

## EDITORIAL

### *It's all about communication...*

In April 2006, the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP) was launched. This programme is funded by the Swedish Government through the Swedish International Development Agency, and implemented by UN-HABITAT in Kosovo. The Programme provides technical assistance to the six secondary cities, to help strategic and inclusive planning occur. The main objective is to strengthen local capacities to set up sustainable urban planning processes, to implement measures and actions and to monitor the urban development. "Making Better Cities Together", the motto of MuSPP, can only be achieved through intensive cooperation with our counterparts. These are the municipalities of the six secondary cities in Kosovo and the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment.

Communication and networking are crucial tools to strengthen capacities for sustainable urbanization. Communication within mu-

nicipalities, between municipalities, between local and central level, between Kosovo and international institutions, between the planners and the decision makers, and - most important of all - between the local decision makers and the people, the business communities and the civil society organizations. Participatory planning is about communication and cooperation. Good governance means decision-making and implementation based on continuous and respected communication between all groups and individuals in society.

We know it's easier said than done. We hope that this Newsletter will contribute to the communication and interaction of all partners involved in MuSPP and sustainable spatial planning in general. We also hope that you will not only read the Newsletter, but also write for the coming editions. Your remarks and contributions are warmly welcome.

*UN-HABITAT MuSPP Team*

- **Urban Mobility in Kosovo - a Big Challenge**
- **Inclusion of Civil Society in Planning Processes**
- **KOSOVO, an example of good international practices**
- **State of play of 'Making Better Cities Together'**
- **UN-HABITAT identifies priority areas for Europe**
- **Peja/Pec first city in Kosovo with MDP/UDP?**

## PILOT ACTION - CITY BUS IN PEJA/PEC

Today the city of Peja/ Pec is without an adequate urban transport system. An urban public transport system is an indispensable part of a healthy urban social and economic structure. Setting up a regular city bus line is no easy job. Therefore, the Municipality of Peja/ Pec in cooperation with UN-HABITAT and Kosovatrans, decided to start with a pilot project in which a city bus line was tested over 5 days.

**Read more page 4**



## KOSOVO FACES MANY CHALLENGES, BUT IS DETERMINED TO FOLLOW GOOD GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

"Good governance in Kosovo is still pending as we must find a way to improve the administration and management of the administration bodies: we cannot count only on people's patriotism, but look for the way to motivate them and remunerate them for their work," the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Mr. Ardian Gjini, said in his opening remarks during the Conference on Good Governance held in Pristina on September 27-28, 2006.

The conference was a joint event organised by the Prime Minister's Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Gender Issues, UN-HABITAT and the Advocacy and Training Resource Centre. For two days, Kosovar and international experts, representatives of central- and local-level government bodies, civil society organisations and the business community discussed a broad spectrum of issues ranging from decentralisation, the legal frameworks and the rule of law to the participation of citizens in decision making and urban development planning processes.

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## URBAN MOBILITY IN KOSOVO - A BIG CHALLENGE

Transport and urban planners in Kosovo are facing big challenges. Such challenges include achieving fast, reliable and safe transport system, which connects the major cities to form a prosperous and efficient community? And how to deal with the rapidly growing number of cars, which cause congestion in the urban areas and the insufficient and dangerous main road network of Kosovo?

Do we have the courage and clear-sightedness to resist the common focus of allocating all efforts and resources into the widening and

extension of the road network, providing increased capacity to the private car with no long-term solution? Without an extensive effort to improve all transport modes- walking, cycling, public transport and car traffic- the mobility problem can never be solved.

Are we clear-sighted and willing to adopt a long-term perspective on the problems? Can we take advantages of the existing promising possibilities that you can find, for instance, in the public transport sector? In some cities, we have well located railway-stations and/

or bus-stations close to the city centre. Can we change the present trend to relocate these well located rail/bus stations to the outskirts of the urban area and instead, take advantage of this opportunity to create a "mobility centre" which will function as an injection to the economic and commercial development in the city?

This is an urgent challenge! Is Kosovo ready for it?

**Gunnar Lagerqvist**

*Transport Expert UN-HABITAT*

## MUNICIPAL CORNER

### MOBILITY CENTRE IN FERIZAJ/UROSEVAC?

As part of the Tri-Partite Review (TPR) Meeting after the first six months of the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme, a delegation of representatives of the Swedish Government (Sida) and UN-HABITAT (HQ Nairobi and Kosovo team) visited Ferizaj/Urosevac on October 5th. In Ferizaj/Urosevac, the Mayor, the municipal CEO and met with delegation. The discussion with the Mayor was focussed on the lack of space for new economic activities, and the urgent need for a municipal and urban development plan. The challenge is to draft a development plan in the shortest possible time, with involvement of stakeholders and civil society.

In a second part of the meeting, a municipal planner presented the state of play of the Mobility Centre project in Ferizaj/Urosevac. The Mobility Centre is a joint initiative of the municipality and UN-HABITAT, with the aim to reconcile the city with the railway that is currently perceived as a barrier. By upgrading the railway station to a multimodal centre in combination with a new bus terminal, the Mobility Centre would contribute to the regeneration of the entire city centre. The Mobility Centre would



also serve as an information and service centre for citizens, visitors and tourists, as well as being a commercial centre. It should be designed in a way that it connects both sides of the city now divided by the railway. On July 27, the Municipal Assembly took a decision to start a public debate among citizens and stakeholders, in cooperation with UN-HABITAT. From

20 to 23 November a delegation of the municipality and UN-HABITAT will visit the Mobility Centre of Lund, Sweden, and a Kosovo TV station will join to make a documentary. The TPR-delegation was impressed by the initiative and expressed its hope that the Ferizaj/Urosevac case will be successful and exemplary for other Kosovan cities.

## MOBILITY ISSUES IN GJAKOVA/ĐAKOVICA MUNICIPALITY

A workshop on mobility issues for Gjakova/ Đakovica municipality was held on 20th October. The objective of the workshop was to give input into the draft Municipal Development Plan (MDP)/ Urban Development Plan (UDP), being prepared by INTECH and to improve its content on mobility planning.

The key stakeholders including Municipal Planners, the Director of the Public Transport department of the municipality, representatives from the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, UN-HABITAT and INTECH participated in the workshop. An overview of the existing situation and future proposals were given by UN-HABITAT and INTECH at the beginning. INTECH have proposed a bypass road at the east side of the city and a railway connection from the existing Peja/ Pec-Prizren line.

The Director of the Public Transport department of Gjakova/ Đakovica Municipality outlined a plan to have bicycle tracks on three major roads. He also mentioned that the old city is difficult to connect with the public transport system. Transport planning expert of UN-HABITAT Mr. Gunnar La-



gerqvist, explained the need and characteristics of a good public transport system and mentioned that the draft MDP/UDP lacks a public transport system. The public transport system should be the basis of the MDP/UDP. He mentioned that Gjakova/ Đakovica is now a linear city and there is a need to discuss whether it could be converted into a radial city in the future. He also proposed to convert the existing one-way bus route into a two-way route. He suggested the creation of a mobility center at the location

of the current military base near the bus terminal containing a bus terminal, train station and bicycle parking facility and to reserve this land for this purpose. Planners from the Municipal Department of Urbanism mentioned the proposal of a ring road at the west side of the town along the Çabrati hill and the possibility of a water transport system.

The conclusion was to have follow up meetings with users and stakeholders, preparing a specific work-group and work-plan on the transport issue.

## PLANNING GJILAN/ GNJILANE

Gjilan/ Gnjilane Municipality is in the process of drafting the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Urban Development Plan (UDP). Having in mind that this is a multisectoral process, five thematic groups have been formed:

1. Demography and Social Welfare
2. Land Use and Environment
3. Infrastructure
4. Economic Development
5. Synergy

Also several informal groups are involved in the planning process: a group of citizens from urban and rural areas, a private sector group, an NGO group, and a group of minority

citizens. With their comments, project proposals and suggestions related to spatial and urban planning issues, groups have contributed to preparation of the sectoral reports. Aiming to have an inclusive and participatory planning process, the Municipality has held more than 80 meetings with different stakeholders discussing issues in planning such as transport and the riverbed. A visioning workshop for the future of the city is to be organized by the municipality as part of the planning process. The existing Regulatory plans (like the one for Mirusha river and Livoq I Ulët) will be incorporated into the MDP and UDP.

Thanks to the cooperation with UN-

HABITAT and the Institute of Spatial Planning, a database using the GIS system was made, following a one-day training provided by UN-HABITAT. Good communication and cooperation within the Municipal Directorates and with the Ministries, especially with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, is to be emphasized. Also UN-HABITAT's support of the whole planning process is to be acknowledged.

*Excerpts from the speech of Fadil Sherifi (the acting Director of Directorate of Planning and Urbanism in Gjilan/ Gnjilane), at the conference of Good Urban Governance, Prishtina/Pristina, 04/10/06*

## MITROVICA NEEDS MOBILITY PLANNING

In Mitrovica municipality, UN-HABITAT support has been focused on the assistance to planners of South and North in selecting and discussing spatial planning issues of strategic importance. In this regards, thematic working groups on Mobility and Transport were set up in both sides of the city, involving planners and municipal officers

dealing with traffic issues, representatives of the Kosovo Police Service traffic section, and other stakeholders such as Kosovo railways, Public Transport Enterprise and representatives of Civil Society organizations. The first meeting held with these groups has proved the great need for action in this field. Therefore, future UN-

HABITAT activities will be oriented in assisting the groups in building up the coherent vision on mobility in the city and selecting strategic projects for development and implementation. If the future work of the working groups will result in common interest points across the city, UN-HABITAT can facilitate a joint meeting.

## ECOLOGY PROJECT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING IN MITROVICA

Involvement of citizens in the decision-making process and consensus building on issues for local development (a key principle of good governance) can be achieved only through close cooperation with civil society organizations. With their experience in developing different projects dealing with women, youth, culture, media etc, and bringing together all communities, Community Building Mitrovica (CBM) has become one of the partners in UN-HABITAT's activities in Mitrovica.

Together with three other civil society organizations, from South and

North Mitrovica, CBM will co-organize a visioning workshop to improve the quality of the living environment in Mitrovica.

CBM projects address the direct need of local communities. One of the issues addressed by CBM through many projects is the importance of Ecology. Ecology is considered as one of the main topics of local development within the CBM vision. Through this project CBM tries to raise "ecology" awareness of Mitrovica's citizens, from both sides of the Ibar River. To this end, in spring 2006 as part of an ecology project, 100-trash

bins were installed in the streets of the Northern part of Mitrovica, and around 50 trash bins were distributed to schools in the South. Among activities undertaken, there was an exhibition of children's drawings on the ecology theme. The best drawings were used to make brochures containing ecology information and hints. As the final activity, ecology focused theater performances were implemented in both sides of Mitrovica.

*Milan Branovic, Project and Office assistant, Community Building Mitrovica*

## PILOT ACTION – CITY BUS IN PEJA/ PEC

### Continue

For the testing period, traveling with the city bus was free while operators were monitoring the overall use of the service.

An appropriate information campaign was conducted prior to start-up of the pilot project, including posters and leaflets with the map of the bus route. These were disseminated to the target group for the potential use of the bus, including school groups.

Running a city bus is one of the actions proposed in the Urban Development Plan for the city of Peja/ Pec. This plan is sketching the future spatial development for the

city, and highlights the relation between urban development and sustainable transport, including public transport.

When it appears that there is a demand and the city bus can contribute to the quality of life in the city center, the Municipality will establish a regular city bus line. Because a company, which needs to be paid, will operate the regular city bus line a moderate fee will be requested of passengers.

The Municipal Team of UN-HABITAT has made the following recommendations for future action including:

- The Municipal Assembly to appoint a staff member (who is already employed by the municipality) to

be in charge of urban public transport. This staff member should undertake licensing and control of quality standards.

- The Municipal Assembly to prepare and publish a tender and issue a license to a company who wants to provide a regular service.
- Investigate possibilities to construct bus stop signs and shelters in the streets. Private advertisers could fund these.
- Have an agreement between the Municipal Assembly and the traffic Police to restrict combibuses along the city bus route.

Soon we hope to be able to inform you about a newly established regular city bus line in Peja/ Pec.

## "INCLUSION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESSES" - ROUND TABLE IN PRIZREN

The UN HABITAT and OSCE teams in Prizren held a joint Round Table discussion on "Inclusion of Civil Society in Municipal Development Planning Processes".

The purpose of the Round Table was to introduce a participatory planning approach by bringing together various civil society organisations to discuss civic engagement in development issues. Further, it was to present the concept of gender aspects in planning, to discuss engagement of civil society in addressing economic development and to discuss transport/mobility issues from the perspective of equal access for men and women, the disabled and vulnerable groups.

After the presentations from Ms. Krystyna Galezia and Mr. Gunnar Lagerqvist, participants discussed the topics of Economy/Employment and Mobility/Infrastructure.

The main Infrastructure/Mobility objectives according to the working group are: better road infrastructure in rural areas, development of transport, protection of the environment, improved health services network and better conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities. Re-



marks included the need to provide access for disabled people to public spaces and that public transport is not satisfactory.

Problems related to the local economy and employment according to the working group include: lack of legis-

lation, unfair business practices, lack of funds for sustainable development and high customs/taxes. An opportunity for increasing household incomes may come from including women in decision making, the working group for Economy/Employment stated.

## UN - HABITAT CORNER

### ECHOES FROM UN-HABITATS WORLD URBAN FORUM IN VANCOUVER

With a delegation of 10 participants from UN-HABITAT and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo was well represented at the third World Urban Forum in Vancouver, although it was hard to find each other among the 9990 other participants. The Forum took place from June 19 to 23, in Vancouver/Canada, where 30 years ago the first UN-HABITAT Forum took place. It is impossible to present all official conclusions here. They can be consulted on the UN-HABITAT website ([www.unhabitat.org/wuf](http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf)), section "Events". Rather than repeating the official conclusions, we present 10 slightly 'provocative' echoes affecting the planning practice in Kosovo and its 6 secondary cities in particular:

1. Master plans are definitively out and inclusive planning is becoming evident all over the world.
2. Inclusive planning means involvement of ALL stakeholders, with accent on the poor and vulnerable people in the communities.
3. Community oriented planning should not be bureaucratic but field and action oriented. The actions should be framed in a long-term vision.
4. Slow formal planning processes should be replaced by or combined with fast-track planning actions.
5. Formal planning should be combined with informal arrangements.
6. Lack of money, staff or data is no excuse for doing nothing or slowing down.
7. Create sustainable cities with incremental sustainable actions.
8. Create inter-cultural cities with involvement of all cultural groups.
9. Ensure effective linkages between planning and private and public budgetary processes.
10. Make planning smart by creating learning and exchange networks.

The next World Urban Forum will be held in Nanjing, China in 2008. This could be an excellent occasion to present and discuss the progress in strategic and participatory planning in Kosovo.

## WORLD HABITAT DAY

The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October every year as World Habitat Day, to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. This day intends to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat. Cities, magnets of hope was the theme of this year's World Habitat Day on Monday 2 October 2006. Cities are magnets of hope for jobs and decent living conditions. At the same time cities are magnets for problems when they are not prepared for this rapid urbanization.

As Kosovo slowly recovers from the war, the World Habitat Day celebrations take on a special significance with the focus this year on young people and the key role they are playing in helping reshape their cities.

The UN-HABITAT programme in Kosovo, with the support of the Swedish government, is helping six secondary cities in Kosovo with urban planning involving public and all stakeholders. The World Habitat Day 2006 celebrations in Kosovo cities were aimed at spreading the message of inclusiveness, decentralization, and the role young people can play in shaping their future.

In Ferizaj/ Urosevac municipality, a special meeting was organized with the municipal planning team and the board of directors at which the World Habitat Day message of Mrs. Anna

Tibajuka, Under-Secretary- General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT was discussed. Problems like reducing the flow of people into Kosovo's cities and towns were raised, as were the lack of policymaking and coordination at the central and municipal level for better urban development and management. For Ferizaj/ Urosevac officials said her message on inclusive cities and building more bridges has a special significance for Kosovo.

In Gjilan/ Gnjilane municipality the celebration of World Habitat Day involved a drawing contest for local school children around the theme of World Habitat Day, 'Cities – magnets of hope'. The judges representing UN-HABITAT and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, selected the three best drawings by pupils at the Thimi Mitko School and then joined pupils in a debate on how they see the future of their city. The children made it clear that they wanted order in the city, greener areas, a zoo, and playgrounds.

In Peja/ Pec local school children participated in a hands-on workshop that looked at practical issues like their own spatial development at their school, local transport and problems related to the school environment. The pupils divided into four groups and were able to work with drawing material and aerial pictures of the school.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> An article with illustration (photos) about this event was published on the UN-HABITAT website: [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

## STATE OF PLAY OF 'MAKING BETTER CITIES TOGETHER'

On July 18, municipal representatives of Gjakova/Djakovica, Peja/Pec, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Urosevac and Prizren gathered in Pristina's Grand Hotel, to discuss the implementation of the Municipal Spatial Support Programme in the partner municipalities. Anne-Sofie Nilsson, Head of the Liaison office of Sweden and Ilir Morina, Chief Executive Officer of Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (representing the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning) presented welcome notes. The Department and Institute of Spatial Planning were also represented.

The Programme Development Meeting was the first opportunity since the Inception meeting of April 6, to discuss the issues that have laid the foundation of the Programme activities. It also provided an opportunity to discuss the current state of planning activities, including topics as:

- The establishment of Municipal Planning Units: their role, composition and placement in the structure of the Municipal Office,
- Budgeting for conducting the planning process in a participatory manner, including public consulta-

tions, working group process and implementation of action plans;

- Outsourcing the planning process to consultancy companies; municipal ownership of the product and process and cooperation with UN-HABITAT teams; and
- Cooperation among the municipalities and between the municipalities and the central level.

The partners expressed their wish to have similar meetings for networking and sharing of experiences and information, held on a regular basis and this will be worked toward.



## PEJA/PEC FIRST CITY IN KOSOVO WITH MDP/UDP?

As part of the Tri-Partite Review Meeting on October 4 and 5, a delegation of representatives of The Swedish Government (Sida) and UN-HABITAT visited Peja/Pec. The delegation was welcomed by the Vice-President of the Municipal Assembly and by the Director of Environment, Urban and Rural Planning. Also present were the municipal planners, the president of the

Council of Planning Experts and representatives of other international agencies active in Peja/Pec. A municipal planner presented the state of play of planning in Peja/Pec. The commitment is to have a final approval of the Municipal and Urban Development Plans by the end of this year. This would put Peja/Pec in the pole position for planning. Peja/Pec would be the first

city of Kosovo with an approved MDP/UDP, as required by the Law on Spatial Planning, but also by the will to initiate - together with UN-HABITAT - concrete action projects such as the pilot City Bus drive and the City gates project. The TPR-delegation expressed its hope that the City Bus will be operated soon and be exemplary for other Kosovar cities.

## CIVIL SOCIETY AN IMPORTANT PARTNER FOR UN, KOFI ANNAN SAYS

The UN-HABITAT office in Kosovo was represented among 3,000 representatives of non-governmental organizations, UN-agencies and governmental representatives from 90 countries, gathered at United Nation Headquarters in New York for the 59th DPI/NGO Annual Conference, which focused on Millennium Development Goals.

The conference emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration and building bridges between the NGOs and United Nations. It also emphasized that global partnership and cooperation, between governments; NGOs and other civil society actors are a key factor in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Commitment to accountability, transparency and good governance were the focus of discussions.

Poverty and hunger were in the forefront of the focus groups discussions. It was felt that the causes of poverty and its consequences reach far beyond the lack



**Secretary-General Kofi Annan:**

*"We must share our knowledge and reinforce our actions"*

of money and involves limited choices in living and working arrangements and limited options for education, leading to social exclusion.

Concentrating on the development of young people and ensuring their education with financial support from devel-

oped countries was an option put forward to improve poor societies future. Additionally, it is important to involve citizens in negotiating increased contributions of individual country governments to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

## TRI PARTITE REVIEW MEETING ON MU SPP PROGRAMME

On October the 4th in Prishtina/ Pristina, UN-HABITAT, the Swedish Government and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning held a Tri Partite Review meeting on the UN-HABITAT Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo.

Elisabeth Belpaire, Chief Technical Adviser of UN-HABITAT Kosovo, and municipal representatives reported on the programmes progress, and the challenges they are facing in planning processes. Counterparts from the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Merxhan Avdyli, Deputy Minister and Anne-Sofie Nilson, Head of Swedish Liaison Office in Kosovo, acknowledged the work done by UN-HABITAT.

Speaking on the current developments and policy priorities for post conflict/ transition areas, Dan Lewis, Chief, Disaster Post-Conflict and safety section, UN-HABITAT HQ, Nairobi, stated that the lessons learnt in Kosovo such as in the urban management and cadastral programmes, are influencing programmes in other parts of the world.

A discussion of key issues followed with comments and suggestions from the floor. This brought some interesting points for further discussion and consideration such as a need for strengthening the cross-sector cooperation and co-ordination between local and central level of government and the Association of Kosovo Municipalities can help in this regards. The emphasis was put on intermunicipal



cooperation in drafting joint municipal development plans and the provision of urban services, as well finding ways the programme can be instrumental in helping smaller municipalities and enhancing staff skills. There is a need for tangible projects, combining action and long-term vision. The importance of transport in municipal spatial planning needs to be recognized with a

focus of improving quality of transport services. Therefore there is a need for more funds for pilot and demonstration projects where municipalities and other actors can share the costs.

It was also mentioned that political processes of decentralization and status discussions might affect future development of spatial planning and require a review of activities.

## UN-HABITAT IDENTIFIES PRIORITY AREAS FOR EUROPE

Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT unveiled five priority areas that the agency will focus on in its regional activities in Europe.

While attending the high-level meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Housing and Land Management on 19 September 2006 in Geneva, Ms. Björk-Klevby also highlighted the necessity to further enhance UN-HABITAT's partnerships with UNECE, the Stability

Pact and other regional organisations including the Development Banks.

Backing the UN-HABITAT Governing Council Resolutions to increase activities in Countries with Economies in Transition, Ms. Björk-Klevby confirmed the strengthening of UN-HABITAT's capacity in Europe through its Geneva office and the newly established Warsaw office.

Ms. Björk-Klevby said UN-HABITAT will focus its regional activities in Europe on five priority areas namely;

Regional development of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN); Regional Capacity Strengthening Programme (RCSP) for Urban Development and Housing in South Eastern Europe (SEE); City Development Strategies; Policy and operational frameworks for social rental housing; and improvement of informal settlements including Roma settlements.

[www.unhabitat.org/print.asp?cid=3793&catid=5&typeid=6](http://www.unhabitat.org/print.asp?cid=3793&catid=5&typeid=6)



## 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**

### **KOSOVO, an example of good international practices**

This article provides information about the First Regional conference on Good Urban Governance held in Prishtina. "Kosovo is an example of good international practices, despite the fact that there is small progress in fighting poverty", said the Director of the UN-HABITAT Liaison Office in Brussels, Paul Taylor.

*Source Koha Ditore, 28/09/2006*

### **FERIZAJ/ UROSEVAC:**

#### **"Draft Spatial Plan for Ferizaj" ready by the end of the year**

The Directorate of Urbanism, the expert group and representatives of the "InTech" company, have recently intensified meetings with citizens to discuss the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), and the Urban Development Plan (UDP). The draft MDP and UDP for the Municipality of Ferizaj/ Urosevac are due for presentation to the Municipal Assembly at the end of this year, or the beginning of next year.

*Source: Article in Infopress, 18/09/06 pg 21*

#### **Time used to be measured by train whistles**

Comments and facts about the benefits and constraints of the railway in Ferizaj/ Urosevac are outlined in this article. The issue of the railway is big challenge for Ferizaj/ Urosevac citizens, and it has become a part of city talks.

*Source: Koha Ditore 10/10/06*

### **PRIZREN:**

#### **New neighborhoods swallow public funds**

The depopulation of some villages and village to city migration towards suburban areas are issues this article raises. Further it claims that suburban areas and new neighborhoods, not the city center, are the areas that swallow the greatest funds of the municipality. Investment in rural areas, especially in road infrastructure and water supply helps to reduce the migration tendencies.

*Source: Lajm exclusive, 03/10/06, pg.6*

### **"Kalaja e Vashës"- attractive for visitors**

This article highlights interesting insights about an historic castle in Prizren, which has good potential for economic development through tourism.

*Source: Koha Ditore 11/10/06*

### **Only skyscrapers can save Prizren**

This article provides us with different opinions of some Prizren professionals in regards to housing construction and commercial buildings. There are opinions that construction of skyscrapers that can spare the city from a chaotic reduction of open spaces. On the other side, municipal representatives justify the limitation of building height as a contribution to the protection of cultural and historical areas.

*Source: Lajm Exclusive, 10/10/06*

### **MITROVICA**

#### **Look at the city without kiosks**

This article talks about the achievements in Mitrovica municipality in regards to governance. Achievement include: increase of local revenues, budgetary stability, increased efficiency of public services, kiosk removal from pavements and the new look of the city. Municipal representatives emphasize their ongoing commitment to improve the situation in urban planning with the drafting of an urban development plan for Mitrovica.

*Source: Lajm ekskluzive, 11/10/06*

### **PEJA/PEC**

#### **Two buses of the public enterprise "Kosovatrans" were put in a test-circulation**

This article highlights important insights on public transport in Peja/ Pec. The City Bus line was put in circulation for a week, as a pilot action, whose aim was not only to ensure the basic needs of Peja/ Pec citizens in regards to public transport and to reduce car frequency within the city, but also to put in place, for the first

time, urban public transport in the city.

*Source: Express, 06/09/06, pg.11*

### **GJILAN/ GNJILANE**

#### **Rare crafts are exempt from communal taxes**

The Municipality of Gjilan/ Gnjilane has exempted rare crafts from communal taxes. By doing this, municipal representatives hope to contribute to the development of tourism.

*Source: www.gjilani-komuna.org*

#### **Public debate remarks recognized**

The article provides us with useful information about the planning process in Peja/ Pec. Having consideration for the importance of the social, economic and urban development of Peja/ Pec city, the Directorate for Planning and Urban, Rural and Environmental Development in Peja/ Pec, organized a two-day workshop. This workshop aimed to review remarks and suggestions gathered during the public debate on final drafts of the Municipal and Urban Development Plan, which need to be to be integrated into the plan.

*Source: Kosova Sot, 02/11/06, pg. 10*

### **ESPON MAPS COVERING THE WESTERN BALKAN AREA**

A special transnational activity funded by ESPON has completed a number of ESPON maps with the Western Balkan Area. So far, Albania, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina were often considered a "white hole" on ESPON maps, as the area is currently not included in the ESPON<sup>1</sup> space. Based on additional data collections and harmonisations, the report presents for the first time ESPON maps covering the Western Balkan Area.

*Source: [http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/network/92/469/1035/index\\_EN.html](http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/network/92/469/1035/index_EN.html)*

<sup>1</sup> European Spatial Planning Observation Network

## NETWORKING

## KOSOVO FACES MANY CHALLENGES, BUT IS DETERMINED TO FOLLOW GOOD GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

### Continue

The session devoted to good governance principles in relation to the spatial and urban planning processes triggered a debate on the future development of urban and rural areas. "The Kosovo experience with regard to strategic planning is underpinned by globally applicable principles of good governance as endorsed by UN-HABITAT and it led to revisiting the planning practices, as the old planning methods proved un-responsive to the needs of citizens," said Paul Taylor, the Director of UN-HABITAT's Liaison Office for EU and Belgium, while referring to UN-HABITAT's work in Kosovo. Kosovo cities face many challenges: migration of population to the cities, informal settlements developing around cities, lack of infrastructure, lack of financial instruments for the development of social and affordable housing, slow administrative processes, under-paid and under-staffed municipal administrations and lack of municipal and urban plans.



How to balance urban and rural development? How to best use the limited natural and spatial resources of Kosovo? How to respond to the needs of the young, poor, women, ethnic groups and vulnerable people and how can municipalities raise their revenues if the economy cannot get off the ground due to lack of investments? These questions triggered

vivid discussions but didn't always receive clear and unequivocal answers. The conference opened a broad-based debate and offered an opportunity to present practices from other countries. How these practices will be used, depends on the skills and commitment of politicians, civil servants and citizens. Another conference is planned next year.

## ROUND TABLE ON CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

UN-HABITAT Kosovo held a round table workshop in Prishtina/ Prishtina on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The round table opened interesting discussions related to civil society involvement in planning processes. There was a diverse participation of local and central governmental officials, civil society organizations and international agencies and the discussions were interactive.

Participants stated there is still a lack of awareness regarding civil society involvement in the planning process.

Debates, round tables and visioning workshops can be used as tools to increase and enhance stakeholders

participation in the planning process. Information through the media and, more importantly, direct communication with citizens (especially poor and disabled ones) is crucial to ensure effective participation.

Conclusions derived from this meeting included: Local Government assisting the "Empowerment of citizens" by focusing on community and neighborhood level in identifying problems and priorities; Participants agreed on aiming to have real active public involvement and not only public consultations; Important to achieving this is finding mechanisms to enhance real participation; Last, but not least, was that planning and



budgeting should be coordinated in order to have implemented plans.

## IMPRESSIONS FROM THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ISOCARP PLANNING CONGRESS IN ISTANBUL

ISoCaRP is a global association of experienced, professional planners. Founded in 1965, ISoCaRP is a non-governmental organization, recognized by the United Nations and the Council of Europe and has a consultative status within UNESCO. The 42nd ISoCaRP Congress in Istanbul explored the contemporary challenges and emerging opportunities that cities are facing vis-à-vis influential forces that can be summarized as integrative and disintegrative. The conference took place between 14 and 18 September, at the Yildiz Technical University in Istanbul.

UN-HABITAT Kosovo participated with a delegation of two planners from the municipality of Mitrovica (Fejzullah Haxhani and Xhemshir Mulliqi) and the Spatial Planning Coordinator of the MuSPP team (Frank D'hondt). Xhemshir presented a paper on "Integration of the city of Mitrovica" and Frank presented a paper on "Re-Creating Cities in Kosovo". Both papers were highly appreciated and are available on the Internet (<http://www.isocarp.net/>). There you can find all other papers as well, of which some are very relevant and interesting for the planning practice in Kosovo, for now and for the future.

The conference was also an excellent



opportunity to explore the needs for, and successes of planning in Istanbul. With an estimated population of over 13 million, Istanbul is a fast growing metropolis that bridges Europe and Asia. Its close relationship with European culture and its location on the crossroads of many Eastern civilizations has helped Istanbul to gain its cultural status as the capital of three civilizations. The conference made clear that Istanbul needs more, and better, planning to develop the metropolis of Istanbul in a more sustainable way.

The 43rd ISoCaRP Congress will be in Antwerp/Belgium next September 2007. The topic will be "Urban Trial-

ogues, Co-productive ways to relate visioning and strategic urban projects". More information can be found on <http://www.isocarp.org/>.

It is hoped that one day Kosovo can host a similar International Planning Congress. It proved to be an excellent way to raise awareness on sustainable urban development among all stakeholders and citizens in society. It would also boost the Kosovo planners to come up with creative ideas for sustainable urbanization in Kosovo and abroad.

*With thanks to Xhemshir Mulliqi, Urban Planner, Chief for planning sector Mitrovica Municipality*

## CO-PLAN WORKSHOP AND STUDY TOUR IN ALBANIA

The Regional Exchange Workshop "Participatory Good Governance Practices" took place from October 2 to 5 in Durres, Albania, combined with a study tour in the municipalities of Fier and Elbasan. The event was organized by Co-PLAN, the Institute for Habitat Development, through funds of OSFA-Soros Foundation in Albania. The event was an excellent opportunity for the 26 participants from the region and Albanian participants from different municipalities to share and exchange experiences with practices of participatory good governance. The 13 participants invited from Russia, Czech Republic, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Netherlands and Kosovo, as well as Albanian participants from

different Municipalities, shared and exchanged their experiences on participatory good governance. For Kosovo a planner from Peja/Pec (Iilir Cavdarbasha) and a planner from Gjakova/Djakovica (Lulzim Haxhiu) participated with support from UN-HABITAT Kosovo. Iilir and Lulzim participated with their presentations on the planning process of Peja/Pec and the planning for the Informal Settlement of Brekoc in Gjakova/Djakovica.

The workshop's debate was mainly focused on practices concerning the following participatory good governance issues: city development strategies, city/regional planning, participatory budgeting, local economic development strategy and legalization of infor-

mal settlements. The Kosovo delegates appreciated the combination of field visits, presentations and discussions in the meeting rooms, and social events as well. Also, they appreciated the presence of the mayors of Elbasan and Fier, as well as other municipal staff during the workshop. The Kosovo planners presented their report of the workshop at a common meeting of the UN-HABITAT Kosovo team and the Department and Institute for Spatial Planning of MESP on October 19. For more information on Co-Plan and the Regional Exchange Workshop, consult <http://egug.co-plan.org> or [www.co-plan.org](http://www.co-plan.org).

*With thanks to Oriana Arapi from Co-PLAN*

## Next Edition

- **Workshop on Urban Upgrading and the Regularization of Informal Settlements in Kosovo**
- **Study visit in Slovenia and Sweden**
- **4<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting on Informal Settlements (Belgrade)**

## 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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