



draft -Report
from
“Visioning Workshop Gračanica”
Ohrid/Ohër, Macedonia 2010



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MUNICIPAL SPATIAL PLANNING SUPPORT PROGRAMME
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Joint vision declaration

“Municipality of Gracanica, opulent with antic and medieval treasures and natural beauties – modern environment with developed economy and infrastructure where everyone enjoys the same rights and freedoms”

Joint motto of the visioning workshop:

“Gracanica Monastery – the World Treasure and our Pearl”

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1. Introduction

The participation and practical involvement of the citizens in the municipal and urban planning and decision making process plays a crucial role of the scope of UN-HBITAT Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP) whose Motto is "Making better Cities together". Planning For Real has been used in many countries in Europe over the years as a means for giving local people a 'voice' and professionals a clear idea of local people's needs in order to bring about an improvement to their own neighborhood or community. To facilitate this and integrate the aspirations and opinions of the civil society and municipal staff in the planning process a visioning workshop was organized at Ohrid, for Macedonia from 25th November to 29th November 2010 to develop jointly and in a participatory approach a Vision for the future development of the municipality.

Participants of the workshop were divided into four working groups based on four thematic areas. The groups carried out SWOT analysis, main objectives and motto in each field including visioning maps and vision statements. At the end a common motto and a vision statement were declared by the participants.

This visioning document is an elaboration and explanations of the methods, process of how the participants came up with the joint vision declaration. This document shall assure that the implementation of the Municipal and Urban Development Plan will be carried out in a participatory way. The aim is to provide a guideline in the process of preparing implementation roadmap of the MDP/UDP and to turn these visions into reality.

Furthermore, the purpose of this document is to facilitate decision-making process and ensure consistency of the results from the Visioning activities with the emerging Municipal Development Plan (MDP) that will be drafted in the near future. The results of the workshop and recommendations for planning and development in the Municipality of Gračanicë/Gračanica have been discussed and drafted in close co-operation and exchange with the representatives of the civil society, the Municipal Planning Team (MPT) and the board of experts of Gračanicë/Gračanica Municipality.



2. BACKGROUND

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Graçanicë/Gračnica in Kosovo

Kosovo is a small and landlocked territory in the center of the Balkan Peninsula. Kosovo borders Macedonia (FYROM), Albania, Serbia and Montenegro. Its area is 10 877 sq. km.

The capital of Kosovo is Pristina. It is divided into 7 Sectors and 37 administrative units (municipalities). These Sectors are Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Prishtina, and Prizren. The municipalities are; 1. Deçan, 2. Dragash, 3. Hani i Elezit, 4. Ferizaj, 5. Fushë -Kosovo, 6. Glogoc, 7. Gjakova, 8. Graçanicë, 9. Gjilan, 10. Istog, 11. Junik, 12. Kaçanik, 13. Kamenica, 14. Klina, 15. Klllokoti, 16. Leposaviq, 17. Lipjan, 18. Malisheva, 19 Mamush, 20. Mitrovica, 21. Novobërda, 22. Obiliq, 23. Peja, 24. Podujeva, 25. Prishtina, 26. Prizren, 27. Rahovec, 28. Ranillug, 29. Skenderaj, 30. Partesh, 31. Suhareka, 32. Shtërpce, 33. Shtime, 34. Viti, 35. Vushtrri, 36. Zveçan and 37. Zubin – Potok

(Source: www.kosovo.org).



The Municipality of Graçanicë/Gračanica is located in the central part of Kosovo and consists of the town of Gračanica and 13 cadastral zones and settlements; figure 1 shows the location of the municipality within Kosovo. The town of Gračanica is centered around Gračanica monastery. It is located south of Pristina on the regional road to Gjilan/Gnjilane

The municipality was established in February 2008 in accordance with the Ahtisaari's plan, whereby pieces of the municipalities of Lipjan/Lipljan, Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje and Prishtina were joined. The municipality of Gračanica includes the following settlements and cadastral units:

- from the municipality of Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje: Batusha/Batuse and Uklare/Ugljare;
- from the municipality of Lipjan :Gornja Gusterica, Dobrotin, Donja Gusterica, Lepina, Livadje, Radevo, Skulanevo and Suvi Do
- from municipality of Prishtina/Pristina: Gračanica (as municipal residents), Novi Badovac, part of Stari Badovac, Laplje Selo, Preoce, Susica, Kisnica and part of Caglavica

The most recent figures indicate a population approximately 25000 inhabitants and its territory is approximately 131, 25 square km. The majority of the citizens are Kosovo Serbs, but other ethnic groups live freely in the municipality as well. With its prime location, with the short distance of only 8 kilometers from the capital city Pristina, provides a major opportunity for the Graçanicë/Gračanica to develop itself into a prosperous, multi-cultural, vibrant retail, commercial and residential location.

(Source: Action Plan Gračanica 2010)

Gračanicë/Gračanica Monastery is part of the UNESCO World Heritage List and protected through a Special Protective Zone (SPZ). The SPZ includes the urban area of Graçanicë/Gračanica municipality, the center of Graçanicë/Gračanica town. It gives specific rules and criteria for any new development, mainly of a construction nature, within the zone.

During the spatial and urban planning process for the municipality and the urban zone of Graçanicë/Gračanica the SPZ has to be considered and respected accordingly, so that in their planning vision SPZ is well integrated into the broader picture of spatial planning. Other cultural heritage sites in the municipality with their potential Protective Zones (PZs), such as the Ulpiana archeological complex as one of a high value, should have the same integrated approach.

An appropriate and good access and connection of all cultural heritage sites in the municipality besides their protection and preservation, is of a great importance and to be considered during the planning process.



2.2 Natural and Topographic Characteristics of Graçanicë/Gračanica

Graçanicë/Gračanica is located on the eastern rim of the Kosovo valley, at a junction where the Valentina hill and Srazevac butte are located on the river of Graçanicë/Gračanica. Municipality is located at 570 meters above the sea level and is part of tectonic basin that descended during the tertiary period. The cross cutting road that goes through Graçanicë/Gračanica connects with Southern Serbia, as well as western Pomoravlje and further to Adriatic Sea and Albania. Close to the village, the artificial lake of Badovce is situated, important water source that supplies drinking water to number of settlements in Kosovo including Prishtina and Graçanicë/Gračanica.

The monastery used to dominate the whole centre and the pattern of the town as we know it was built up around it. The Graçanica monastery remains an important feature of the town today.

2.3 Economy

Graçanicë/Gračanica is primarily a rural municipality therefore its economy is highly dependent on agricultural production. Utilities and communal services are provided by the Prishtina regional utility public company. Similar to other rural areas in Kosovo, utilities and communal services are very poor.

Currently, majority of businesses within the municipality are small and mainly focus on producing goods for low-level trade, with no medium or large enterprises in operation at present. Highest numbers of employees are from the public sector; education department, followed by the health sector and the municipal administration sector.

2.4 Education

The education system in Graçanicë/Gračanica has primary schools located in: Graçanicë/Gračanica, Sushicë/Sušica, Llapnasellë/Laplje Selo, Bërnice e Ultë/ Donje Brnjica, Dobratin/Dobrotin, Gushterice e E/G. Gusterica, Lepi/Lepina, Livaxhe/Livagja, Radeve/Radevo, Skullanov/Skulanova, Suhadoll/Suvi and Uglar/Uglare. The seven secondary education buildings as sub branches of the secondary schools are located in: Graçanicë/Gračanica, Llapnasellë/Laplje Selo, and Preoce/Preoce. The total number is 4,119 students.

2.5 Health

This section of the report provides background information about the existing health facilities only. This is due to lack of available information, therefore, we are unable at this stage to give detailed information or indication about the health condition of the population.

In Graçanicë/Gračanica there are Family Health Centers which are located in the following villages: Llapllasellë/Laplje Selo, Preoc/Preoce, Çagllavicë/Çaglavica, Bërnice e Ulët/Donja Brnjica, Sushicë/Sušica, Sllivovë/Slivovo and Preoc/Preoce.

Secondary Health Care Center is provided by the Clinical Hospital Centre "Prishtinë/Priština" (KBC), which has the following facilities under its auspices located in Graçanicë/Gračanica: Gynecological Clinic "Majka devet Jugovica", Graçanicë/Gračanica; Surgery Clinic "Simonida", Graçanicë/Gračanica; Intern-Pediatrics Clinic "Kralj Milutin", Llapllasellë/Laplje Selo, Radiological Cabinet (RTG), Graçanicë/Gračanica; Micro-Biology, Graçanicë/Gračanica.

2.6 History and culture

Graçanicë/Gračanica is known for one of the most famous Serbian medieval monasteries, Graçanicë/Gračanica Monastery, founded by Saint King Milutin and his wife and sons Simonida and Stefan. It was constructed in 1310 and dedicated to the feast of dormition for the Holly Mother of God.

The foundation of Graçanicë/Gračanica Monastery was built in the shape of cross with five domes towering around the central structure. It therefore belongs to a group of first-class architectural achievements of that era; architectural composition of Graçanicë/Gračanica monastery represents the peak of Serbian architecture in the spirit of Byzantine tradition. Unfortunately the rich Graçanicë/Gračanica treasury was lost in fires between 1379 and 1383. At present treasury stores a number of valuable icons from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, as well as several significant manuscripts and liturgical objects.

The monastery is not only recognized as a place for religious worship but it is also on the list of UNESCO world heritage sites. It is one of the most important monuments of old Serbian culture.

(Source: www.kosovo.org).



3. THE VISION WORKSHOP

3.1 Process

The process of Visioning Workshop includes involvement and engagement of key stakeholders within the Municipality by bringing them together in a suitable environment and providing necessary analytical tools and information, in other words building capacity to enable the stakeholders to come up with a broad ideas, principles and goals alongside strategic priorities for future development of their municipality.

The rational behind the above concept is acknowledging that the stakeholder are in the best position to envisage what are the key priorities because they fully understand the issues concerning themselves in the neighborhood which they live and work. This would act as a starting point for brainstorming and identifying and selecting the main topics for discussion, followed by SWOT analysis exercise. The aim of this exercise is to enable the stakeholders to start thinking in more strategic way and come up with the vision statement for development of their neighborhoods and than identify main goals and objectives and strategic priorities for intervention.

In the following sessions those objectives would be spatially located and enabling stakeholder to express their spatial wishes and desires for the municipality of Gračanica/Gračanica. In addition, the workshop aimed at engaging and empowering civil society, business community, public sector, citizens and others in working together on setting up goals and priorities develop together a vision and build up consensus for the approval and elaboration of formal spatial plans. By using the method of Multi Visioning all possible ideas can be explored in a very creative way. Nevertheless, this approach allows different visions from stakeholders and the aim is to discuss openly the common and conflicting elements of the elaborated visions and ideas.

3.2 Methodology

Methodology used in the Visioning Workshop consisted of: Story telling session, training sessions, parallel working groups, plenary discussions, experience sharing sessions, socializing activities and presentations.

Workshop was undertaken through different phases such as: visualising memory map, group SWOT analysis, group objective analysis, integrated visioning municipal and urban zone maps and finally a joint vision statement (with a joint logo and motto) was approved.

3.3 Objectives

Objectives of the Visioning Workshop aimed at:

- Empowering civil society, business community, and others in inclusive spatial and community planning to improve quality of life.
- Strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between civil societies, business community with local authority.
- Increase the sense of ownership to MDP/UDP of civil society, business community, citizens and others.

Selecting topics:

The topics for working groups for the workshop were selected through a discussion among the participants and workshop facilitators. The topics reflect the major spatial planning issues of the municipality and town. The structure of the document has been adapted to the main structure of the analyses carried out by the municipal working groups divided in four groups:

1. Group 1: Natural and Cultural Heritage
2. Group 2: Infrastructure and Mobility
3. Group 3: Economic Development
4. Group 4: Social Services and Housing

For each sector (selected topic) the general objective that should be achieved are described as well as the identified areas of actions (Measures and Projects). As a reference to the priorities that have been set in the discussions strategic priorities are outlined separately to emphasize those activities that should be tackled first.

Outputs of the Workshop:

Each group carried out SWOT analysis about their chosen topic areas. The task of every group was to identify and analyze in-depth strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of present situation. Following from this, the process of selecting objectives and priorities has been driven by the SWOT analysis. Furthermore, the participants worked closely together on finding out whether their objectives are achievable and then further analysis has been undertaken by each group with the aim to identify the internal and external factors that are favorable and unfavorable to achieve the objectives and identified strategic priority projects.

3.4 Gračanice/Gračanica Memory Map

Introduction to the workshop was made with visualizing memory map of the municipality. In this exercise all participants introduced themselves and gave a short story (some of the good memories) about their neighborhood and then highlighted on the map the favorite place/event of their own, with a description why this place/event/experience was chosen. As a result, different public spaces, streets, neighborhoods, natural resources, green areas, and especially the monastery were mentioned. The objective of this session was to generate as much input as possible so that the group can hear each others stories.

Some of the memory places mentioned are: Gračanice/Gračanica Monastery, Love Street, the lake, woodlands, old česme/springs, fishpond, romska mahalla/roma neighborhood and school memories



Memory spots of Gračanice/Gračanica participants marked during visioning workshop

After story telling session 5 participants were selected from the group and sketch their memories into the visual map



3.5 Gračanicë/Gračanica SWOT Analyses

All urban development changes of a city are part of a wider context. The city is influenced continuously by different economic, social and political processes taking place in society. An important objective of the planning process is to develop sustainable and balanced communities, where all sections of society, regardless of their wealth, occupation or background, feel included. All of these aspects are equally important when it comes to creating vibrant, prosperous, and engaging communities in the area which they live and work. Therefore, it is vital that planners have a clear picture of the context when planning for future development of the municipality.

What environment will the development be implemented in? What external factors are important for the fulfillment of the urban and municipal planning objectives? are some of the elements that needs be well thought of at the start of planning process. Therefore, it is necessary to make an initial overall “scanning” of the general context where does Gračanicë/Gračanica stand at present.

This step is often undertaken by making a study, for example of a sector or a region etc, and/or by making a SWOT analysis (SWOT analysis is used as a method of identifies strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats). It is particularly helpful in identifying areas for development .It involves specifying the objective of the project and identifying the internal and external factors that are favorable and unfavorable to achieve those identified objectives. Making a SWOT analysis of, for example, an urban and municipal development plan would preferably be done in an initial stage of a participatory project planning workshop. The result would give a broad idea of where the municipality stands.



A group representative showing SWOT results

The results from each working group with reference to Gračanica SWOT Analysis are shown on tables below;

Group 1: Natural and Cultural Heritage

Strengths

- Geographic position
- Monastery Gračanica and nearby churches
- Ulpiana
- Fountain
- Lake
- Monument to Unknown Soldier
- Clear nature
- Fishpond
- Rivers
- Agricultural land
- Water mill
- Traditional food
- Hunting and fishing
- Tinih bunar??
- Veletin Hill and Vac
- Kisnica mine

Weaknesses

- Insufficient care of cultural and natural heritage
- Illegal landfills
- Waste waters
- Slag dump
- Unregulated water areas

Opportunities

- Cultural tourism
- Creation of parks nearby Monastery and churches
- Regulation of riverbeds
- Regulation of children playgrounds
- Cultural and natural heritage
- Cleaning of landfills
- Agricultural development
- Recycling of waste materials
- Installation of water treatment systems
- Construction of road infrastructure
- Possibility of foreign investments and donations due to attractiveness of the new Municipality
- Advantage of the proximity of the city
- Production of natural food

Threats

- Illegal construction
- Natural disasters
- Politics
- Permanent lack of understanding amongst community members on importance and preservation of cultural and natural heritage
- Environmental gaps

Group 2: Infrastructure and Mobility

Strengths

- Rehabilitation of WC
- Part of roads
- Promenade – quay
- Regulated riverbed
- Large coverage
- Sewerage and water supply systems
- Establishment of public utility company
- Construction of drainage system

Weaknesses

- Traffic flow through the town center
- Poor condition and congestion of side roads
- Water supply for settlements of Badovac and Susica
- Problems with electricity supply
- Architectural obstacles
- Lack of buss station
- Poor public utility services
- Parking

Opportunities

- Plain area
- Access to the airport
- Proximity of the Capital
- Tourist potentials
- Railroad
- Regional water supply system
- Mwstan u Opstini

Threats

- Spillover of the lake
- River floods
-

Group 3: Economic Development

Strengths

- Industrial zone
- Legalization
- Mineral wealth
- Spirit of entrepreneurship
- Production of agricultural products by private entrepreneurs
- Ulpiana-Monastery

Weaknesses

- Non-exploitation of mineral wealth
- Irrigation
- Market for placement of products
- Unemployment
- Low level of education
- Lack of road infrastructure and access roads

Opportunities

- Hotel business development
- More intensive exploitation of mineral wealth
- Increased production and placement of agricultural products
- Food-processing industry
- Enhanced quality of employees

Threats

- Lack of investors' interest
- Emigration of young people

Group 4: Social Services and Housing

Strengths

- Number of young inhabitants
- Expert staff
- Constant influx of population
- Multiethnic and multicultural environment
- Center for health services
- Center for social welfare
- Provision of education at all levels
- Proximity of the Capital
- Business zone
- Center for sheltering young and elderly people with special needs
- NGO sector
- Counseling services for women
- Outdoor sport centers – courts
- Planned residential areas

Weaknesses

- Housing facilities
- Space for health facilities
- Indoor sport facilities
- Lack of cultural facilities
- Shelter for children without parental care
- Socio-economic maps
- School premises
- Safe house, hotel premises

Opportunities

- Funds and donations
- Returns of experts
- Business development
- University
- Improvement of standard of living
- Informal education

Threats

- Extraditions
- Development of the City of Pristina – industrial area
- Existence of informal settlements

3.6 Gračanicë/Gračanica Objectives Analysis

Based on the SWOT analyses of the municipality the workshop participants set out the objectives for municipal developments in each thematic area. The objectives mostly are explanations of what the municipality, in the terms of urban and municipal development plan is going to achieve in the next 5 years.

The results from working groups are shown below but are not listed in any particular order or preference or priority.

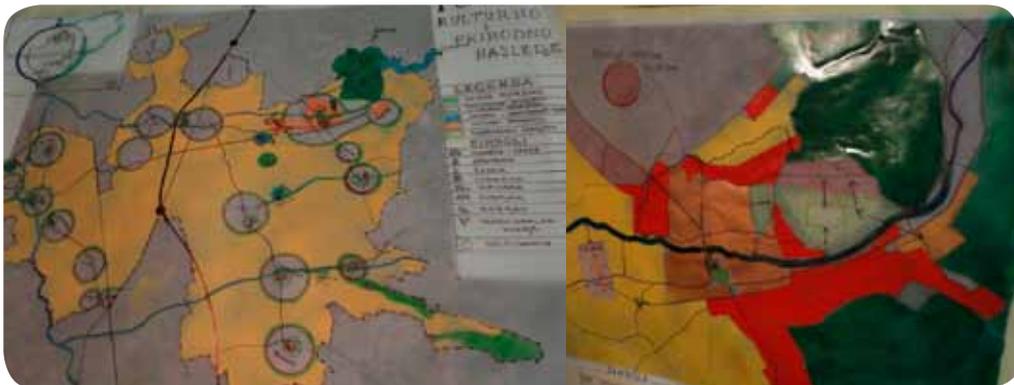


GROUP 1 – NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Motto: Green-greener, old-modern, healthy and attractive Municipality of Gračnica

Objectives (2010-2016)

1. Construction of bypassing road beyond the protected zone of Gračnica
2. Continuation of archeological sites exploration and Museum building
3. Infrastructure improvement in order to connect tourist locations
4. Construction of tourist centers on hills of Veletin and Stezevac (ski runs, bike tracks)
5. Conservation and revitalization of Kisnica Mine in order to provide new activities which will be in function of cultural tourism and protection of nature and environment
6. Regulation of riverbeds in order to protect the environment
7. Regulation of fishpond in the village of Radevo, construction of restaurant, picnic ground and sport courts
8. Reclamation and revitalization of slag dump in Gračnica – covering with fertile soil, construction of parks and sport infrastructure.
9. Construction of road infrastructure, pedestrian and bike tracks in order to enable access to the picnic ground, rehabilitation of existing water spring with drinking water
10. Afforesting of bare terrain surrounding Gračnica river
11. Implementation of plan for waste water treatment (construction of the facility)
12. Construction of water supply systems in areas where they do not exist



Municipal and urban level objectives of Group 1

GRUP 2 – MOBILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Motto: Municipality of Gracanica, accessible, attractive and traditional

Objectives (2010-2016)

1. Construction of bypass road in Gracanica
2. Resolution of the water supply problem in Badovac and Susica
3. Construction of the central buss station
4. Activation of the railroad traffic
5. Unimpeded access to all places for persons with special needs
6. Reconstruction of the road leading to the Airport
7. Creation of pedestrian and bike tracks (traffic relaxation)
8. Adequate public utility services
9. 24/7 electricity supply
10. Construction of the irrigation system
11. Motivation of municipal tourist agencies
12. Regulation of riverbeds
13. Drafting of municipal regulation on provision of parking space for newly constructed buildings
14. Double the parking space



Municipal level objectives of Group 2



Urban level objectives of Group 2

GROUP 3 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

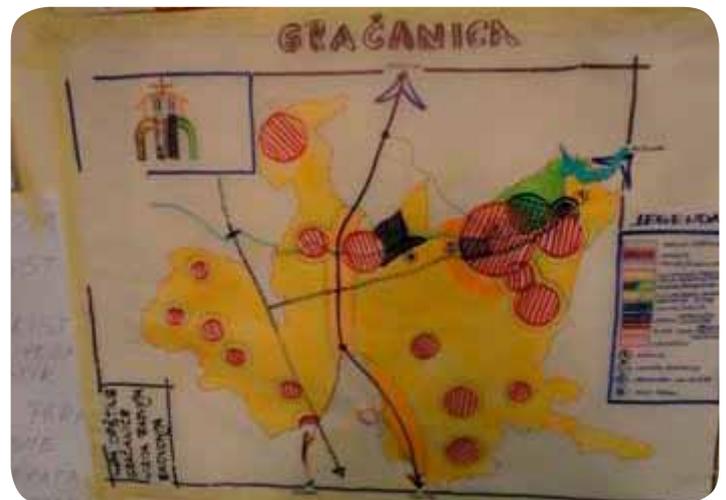
Motto: Modern municipality with developed infrastructure and economy

Objectives (2010-2016)

1. More intensive development of agricultural production
 - Increased number of greenhouses (2-5 per annum, 10%)
 - Production of organic food
2. More intensive development of industrial production
 - Development of food-processing industry
 - Development of beer production facilities (10 years, 7% ZAP. OSL??)
3. Mining industry
 - Finding possibilities to reuse the mine in the sense of other economic activities
4. Tourism development
 - Construction of tourist centers
 - Intensification of tourist activities in relation with the Monastery
 - Construction of parks nearby fountain
 - Construction of sport facilities nearby golf court – School of sport



Urban level objectives of
Group 3



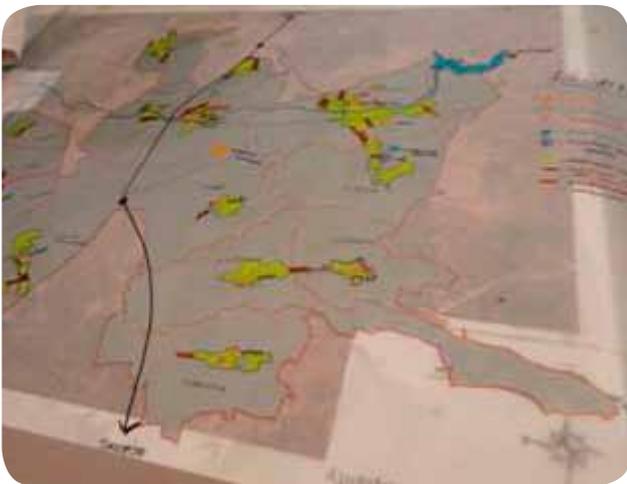
Urban level objectives of
Group 3

GROUP 4 – SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

Motto: Every family in its own house within socio-urban environment

Objectives (2010-2016)

- 1 Collective housing for internally displaced persons and socially vulnerable young couples (10%+ 10%) 5 years
- 2 Individual housing within farms 5%
- 3 Extension of health houses 15%
- 4 Extension of school facilities
 - Pre-school - 4 years
 - Secondary school center – 2-3 years
 - Faculty building- 5-7 years
- 5 Theatre - Cinema- 3 years
- 6 Educational center – 2 years
- 7 Green areas- 15-20%
- 8 Sport hall 2 years
- 9 Drafting of socio-economic card – 2 years
- 10 One-stop shop office – 1-2 years
 - Mobile office



Municipal level objectives of Group 4



Urban level objectives of Group 5

3.7 Joint Vision Statement and Motto

Motto of the visionary workshop:

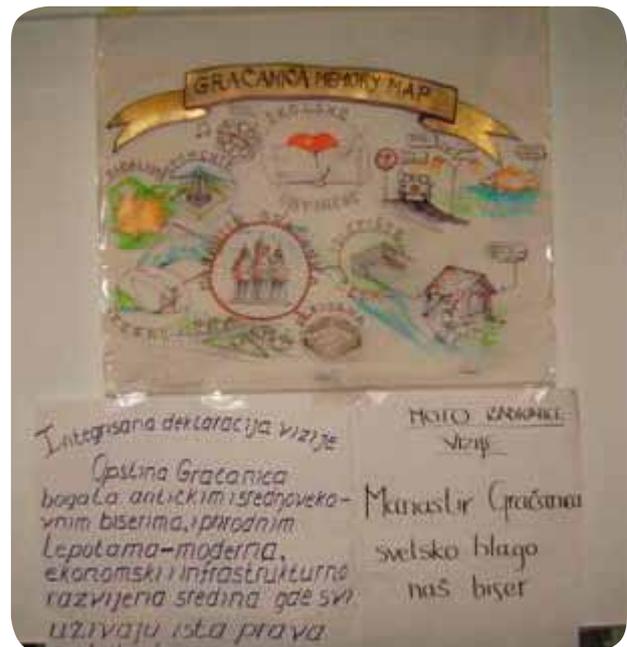
"Gračnica Monastery – the World Treasure and our Pearl"

Joint vision declaration:

"Municipality of Gračnica, opulent with antic and medieval treasures and natural beauties – modern environment with developed economy and infrastructure where everyone enjoys the same rights and freedoms"



Joint logo



Memory map and joint vision statement

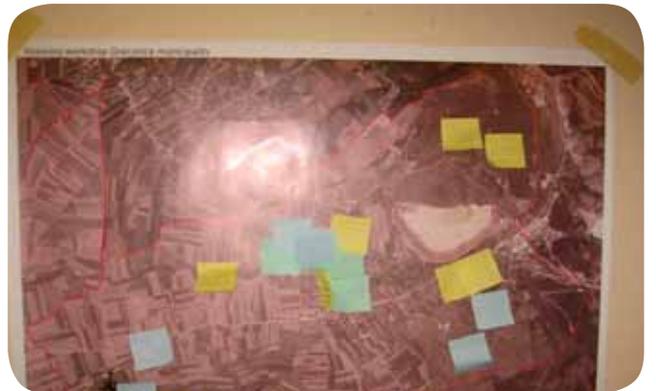


CONCLUSION

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This visioning document is an elaboration and explanations of the methods, process of how the participants came up with the joint vision declaration. This document is just a first step towards the initiation of drafting the Municipal and Urban Development Plan. The aim is to provide a guideline in the process of preparing implementation roadmap of the MDP/UDP and to turn these visions into reality.

All the outcomes of this workshop will be presented to the public and to the municipal administration in coming months. A post visioning workshop is planned to take place where a summary of the outcome of the visioning workshop in the form of 'Vision Declaration' will be presented to the workshop participants and to the municipal officials. The next step will be to combine the results of the visioning workshop in other words the results from the four thematic municipal working groups that have carried out an in-depth analysis of the municipal development into an integrated vision .



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