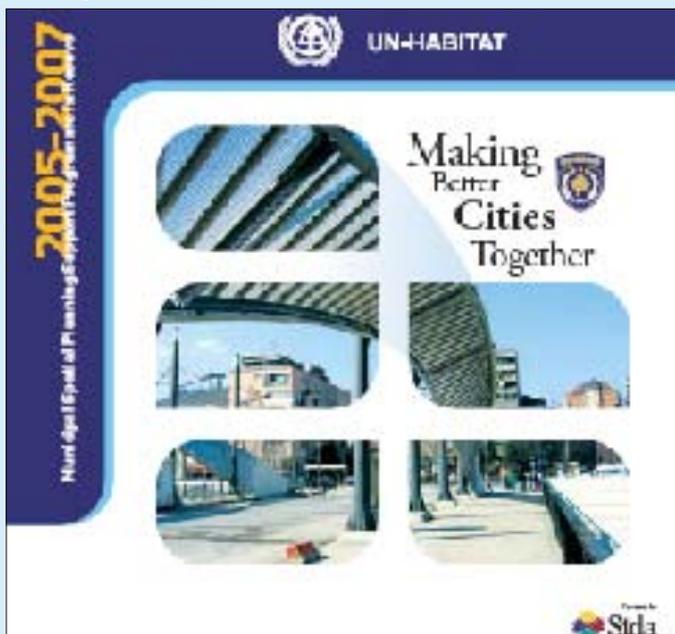


EDITORIAL

Goodbye MuSPP1, Welcome MuSPP2



On June 2nd, the fourth and last Tri Partite Review Meeting (TPR) took place in Grand Hotel. TPR meetings bring together the programme sponsor (Sida), the programme implementer (UN-HABITAT) and its counterparts (the beneficiary municipalities and central level institutions, including the Association of Kosovo Municipalities-AKM). The purpose is to monitor and evaluate the achievements and working methods of the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP).

On June 2nd "Highlights MuSPP1 2006-2008" were presented and discussed, including some of the bottlenecks experienced in this first phase (see Box 1, pg 10). There were preliminary discussion of these achievements and bottlenecks during the Thessaloniki retreat with the mayors of the MuSPP beneficiary municipalities and central level ministries (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning -MESP and Ministry of Local Government and Administration-MLGA), from 26 to 29 May.

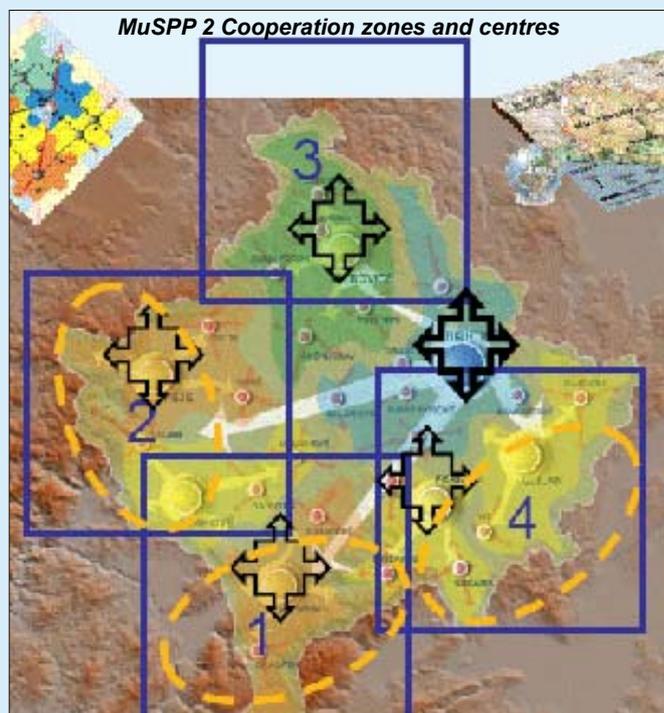
The Mayors acknowledged that municipal planning capacities are still very weak to cope with the immense challenges of rapid and uncontrolled urbanization and development. They expressed their firm commitment to their personal direct involvement in the process of municipal planning. To assist them, the mayors requested more direct cooperation between them and MuSPP2, delivering strategic advice on urban management including multi-sectoral planning and project management.

Another topic discussed at the Thessaloniki retreat was the need

to re-organize and re-vitalize the existing planning structures and bodies in municipalities so that these better respond to the challenges in urban and rural development. MuSPP's advice to strengthen the role of the multi-departmental Municipal Planning Team, the Planning Unit, the Council of Planning Experts and last, but not least, the recognition of the Informal Council of Civil Society Organizations was welcomed by all the participating mayors and ministers or their delegates.

Firm support was also expressed regarding the opportunity and need for inter-municipal, regional and cross-border cooperation. All these elements were reflected in the Programme Document for MuSPP2, as presented in Thessaloniki and confirmed during the TPR in Grand Hotel (see Box 2, pg 10).

June 2nd marked the formal end of MuSPP1 and the smooth transition to MuSPP2, which will run until 2011. The transition phase will end with the final signing of the Memoranda of Understanding (MoU's) between UN-HABITAT and the beneficiary counterparts. These MoU's will contain a generic part valid for all partners and a



specific part with a concrete road map per municipality. The MoUs are intended to make clear the roles and responsibilities of the partners in order to achieve more effective and efficient tailor-made cooperation.

(continues to page 10)

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORT

"From the sun to the wind let us work together and study alternative sources of energy that can be harnessed to meet our demand. And let us see if we can make Kosovo the greenest country in Southeast Europe." Hashim Thaçi, Prime Minister of Kosovo in the report Energy for Development published by UNDP in May 2008

According to this report, motorised transport in Kosovo consumes 414,80 Kilo Ton Oil Equivalent (KTOE) or 8,3 Mega Joule (MJ) /inhabitant/year. This represents 1/3 of the total energy consumption in Kosovo. This is the same portion of the global energy consumption as, for instance, in Switzerland, where the total energy consumption per inhabitant is five times higher. Transport, like in other European countries, has a large share of Kosovo's energy bill, but the mobility system in Kosovo is indeed rather energy efficient. There are many factors contributing to this: Kosovars make relatively few and short trips. They mainly use their own feet and public transport to make these trips. The car is used in a responsible manner, too: the average occupancy rate is high and driving speeds moderate.

With economic growth, Kosovars will have to and want to travel more and faster. If non-motorised transport and public transport can maintain or even increase their share, the costs linked to growing car traffic (energy consumption, accidents and pollution, infrastructure) can be limited and the saved resources be invested in productive sectors (industry, business, education, health). Whether the mobility of Kosovars can grow in an energy- and cost- effective manner largely depends on spatial planning and urban design.

Dense settlements with mixed functions provide for short trips from home to work to shopping and leisure activities that can be covered quickly and easily by foot or bicycle, prams or other gear. They also allow for the organisation of efficient public transport between them. On the contrary, low density mono-functional settlements generate longer trips that are more difficult to cover by energy- and cost-efficient transport modes. Kosovo's cities are growing fast and in a relatively dense manner. This is an asset for the country's energy future. Spatial planning should enhance dense urbanisation and equip the growing cities with adequate non-motorised and public



transport infrastructures. Dense cities served by non-motorised transport and public transport are designed in a particular manner. Streets and places are built for living, working, shopping, playing and moving around on foot or bicycle. Depending on the situation, this translates into avenues with large sidewalks of traffic calmed zones where cars are only admitted in a non-motorised environment. Car-free places and shortcuts for non-motorised transport through building blocks, paths between plots, passarellas, riverside trails, etc are essential elements of the urban transport system. Kosovo's cities are full of these features. In many cases, however, they were lost, due to lack of maintenance or usurpation by private functions.

Many neighbourhoods that are upgraded in a participatory planning approach, also produce excellent conditions for non-motorised mobility. MuSPP is supporting several projects in this field: **mobility centre in Ferizaj/Urosevac, street infrastruc-**

ture in Mitrovica (South and North), **CityBus network in Peja/Pec** (with associated pedestrian infrastructure), **green spaces in Gjakova/Djakovica, safe school environments in Gjilan/Gnjilane and Prizren**, etc. These are first steps toward full fledged non-motorised master plans and action plans that are necessary components of plans for sustainable urbanisation, economic development and efficient use of energy and financial resources.

Kosovo has excellent good practice examples for urban structures and design, Nena Teresa Avenue in Pristina being the most prominent one. But especially the medium sized cities of Kosovo that participate in MuSPP do have the assets for becoming "green and vital" cities (Peja slogan) that will **make Kosovo a reference case for sustainable mobility.**

Joachim Bergerhoff

MuSPP Mobility Planning Expert

CYCLING EVENT IN PEJA/PEC ON EUROPE IS DAY

It is not between Them and Us, it is between You and Me



Europe Day was marked on 3rd of May 2008, with a combined cycling event in Peja/Pec, using the motto: "It's not between Them and Us, it is between You and Me".

The event was jointly organized by MuSPP/UN-HABITAT, ECLO (European Commission Liaison Office), Municipality of Peja/Pec, Cycling Club "Peja" and SSF (Sports Sans Frontiere) and was divided into two parts:

The first part was dedicated to the promotion of city cycling as a very efficient transport means especially for a city like Peja/Pec. This was a good opportunity to bring together ambitions of the MuSPP Programme (see article pg2) and to demonstrate on the

profundly on the city cycling network as a part of the Municipal Mobility Policy. It also demonstrated the idea of Europe's Week for cycling as an instrument for social inclusion and cohesion.

In the first part of the day, participants took a city ride on bikes in a group headed by Peja/Pec Mayor Mr. Ali Berisha and ECLO Chief Mr. Renzo Davidi. The route for the ride was around 8 km long, with a stop-over at the railway station.

The reason for the break was to welcome another group that departed early in the morning from Istog and Klina. Both groups joined into one big group (some 120 participants) and continued the city ride to the city cen-

The ride appeared to be very interesting for citizens that were greeting the group.

The second part of the event was the competition between cycling teams from elementary schools, with around 30 people participating in the race.

The top three cyclists received awards funded by UN-HABITAT. The winner received a bicycle, the first runner up got sports clothes and the second runner up got a pair of sports shoes. The awards were made by the Mayor Mr. Ali Berisha, Mr. Renzo Davidi and Mr. Joachim Bergerhoff from MuSPP/UN-HABITAT.

After the awards ceremony, the event ended and the city center again reopened for vehicles.

During the event the Kosovo Police Service provided excellent support by escorting the group and organizing traffic during the city ride. Another acknowledgment in this regard goes also for local juice production enterprise "Bibita" that hosted all participants with drinks both at the rest point in Vitomirica and at the party in the city center.

Cycling is becoming more and more popular in Peja/Pec. Just a few days before the City Ride, the Peja/Pec Cycling Club, Municipality and UN-HABITAT jointly organized the first Mountain Bike Competition ever in Kosovo. This took place in the forest north of the city. Around 70 competitors representing elementary schools from Peja/Pec have tested for the first time the pleasure of cycling in nature, on a very demanding 800m-long cycling trail.

Knowing that the Workshop on Planning of Non-Motorized Transport took place also on 16th of April, we can all conclude that there is a very bright future for cycling in Peja/Pec. Words of appreciations are due to Mr. Modest Gashi and president of the Cycling Club "Peja" and Mr. Agim Mala for their effort to make the event happen.

Agron Sallova and Shkëlqim Daci

Peja/Pec MuSPP Team

URBAN DESIGNING A SYNTHESIS OF PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES

Cities and countries are continuously in a state of change, sometimes in an unpredictable way. How we will live, work, do business or enjoy leisure in 10-20 or more years? We don't know, but this doesn't mean that we don't have to plan and design for the future. While thinking of the future, we must understand the past and the present.

Whose interest do urban designers serve?

All urban development intends to affect different people to different degrees, in which development leads and responds to the public interest. We must know more about people for whom we plan and design; how they live, work, move around and what is their vision for the future of their place?

A good example of thinking for the overall public interest is changing public spaces into public places through urban design as

a synthesis of product and process. This approach was presented by Jenny Donovan, MuSPP expert on public spaces and design, in a workshop organized by MuSPP. The workshop gathered a wide range of different stakeholders, including professionals and staff of municipality, civil society, concerned NGOs, high school students etc.

The concept design for Central City Park in Gjakova/Djakovica was elaborated with given proposals, reasons and argumentations of necessities for serious approaches towards treatment, shape and implementation of urban microelements in public spaces through appropriate urban design, which is and should be for the benefit of all citizens.

By understanding the physical characteristics of a place, its environment and ecological conditions, local social and economic con-

ditions, we can create public places which benefit citizens not only today but also for the future generations which will be proud of the decisions taken by us.

Emotional and active discussions with participants for urban design as a synthesis of products and processes have taken place, and the message that came out from this workshop was:

- Our work and our decisions should be the heritage for the future.
- We should be part of the process which shapes the world around us.
- This activity is new and is developing with the motto "good urban design is growing demand" for future urban development.

Arch. Elida Bejtullahu

*Chief of urban sector,
Municipality of Gjakova*

CYCLING IS FUN AND THE BICYCLE AS DAILY TRANSPORT CAN BE MORE FUN THAN CITIZENS BELIEVE

On 15th of April UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP organised a workshop on Non-Motorized Transport for traffic experts, planners, municipal officers and citizens from Gjiilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovica and Ferizaj/Urosevac. This workshop, part of a series of workshops on transport issues (following road categorisation, public transport and public street design), was dealing with fundamental concepts of planning, design and promotion of sustainable mobility.

Mr. Jürgen Heyen-Perschon, director of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP Europe) was invited for this event to present successful examples of promoting walking and cycling around the world. Some excellent examples from South-America (Bogota, Columbia and Curitiba, Brazil) show that change to sustainable mobility behaviour is possible if decision-makers are dedicated to improve the urban quality of life. Cycling and walking, integrated in a comprehensive public transport system are most sustainable means of urban transport regarding reduction in CO₂-emissions, prevention of climate change and increasing road safety. A SWOT-analysis of the existing urban structure for the municipality of Gjiilan/

Gnjilane shows that the city itself possesses much strength to promote cycling and walking:

- the urban area is still compact which makes trips short and therefore usable for the bicycle or walking;
- well determined isolated "cells" of residential neighbourhoods are linked with a radial-concentric urban road network;
- Car-use is still low (estimated that more than 70% of the urban trips are made by foot, little by bicycle).

On the contrary, the dominance of the car in the main streets is overwhelming which hinders the quality of mobility for pedestrians and cycling. Some simple measures can improve the conditions for non-motorized transport like "intelligent" optimization of traffic circulation linked with available car parking, avoiding through-traffic in residential areas, and enforcement of parking policy.

Every year, a local pub "Hani bar" organises a recreational cycling event to Podgragje in the Morava valley. Every year the number of participants increases. It just shows that cycling is fun and the bicycle as daily transport can be more fun than citizens believe.



Let's go for it!

Huig Deneef

MuSPP Advisor Gjiilan/Gnjilane

DEMO PROJECT ON SAFER SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IN PRIZREN HAS BEEN INAUGURATED

The demonstration project on the construction of the school wall (fence) at the "Lidhja e Prizrenit" school, co-financed by the municipality of Prizren and MuSPP/UN-HABITAT, was inaugurated on 11 of June 2008. The inauguration ceremony was followed by sport activities and an exhibition that gathered many pupils and citizens of Prizren. The aim of this project was to enhance safety and encourage sports activities among pupils. That is why, the implementation process of the project provided for the broad range of activities which were aimed at engaging different stakeholder's right from the start of the project. One of such activities was a round table debate on safe school environment and safety in general which brought together pupils, parents and teachers.

The idea behind this project was to increase the safety of schoolchildren, during out-door activities in the school playground and its immediate surrounding. Another idea was to find an acceptable formula for making the area open to broader public after school activities. The expected outcome of this project is not

Reflections from the Round Table Debate

On 18th March 2008, UN-HABITAT, in cooperation with the Municipality of Prizren, organized a Round Table Debate on safer school environment. The debate was linked to the demo project for the construction of a school wall (fence) at the "Lidhja e Prizrenit", the Priomary School in Prizren. As a participant in the debate but also as a director of the school, I was invited to express my own opinion.

The demo-project presented during the round table debate was a good project and showed a big support from UN-HABITAT for creating a better and safer school environment in Kosova, and Prizren in particular.

As the director of the school, I was caught in the dilemma. As was mentioned from the representative of the Directorate of Urbanism and Spatial Planning, Mr. Ylber Gashi, an architect, according to urbanism rules, the sidewalk should be no less

than 3 m. On the one hand the construction of the school wall (fence) would increase the safety of pupils as well as that of the pedestrians passing by the school. The project would also contribute to the aesthetic of the area.

On the other hand, the school wall would reduce the area of the play-ground which is used for out-door sports activities and games. The school and the original wall surrounding the school compound are part of urban heritage and have been put under the programme for the protection of cultural and historic monuments. Therefore they require a careful treatment to preserve their historic character. I hope that my concern will be taken into consideration during the implementation of the project and the balance between the historic value and pupils' safety will be struck.

A summary of article written by:

Islam Bajrami

Director of the primary school "Lidhja e Prizrenit",

only the physical reconstruction of the school wall (fence) and creating a safer school environment but also greater sense of own

ership of the project by all stakeholders who participated in the discussions and implementation of the project.

THE NEED FOR INTERVENTION IN PUBLIC SPACES



Planners in the Mitrovica municipality have to deal with many challenges in their daily work. The specific situation that the city has been facing over the past 8 years, and the way that the city has developed, does not ensure a good living environment for most of its residents. The need for intervention is high and diverse, in its scope and nature, starting from technical infrastructure, public services and facilities up to open space, parks and recreational areas.

During the urban design workshop organized by UN-HABITAT and facilitated by an

expert in urban-space design, we visited 6 sites, each being different in their urban function and structure. These were: a small but strategically located park; a mosque park right in the centre of the city, close to a central roundabout; two informal settlements near the riverbank; a museum forecourt in the main city axis; the forecourt of apartment blocks; and Solana Park located in the middle of an extended interchange system of roads at an important gateway to the city.

At each site a short exercise was conducted which demonstrated the stages that the design process should develop. It included

identifying the issues related to the site; understanding the way the site is used by people, their hopes and concerns; preparing of the design agenda, identifying the issues to be addressed considering the wider planning context; drafting possible design proposals and developing a strategy for implementation and maintenance involving the community.

After the site visits, the workshop has continued at the municipal office, where the site of Mosque Park was discussed in greater detail. The preliminary design concept that was prepared by municipal officers was checked in regards to the principles mentioned above, defining the main objectives and exploration of different design ideas. Finally, discussion resulted in a proposal of coordinated interventions that would be achievable while addressing the issues in the best way.

The group of 5 municipal officers that have participated in this workshop have welcomed this initiative and found it as a very useful experience for their work in the future.

Shyhrete Peci,

Planning sector in DPURH in Mitrovica municipality

THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE PROJECT IDEA FOR THE MOBILITY CENTRE IN FERIZAJ/UROSEVAC



Dilemmas that requires solutions

The railway which used to be the heart of the city of Ferizaj/Urosevac now is one of the biggest dilemma and concerns of the citizens of Ferizaj/Urosevac. What to do with it: relocate it, put it underground or above, or have a solution on the ground level? These are the questions that need to be solved.

The Municipal Assembly of Ferizaj/Urosevac together with UN-HABITAT/MuSP Programme opened an international competition for the project idea for the mobility centre. As a result 43 proposals from 21 countries were received.

To create a project idea which offers the best possible ideas for solving the mobility problems in the major part of the city dominated by the railway, train and the bus station, taxi and pedestrians, was a big challenge for all the applicants. It has also to address the issue of integration of the two parts of the city divided by the railway.

I was given a chance of being a member of the Professional Jury, lead at the beginning by the honored professor Bashkim Fehmiu, whose untimely death before the work of the Professional Jury was finished, was a shock to all of us. The professional Jury was composed of experts of different field including architecture; urbanism; mechanics and civil engineering; energy, transport and telecommunication, sociology and philosophy as well as environment and ecology.

This group of people worked intensively for four days on the evaluation of all proposals based on the criteria set by the Terms of References of the competition. During the evaluation we come across various concepts which were differed be-

tween each other in the approach and their graphical presentation; ideas looking at the temporary solutions with small investments (such as the one with the construction of the single signal obelisk) up to very detailed proposals which successfully integrate the two parts of the city and ensure the genuine functionality of the mobility in the city. The relocation of the railway freight discharge to the outskirts of the city is common element of the all received proposals.

In general, most of the proposals related to an integrated mobility concept, while placing the bus and the train station, taxis, bicycles side by side and creating a mobility centre, which will offer the possibility to the citizens' for an easier use of the different modes of traffic.

I will use this opportunity to thank also the Secretariat of the Professional Jury which was formed with the suggestion of the professor, composed of professionals from UN-HABITAT and the Ferizaj/Urosevac municipality, who did their best to make the work of the Jury easier.

Gazmend Vranovci

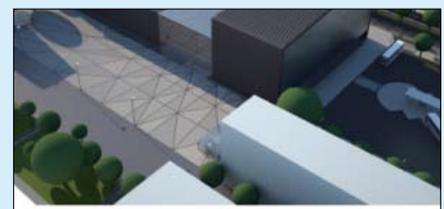
Member of the Professional Jury from Ferizaj/Urosevac



First Prize Winner



Second Prize Winner



Third Prize Winner

The winners of the competition

On 19th of May 2008, the Selection Committee announced the winners of the International Spatial Design Competition for Mobility Centre Project in Ferizaj/Urosevac.

Working on the short list recommended by the Professional Jury, the Selection Committee unanimously decided to award the following competitors:

First prize went to the design company SEARLE/WALDRON from Melbourne/VIC

Australia;

The second prize went to Anna Klara Lundberg from Malmo/Sweden and

The third one to XL Architects from Pristina, Kosovo.

A special merit prize went to Tower 151 Architects from Zagreb, Croatia.

The award ceremony will be held shortly.

NETWORKING

STREET LIGHTING FOR WOMEN, BETTER ROAD SURFACE FOR MEN?

Different roles that men and women play in society have a major impact on how men and women, boys and girls perceive their living environment and where they place their priorities regarding development projects. In order to plan cities which will respond to these needs and expectations, urban planners must learn what the social implications of their spatial decisions are.

As part of its gender-sensitive approach to urban planning and management, the MuSPP team conducted a series of gender workshops for all MuSPP municipalities and other partners. Various stakeholders including representatives of Municipal Assemblies, urban planners, NGOs and the media discussed the issue and shared their experiences and views

on how the needs and aspirations of men and women, boys and girls are reflected in local development planning.

The training was aimed at understanding the importance of equal participation of men and women in all planning spheres.

During the training, men and women expressed their needs and priorities, sometimes they differed substantially from each other, and other times they were complementary or were expressed in a different way. Some recommendations given by women were very specific, e.g. shelter for single-parent women was raised by women from almost all municipalities. Another important issue was new working places and income-generating op-

portunities, farm production, arts and crafts, and a safe environment for women and children. Men put more emphasis on infrastructural projects such as roads, and the improvement of landfills and the environment. The importance of education and health services were raised by both.

The training itself was evaluated as very successful and a crucial point for a just and equal contribution of both men and women to the development of Kosovo municipalities.

Rudina Qerimi
MuSPP/UN-HABITAT

KOSOVO SPATIAL PLANNERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES

Spatial planners, the current and former staff of the Kosovo Institute for Spatial Planning received certificates of the successful completion of the Training in Spatial and Development Planning for Kosovo at a gala event hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) on March 7, 2008. The ceremony was attended by the representatives of UN-HABITAT in Kosovo and the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) based in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, as the organisations which assisted in the establishment of the Kosovo Institute of Spatial Planning and capacity building programme for its staff.

Through a cooperation agreement with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, UN-HABITAT and IHS experts provided professional assistance and advice to the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning for four years. This contributed to the development of the spatial planning sector in general and in particular to the drafting of the Spatial Plan for Kosovo. This support was provided through a combination of workshops, trainings, on-job assistance and expert's advice. The process of drafting the Kosovo Spatial Plan was the result of the capacity building programme based on the learning by doing approach and aimed at the application of theory in practice.

"The successful completion of this training is not the end of the learning planning pro-



knowledge on the planning process does not have an end", said Mr. Luan Nushi, a director of the Institute for Spatial Planning in Kosovo.

On behalf of UN-HABITAT, Krystyna Galezia congratulated spatial planners on the successful completion of the training and hoping that knowledge gained will contribute to the future sustainable development of Kosovo.

Forbes Davidson, Project Manager and Senior Faculty of IHS, acknowledged the Ministry for its great enthusiasm for cooperation with IHS and UN-HABITAT and for its support to the training process. "Capacity building strategy linked with the priorities within MESP is important but emphasis should be given to the education of new spatial planners as well", he said.

6+3=10

ENVISIONING WORKSHOPS IN 6+3 MUNICIPALITIES

The 5-day envisioning workshops with the involvement of different groups of stakeholders have been a kind of a trade-mark of the MuSPP1 and a specific tool in its planning method. The main purpose of these workshops is to retrieve ideas of citizens for long- and short-term urban and spatial planning, as input for the Municipal and Urban Development Plans and their implementation. MuSPP developed a 'format' of these workshops which includes basic training of the participants in planning principles, but which is mainly focused on 'learning by doing'.

The programme of the workshop is composed of a number of sessions, each of them having very clearly defined objectives, and creating a logical and mutually reinforcing sequence of training modules. The programme begins with an 'ice breaking' session of story telling and making a memory or nostalgic map about the past of the community and is followed by a SWOT analysis of selected issues such as housing, economic development, environmental protection, etc. which helps diagnose the current situation. The third session is focused on transforming the results of the analysis into goals and objectives and formulating a clear vision statement for each of the issues. The fourth and most challenging session is to visualize those objectives in maps and sketches. The final task is to integrate the partial or thematic vision statements into a common and cohesive community statement and make the basic arrangements and commitments for the follow-up activities.

The majority of participants represent civil society organizations, but also a limited number of municipal planners, decision makers and relevant other stakeholders are invited to participate. The Institute of Spatial Planning/MESP provided not only maps and basic

training on Kosovo Spatial Plan, but also assisted the working groups to develop sustainable planning proposals. The role of MuSPP/UN-HABITAT was to facilitate the process, train participants and mediate conflicting ideas in order to ensure effective and efficient continuation of the municipal planning process. All envisioning workshops were set up as a co-production of three partners: the municipality, the representative civil society (often through the Informal Council of Civil Society) and UN-HABITAT, (and later on also Cultural Heritage without Borders-CHWB), with co-funding provided kindly by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

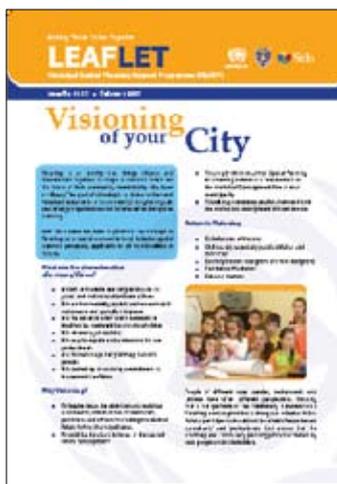
The first workshop was organized in January 2007 with a focus on the improvement of living conditions in Mitrovica, which related to the city as a whole and covering the areas on both sides of the Ibar river and equally affecting Kosovo-Albanians and Kosovo-Serbs. .. Despite the many difficulties and two failed attempts due to the political situation, this initial workshop proved to be very successful in bringing together representatives of both communities and creating a forum for the exchange of their ideas. This process also set the ground for the discussion on common problems, planning activities and future cooperation between north and south. The recent visit of a Sida/UN-HABITAT HQ delegation to Mitrovica confirmed that the driving civil society forces and the municipality of Mitrovica (south) still rely on the vision developed 18 months ago and, even to a greater extent, on the post-envisioning activities and reports. The envisioning workshops in Ferizaj/Urosevac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Gjakova/Djakovica, and Prizren were all extremely successful in retrieving innovative ideas and sustainable development perspectives as contribution to the MDP/UDP's.

They were followed by a series of events and reports such as public presentation of the vision, vision declaration statement by civil society, envisioning report, integrated vision document and planning recommendations. In the case of Peja/Pec, the envisioning workshop focused on a specific area of the municipality which has been identified as strategic location in the approved MDP/UDP. The vision workshop for the so called EST-zone (zone for Education, Sport and Tourism) brought together all relevant stakeholders and resulted in a set of policy and implementation recommendations for the municipality and other stakeholders.

Following the involvement of CHWB, a Sida-funded NGO working on the protection and re-development of cultural and natural heritage in Kosovo, in the envisioning workshops in Prizren and Gjakova/Djakovica, CHWB in cooperation with MuSPP/UN-HABITAT organized a workshop for the pilot municipality of Junik.

This workshop gave an opportunity for very active engagement of the municipal authorities and civil society alike. The public presentation and discussion was a memorable event, held in a restored kulla (tower house), enriched with local food and music. The presentation was combined with a field visit to some of the action areas identified in the vision for the future development of this beautiful border municipality, hosting the highest mountain and the largest cluster of kulla's of Kosovo. Junik authorities took the output of the vision workshop as a basic strategy for the sustainable development of the pilot municipality, thus giving direction to all future decision making and project development.

(continues pg 9)



As a consequence of their very successful cooperation, CHwB and MuSPP co-organized also a vision workshop for and with the pilot municipality of Hani i Elezit. The great challenge, in this case, was to try to find a balance between the livability of the local community and the economic and national interests linked to the big cementation plant, Sharrcem, and the location of a border crossing which give Hani i Elezit a strategic character as the gateway to Kosovo. The participation of Sharrcem as a key stakeholder in the local development planning process was an important feature of this workshop leading to fostering relations between the local authorities, the industrial sector and civil society. But as the CEO of Sharrcem stated at the presentation of the vision, the proof will be in "eating the pudding" as dreaming of a better environment is easier than putting it into practice.

While writing this contribution we're in the final stage of the vision workshop for Mamusha, the third pilot municipality in a row. Mamusha was part of Prizren municipality but due to the decentralization process in Kosovo,

this rural village with a large Turkish community is likely to become a new municipality. This means the obligation to draft a development plan – whether a full MDP, or just a UDP, as the MDP of Prizren already contains a vision on Mamusha, will need to be determined. Through involving not only the citizens of Mamusha but also of Prizren in the vision workshop, a dialogue can be fostered towards an integrated development of the two municipalities. The Mamusha case is also specific as it involves direct and active participation of political advisors of the Minister of MESP, who is representing the Turkish community in the current Kosovo government. Soon this vision will be presented publicly and the pilot-municipality can build upon this vision to elaborate its development plan.

It is to be hoped for and expected that there will be more envisioning workshops, big and small, for long term and immediate actions. But maybe the time is right to look back before continuing and driving or flying on the automatic pilot. The purpose is to organize (after summer) a "reflective/review" workshop on

the past 6+3 envisioning workshops, for and with the participation of all those involved in the earlier workshops - over 300 persons for sure - and also for all the relevant institutional stakeholders that could or should take advantage of this method, apply it and adapt it to their own needs. Of course we will highlight the positive outcomes and even celebrate the co-productive spirit and unforgettable memories of the vision workshops. However, we also have to be self-critical and look for the ways to improve the method and the tool where and when possible.

Only by doing so, we can add value to the 6+3 experiences so far and make it ...10. All participants are already invited to reflect and give us feedback on their good and not-so-good experiences, not only in relation to the envisioning workshops, but also with regard to their follow-up and impact on the municipal planning process and decisions.

Frank D'hondt and Arijeta Himaduna,
MuSPP/UN-HABITAT

TERRITORIAL CHALLENGES AND COOPERATION IN A WIDER EUROPE

The ESPON seminar on Territorial Challenges and Cooperation in Wider Europe, gathered more than one hundred representatives from European countries, responsible for monitoring spatial developments including policy makers, decision makers, practitioners at EU, national, regional and local level and scientists to discuss and exchange knowledge on territorial development dynamics as well as sustainable and balanced territorial development in the European Union and its neighbouring countries.

The Seminar held during the Slovenian EU presidency, took place on June 1-2, 2008 in Portoroz, in the presence of Mitja Bricelj, State Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Marko Starman, State Secretary at the Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy of the Republic of Slovenia. Different to previous ones, this seminar was attended for the first time also by representatives from the Balkan region including Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo.

The seminar was an opportunity to learn more about ESPON 2006 results and its projects, which created a good basis for the new ESPON 2013 Programme. Mr. Peter Me-

hlbuy, Director of ESPON Coordination Unit said in his presentation: *"ESPON will continue to monitor spatial development through its basic tools of continuous monitoring system, data-mapping, research analysis and cooperate closer with other programmes. Sharing experiences on territorial dynamics, scenarios and policy impacts, can help create a mutual understanding to the benefit of development, integration and cooperation within a wider Europe and at the same time support the use of evidence at the European scale in shaping practical policies"*.

An obvious fact that research and ESPON results indicated is that unbalanced territorial developments, climate change, accelerating globalisation, migration, rising energy prices, will continue to be challenges for EU territorial development and this will affect balance and cohesion between different parts of Europe. *"We have to recognise that the space is an asset"*, said Mr. Philippe Montfort from the European Commission, while reinforcing the idea of having an integrated approach to deal with current challenges with territorial cohesion as a central instrument of the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty and consideration of the specificities of EU territory.

The seminar was also creative in bringing new ideas and visions for territorial developments within European and worldwide contexts; it offered a good platform to discuss interesting cases and share experiences on trans-national and cross-border cooperation including national experiences on spatial policies and strategies from different EU and non-EU countries.

The relevance of this seminar for Kosovo consists in the opportunity to meet and create new contacts and look at the synergies of networking and representing Kosovo in the ESPON 2013 Programme.

Possible enlargement of coverage is also one of the objectives of the ESPON 2013 Programme, with given priorities to involvement of EU candidate countries and Western Balkans as a general rule. Initiatives in this regard need to be followed by Kosovo institutions in the nearest future.

Lumnije Gashi,
Participant in ESPON seminar
MuSPP/UN-HABITAT

(Continues from page 1)

A crucial and critical element in MuSPP2 is to develop an "exit strategy" which will ensure a smooth transition of vital MuSPP roles and activities to Kosovo institutions and organizations by the end of the programme. For that purpose, dialogue and cooperation with central level institutions such as MESP, MLGA and the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, needs to be intensified. One of the commitments made in Thessaloniki is to advise and assist the Collegium of Spatial Planning of AKM which

includes most municipalities in Kosovo. Another challenge is to assure that the Department and Institute of Spatial Planning will play a decisive and distinct role in the exit strategy.

Last but not least: as for MuSPP1, the success of MuSPP2 will highly depend on the involvement and commitment of the civil society and the community-based organizations (CBO) in the beneficiary municipalities, throughout the entire planning

process, from long term envisioning to concrete projects and actions. It is hoped that these organizations will have an expanded role in MuSPP 2

Garth Seneque,

Chief Technical Advisor/Head of Mission

UN-HABITAT Kosovo

Frank D'hondt,

Spatial Planning Coordinator MuSPP

Box 1 Highlights MuSPP 1 2006 - 2008

Achievements as a joint output of MuSPP and its counterparts are:

- ⊙ 9 Visioning workshops with Integrated Vision Documents/Expert recommendations for MDP/UDP
- ⊙ MDP/UDP Peja approved and road map for implementation ready
- ⊙ MDP/UDP Gjakova, Gjilan and Ferizaj in final stage after public review
- ⊙ MDP/UDP Mitrovica more than 'halfway'
- ⊙ MDP Prizren finally can be drafted based on a detailed Consultant Brief
- ⊙ Planning bodies are installed or reactivated
- ⊙ Growing personal and institutional capacities in local governments and local civil society
- ⊙ Growing awareness on sustainable mobility, informal settlements, gender, public space, urban design, ...
- ⊙ Action plans for Non Motorized Transport, public transport, safe school environments, enterprise zones, parks & public spaces, informal settlements, regulatory plans, ...
- ⊙ 6 demo-projects implemented or under construction:
 - Mitrovica: roundabout(s) in South and pedestrian ramps in North
 - Peja: street re-design Football stadium/city entrance
 - Gjakova: city park upgrading
 - Prizren: schoolyard wall (fence)/safe school environment
 - Ferizaj: Design Competition Mobility Centre
 - Gjilan: upgrading of central city graveyard

- ⊙ Expanding communication activities:

Website www.unhabitat-kosovo.org

Newsletter 1-5

Leaflets (Visioning, Public Review, Placemaking, Informal Settlements)

Media coverage, TV-debates

Bottlenecks in MuSPP1 and Challenges for MuSPP2 are:

- ⊙ Weak local planning capacities
 - No 'real' Planning Units
 - No ToR or clear mandates for other planning bodies (Municipal Planning Team, Council of Planning Experts)
 - No 'recognition' of Informal Council of Civil Society Organizations
- ⊙ Quality of and relations with external MDP/UDP consultancies
- ⊙ Weak grassroots of Civil Society and Community Based Organizations
- ⊙ Weak planning commitments from (previous!) mayors
- ⊙ No links between planning and budget
- ⊙ High turn over in local (planning) staff
- ⊙ Unfavorable macro-institutional context (status and elections)
- ⊙ Weak and unclear central-local level cooperation and division of roles



Box 2 What do we want to do in MuSPP 2 ?

- ⊙ Support the Municipality to complete and approve its spatial plan that should address the development needs and priorities for the municipality.
- ⊙ Assist the Municipality to use the spatial planning process to identify, design and manage the implementation of priority capital works projects.
- ⊙ Assist the Municipality to prepare and implement regulatory planning instruments to guide and control development identified in the spatial plan
- ⊙ Strengthen the capacity of central level government to support and safeguard the municipal planning and development process.
- ⊙ Assist the Municipality to prepare and implement regulatory planning instruments to guide and control development identified in the spatial plan



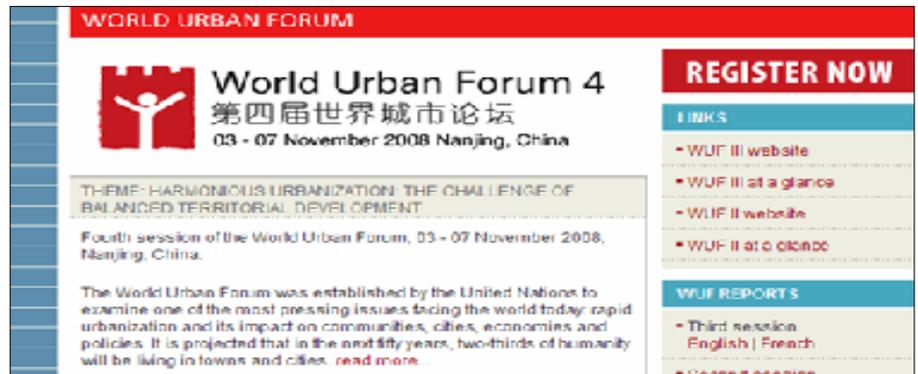
UN-HABITAT CORNER

WORLD URBAN FORUM

Theme: Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development

The World Urban Forum (WUF) was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. It is projected that in the next fifty years, two-thirds of humanity will be living in towns and cities. A major challenge is to minimize burgeoning poverty in cities, improve the urban poor's access to basic facilities such as shelter, clean water and sanitation and achieve environment-friendly, sustainable urban growth and development.

The WUF is a biennial gathering a wide range of partners, from non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, urban professionals, academics, to governments, local authorities and national and international associations of local governments. It gives all these actors a common platform to discuss urban issues in formal and informal ways and come up with action-oriented proposals to



create sustainable cities. The Fourth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF4) will be hosted by the Government of China and will be held in the ancient city of Nanjing from 03-07 November 2008. The Forum is successful because it differs from UN governing bodies. Since it is not legislative and does not follow the formal rules of procedure that usually govern official UN meetings, the working arrangements of the Forum are kept deliber

ately simple and relatively informal to generate a healthy and inclusive debate on urban issues. Participation is extremely open to allow effective dialogue between all actors working on urban issues.

The city of Nanjing and UN-HABITAT welcome you to the Fourth session of the World Urban Forum!

source: www.unhabitat.org

MEDIA CORNER

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

GJILAN/GNJILANE

Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kumanova and Presheva for "relativism" of the borders

Interesting article on cross-border and inter-regional cooperation is provided in an article of the daily newspaper Koha Ditore. Article includes also new ideas the mayors of the three border municipalities have discussed on relativism of the state borderlines, the necessity of cooperation especially in the field of education, traffic, trade-in etc. There was a common concordant of the mayors on mutual cooperation without necessarily involving authorities from Brussels, Gjeneva or other international centres.

Source Koha Ditore, 12 April 2008

GJAKOVA/ DJAKOVICA

Protecting public spaces

Article on Lajm writes about the joint project between MA of Gjakova/Djakovica and UN-HABITAT on improving the landscape of the park in the city centre with the new seats, lightening, and playground for the children etc. Suggestions from Jenny Donovan, UN-HABITAT expert on urban design, include also the enrichment of the park with the new cafeteria and construction of the public toilets to improve the recreational character of the park. Representative from Directorate of Public services, Mr. Pjetër Frokaj, explained that the lack of green public spaces within the city is an indicator for more investments in this field in the future.

Source Lajm, 12 March 2008

PRIZREN

Stop urban chaos

Article in daily newspaper Lajm, provides information on the commitment of the new director of Urbanism and Inspectorate in Prizren towards solving the problems of constructions without permits. "To prevent this negative phenomenon, we have to cooperate closer with professionals, and have a different approach in drafting the urbanistic plans" said Çelë Lamaj director of Urbanism in Prizren. According to him, drafting of the urban regulatory Plans are of the prior importance to stop the urban chaos. Apart from this, the municipality will start legalizing the buildings that do not interfere with the urban plans.

Source Lajm, 4 February 2008

MITROVICA

Mitrovica is seen as a compact city

The article provides information on the Visioning workshop organized by the Municipal Planning team and "Lin Project" which together with Metron and Abi Group companies from Switzerland are drafting the Municipal and Urban Development plan. The plan foresees Mitrovicë/Mitrovica as compact city, multiethnic and educational centre. Special emphasis the plan gives to priorities such as: develop and protect of agriculture land, development of farming, recreation areas, protection of cultural heritage etc. The economic sector was mentioned as a possibility of closer cooperation between two ethnicities.

Source: Koha Ditore, 7 February 2008

PEJA/PEC

Berisha becomes a cyclist, considers Peja/ Pec ready for Europe

Reflections on cycling competition for Europe's Day, organized by MA Pejë/Pec, UN-HABITAT and European Union and which gathered cyclists from municipality of Pejë/Pec, Istog and Klina, are provided in the daily newspaper Koha Ditore.

The Mayor of municipality, Mr. Berisha together with Mr. Çeku deputy in Kosovo Assembly, looked like a real sportsman. "This event is to show once more the readiness of Kosovo on its way towards Europe", said Mr. Berisha, while waiting to deliver the award to the three winners of this cycling event competition.

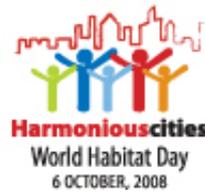
Source Koha Ditore, 4 May 2008

FERIZAJ/UROSEVAC

Ferizaj/Urosevac attractive for architects from five continents

Article provides information on the international competition on idea project for Mobility Centre in Ferizaj/Urosevac municipality- a joint project between the municipality and UN-HABITAT. "43 entries from different design companies all over the world, with new and attractive ideas, was surprising for Ferizaj people", said Mustafë Zariqi, planner working in Directorate of Urbanism in Ferizaj/Urosevac.

Source Koha Ditore, 1 April 2008



Invitation for celebrating World Habitat Day 2008

The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October each year as World Habitat Day. The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

The United Nations chose the theme of Harmonious Cities for 2008 to raise awareness about the problems of rapid urbanization, its impact on the environment, the growth of slums, and the urbanisation of poverty as more and more people team into towns and cities looking for a better life. This year, UNHABITAT will focus on equal access to resources and opportunities as a means of achieving harmony in cities.

Indeed, such is the importance of all these aspects of Harmonious Cities that UN-HABITAT's main flagship report in 2008 and the fourth session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China from 3-7 November will also focus on Harmonious Cities to reinforce the World Habitat Day message.

Harmonious Cities are inclusive cities where everyone and every culture is at home.

Your ideas are more than welcomed for celebrating World Habitat Day in Kosovo

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



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