issue in line with the spirit of Vienna Declaration on Informal Settlements, Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan (KSIP) and European Partnership Action Plan (EPAP). The initiative came in response to the current situation in Kosovo and the rapid development of peri-urban areas. During past decades, and particularly af-



ter the conflict, Kosovo has seen the development of informal settlements in and around its cities.

By bringing together different partners including representatives from central and local level government bodies, international and local experts on urban

law, policies and the regularization of informal settlements, representatives from local and regional NGOs, representatives of the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme of the UN-HABITAT programme in Kosovo and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, the workshop created an opportunity of discussing different issues of integrating informal settlements into municipal spatial and urban plans and develop ideas on how to deal with these challenges in the future.

Following this activity, on 12 of December, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, UN-HABITAT and OSCE organized a press conference and made public recommendations on the regularization of informal settlements and the upgrading of urban areas.

4TH REGIONAL VIENNA DECLARATION REVIEW MEETING

Kosovo signed the Vienna Declaration on Informal Settlements in South Eastern Europe (SEE); Kosovo has reaffirmed its commitments to formalizing existing informal settlements and preventing future informal housing development. In the SEE Ministerial conference held on September 2004, it was identified vital interest of SEE governments and international institutions to develop a capacity building instrument to train national as well as municipal officials in the area of housing and urban management. The so called Regional Capacity Strengthening Programme (RCSP) was developed. For the implementation of this programme, several Vienna Declaration Review Meetings and technical workshops on housing and urban management were held.

The fourth Regional Vienna Declaration Review meeting took place on November 23 and 24th in Belgrade, Serbia. Kosovo was represented by Suzana Goranci, head of the division of inter-municipal cooperation which

operates within the Department of Spatial Planning (MESP), and Krystyna Galezia, officer in charge of UN-HABITAT in Kosovo.

Participants from other SEE countries were from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Croatia and Serbia as well as representatives from different national and international NGOs and support Agencies participated in the meeting.

The meeting aimed at ensuring the continuity in addressing informal settlements issues through the region by:

- Discussing the status of RCSP preparation and initial implementation, in particular to review the pilot/demo projects selection process and the discussion of the two selected proposals from Albania and Montenegro.
- Review issues arising in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration action plans and
- Learn from the operational expe-

riences in addressing the issue of informal settlements based on the field trip and project presentations in Serbia.

After the submitting progress action plans in their countries, the representatives of the signatory Ministries to the Vienna Declaration raised and discussed the issues on informal settlements in their countries. Application of sustainable procedures for regularization and budget planning for regularization were main issues raised by the Kosovo delegation.

The meeting concluded with the specific requests for an exchange of information among participating Western Balkan countries and a major resource mobilization. It was hoped that the second call for approved demo-projects will be made before the 5th Regional Review Meeting which is going to be held in Podgorica, Montenegro in May 2007.

Suzana Goranci

Department of Spatial Planning, MESP

FERIZAJ / UROSEVAC MEETS LUND

Ferizaj/ Urosevac Municipality is currently in the drafting phase for the MDP (Municipal Development Plan) and UDP (Urban Development Plan). During the planning process, we have identified a problem with traffic and transport and initiated a public spirited engagement to develop a pilot project for a "Mobility Centre". This initiative was in principle supported also by the Municipal Assembly of Ferizaj/ Urosevac.

As part of the process of this pilot project, a study visit to another city/ country with successful integrated mobility was planned in order to provide a good example for Ferizaj/ Urosevac and give the team helpful ideas for the implementation of such a centre.

From 20 – 23 of November 2006, representatives of the Ferizaj/Urosevac municipality, including Mr. Faik Grainca (Municipal Mayor), Mr. Dugagjin Etemi (CEO), Mr. Mustafe Zariqi (Head of Urban Planning Sector) and three representatives from the "Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme" (MuSPP) from UN-Habitat visited the city of Lund in Sweden. The group was also accompanied by a National TV (RTK) team.

The purpose of this study visit was to see how public transport (both bus and railway) is organised and how it is functioning. The visit to Lund was not decided casually. Lund has more or less the same size and the same population as Ferizaj/ Urosevac, and both cities have a special characteristic in that the railway goes through the middle of the city.

This field visit was organised by the transport expert from the MuSPP program of UN-HABITAT, Mr. Gunnar Lagerqvist and the Transport Department of Lund Municipality. The group was presented with an outline of the organisation, management and functioning of integrated mobility within the city. From the presentations given by the experts of this department as well through the visits to the city, we saw how integrated transport is offering a functional and fluent mobility for all.

Therefore I would like to show my appreciation to UN-HABITAT for organising this worthwhile visit, which



convinced us of the importance of having the railway in the city centre integrated with other systems of public transport. The idea of the project, the so called "Mobility Centre", is a great input in improving the life of citizens. Therefore our field visit made us think seriously about how to approach the same problem in our municipality in compliance with our conditions and

budget. Collaboration and encouragement of investment from the private sector in this case is very important and, for the time being, the only solution in realisation of major projects in our municipality.

Dugagjin Etemi
CEO of Ferizaj/ Urosevac municipality

THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA WELCOMES MUSPP

From the 7th to the 11th of November 2006, as part of the MUSPP program, UN-HABITAT organized a study tour to the Republic of Slovenia for a delegation composed of representatives from the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (the Department and the Institute of Spatial Planning), the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, official representatives of several municipalities such as CEO's, Directors of Departments of Urbanism and spatial planners as well as UN-HABITAT staff working in the municipalities of Gjilan/Gjilane, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Gjakova/Djakovica, Prizren, Peja/Pec and Mitrovice/Mitrovica.

The delegation met with a range of different actors involved with spatial planning and visited strategic projects in the field.

The group was welcomed by the municipalities of Maribor, Celje and Velenje, where it was guided by the Municipal Departments of Urbanism, Regional Development Agencies and by other urban design, mobility, environmental research and new technology development offices. The group was also welcomed by the Urban Planning Institute in Ljubljana, where it met representatives from the Department of Urbanism of the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, the Town and Spatial Planning Association of Slovenia and the European Council of Town Planners.

The various field visits illustrated that the starting point of improving the living conditions at the municipal level - even with limited resources and before funding is available - consists of taking the initiative in drafting a long term vision together with a limited number of short term strategic projects.

The municipalities visited are very active in preparing or organizing competitions for strategic projects that integrate architecture, public space, mobility and green network improvement, in order to mobilize private or institutional funding. Those projects are mostly oriented to land and build-



ing conversion in order to contain the growth of the city and to preserve the surrounding green and rural environment.

The study tour also illustrated the relevance of having a vision on a regional scale supported by Regional Development Agencies. RDA's strengthen the cooperation between the municipal and national level and assist in lobbying for funds from EU, locals and foreign investors. The RDA's in Maribor and Celje are mainly focused on new high technology industry to generate innovative economic developments.

The Slovenian municipalities visited, Velenje in particular, stressed their

satisfaction in having adopted a Geographic Information System (GIS) for its spatial management and the cost-effectiveness of both local and regional initiatives.

According to the participants, the study visit was relevant and successful. It opened the eyes to sustainable spatial planning according to European standards. It also strengthened the network of cooperation between official actors in planning from both countries and as well as between the central, the municipal executive authorities and the planners in Kosovo. A full report with the recommendations for follow up actions can be provided by request.

NEXT EDITION - IN FOCUS REMOTE SENSING AND GIS CAN HELP MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PLANNING WORK

One of the major difficulties, which Kosovo municipalities face in the preparation of their municipal and urban development plans, is the lack of data. Data can be collected

in many different ways, but one of them is the remote sensing method, e.g. from the photographs of an area taken by an airplane or a satellite. Data collected in this way

can be further processed with the use of GIS and support the planning process. The next issue of the Newsletter will carry more information on this subject.

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 Gjilan/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



Making Better Cities Together

**Municipal Spatial
Planning Support
Programme in Kosovo**

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