

## Key Partners in Kosovo-wide Planning Context

- » Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (DSP and ISP) - the main counterpart at the central level
- » Ministry of Local Government Administration - partner for local governance issues
- » Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications - partner for transport and mobility issues
- » Association of Kosovo Municipalities/Colegium on Spatial Planning - platform for promoting new urban policies, share information and experiences
- » Prime Minister's Office for Good Governance - partner for good governance, equal rights and gender issues
- » Civil society organisations, NGOs, - stakeholders in the planning process and project development
- » UN agencies within UNKT, EU and OSCE - partners for joint activities and/or programming
- » Cultural Heritage without Borders CHwB and Local Environmental Action Plan LEAP - Sida funded programmes
- » FES - Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, partner in promoting public debates
- » UN-HABITAT Regional Technical Cooperation Division, Warsaw Office for Central and Eastern Europe
- » University of Pristina, Kosovo Cadastre Agency and its municipal offices
- » UNMIK - United Nations Mission in Kosovo - partner for Integrated Strategic Cooperation Framework

## UN-HABITAT in Kosovo and South-Eastern Europe

Throughout its presence in Kosovo and the broader SEE region since 1999, UN-HABITAT has been promoting good governance, security of tenure, equal participation of men and women in the development of sustainable human settlements and inclusive spatial planning. UN-HABITAT's initial interventions in Kosovo were focussed on the establishment of institutions to deal with property issues - the Housing and Property Directorate and the Kosovo Cadastre Agency - and on building capacities for efficient management of local governments through Municipal Support Programme and LoGo (Local Government Programme).

The successive programmes: the Urban Planning and Management Programme (UPMP, 2001-2003), the Governance and Development Planning Programme (GDPP, 2003-2006), the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme 1 (MuSPP, 2005-2007) and the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme 2 (MuSPP, 2008-2011) have helped to develop, anchor and institutionalise a new planning system and strengthen capacities of professionals dealing with spatial and urban planning at the central and local level.

Building capacities for inclusive planning is a prerequisite for the accession to the European Union. UN-HABITAT has engaged with various countries in the South East European region on urbanisation policy advice and technical cooperation. To support SEE countries in furthering reforms in the areas of housing and urban development and to assist EU integration process, UN-HABITAT in cooperation with the Stability Pact and in close consultation with the governments in the Western Balkans, has developed a Regional Capacity Strengthening Programme for Housing and Urban Development. The Programme is implemented by UN-HABITAT's Office for Central and Eastern Europe, based in Warsaw.

## UN-HABITAT's Mandate

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, is the United Nations Agency mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. In the light of rapid global urbanisation, the strategic vision of UN-HABITAT offers a way forward for achieving this full-spectrum agenda, by targeting means for implementing programmes and projects in a proper and practical relationship to global priorities and Millennium Development Goals.

Achieving sustainable development and alleviating poverty require the integration of economic, social and political objectives into a coherent overall framework. As part of UN-HABITAT's Global Campaign on Urban Governance, engagement of civil society in the decision-making process and consensus building for issues of local development is one of the key principles of Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme.

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## MUNICIPAL SPATIAL PLANNING SUPPORT PROGRAMME IN KOSOVO



PRISHTINE  
PRISTINA



# Making Better Cities Together

Phase 2, 2008-2011

**UN-HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

funded by  
**Sida**

## Why urban and spatial planning?

The last ten years have been the break-through period in the history of Kosovo and its people, both from the political and social point of view. The political and major economic changes, after the military conflict, resulted in population migration from rural areas to cities and towns in Kosovo. However, the cities are not prepared for such an influx of population. Although some of the larger cities have already adopted their municipal and urban development plans, the implementation of these plans is not easy. This leads to chaotic development, both in terms of housing and commercial developments as well as related physical infrastructure.

Like all new democracies, Kosovo has been facing a number of problems and challenges. Many of them are related to the task of bridging the past with the present, while looking towards the European future. In the context of spatial and urban planning, the challenge is how to bridge the past of Kosovo dominated by small and medium sized cities with the rapid growth of urban centres following the global urbanisation trend.

## What is the Programme about?

The Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP), under its 3-year activity schedule in Phase 2, continues to support municipalities in the consolidation of urban and spatial planning through a participatory and gender-equal process. The implementation of capital investment projects, resulting from this planning process, will lead to improved living conditions and more attractive urban environment. With the methodology of learning by doing and through on-the-job assistance, the programme aims at strengthening capacities of counterparts and other stakeholders for a strategic planning approach. The programme aims also at enhancing and promoting regional and cross-border cooperation.

The motto of the MuSPP is "Making Better Cities Together" which means that planning local development belongs not only to professionals, but also to citizens represented by different social and age groups, men and women, boys and girls. The current phase of MuSPP builds on the programme's earlier work which focused on assisting six secondary cities of Kosovo in drafting municipal and urban development plans. These plans were to be strategic, action oriented and prepared in an inclusive manner. At present, most of these municipalities are in the process of implementing these plans through lower level plans, such as regulatory plans, and capital investments. In many cases the engagement of private or donor funding will determine the success of such undertakings.

In the current phase, MuSPP cooperates with 5 larger municipalities with strong urban centers – Ferizaj/Urosevac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovica, Peja/Pec, Prizren, but also with 3 newly established smaller municipalities – Junik, Hani I Elezit/General Jankovic and Mamusha/Mamusa, which have a rural character.

## Consolidation of the cyclical planning

Planning is not a one time exercise. Municipal, urban and regulatory plans must run ahead of the changing urban environment and create conditions for new investments, while maintaining the control of development projects. Therefore the consolidation of the planning practice and cyclical revisions of the plans are indispensable if urban and spatial planning is to play its proper role. Making this planning process successful requires efficient planning structures at the central and local level, qualified staff as well as established planning practices and implementation mechanisms. On-the-job assistance to the partner municipalities is therefore aimed at building capacities for conducting and monitoring spatial and urban planning activities as well as preparing grounds for their effective implementation.

## Development and implementation of strategic capital investment projects

The purpose of municipal and urban plans is to set development priorities and create conditions for new investments. Just like the planning process, the development of capital projects should take into account the priorities of citizens and help improve their living environment. Often, even small improvements such as the greening of public spaces, improving the surface of pavements for pedestrians, organisation of a play-ground for children and youth or the installation of street furniture - litter bins, benches, and lighting - makes a great difference in how people perceive public spaces. The programme will help partner municipalities to develop and fund such projects.



## Strengthening capacities of central level institutions for planning support to municipalities

Many of the smaller municipalities have limited financial and human resources to undertake planning on their own. The Law on Spatial Planning gives an important role to the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in supporting municipalities in developing municipal and urban plans. Using the Collegium on Spatial Planning of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities as an information sharing body would help in the strengthening the interaction between the central and local level. MuSPP will support these activities and assist Kosovo planners in establishing contacts with their counterparts in other countries. The programme will also create a platform for peer learning.

## Improving living conditions in Informal Settlements

Informal Settlements and illegal constructions are among the main urban development problems faced by Kosovo. Some of them are gradually integrated into urban areas, fitted with services and infrastructure, while others remain illegal and informal. Property rights and security of tenure of inhabitants of Informal Settlements have become an element of the European Partnership Action Plan for Kosovo on its way towards closer association with the European Union. The programme will cooperate with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and partner municipalities in addressing the issue of Informal Settlements.

## Using lessons learned and peer learning as capacity building tools

Engagement of MuSPP during the 1st phase of the programme, allowed municipal staff in six secondary cities to gain practical planning experience as well as to develop effective methods of involving elected officials, professionals and civil society members in the planning process. The programme is replicating these methods in its work with smaller partner municipalities as well as in the activities aimed at developing cooperation between municipalities.

## What are the other areas of MuSPP activities?

Although formally the particular focus of MuSPP is on the development and implementation of municipal and urban plans, this means in practice the integration of a broader spectrum of related issues. These include for example, disaster risk assessment and management, transport and mobility, improvement of safety, accessibility and the aesthetic quality of public spaces, preservation of historic and natural heritage through development control and regulatory planning. In all the work the citizens, including the special needs groups, are at the forefront of these activities.

## How do we work?

Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme is focussed on daily cooperation and on-the-job assistance to municipal staff. The programme operates through its field offices located in Ferizaj/Urosevac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Peja/Pec, Mitrovica, and Prizren. MuSPP municipal teams are composed of international and Kosovar planners, who assist the municipalities in the planning activities and in the development of capital investment projects in a participatory, inclusive and action oriented manner. Support to MuSPP municipal teams on planning processes, public participation, gender mainstreaming, legal issues and information and communication is provided by the Prishtina office.

MuSPP is working closely with civil society organisations and informal citizens' groups at strengthening their capacities to participate in the urban and spatial planning process as well as in project design, implementation and monitoring.