

BULLETIN

Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP)

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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Sida

MuSPP SHARES EXPERIENCE ON PARTICIPATORY PLANNING THROUGH LECTURE AND CONFERENCE

“Envisioning as a Participatory Planning Tool” was the lead topic of the conference organized by UN-HABITAT’s Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP) and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP), supported by other partners involved in envisioning processes in MuSPP Municipalities: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHWB). Over the last four years envisioning workshops, organized as inclusive planning activities with active participation of local government officials and civil society organizations, took place in nine municipalities.

This conference brought together 150 planning professionals from all over Kosovo to discuss and share their experiences on participatory and strategic planning in Kosovo and abroad. The participants had the opportunity to benefit from presentations by three planning experts from Sweden, Turkey and Albania. Comprized of four sessions, the conference offered a very good opportunity for experience sharing amongst planning professionals in Kosovo. Proceedings started with the opening remarks of the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Mr. Mahir Yagcilar, in which he pointed out that “now the results of the capacities built in the local and central level with the support and expertise of UN-HABITAT have started to be visible, where we have the Junik MDP drafted with internal municipal capacities and Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic/Mamusha are following the same method”. In her opening remarks, the Head of UN-HABITAT Kosovo office, Mrs. Krystyna Galezia, stressed the role of UN-HABITAT and its cooperation with municipalities for promotion of the participatory planning approach and strategic planning methods.

The first presentation of the conference was made by the MuSPP officials respectively Ms. Arijeta Himaduna and Mr. Ishaku Maitumbi who described the whole process of the envisioning as well as the background of the project which led to the organising the conference.

The conference won from the presence of: Mr. Steve Johnson, Head of the Department for Sustainable Community Planning and Development in the Municipality of Borlange in Sweden; Mr. Flamur Kuçi, advisor to the Prime-Minister of Albania who brought the experience from Albania; and Mrs. Nuran Zelen Gulersoy, lecturer at Istanbul Technical University who brought the Turkish

experience on participatory planning by giving concrete examples from three towns in Turkey. Successful experiences from MuSPP municipalities of Junik, Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic and Mitrovica were presented by municipal officers, Ms. FerdoneTofaj, Mr. Durim Dernjani and Ms. Shyhrete Peci, respectively.

Presentations were also made by Ms. Suzana Goranci, Head of the Municipal Planning Section in the Department of Spatial Planning of the MESP, Mr. Ilir Gjinolli, professor at the Faculty of Architecture of Prishtina University and Mr. Luan Shllaku, Director of KFOS, and Ms. Elvida Pallaska of the Institute of Spatial Planning.

The participants of the conference contributed by raising numerous valuable questions, issues and debate through experience sharing and professional reflections. Planners cited that the participation of the decision makers in the planning process was emphasized as an important issue, because in many cases the decisions taken by the politicians do not comply with the visions of the citizens, civil society and other stakeholders. It was evident through this generated dialogue that in Kosovo understanding of and participation in the planning process is still relatively weak, this however is seen as a factor relating to the transition of the planning system in Kosovo. On a positive note the success within Kosovo municipalities that has been seen so far through the participatory approach suggests improvement will continue and the added value this approach affords will increase in the future.

Prior to the conference, on the night of 8th of November, MuSPP and other partners organized a public lecture “Sustainable Urban and Rural Development” in the National Library of Kosovo. The lecture was opened by the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Mr. Yagcilar and the Minister on Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Blerand Stavileci. The seats of the amphitheatre on the library were filled with students and planners as well as other representatives of the Kosovo municipalities working on planning issues. The lecture was led by international planning experts, and was followed by an active discussion by the participants and questions to lecturers who presented sustainability from three different angles and experiences based on their expertise and working origin.

Rudina Qerimi
UN-HABITAT/MuSPP



Editorial



Dear Readers

The current issue of the MuSPP bulletin carries information about the recent activities of the Programme at the central and local level, developments in the partner municipalities as well as important initiatives initiated in Kosovo and aimed at the promotion of participatory spatial and urban planning.

The bulletin carries a report from a MuSPP staff member, Sami Stavoga, who participated in a Summer School for young urban professionals organised by the UN-HABITAT Office in Warsaw and the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) in cooperation with the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and the European Urban Research Association (EURA).

Attention is given to the Lecture on Sustainable Urban and Rural Development and the Conference on Envisioning which gathered Kosovo professionals for two days of debates. The event was or-

ganised by MuSPP in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP), Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHWB) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). The participation of guest speakers from Sweden, Turkey and Albania gave an opportunity for sharing international experience on these subjects. Post-conference materials are under preparation and will be available on MuSPP website.

Announced is the Memorandum of Understanding with the municipality of Mamusha which gives grounds for cooperation with this municipality in developing a Municipal Development Plan. In the meantime Memoranda of Understanding were also signed with Gracanica and Partesh, two new municipalities established under the decentralisation process. The MOU with Gracanica led to the organisation of a visioning workshop which is one of the first steps in the planning process and allows for the consolidation of engagement of civil society. The workshop was supported by the MESP, CHWB and FES. The participation of experts from the International Civilian Office dealing with Special Protection Zones was of key importance for this municipality which has many sites under protection.

The opening of public reviews in Junik and Hani I Elezit/ General Jankovic for the discussion of Municipal Development Plans brings back the importance of public participation throughout the planning process. A large number of citizens who attended the ceremony proves of the increased awareness of citizens of their right to express opinions concerning future spatial development of their

municipalities. With the plans forming a basis for selected capital projects, citizens' engagement is also important in this case. Examples of public participation in capital investment projects in Hani I Elezit/General Jankovic and in Mitrovica are reported as examples of inclusive CIP planning.

The establishment of the Council for Spatial Planning as an advisory and consultative body testifies to the importance which the Government of Kosovo attaches to spatial and urban planning in creating future development in Kosovo. Also the establishment of a professional Association of Kosovo Planners marks a new step in creating a forum for professional debate on spatial development. The bulletin carries more detailed information on the roles and aspirations of the two organisations.

The bulletin also carries a feature article by MuSPP staff on the situation in Hani I Elezit/General Jankovic, and new in this edition you will find media corner with extracted fragments from articles on MuSPP activities, from the printed media.

We hope that you will find the bulletin interesting. We invite government and municipal officials, professionals as well as citizens, men and women, boys and girls to write to us about their ideas for the development of Kosovo cities, towns and villages. Interesting letters will be printed in our bulletin.

Krystyna Galezia,

CTA/ Head of UN-HABITAT Kosovo Office



**FOR MORE:
WWW.UNHABITAT-KOSOVO.ORG**

EUROPEAN URBAN SUMMER SCHOOL



A representative of MuSPP attended the European Urban Summer School (EUSS) in Wroclaw/Poland. The school was organized by UN-HABITAT and Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP), in cooperation with International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and European Urban Research Association (EURA).

EUSS was held at Wroclaw University of Technology in the Faculty of Architecture from 10th to 19th of September 2010. The participants were mostly from European countries as well as from other parts of the world, while the tutors were from different backgrounds and universities.

The topic of EUSS 2010 was: Is 'old' sustainable? Is 'past' sustainable? Is heritage sustainable? The impact of modern mankind on natural environment as well as on social and economic conditions has been widely debated. A broadly accepted view is that our human influence has made things worse rather than better. Rather than follow the view that old times were good times, EUSS 2010 aimed at looking for an informal answer. Three main aspects of urban development were studied: the environment, society and the economy. The participants assessed these aspects in terms of comparing "old" with "new" in an effort to recognize essential differences and similarities.

The entire school program was divided in three parts. It opened with dialogue on detailed subjects, such as the importance of heritage as a spatial component. Next was a general view of the City and discussion of the models and the layers of spatial pattern, governance and cultural context. Finally, spatial order and control with its physical and other links was analyzed and pragmatic

solutions were determined.

The working method consisted of working in groups. Each group had to develop and present three tasks corresponding to each part of the program, using preselected cases. All of the cases dealt with the city of Wroclaw. The groups chose a case and then through following a process of study tour, documents/maps analysis, debate and brainstorming, present their initial ideas and the concept to be used; and finally through design of models, sketches, diagrams or other appropriate means, to present the solution to the task given. The solution in the end could be in the shape of a simple idea, diagrams, governance structures, concept of new spatial organization, new social program to be applied, new regulations to be empowered, etc. Each part of the group work occurred parallelly with the lectures that were very important in shaping the whole working process with useful and varied experiences from different countries.

The tasks developed were very useful examples of the creation and identification of new urban forms and urban/city regeneration valid also for Kosovo in

the future. Urban regeneration itself is a very complex process that our country is facing and will face in the future. New urban forms are also present through town and city enlargements in Kosovo and through the creating of new urban centres as a process of decentralization. It is highly important that this experience and the concepts developed are widely shared during the "in house" drafting of municipal and urban development plans as well as drafting of urban regulatory plans.

Implementing these plans is also very important. During this event, the tasks identified the urgent improvements required for certain districts to fit in the overall city context and its functions. This is also related to capital investment project identification, development and implementation.

The lectures given were also very important because they showed cases of proper research, different computer population projections, spatial development, traffic, etc; model developments and detailed cases of urban regenerations. Many examples were on to treat industrial heritage were presented. For Kosovo in general and for Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic in particular this could be a very useful experience.

Working in the groups with professionals from different countries was also a great experience. The points of view, different approaches and different solutions enriched the overall experience of the EUSS.

Sami Stagova

UN-HABITAT/MuSPP



NEW ORGANISATIONAL BODIES FOR PLANNING

COUNCIL OF KOSOVO SPATIAL PLANNING IS CREATED



The Government of Kosovo at its meeting on 13 May 2010 approved the decision for creating the Council for Spatial Planning (KPHK), which includes all members of this council according to the Law on Spatial Planning no.2003/14, with changes added in 2008(No.03/L-106), as its consultative unit (article 43, respectively 6).

On 17 June 2010, in the premises of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) members of the council were officially presented; a great professional support for MESP in the future.

Experts nominated with KPHK should: submit ideas and proposals; make constructive and professional remarks followed with sustainable arguments, without political, regional or group bias; follow the application of all spatial documents; and revise, harmonize and expand laws and bylaws that relate to the field of spatial planning in Kosovo. Obligations coming from the duties of MESP programme and Kosovo Government in the field of spatial planning, approved by the Kosovo Assembly should respect interests of the state of Kosovo. These are the main duties of the Council, important for functioning of the state.

There are many other duties of the council that need to be carried out with full responsibility both professionally and ethically, such as: monitoring of spatial development in Kosovo, the region and beyond; proposing spatial policies synchronized with European principles; to propose and advise on the methodology of drafting spatial and urban plans in both levels; and to propose measures for improvement of

the spatial situation, especially in the rational use of space within our cities for aspects such as natural and cultural heritage, and important infrastructure steps such as auto-roads, railways, hydro and thermo power plants etc. The Council in cooperation with MESP should also propose and define criteria for spatial plans, and to set locations and assign criteria for monitoring, advising and evaluating quality of work of spatial plans and other spatial regulation documents.

This is particularly vital with the reference to the country's important areas such as industrial park zones, zones for exploitation of above ground and underground resources and other actions on the space etc. The main aim of the Council is to prevent destruction and damage of the space.

Ylber Vokshi - Ylli,
*Head of the Council of
Kosovo Spatial Planning*

ASSOCIATION OF KOSOVO PLANNERS IS ESTABLISHED

The Association of Kosovo Planners (AsPK) was established on 27th of October 2010 in Vila Germia following an initiative of a group of urban and spatial planning professionals. The status of the Association is: a voluntary, self sustainable and non profit organization, which aims at advancing the art and science of urban and spatial planning, with the socio-public interest. The main objectives of the AsPK are the promotion of the professional values which contribute to the sustainable development of Kosovo and the wider region; contribution to the protection of the cultural identity of the space and its settlements and with the intention to eliminate inequity in the use of the natural, cultural and material resources by the citizens; and exchange of experience and professional information in the

field of urbanism and spatial planning. The aims of the Association are: contributing to the promotion of spatial planning and the contemporary concepts for the use and protection of space and attempt to create a new culture towards it through different activities; advancing the planning; being available to support the institutions on the establishment of professional and ethical standards in the planning profession and drafting the policies in this filed; trying to influence and raise awareness for the general public and the cooperation with different organizations.

The Association of Kosovo planners is composed by the regular members as well as honorary members and its structure is built as follows: General Assembly as the highest structure of the association which is constituted

by all the members of the association; Executive Council as a structure which manages professional and administrative activities of the organization; Steering Council which monitors the work of the Executive Council; and the honorary court which monitors the work of the Association and steers procedures or disciplinary measures in the cases of serious violations which affect Association's reputation and interest.

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from pg 4

The Association of Kosovo Planners is still in its consolidation phase. In its first working year the focus of its engagement will be on the promotion of the Association in the Kosovar society and wider, the establishment of the contacts with national and international institutions, organizations, universities and associations, as well as

the private sector which aims at creating the network of the institutions involved on the spatial planning. Some of the activities which are planned on the first working year of the association are the Urbanism Biennale, organization of the summer school, the first advisory meeting with Kosovo planners with a specified topic in the planning field, marking the World

Planning Day, publication of the bulletin and the General Assembly meeting of the association on November 2011.

Prishtinë/Pristina 03.12.2010

Kadrush Grezda,

President of the Association of Kosovo Planners

MEDIA CORNER

REGULATORY PLAN FOR ZATRA APPROVED

fragment from an article published in daily newspaper "Zëri"

05 January 2011

In the past three years, the main focus of Peja Municipality was on the three biggest informal zones within the municipality. With the Regulatory Plan Zatra already approved, during this year Regulatory Plans for "Kristali" and "7 Shtatori" will also be completed.

Municipal Director of Urbanism, Gazmend Muhaxheri, said during the presentation that this plan offers a possibility for all those citizens who

have built in this zone, to receive construction permits, provided their construction is in line with the Regulatory Plan.

The Regulatory Plan for Zatra followed with remarks made by advisors from PDK. The leader of this group, Sali Lajçi, said that prior to this drafting, detailed measurements of the terrain should be taken while the zone itself needed to be divided into sub-zones



based on specific characteristics. Peja was the first municipality in Kosovo to draft an Urban Development Plan in 2007, compiled by the Dutch company DNV for a period of twenty years. The Regulatory Plan for Zatra process was developed with different stakeholders funded by Sida and supported by UN-HABITAT, Mobkos, Syri i Vizionit and other local organizations.

PARTICIPATION IN SPATIAL PLANNING PROCESS

fragment from an article published in daily newspaper "Express"

17 November 2010

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) and UN-HABITAT Kosovo organized both a lecture "Sustainable Urban and Rural Development" and an interesting and important conference for our society "Envisioning as a participatory planning tool"; these took place on 8th and 9th November 2010. The interest in taking part in these unique events was at a high level, and along with two Ministers and invited professionals, present were many other participants, considering the "open to public" character of the two events.

Experiences from around the world, from the field of spatial planning, urbanism and architecture were presented and explained.

Participation of inhabitants in urban planning processes and many other issues in regard to urban life were elaborated as well. Eminent representatives invited from Sweden, Turkey and Albania showed experiences from their countries in regard to involvement of inhabitants in the process of drafting urban and spatial planning documents. Examples presented during the confer-

ence from three Kosovan municipalities (Junik, Hani i Elezit and Mitrovica) supported by UN-HABITAT's Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP) were also impressive. Especially encouraging, was the way that these municipalities developed the process of inclusion and envisioning in which citizens visions and ideas often addressed the reality of urban development in their local areas. Envisioning as a participatory planning tool obviously helps for future organization of territory and in management of the neighborhood, city and region.

Based on shared vision and concepts, the broader support of society in those processes is needed.



UN-HABITAT CORNER

UN AGENCIES JOIN FORCES TO DELIVER ON CLIMATE CHANGE

UN agencies have spoken out about their commitment to deliver as one in the fight against climate change.

Representatives from UN-HABITAT, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Development Programme, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the World Food Programme and the World Meteorological Organisation have outlined the UN system's collective capacity and ability to support the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change around the world.

Participants at the 16th Climate Change Summit in Cancun, Mexico heard how the adverse effects of climate change will continue to impede sustainable development unless tar-

geted planning and action was taken.

Speaking at the summit, Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Head of the Global Division at UN-HABITAT, said that with half the world's population now living in cities and one billion of them in slums, city wide vulnerability assessments would need to be carried out and integrated with enhanced urban planning policies that took climate change into account if the challenge of creating more sustainable cities was to be met.

Gebre-Egziabher also stressed that although the commitment to adapt and mitigate climate change was global, the implementation had to be local.

Commenting after the event, Rafael Tuts, the Chief of the Urban Environment and Planning Branch

at UN-HABITAT said "The Cancun side-event recognized the role of the United Nations system in supporting cities' climate change adaptation and mitigation action."

"Examples from Mexico, the Philippines, Jordan, Norway and Spain highlighted how city action can be enhanced through international partnerships," he concluded.

For many, the Cancun has given a welcome boost to the international process of climate change adaptation and mitigation, with the Cancun Agreement setting countries more firmly on the path to low-emission futures.

source: www.unhabitat.org

Third International Conference on Women's Safety: Building Inclusive Cities

NEW DELHI, INDIA 22 - 24 NOVEMBER 2010



The theme of the Third International Conference on Women's Safety is 'Building Inclusive Cities'. This theme highlights how the concept of women's safety can be used as an entry point to action on VAW and women's rights through the strategic convening of key urban stakeholders and decision-makers, including those women whose voices and perspectives would not otherwise be heard. This conference will build on the successes of its predecessors while striving to address current issues such as rapid urban population growth and its effect on socially excluded groups. The needs of women living in slums and disadvantaged neighbourhoods, of elderly women, of disabled women, of indigenous women, of lesbian and transsexual women, and of those from ethnic and cultural minorities all continue to present particular challenges for those working to include representative groups of women in safe cities, women's rights and VAW work. As a result, the international community must now focus on gender inclusion through a wider lens

which accounts for the multiple exclusions women face while living in cities worldwide. Women from every level of urban life will be at the centre of this event, sharing their strength and experience in order to collectively develop strategies for confronting the issues that threaten women's safety and equality.

The Third International Conference on Women's Safety provides the opportunity to ground and expand upon local and international approaches that build safer and more inclusive cities for women and girls. This event will enable participants to collectively explore how these methodologies have been or can be adapted, how they have succeeded, and how they can be improved and used elsewhere to confront new and emerging issues. In addition, the conference will be a space for peer-learning and for the capacity-building of local groups, so that new actors can take responsibility for implementing safe and inclusive cities approaches in their communities. Specifically, the objectives of the Third International Women's Safety Confer-

ence are:

to review, analyze and consolidate different approaches/tools aimed at building safe and inclusive cities, to build strong capacity within local-level civil society in order to mobilize community-wide support for safe and inclusive cities action, to assess and disseminate lessons learned and good practices developed on enhancing women's inclusion and right to the city.

The Third International Conference on Women's Safety is being organized in collaboration with a number of key international partners at the forefront of safe cities for women work. Red Mujer y Habitat de America Latina and the Huairou Commission, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) are collaborating partners.

source: www.unhabitat.org

MUNICIPAL CORNER

Junik Municipality opens Public Debate on the draft- Municipal Development Plan 2010-2023+

The opening ceremony of the public review of draft- Municipal Development Plan 2010-2023+ started on Friday 15th of October in the restaurant "Oda e Junikut" in Junik. The event gathered more than 150 people who were eager to see the presentation of the draft MDP. The MDP was drafted by the municipal staff of Junik from the Municipal Directorate for Urbanism, Geodesy and Environment; this was supported by the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP), Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB) and Institute of Spatial Planning (ISP) within the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. The public review of the MDP was open until 15 December 2010. The public review gave inhabitants and different



stakeholders a chance to provide their views, comments, and raise issues as well as provide proposals to the plan before it being sent to the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning for consent and the final approval by the Municipal Assembly of Junik. In his opening speech the Mayor of Junik, Mr. Agron Kuqi, mentioned the importance of the MDP which is the first and most important document drafted by the municipal staff. The process of drafting the plan allowed the municipal staff to build their capacities for future planning activities. Mr. Kuqi also expressed his gratitude towards MuSPP, CHwB and ISP, the institutions and agencies that assisted and supported this process. He also gave credit to the previous local government for the work that initiated this process on 2009. In her opening remarks the Head of UN-HABITAT Kosovo office, Mrs. Krystyna Galezia, emphasized the most important segment of MuSPP, which is the capacity building, and in this case without any doubt the Junik MDP represents its success story. The meeting was honoured by the staff of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the Minister's advisor Mr. Husnija Beshkovic, representatives of different international and national agencies and institutions, Kosovo municipalities, Kosovo Police, Regional Development Agency RDA West and EULOG both funded by ECLO, World Food Programme



draft-
MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
OF JUNIK
2010 - 2023 +

FAO, OSCE, KFOR. Using this occasion the German Agency - GTZ expressed commitment and willingness for cooperation and implementation of projects in the youth sector. This initiative will correspond very well to the school upgrading project currently underway, which is co-funded by the municipality of Junik and MuSPP. Municipality of Junik is the first municipality in Kosovo to take a different approach to drafting the Municipal Development Plan (MDP). Contrary to the general practice of outsourcing the plans to local and/or international companies, which often involves high cost, Junik did it mainly with its own resources. The Junik MDP is a comprehensive, multi-sectoral document that aims to provide clear vision and goals on future spatial development of this territory.

Rudina Qerimi
UN-HABITAT/MuSPP

SIGNING AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION WITH MAMUSHA/MAMUSA AND OTHER NEW MUNICIPALITIES

On 28 October 2010, Head of UN-HABITAT Kosovo office Mrs. Krystyna Galezia and Mayor of Mamusha/Mamusa Municipality Mr. Arif Butuc signed the Memorandum of Understanding for drafting of Mamusha/Mamusa Municipal Development Plan.

The Municipality of Mamusha/Mamusa at the time when it initiated planning procedures was a Pilot Municipal Unit. The planning process In June 2008, with a Visioning Workshop organised by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with then Pilot Municipal Unit of Mamusha/Mamusa and Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB) was organized. Through this

participatory planning approach, facilitated by the MuSPP team, emerged an inclusive and comprehensive vision for Mamusha/Mamusa was formulated.

By the end of 2008 the Pilot Municipal Unit of Mamusha/Mamusa was given full status as a municipality. However as a recently established authority it still lacks relevant planning documents and this is currently leading to uncontrolled spatial and urban development of Mamusha/Mamusa.

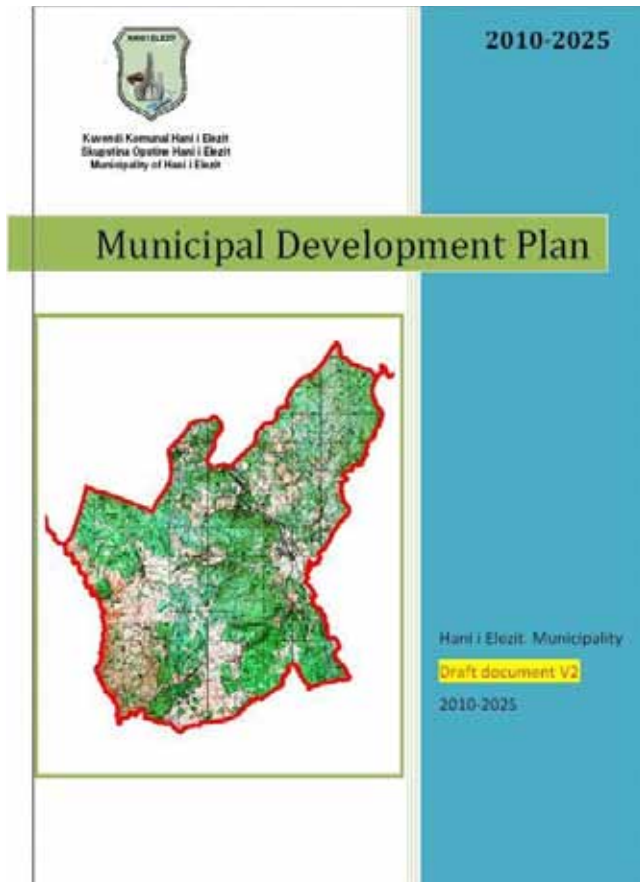
For the purpose of guiding and controlling the future development of the municipality, Mamusha/Mamusa should develop the Municipal Development

Plan, which is also a legal requirement of the Kosovo Law on Spatial Planning. To achieve this Mamusha/Mamusa has requested technical support from UN-HABITAT for drafting its Municipal Development Plan within the participatory planning framework of Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP). In the meantime Memoranda of Understanding were also signed with Graçanicë/Graçanica and Partesh/Partes, two new municipalities established under the decentralisation process.

Dafina Karahoda
UN-HABITAT/MuSPP

MUNICIPAL CORNER

HANI I ELEZIT/GENERAL JANKOVIC INITIATES CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECT AND LAUNCHES MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010-2025



At the end of 2008 the Municipality of Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic and UN-HABITAT MuSPP2 (Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo phase 2) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for drafting its Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Urban Development Plan (UDP).

Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic is in the process of turning from rural into the urban zone, and has only recently received a status of a municipality. While the process of drafting the MDP the aspect of urbanisation and the lack of public places within the urban area was identified. Through the planning process it was also emphasized that the town is one of the main Kosovo 'hot spots' that are considered vulnerable to environmental degradation mainly air and soil pollution.

As a result of the planning process and later discussions between UN-HABITAT and Municipality of Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic, it was agreed that the Capital Investment Project should deal with improving the public spaces and should be co-funded by both parties.

To respond to these needs, a Capital Investment Project (CIP) was designed with the focus on upgrading the city center. On 30th of September 2010, MuSPP local office in Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic in cooperation with MuSPP administration (UN-HABITAT) and Municipality of Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic organized the ceremony of exchanging the agreement of cooperation between Municipality and UN-HABITAT.

The event was attended by the staff and the Head of UN-HABITAT Kosovo office Krystyna Galezia.

The project for improving the public spaces in Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic is under implementation process now, whilst the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) 2010-2025 of Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic was launched on the 17th of December 2010 and will stay open to the public for 60 days, until 17th of February 2011.

During the drafting of the MDP, all sectors of the municipality were involved in drafting the plan with the utmost capacity of the municipality's staff. The Directorate of Urbanism, Cadastre and Environment was the main actor of the project with the support of Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP), which is funded by Sida and implemented by UN-HABITAT.

The planning process has been a great opportunity in terms of establishing very enthusiastic public participation among all groups of citizens and other interest parties concerned. The public review period is one of the main steps that enable involvement of all concerned stakeholders for finalizing the MDP; and is the opportunity for the municipality's residents to give final views and discuss various issues about the plan.

The opening ceremony of the public review, gave an opportunity for many important stakeholders to be introduced to the participants. The event was attended by: Agim Radoniqi, the Director of the Department of Spatial Planning; Mr. Luan Nushi, the Director of Institute of Spatial Planning; the representatives of the Kosovo Police Service; KFOR; OSCE; representatives from neighboring municipalities; NGOs; local media; and most importantly the citizens of the municipality of Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic.

In the opening speech, Mr. Muzafer Dernjani, the Deputy Mayor, highly evaluated the importance of the MDP and the engagement of municipal staff and expressed his gratitude towards UN-HABITAT and Sida for the support. Mr. Ishaku Maitumbi of MuSPP, UN-HABITAT, emphasized the importance of gained capacity of the municipality and the active public involvement during the planning process. Mr. Maitumbi stated that the case of drafting the plan in-house in Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic has been a result of the active participation and committed effort of the municipality and its capacity. Mr. Radoniqi and Mr. Nushi emphasized the importance of planning for spatial development control and economic growth. After the opening speeches, Mr. Nexhmedin Daci, the Director of Urbanism, Cadastre and Environment presented the MDP draft.

There were several comments during the event. These included priority of the actions/projects for the implementation of the plan, taking in consideration the financial capacity of the municipality; and also the importance of the agricultural and cultural tourism development.

Sami Stagova & Pren Domgjoni
UN-HABITAT / MuSPP

MUNICIPAL CORNER

VISIONING FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF GRACANICA/GRAÇANICË

The Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in cooperation with Municipality of Gracanica/Graçanicë and in partnership with Cultural Heritage without Borders, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and ICO, organized the vision workshop in Ohrid, Macedonia, from 25 to 29 November 2010.

The workshop was an element of UN-HABITAT's support to Kosovo municipalities in strengthening their capacities for effective urban governance, inclusive spatial development planning and empowering civil society for participation in decision making processes

Municipal officials including the Mayor, community members and representatives from different NGO's operating in Gracanica/Graçanicë, as well as private sector representatives worked together to develop the vision for the future of their municipality.

The aim of this workshop was to encourage the participants to share their thoughts and memories about their municipality and together start to think about the future, finding ideas on how to make Gracanica/Graçanicë a better place for all.

Introduction to the workshop was made



with visualising a memory map of the municipality. Different public spaces, streets, neighbourhoods, natural resources, green areas and especially the monastery were mentioned and then drawn in the map.

The participants became familiarized with basic planning principles and necessary tools in order to come up with broad ideas and goals alongside strategic priorities for future development of their municipality. They were divided

into four groups covering the following selected topics: Natural and Cultural Heritage; Infrastructure and Mobility; Economic Development; and Social Services and Housing.

Each group conducted a SWOT analysis for their chosen topic areas. The task of every group was to identify and analyze in-depth strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the current situation. Furthermore, each group developed their objectives and as a final step they transformed these findings into "vision maps". Finally, the participants agreed on a common motto and logo as well as common vision statement.

This was the first step towards the Municipal Development Plan and the outcomes from this workshop will be used as a contribution to the upcoming phases.

The results from the workshop will be presented to a wider audience and citizens of Gracanica/Graçanicë in a multimedia presentation to be held in the near future. This will provide an opportunity for discussions and additional suggestions and remarks will be taken into account.



**Gloriosa Hisari and
Ximi Osmani**
UN-HABITAT/MuSPP

MUNICIPAL CORNER

PUPILS OF METO BAJRAKTARI SCHOOL, SAFER ON THEIR WAY TO SCHOOL

The inauguration ceremony for the capital investment project "Access Improvement to the Primary School METO BAJRAKTARI" in Mitrovica, took place in front of the school area on November 3 2010. The project was initiated by a petition from the school community and elaborated in a close cooperation between the school and neighbourhood communities, municipal departments and the team of UN-HABITAT Municipal

Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP) in Mitrovica. Mrs. Krystyna Galezia Head of UN-HABITAT Kosovo office in Kosovo expressed her satisfaction with the implementation of this project which provides safer and more comfortable access for the nearly 1000 pupils of this school, and at the same time enhances the attractiveness of the neighbourhood. She stressed that UN-HABITAT through MuSPP and with the

support of Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), will continue to participate in investments aiming at improvements of public spaces and better quality of urban spaces for all citizens, with special attention to the most vulnerable among them. The Mayor of Mitrovica, Mr Avni Kastrati, expressed his gratitude for UN-HABITAT engagement in Mitrovica so far. "UN-HABITAT is our strategic partner and we hope that we will continue our cooperation in other important projects for the city" he said. The executed work included the closure of the school access for car traffic, the filling of a deep concrete ditch, the improvement of the surface of an informal alternative path, the elevation of the surface of the entire access road crossroad ("plateau"), traffic speed and parking restraint measures, facilities for Handikos premises, and introduction of lighting of both access variants. Access Improvement to the Primary School "METO BAJRAKTARI" in Mitrovica, was funded 50/50 on co-sharing basis by Municipality of Mitrovica, and the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme, of UN-HABITAT in Kosovo, financed by Sida.



Drita Nushi
UN-HABITAT/MuSPP

FEATURE STORIES

Town of grey sky

In our picturesque tour toward the border with Macedonia, in right side with mountains and in the left with Lepenc River, there's a town of Hani i Elezit/Deneral Jankovic. Two are the main characteristics, among many. The first one: the residents of Hani, are potential patients from respiratory organs and secondly all of them are living on the house where roof color turns into a gray.

"Look the only roof left in red is the house over there, constructed this year" starts his story Gani Shkreta. For him,

the roof needs only a year to change color.

" I heard that the town centre will be regulated, there will be a new trees planted here. Few days ago a friend of mine told me that they are going to pull down the old blocks in front of municipality" he said, adding that this is the only thing what remained from Tito's time.

"He (Tito) was a smart man" he adds turning his head.

"Administration of Cement Factory,

which premises are used today by the Municipal assembly will be regulated as well" that's how the 67 old-man Gani Shkreta heard about the improvement of Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic town centre.

Municipality with population of 10 000 inhabitants, was created from the process of decentralization in Kosovo in 2005, as a pilot unit. In 2008, Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic began to act as a Municipality.

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On the first stage of working as a Municipality, Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic faced with many difficulties, where the main challenge was the lack of urban regulation and prevention of illegal constructions. Inexperienced in this aspect and in the lack of budgetary funds, more than ever, Municipality of HiE was in need for investments and capacity building of local staff.

UN-HABITAT through the Programme of Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP) included this municipality on the programme and immediately prioritized projects /actions to be undertaken. The collaboration between Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic and MuSPP started with the Envisioning Workshop held in Ohrid, where participants share their memories and ideas about their municipality and together start to think about the future of Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic.

Envisioning as a first step for compiling municipal development plans, followed with several meeting and workshops with participation of civil society organizations, local businesses and citizens. And that's how it's started with the "learning by doing method" in the "in-house" approach of drafting planning policy documents and projects, supported by MuSPP.

In line with the process, the Municipality of expressed the need for regulation of town city centre, which project started to be implemented and it will be jointly and equally funded by UN-HABITAT and

Municipality. The total cost for this project is 70 thousand euro.

Sharrcem, changing its reputation

Most of people working in Municipality of agree that their town has been developed jointly with Cement Factory, even though it is known as a black gap for Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic.

For entering in "black gap", special permit from unit director is needed. For our protection, they said that we need to put helmet.

"Everybody is obliged for this, females are not excluded" says the security guard at the entrance.

In front of us there is a world of metal and workers who are trying to keep the factory functioning. On our way going inside the building, there is a corridor with green plants, even though all area smells from cigarette smoke. We take the steps, to the first door in second floor. When they knew, that I was interested for pollution and for the way of filtering the smoke, all of them remained unspoken. No one was responsible for speaking. With finger, they pointed at the administration building.

"Ask them", they said.

Scary and dusty metal stairs take down at the basement of the place.

"Do you want a cup of coffee?" asked me one of them.

"Thanks. I got not enough time" I said.

It is almost 1 PM and the smoke continues going out from the chimney of "Sharrcem", giving the expression that

it is killing clouds left from the rain.

"Most of the people working here live in Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic. We have our families here. Our hope for future stands on working with the Sharrcem" said Ahmet Dernjani, one of them.

He lights a cigarette. "I am smoking twice. There is a smoke from chimney and from the burning cigarette. This is Marlboro, while from the chimney it can be everything" he said. They are aware that the time of the improved infrastructure followed with green spaces will come.

Municipality will plant new trees, will remove fences from their premises and the area will be transformed into a green zone. This is how they heard about the improvement of town city centre.

"We need greenness as a fish needs water" Demjani said, hoping that the new Capital Investment Project of UN-HABITAT will not remain unmanaged as the park in Sharrcem's yard. He thanked UN-HABITAT for the support, even though according to him, "one flower is not enough for the spring to come."

"All that residents need to do is more courage and motivation for changing things ... and at the same to exclude forever the quote "it is not my problem"" Demjani said.

We left the "Sharrcem" working, hoping that one day the factory and the town will be models of environment protection in Kosovo.

Astron Mahmutaj
UN-HABITAT/MuSPP



Next Edition

- PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF GRACANICA/GRACANICË ENVISIONING WORKSHOP
- THE CURRENT SITUATION OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJCTS IN MuSPP MUNICIPALITIES
- THE COMPLETION OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESMENT REPORT FOR HANI I ELEZI/GENERAL JANKOVIC

MAKING BETTER CITIES TOGETHER

MuSPP2 is the second and a more advanced phase of the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme . Its concept was developed in cooperation with partner municipalities to ensure consolidation of the planning activities conducted under MuSPP1. The programme's design was consulted with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning(MESP), Association of Kosovo Municipalities and Sida. The programme addresses the need for strengthened capacities of the local authorities and their professional officers for the implementation of municipal and urban development plans developed under MuSPP1. It also relates to the existing expertise and experience in local and central bodies responsible for the planning activities (e.g. municipal departments of urbanism, Department of Spatial Planning and the Institute of Spatial Planning at the MESP). The cooperation at the central level is focussed on addressing issues which are not within the scope of municipal competencies and where support of the central level is essential. MuSPP2 seeks a more direct involvement of civil society organisations in the implementation of the programme through the system of cooperation agreements. Based on the lessons learned from the earlier experience, the delivery of technical advice and support is done this time through a project-based approach with a strong orientation results.

IMPRESSUM

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Making Better Cities Together

Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo

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