

## Editorial

### Keeping Planning on Track

Seven **demo-projects** have been selected and launched in MuSPP partner municipalities. The contributions in this Newsletter show that these and other actions in municipalities are undertaken by a variety of actors at the same time. This has already resulted in a larger number of projects and new implementing stakeholders than initially envisaged. We look forward to learning lessons from these and other demo-initiatives and encourage you to be reflective too. Incorporation of experiences, lessons, risks and limitations will create greater potential for being strategic with larger capital investments projects and achieving sustainable change.

Six **Visioning workshops** have taken place in cooperation with our 6 partner municipalities and it has now proved to have boosted and empowered the local civil society and professional planners to 'think out of the box', delivered inspiring vision statements and quality integrated vision documents that are becoming part of the MDP. We'd like to capture your reflections on experiences and results during and after the visioning events and turn it into lessons and good practices for our next 'Leaflet on Lessons of Visioning in Kosovo'. In this way lessons can be shared with all municipalities and other institutions in Kosovo (and abroad).

On the 1st October **World Habitat Day** has been celebrated in 4 municipalities under this year's motto 'A safe city is a just city', with hundreds of participants including citizens, municipal representatives, municipal planners, MESP, Kosovo police, KFOR, international organisations, academics ... and strong participation of Kosovo's young population. There



fore we decided to issue a special edition of the newsletter solely dedicated to the World Habitat Day events. A special feature is that WHD coincided with the re-opening of the train connection between Prishtina and Peja/Pec, the first inter-city connection after the train line between Prishtina and Skopje. This opens a window of opportunities for a more sustainable development in Kosovo.

'**Sustainable transport planning and spatial development**' is the umbrella under which a series of interactive conference sessions is being organised on the topics of indeed, sustainable transport and mobility closely interlinked with spatial development. This is the first time that this important topic is discussed in Kosovo, and that a unique high-level steering committee in cooperation with UN-HABITAT is making this initiative happen. While the ink of this newsletter publication is drying, the first conference on public transport has taken place with big success. We thank you for your participation and interaction and cordially invite you for a special lecture in November 2007 and future conferences on 'backbone infrastructure' and 'non-motorised transport' in 2008. A special report will be provided in the next newsletter.

**Planning** is certainly on track with MuSPP partners. Municipal governments are working on their Municipal and Urban Development Plans. The conference cycle is getting cross-sector planning on central level tracks. Working hard is one thing, but delivering 'hard achievements' is clearly more difficult. Aiming for approved MDP/UDP's before the end of this programme will require strong commitment from the local decision makers and planning departments and a firm roadmap that includes the formal Public Review in the very near future. We are happy that MuSPP has been extended till April'08 and we want to reach the finish line together.

The upcoming elections in Kosovo, as well as the ongoing status settlement negotiations will challenge all relevant actors to **keep planning on track**, politically and technically. *Once the train is (back) on track, the driver should assure its arrival according to schedule. If not, the train will fail to attract (new) clients and will be taken out of service. This should happen neither to trains nor to planning in Kosovo.*

**Elisabeth Belpaire**  
CTA/Programme Manager

### GJAKOVA/ DJAKOVICA MDP AND UDP IN A PUBLIC REVIEW

How will Gjakova/Djakovica municipality and city develop in the next 10 years will now depend on citizens. The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and the Urban Development Plan (UDP) of Gjakova/Djakovica were launched for public review process on September 18th, 2007, before they are finalized and sent for approval by the Municipal Assembly.

The period of public review, as regulated by the Law on Spatial Planning provides for at least 60 days for an MDP, and at least 30 days for a UDP.

The public review of both plans offers an opportunity to all citizens to submit their suggestions and comments. Citizens' opinions will be then analysed by the municipal authority dealing with urban issues.

Not all ideas submitted by citizens can always be accepted; therefore a report will be prepared by the municipal experts explaining the reasons of accepting or rejecting the ideas and suggestions submitted during the public review process.

The plans are displayed in the meeting room in the Directorate of Urbanism and



Planning and municipal planners are available to clarify the contents of the plans to the citizens.

## PUTTING VISION INTO ACTION

"Putting Ideas into Action" was the motto of the latest World Urban Forum (Vancouver, 2006). With a series of Visioning Workshops (see Focus last Newsletter) we tried to enhance the co-production of good planning visions and ideas. From far-away-dreams to immediate measures to improve the living conditions of Kosovans in the six secondary cities. Those visions and ideas have to be translated into sound municipal and urban development plans, which are currently drafted (or already approved as in the Peja/Pec case). To demonstrate that the implementation of long term visions can start with small actions, we launched "demo-projects". Demo-projects are small projects demonstrating the mission of MuSPP, which is "putting vision into action". Demo-projects should thus be action-oriented, with tangible and even "visible" results achieved before the end of MuSPP phase 1 in April 2007.

Within its programme 2005-2008, funded by Sida, MuSPP has a small budget of 100,000 USD to co-finance demo-projects. As MuSPP is active in five municipalities plus Mitrovica South and North, it was aimed to have at least seven demo-projects. That means that the average available co-funding is limited to 10,000 euros per project, but one of the criteria was to seek co-financing by the applying municipality. Also other partners (public and private) can be involved to multiply the budget, the impact and the co-ownership of the project. Other and more qualitative criteria used for selecting demo-projects stressed that the project should be small but strategic (in time and space), creative and innovative (not just an old "recycled" project), feasible (implementable in some months time) and last but not least participatory and empowering (by involving civil society and

other stakeholders). The Visioning workshops provided excellent opportunities to identify possible demo-projects in each municipality. Also other activities in the planning process of Municipal and Urban Development Plan served as a source of ideas for projects, framed by the municipal vision and planning process.

A special Selection Committee, composed of representatives of Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the Association of Municipalities of Kosovo and Sida, selected following seven demo-projects:

- **Peja/Peć:** Street design near the Football Stadium
- **Ferizaj/Uroševac:** Spatial design competition for a Mobility Centre
- **Gjilan/Gniljane:** Upgrading the Municipal Cemetery
- **Gjakova/Djakovica:** Upgrading Central Park
- **Prizren:** Upgrading a schoolyard in the City Centre
- **Mitrovica (South part):** Roundabouts in City Centre
- **Mitrovica (North part):** Pedestrian ramps in City Centre

You can read more about the state of play of the demo-projects in Peja/Peć, Gjilan/Gniljane, Prizren and Mitrovica (South and North) in this Newsletter. Ferizaj/Uroševac and Gjakova/Djakovica will be presented in the next edition.

After a rather hesitating start we can clearly see the interest for and from the demo-projects. In most cases there was a need to "break open" the proposals, in order to incorporate a planning approach, by framing the project in a larger vision and context, by going back to the root causes of the problem and to identify possible (better) alternatives than the proposed one, and most

wimportant of all to involve the relevant stakeholders and the citizens. It also took some time to deal with the co-funding mechanism, but now this is solved and we hope to move ahead with the implementation. In the case of Mitrovica, both parts (North and South) were that keen on implementing their project proposal, that they already realized the first phase of the project without our co-funding. You are invited to have a look at the new roundabout near the Green Market in the centre of Mitrovica South, as well as the ramps for pedestrians and disabled people using wheelchair in the centre of Mitrovica North. This shows that there is a real interest in small-scale projects to improve the quality of urban life.

The real challenge is to set up and develop local planning processes and cultures that are able to work at the same time on visions and projects. The teams should work on planning documents like the Municipal and Urban Development Plans on one hand, with a sound long term vision on the future and desirable spatial structure of the municipality, and at the same time start up short (and long term) strategic projects to demonstrate the benefits of the visions and the plans. As both can only be done wisely through co-production between local governments, other institutions, the business community and last but not least the civil society, we would like to refer to the recent World Planning Conference of ISOCARP, held in Antwerp, Belgium, 19-23 September, with the topic of "Urban Dialogues – Co-productive ways to relate visioning and strategic urban projects". When successful, MuSPP and its partners will be able to "demonstrate" how to put this Urban Dialogue between plans, projects and people into practice.

**MuSPP Team**



## MUNICIPAL CORNER

## CITIZENS' INVOLVEMENT IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL

Citizens' involvement in the process of identification of their needs, finding opportunities and selection of the priorities offer a better chance for developing new solutions that are more sustainable and reasonable. This is the reason why in the development of the demo-project focused on Reconstruction of the wall in which the fence is fixed, pupils, parents and other inhabitants of the neighborhood were involved.

This project was identified as a priority based on the results of a questionnaire of 47 pupils from the primary school "Lidhja e Prizrenit", their parents and other inhabitants of the Pantelia neighborhood in Prizren.

According to the results of the question-

naire, the reconstruction of this fence-wall will increase pupil's safety, offer better opportunities for sport activities and will be helpful for free movement in the school garden.

Parents often emphasized that the now existing fence-wall poses a hazard for the safety of their children in this school. With this new project co-founded by the municipality and MuSP Programme implemented by UN-HABITAT in Kosovo, the problem will be solved. According to them, reconstruction of the fence-wall will raise the pupils' safety and the safety of people living in this neighbourhood. The visual effect will also be improved.

The involvement of different stakeholders in the early stages of the project encour-

ages the planning process in Prizren and eases the implementation of the project. This is also compatible with the UN-HABITAT's mandate, which promotes an inclusive participatory planning process for a sustainable urban development.



## WORKSHOPS ON LEGAL ISSUES IN FERIZAJ/UROŠEVAC

Having in mind the fact that spatial planning is a multi-sectoral and multidimensional activity related to the use of space, the planning process requires not only an analysis of spatial planning law but also other laws which have an impact on spatial planning.

The challenges faced when implementing planning documents, e.g. treatment of cases for the urbanistic and building permit, laws and the regulations that are in force when doing the inspection in the field or solving many property and cadastral contests, are many, of different nature and there are cases when municipal officers are in a dilemma when providing solutions to them.

A series of one-day workshops on legislative issues for Ferizaj/Uroševac Municipality held in April, May and June offered many explanations to the above mentioned dilemmas. Presentations and clarifications made by the MuSPP/UN-HABITAT legal advisor, Mr. Lazim Salihu dealt with a vast scope of issues including:

- Municipal spatial and urban planning, legal requirements
- Administrative decisions as per urban legislation
- The law on constructions
- Basic explanations on the amendment of the law on roads

- The law on transport and its relation to spatial planning
- The law on agriculture and its impact on planning
- Law on nature conservation
- Long term concession of immovable public property administrated by Kosovo municipalities

The presentation of these issues and interpretation of the laws stimulated discussions and offered most welcome clarifications.

The interpretation of concrete cases already solved or subject to legislative process were of specific interest for the participants.

Workshops attended by representatives of different municipal directorates including the Directorate of planning, reconstruction and development; Directorate of urbanism; inspection; geodesy and cadastre and from the Legal municipal office of Ferizaj/Uroševac, made us better understand the importance of close co-operation between directorates, but also find possibilities to overcome problems together during implementation and interpretation of the legislation in our daily work.

Participants appreciated the support in the field of legislation as an added value to the ongoing support to spatial planning



delivered through MuSP Programme and responding to the dynamic changes which are happening and will happen in the future in the legislation and in all fields in Kosovo.

"This kind of support and experience sharing is needed not only for Ferizaj/Uroševac but for all municipalities in Kosovo", said Xhavit Topalli, the municipal legal officer.

**Mustafë Zariqi,**

*Chief of Planning Section, Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac*

## ABOUT ROUNDABOUTS IN MITROVICĚ/MITROVICA

In 2006, on MuSPP initiative, Mitrovica municipality established a Mobility and Transport Working Group, which worked on different aspects of a Transport policy for integrated spatial planning. Its aim has been to contribute to improvement of the quality of the living environment, focused on the specific city area, framed in the existing structure and the vision of the Urban Development Plan. Projects were mainly related to the improvement of the circulation, road network and public spaces in the selected focus area.

Following the MuSPP call for a demoproject in Mitrovica, the municipality has submitted a proposal for the construction of the roundabout on the main city intersection near the Green Market. The project developed within the Mobility and Transport Working group, assisted by the MuSPP mobility expert, was approved by the Selection committee.

Due to its urgency, the municipality completed the project on its own, while various other options of cooperation with MuSPP/UN-HABITAT were taken

into consideration. The discussions with the mobility expert led to the extension of the original proposal and the inclusion of another intersection, at the South entrance to the city. This strategic location, besides its function as antipode of the central crossroad of the city, represents the connection of the city centre and Solana Park, an important public space of this area planned for rehabilitation.

The aim is to design a project that will derive from a participatory planning process in order to meet the main objectives; confirming this location as a main entry/exit point to the city centre and as a connection with Solana park, increasing traffic safety for motorised and non-motorized traffic by

worganizing traffic in the entire system, improving the coherence of the public transport services, and extend the process to the entire Solana park. Strategic interventions must be collective and inclusive, mobilising all key stakeholders in building the shared ownership of the project. The outcomes of the visioning workshop "Making Mitrovica better" have confirmed that the issues such as parks and public spaces, walking paths, public transport and road infrastructure are some of the priorities of the citizens of Mitrovica. In this regard, the possibilities of the integrated use of all available resources from the municipality, business community and private sector will be carefully explored and encouraged.



## ACCESS TO THE CITY

"Handikos", the NGO supporting people with disabilities in north Kosovo, came up with the initiative aimed at the lowering of edges of pathways and sidewalks for easier movement in the city for persons with disabilities. The project includes eight locations in North Mitrovica and its implementation started in July 2007.

The first phase, arranging the edges of the sidewalks and pavements, which was funded by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) included the streets King Peter I, Knjaza Milosa,

Ivo Lole Ribara, Vasilija Ostroskog and John Kenedy Street. Two parking places were marked as reserved for vehicles of the persons with disabilities in front of the Post office and in the center of the city. This phase also included the City library, where the ramp was adapted as to ensure a safe access to the building



for persons with disabilities. Having in mind the number of members in Handikos, which is increasing day by day, the main goal of this organisation is to create conditions for easier movement in the city for persons with disabilities, so that the quality of life of these people can be improved. The second phase for pedestrian adapta

tion will be co-funded by MuSPP/UN-HABITAT includes, locating and drafting several intersections, as well as access to public buildings, schools, local institutions and other buildings in the city.

**Mirjana Spirić**

*Chief of Handikos office for north Kosovo*

## A JOURNEY TOWARDS THE FUTURE

*“It was a pleasure to be part of a team that attempts to create a better future for future generations” participants from Gjakova/Djakovica workshop in Ohrid have said*

“Gjakova/Djakovica, the city of rivers with ancient cultural and historical traditions, bridge to Albania and has very good preconditions for development. But to make this happen, this city, like other cities of Kosovo, needs to have a sustainable vision which is going to serve as a basis whereon is going to be built a better perspective for future generations. Exactly this was the key motive of participants of Gjakova/Djakovica workshop in Ohrid.

The workshop not only brought people from different sectors, professional planners and experts, but also people from the civil society whom we must admit were the “soul” of this workshop. Consciously, for a moment, they became an important part for building the future of their city. For four days they worked with persistence, bringing freshness and new ideas to the vision for the future concerning.

The priority of the civil societies was the assurance that they know clearly what they need for citizens and inhabitants of Gjakova/Djakovica Municipality to improve the quality of life. Exactly their contribution in this field was the starting point for building a sustainable vision for Gjakova/Djakovica, the mosaic built together by planners and different experts and based on geographic position, human resources, development opportunities, tradition and certainly opportunities for implementation of the strategy, also called “Long term Vision for the Future of our City”.

Achieved outputs in this direction are the results of a mixture of experts, planners and the participants from civil society. The collaboration between the experts and the civil society was a new and incentive experience in this very active part of society after the war in Kosovo in terms of higher engagement, for the different approach when creating the vision for the future.

“The Long Term Vision for the Future resembles to a dream, which in a near



future can be reality, even though for the moment it is only a dream based on values and development opportunities of Gjakova/Djakovica Municipality.

Even if it requires a lot of hard work, it needs an inclusive engagement and a totally different approach for the municipality management” representatives from the civil society of Gjakova/Djakovica said at the end of the workshop and appreciated UN-HABITAT for the

given opportunity to be a participant in the workshop and for specific issues when the future of their children and future generations is concerned.

**Faton Canhasi,**  
*Member of Informal Council of Civil Society,  
Gjakova/Djakovica*

## DEMO PROJECT URBAN CENTRAL GRAVEYARD GJILAN/ GNJILANE

Out of six projects identified by the municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane, including digitalized geographical information, an urban bus line, an increased traffic safety project, road signage, a safe overpass for the school in Bresalc and upgrading the city graveyard, the selection committee approved the two last ones. The project on upgrading the city graveyard was chosen as a demo project for the further implementation by the municipality and MuSPP/UN HABITAT.

Meanwhile, the project on school safety will be developed as a pilot project in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication, and as a test case for increasing school traffic safety near main roads all over Kosovo.

The main objective of the graveyard upgrading project is to improve the quality of public space, give the place to burials a respectable character and integrate it with urban environment. At present the graveyard is a littered site, overgrown with grass and shrubbery, with a crumbled fence and signs of vandalism all over the place.

A comprehensive and structural approach is proposed to solve these problems. An inventory of the existing location as well as its spatial capacity will be made to plan for the future use of the graveyard for burial purposes while taking into account environmental and health aspects. The new design and layout of the graveyard will aim at ensuring respect for the deceased buried there irrespective of their religious denomination.

Elements to take into consideration are a green environment for citizens, improvement of old parts, respect for burial rituals of different cultures, elementary design elements (monuments, religious infrastructure...) and the integration in urban environment (extra muros). Finally, a system of management and maintenance will be elaborated by implementing legal regulations for burial places and a system of concession and financial management. The project will be implemented in a participatory manner, especially because of the multiethnic character. The approach and results could be used to solve the problem of



graveyards in Kosovo in a sustainable way.

## DEMO PROJECT IN PEJË/PEĆ

Municipality of Pejë/ Peć decided to conduct implementation of the demo project that was proposed in cooperation between the Directorate of Public Works and Technical Services, Directorate of Urban and Rural Planning Development and Environment and the local UN-HABITAT MuSPP Team.

This demo project, which is supported by the Board of Directors of Pejë/Peć, belongs to the category of Mobility projects. In that regard, the project is a possibility to demonstrate practically the aims of the "City Gates" idea, which is a part of the proposal of the Municipal Mobility Policy within the draft Roadmap for Implementation of Urban Development Plan.

The proposed demo project aims at ensuring better and more efficient organisation at the traffic circulation in one of the main contact points with the city, promoting various aspects of traf-

fic safety and emphasis on pedestrians, provisioning basic facilities for public transport and influencing a further development of the area.

The area between the Karagaç City Park and the football stadium in Pejë/Peć is located along the road, coming from Gjakova/Djakovica-Deçani. The area between the road and the football stadium has a width varying between 35 and 50 meters. At the other side of the road, there is a strip between the road and the park with a width of almost 10 meters.

Both sides of the road contain a lot of rather informal functions, such as bus station for bus and van services between Pejë/ Peć, Deçan, Gjakovë/Djakovica and Prizren, and even some international bus lines (to Podgorica, Ulqin, Tirana, Durrës, Sarajevo...) market for small goods, vegetables and firewood. In the same location is a parking space,

used especially during football games, taxi rank and a sidewalk. Informal businesses contribute to a recently developed dumpsite in the area.

In the northern corner is the football stadium, the area around the football stadium is messy, yet there are possibilities for upgrading the area. Therefore the stadium will be transferred into an educational and leisure zone and the area will be developed as a new residential area. Proper car parks and room for merchandise and food stands should become part of the improvement.

The Municipality has publicly advertised in newspapers for the submission of applications by eligible companies. It is expected that the implementation will start as soon as a company is selected and some procedural issues are resolved within the administration of Pejë/Peć Municipality.

## EDUCATION, SPORTS AND TOURISM ZONE IN PEJË/PEC

On 12th September, the outcomes of the Visioning Workshop on the former military base in Pejë/Pec, were presented in a public meeting. The venue was the European Vision University in Pejë/Pec, where a large share of stakeholders and municipal officials attended.

After an introduction by Shkelzen Hy-seni, CEO of Pejë/ Pec municipality, an overview of the applied methodology was given by UN-HABITAT representatives. A joint vision declaration was presented by Agron Sallova, urban planning adviser for UN-HABITAT.

The vision declaration states that the new Education, Sports and Tourism zone "EST" will be developed at the verge of the Cursed Mountains National Park, enclosed by the neighbourhoods of Zatra, Dardania and Bellopoja and Karagaç Park. It will be an attractive and easily accessible attraction for all other centers of the region. "EST" will become a part of the tourism offer of the Dukagjini region, and will be a place where nature and health comes together. It will also become an intellectual centre for the region, by providing space for a Sport University. Regarding the sports function, "EST" will compete in the region for organizing international competitions.

After this vision declaration, the representatives of each of the four thematic working groups presented their part of the vision.

The first group worked on nature, water and environment. Elements of their design contain provisions for sewerage, flooding channels and solar energy. A lot of green space should complement a restoration of the botanical garden in the Karagaç Park.

The second group developed a concept for the topics education, sports and tourism. The setup includes a new cable car as the basic element to develop a ski station. Hotel and sports accommodation is foreseen, as well as a restoration of the old swimming pool and the layout of hiking and cycling trails.

The third concept contains the residential area and surroundings. Locations for hotel accommodation and education buildings were designed, as well as areas for recreation, dwellings and nature.

The fourth design focused on network is

### Lessons learnt during Visioning Workshop for "EST" zone

Participants in this workshop had a serious approach to the discussed issue, and without hesitation we can say that good results were achieved which could be used in the interest of municipality. Whether this good experience and results from the workshop going to be used, it depends first of all on the competent municipal institutions. Let's see!

In my opinion, lesson learnt from this workshop include:

- Understanding that working in groups gives sustainable results
- The necessity of participation of the wide spectrum of participants involved in the related issue
- The importance of being tolerant in working groups
- Accepting arguments as a value not as accusation or criticism
- All participants in the workshop were equal
- We learnt how to organize a workshop
- The importance of discipline, politeness and the serious approach of the organizers
- The important role of the logistics and visual equipments in a successful workshop
- The professional level of moderation, guiding and good impression on cooperation with the organizers of the workshop

**Reshat Nurboja,**

*head of the NGO, Kosovo Citizens League in Pejë/Pec*

I as a gender officer in the municipality had an honor to be part of the Municipal Planning Team and with pleasure accepted the invitation to participate in this workshop so that from my point of view I can contribute in the workshop for the benefit of my city.

The different needs of priorities of women and men, different types of services and infrastructure must be included in local development it was said in the workshop, while hoping that this experience on issues will help us to realize our future projects with equal approach by respecting needs of all groups in the society.

I hope from this fruitful workshop, we as municipality have absorb experiences which will serve to us in future work so that we will try to implement in practice in regularization of this educational and sport centre, so that the city will gain a profitable educational, sport and tourist centre which we have not had so far.

**Sebahate Qorkadiu,**

*Officer for gender issues in Pejë/Pec municipality*



sues and came up with proposals for international circulation, public transport and specific facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and disabled people.

After this presentation, an overview of consensus and conflict points between

the several designs were given, and recommendations for the municipality were derived. A discussion followed the presentation, after which a drink was offered by the university.

## INTEGRATED URBAN PLANNING TRAINING

The first phase of the Integrated Urban Planning Training was held in Sweden in February and March 2007. The second phase was conducted in Vientiane, Laos, with delegates from 16 countries including Kosovo.

The overall objective of the International Training Programme, provided by Sida, is to strengthen and develop capacity building of planners and high decision makers in developing countries to create capacity and knowledge within of field of integrated urban planning.

The second phase of the programme in Laos included: Urban Planning in Laos, site visit, case studies, presentation of small towns project, etc. Planning in Laos has two levels; a central and a local one. The central level includes national and regional level. The local level deals with provincial and district plans which includes urban master planning and detailed plans. Planners in Laos developed different projects of planning with the following objectives:

- Poverty alleviation
- Improvement of living conditions, urban environment and access to infrastructure and services
- Establishment of decentralised and dedicated institutional and management framework; the creation of Urban Development Administration Au



thority (UDAA) and transfer of urban services to UDAA.

The two-part training (Sweden and Laos) was interesting, as it provided participants with the opportunity of sharing experiences and ideas with regards to urban planning from different countries and continents, as well as providing concepts and techniques in the field of Integrated Urban Planning.

The concept of training has been in line with international principles and European standards. The concept can be used for achieving of sustainable development and alleviating poverty, which is an important purpose of planning processes in Kosovo.

### Artnet Haskuka

*Municipal/Urban Planning Advisor, UN-HABITAT in Prizren*

*Learning experience from*

## GLOBAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

As an active woman of the Roma-Ashkali-Egyptian (RAE) community in Kosovo, I was given the chance to attend a 'Global Student Leadership and Enterprise Management Program' at Manhattanville Collage in New York. My candidacy was submitted to the organisers by MuSPP/UN-HABITAT. I am studying psychology; I am a member of local a NGO called 'Centre for International Integration' and a part of a working group within the Kosovo Government Strategy for Integration of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians.

The six weeks programme gave me the confidence, skills and knowledge to become a change agent in my country and to be an implementer of one of its visions, which is to create a worldwide network of young women serving as local leaders. The diversity of women in this program gave me the chance to learn from international experiences and also best practices from the whole world like: Tanzania, Japan, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Romania, Brazil, Mexico and Nigeria.

The knowledge that I gained on enterprise management and other important topics, is more than necessary to transform my community which is one of my aims in the future. I also hope that I will give a boost to an advanced democracy in my city, Gjakova/Djakovica and my country in general.

### Mimoza Gavrani,

*Member of the NGO "Centre for International Integration"*

## MAKING PLACES - 7<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL OF PLANNING

The 7th Biennial of European Towns and Town Planners, held between 21 and 23 June 2007 in Budapest, Hungary, focused on the relation between urban planning and the use of urban design as a mechanism for sustainable urban development.

The conference was well balanced in having international and national key note speakers in the morning and field workshops in the afternoon, ending with a closing session and the announcement of the next Biennial (Nancy/France, 2009). Also the key note speeches were well balanced between more theoretic approaches of contemporary urban planning and design, as well more practically

oriented lectures about how to put the theory into practice. Of special interest for the MuSPP programme were the lectures by Prof. Jon Lang on 'Quality of Urban Spaces through Development Controls' and Cliff Hague on 'Generic Skills for Good Urban Design' (with a hilarious 'new skills rap' in the end).

The lecture of Prof. Lang inspired us to formulate the Terms of Reference for an Urban Designer /Public Space Expert, who is expected to enforce the MuSPP team soon. This expert will provide advice to MuSPP and the 6 municipalities in "making lively places" as a crucial contribution to sustainable urban development. But going back to the Biennial,

probably the most fascinating key note speech came from Dr. Larry Beasley, the former director of planning of Vancouver, Canada, with a brilliant mix of PR of Vancouver and the ABC of good urban planning and development in a nutshell.

Regarding the field workshops, the regeneration of a run down residential neighborhood ([www.ferencvaros.hu](http://www.ferencvaros.hu)) and a former gas production site into a technology park ([www.graphisoft.com](http://www.graphisoft.com)) were interesting learning cases with good planning practices also relevant for Kosovo.

A full report is available at the MuSPP office.

*Read more on: [www.makingplaces.hu](http://www.makingplaces.hu).*



## MUSPP IN PROGRESS

The 3rd Programme Development Meeting (PDM) of UN-HABITAT/Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo was held on 12 July 2007. The meeting was focused on five key topics of the MuSP Programme: communication, road maps for Municipal Development Plans (MDP) and Urban Development Plans (UDP), demo projects, informal settlement and mobility issues and it gathered municipal officials, donors and other key stakeholders.

The importance of **communication** was highlighted with the presentation of the UN-HABITAT Kosovo's website ([www.unhabitat-kosovo.org](http://www.unhabitat-kosovo.org)) as a conduit for communicating with partners, municipalities and other stakeholders and its possible links to respective partner websites. Other information and communication mechanisms were also discussed e.g. the MUSPP newsletter.

The importance of the **road maps** for MDP/UDP was highlighted as a tool for timely conclusion of the planning process while ensuring its quality. The state of play in the six participating municipalities with regards to MDP/UDP, Visioning Workshops, Planning Units and ICCSO was discussed.



A brief description and background of each of the selected **demo projects** were discussed. It became clear from the discussion that each municipality will need to develop an action plan and also link the project to the vision statement/MDP/UDP, as well as involve stakeholders. Regarding **informal settlements (IS)** it was stressed that a lot has already been done in developing and implementing projects in respect to informal settlements e.g. the Informal Settlements Workshop, a public campaign/press conference, leaflets, poster and field workshops in Gjakova/Djakovica and Peja/Peć. The presentation went further to highlight some of the root causes of IS i.e. fast urbanisation, lack of affordable land and housing, weakened public sector and encouraged participants to think of creative and preventive measures of addressing the issue of IS. This led to an interactive discussion on the IS and so more suggestions were put forward i.e. There should be a visioning work

shop on IS to discuss other examples. **Mobility issues** were also discussed with attention given to the forthcoming mobility and transport planning conference and other mobility activities within MUSSP e.g. the European mobility week in September. The intention is to make a better link between the civil society and transport policies and mobility projects in participating municipalities. The need to incorporate mobility in the demo projects was also highlighted as in the case of Ferizaj/Uroševac re-designing the city centre and rail crossing, the roundabout in Mitrovica south, Gjilan/Gnjilane road safety and the city bus network in Peja/Peć. The 3rd PDM provided participants with an overall picture of MUSPP. It also stimulated in-depth discussions between participating municipalities and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. Programme Development Meetings encourage information and experience sharing contributes to capacity building and above all can act as an exchange platform for new ideas.

## UN-HABITAT CORNER

### UN-HABITAT LAUNCHES A NEW GLOBAL WATER ALLIANCE

A new Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance (GWOPA) aimed at improving water and sanitation access for the poorest of the poor was launched at the World Water Week convention in Stockholm, Sweden on 15th of August 2007. The Alliance was launched by H.R.H. the Prince of Orange of The Netherlands at a ceremonial dinner hosted by UN-HABITAT's Executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibajjuka. The guests included representatives of the donor community, recipient countries, and UN-HABITAT partner organisations including UN-Water, the African Ministerial Conference on Water, the Water and Sanitation Collaborative Council, and the Swedish International Water Institute, organisers of the World Water Week in Stockholm.

The H.R.H. Prince of Orange, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, said to the assembled guests that the GWOPA would help governments and donor agencies empower local authorities and communities with the resources and professional capacity required to manage water supply and sanitation service delivery, a task that was identified as critical by the Millennium Project Task Force on Water.

Mrs. Tibajjuka said the new Alliance seeks to set up a worldwide network that will help support operators who deliver water and sanitation services.

The proposal to establish the Alliance forms part of the compendium of actions,

known as the Hashimoto Action Plan, designed to strengthen the capacity of key players engaged in the water and sanitation sector. It has received approval and support from many international and regional organisations.

World leaders meeting at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 committed themselves to attaining Millennium Development Goal 7, target 10 to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015. In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg included a target to halve by 2015, the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation.

Source: [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

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

MITROVICË/MITROVICA

### All together for a better city

UN-HABITAT officers have presented the results of the Visioning Workshop of Mitrovica "Making Mitrovica Better" that was held in Skopje, in January this year, where planners and civil society representatives from two sides of this city were present. Economic crisis and low life quality that citizens of the two sides of the city are facing, was the starting point for discussions and dialogue between the two communities.

According to UN-Habitat representatives, the results that came out from this workshop and handed over to municipal authorities as a help for drafting MDP and UDP.

Source: *Koha Ditore*, 12.07.07

GJAKOVA/DJAKOVICA

### The vision for Gjakova/ Djakovica is presented

The article provides information on the public presentation of the Vision for the Future of the Municipality "Gjakova 2015+". The developed vision declaration, which is supported by the Chief Executive Officer Pal Lekaj as an objective for future development, is: "Gjakova/ Djakovica with cultural heritage, historic and natural values, a city of the rivers, the main centre of economic development, agriculture and Highland centre, a duty-free zone open for cooperation with all other European and regional cities".

Source: *Kosova Sot* 14/07/2007

GJILAN/GNJILANE

### Priorities will be decided with citizens

Municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane presented in front of the citizens the budget circular for the years 2008 – 2010, in the first public hearing. Nuhi, Nuhiu, Acting Director on Budget, Finances and Investments, said that this method is a new form of compiling budget; through this one the directorates will present their budget to the citizens, while the citizens' preliminary can give their suggestions for important projects. "According to these proposals, the final list of priorities will be compiled by the Committee for Policies and Finances, and in the end will be approved by Mu-

nicipal Assembly" said Nuhiu, encoring the citizens to be active in the process, which will create more opportunities to get engaged in the decision making.

Source: *Kosova Sot*, 01.08.07

PEJA/PEĆ

### Vienna Declaration, an example for the Urban Plan

The word on Informal settlement integration had been released in the Peja/ Peć debate, organized by MA Peja/ Peć, Association of Kosovo Municipalities, PISG, OSCE and UN-HABITAT, where the local and international authorities together discussed the possibility to implement the Peja/Peć Urban Development Plan, compiled a year before by the Dutch company DHV. Frank D'hondt, (Spatial Planning Coordinator) in UN-HABITAT stated that the Peja/Peć UDP is an example for other municipalities. Mayor of Peja/Peć Ali Lajçi, said that the plan which is already approved by the Ministry of Spatial Planning, is a new perspective not only for the settlements like "Zatra" and "Kristali" but is the edge to stop once and for all illegal constructions. Agim Radoniqi, from the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, said that it's necessity from the legislative institutions to "integrate Vienna Declaration on the General Urban Plan".

Source: *Koha Ditore* 15.06.2007

FERIZAJ/UROŠEVAC

### Minister Gjini visits Ferizaj/ Uroševac

The article provides information on the visit that Mr.Ardian Gjini, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning paid to the local authorities of Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality. The issue discussed in this meeting was related to the provision of drinking water, the projects on sewage and a dump-site in Slivova village which for years has been causing problems to the municipality. Part of the discussion was also the Nerodime bifurcation and the spatial plan for Ferizaj/Uroševac. The representatives of central and local authorities also discussed how to create conditions for a better and clean environment in Ferizaj/Uroševac. "The discussed issues are issues that need a close collaboration between central

and local level", said Minister Gjini. He also stated that the Ministry will do more on the protection of the bifurcation phenomenon as it has a special value of natural heritage in Kosovo.

Source: *www.ferizaj-komuna.org*, 11.07.2007

PRIZREN

### The Marashi vent, a new centre for recreation in the suburb of Prizren

This article carries information on the new developments in Prizren. While a year ago, Shadërvan was the most preferred place for walking, now this privilege has been transferred somewhere else, in Marash complex, a beautiful zone near Prizren, a namely to the preferred place for recreation and walking for the citizens. One of the institutions which deserve the merit of all this is the Municipal Assembly of Prizren. The citizens are happy that their municipality has a new place for recreation.

Source: *Lajm*, 17.07.07

### Informal ministerial meeting on urban development and territorial cohesion

On 24 and 25 May 2007, a joint informal ministerial meeting on urban development and territorial cohesion was held in Leipzig by the German Presidency of EU. Two policy documents, the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable Cities and the Territorial Agenda of the EU, were adopted. European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON) took part to this meeting by presenting the main results of the ESPON 2006 programme and the first overview on the priorities for the ESPON 2013 programme.

Taking into consideration the results of ESPON under the 2000-2006 Programme, the ministers "agreed to support and the EU Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter". Ministers have particularly recommended that "the ESPON 2013 Programme, in close cooperation with the European Commission undertake a more in-depth analysis of the effects of EU Policies on territorial cohesion, reveal cause-and-effect relationship and develop operational indicators for a regular reporting on territorial matters".

Source: *6th ESPON Newsletter*, Read more: [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)

## EU URBAN POLICY CORNER

## LEIPZIG CHARTER ON SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN CITIES

The "Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities" is a document of the EU member states, which has been drawn with the broad and transparent participation of European stakeholders. In the knowledge of the challenges and opportunities as well as the different historical, economic, social and environmental backgrounds of European cities, the member states' ministers responsible for urban development agree upon common principles and strategies for an urban development policy.

The Minister's commit themselves

- to initiate a political debate in their states on how to integrate the principles and strategies of the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities into national, regional and local development policies
- to use the tool of integrated urban development and the related governance for its implementation and, to this end, establish any necessary framework at national level and
- to promote the establishment of balanced territorial organisation based on a European polycentric urban structure

Recommendations from the Leipzig charter include:

#### Making greater use of integrated urban development policy approaches

Integrated urban development policy means simultaneous and fair consideration of the concerns and interests which are relevant to urban development. Integrated urban development policy is a process in which the spatial, sectoral and temporal aspects of key areas of urban policy are co-ordinated. Integrated urban development policy is a key prerequisite for implementing the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. It is recommended that European cities consider drawing up in-

tegrated urban development programmes for the city as a whole. Coordination at local and city-regional level should be strengthened.

Within the scope of an integrated urban development policy, the following strategies for action are of crucial importance for strengthening the competitiveness of European cities:

- Creating and ensuring high-quality public spaces
- Modernizing infrastructure networks and improving energy efficiency
- Proactive innovation and educational policies

#### Special attention is paid to deprived neighbourhoods within the context of the city as a whole

Cities are faced with major challenges, especially in connection with the change in economic and social structures and globalization. Specific problems, among others, are particularly high unemployment and social exclusion. The social distinctions and the differences in economic development often continue to increase which contributes to destabilisation in cities. A policy of social integration which contributes to reducing inequalities and preventing social exclusion will be the best guarantee for maintaining security in our cities. Well conceived social housing policies can be effective tools to achieve the objective of social cohesion and integration in cities and urban areas. The following strategies for action, embedded in an integrated urban development policy, are considered to be of crucial importance for deprived urban neighbourhoods:

- Pursuing strategies for upgrading the physical environment
- Strengthening the local economy and local

labour market policy

- Proactive education and training policies for children and young people
- Promotion of efficient and affordable urban transport

The Leipzig charter emphasises that urban development should be laid down at national level and the stimuli for innovative solutions should be created at national level, as well as at other levels.

Cities need enough scope for action in order to perform local tasks in a responsible manner and a sound financial basis which provides long-term stability. Local authorities should develop the necessary skills and efficiency to implement integrated urban development policies, also with the view to achieving overall quality and sustainability in the built environment.

At national level, government departments need to recognise more clearly the importance of cities to deliver national, regional and local ambitions, and the impact of their policies upon them.

The charter emphasises the importance of systematic and structured exchange of experience and knowledge in the field of sustainable urban development. An European platform is needed to pool and develop best practices, statistics, benchmarking studies, evaluations, peer reviews and other urban research to support actors involved in urban development at all levels and in all sectors.

Europe needs cities and regions that are strong and good to live in.

*Source: Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities*

## SPATIAL SCENARIOS FOR EUROPE



Among the many research reports you can find on, and download from, the ESPON website ([www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)), there is a very interesting one on "Territorial futures", with three different contrasting spatial scenarios for the development of the EU territory. A trend scenario highlights the impacts of the most relevant driving forces in a practically unchanged policy context. On basis of this trend scenario, two policy scenarios were elaborated. In one, policy is oriented towards enhancing the competitiveness of Europe in the global context. In the other the policy focus is oriented towards economic, social and territorial co-

hesion. Comparing the outcomes of these two policy scenarios provides important insights into the effects and limitations of each policy mix in influencing the developmental path of the European territory. The report is highly recommended literature for policy makers and planners, on central and on local level as well. Doesn't a good local plan start with positioning your city/ municipality on the European map...?

For more info please go to [http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/publications/98/1378/index\\_EN.html](http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/publications/98/1378/index_EN.html)



Mitrovicë  
Mitrovica



Prishtinë  
Pristina



Pejë  
Pec

Gjakovë  
Djakovica



Ferizaj  
Urosevac



Prizren



Gjiilan  
Gnjilane

## 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 Gjiilan/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



UN-HABITAT



Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo

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