

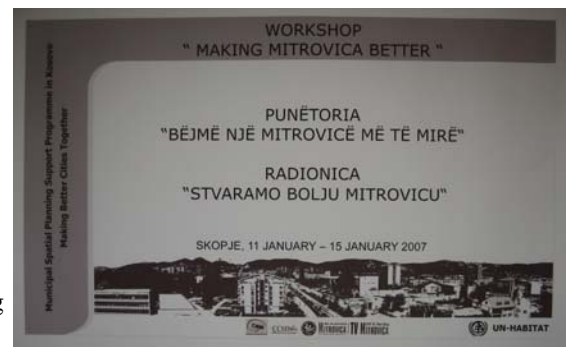
MAKING MITROVICA BETTER

VISIONING WORKSHOP - THE QUALITY OF THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT IN MITROVICA

The workshop focused on ideas to improve living conditions in Mitrovica (South and North).

From January 11 to 15, a creative and intensive workshop took place in Skopje - FYR Macedonia, involving civil society and professional planners of Mitrovica South and North in visioning issues and ideas to improve the quality of the living environment in Mitrovica.

The workshop was organized by UN-HABITAT Kosovo in cooperation with the Centre for Civil Society Development, Radio Contact Plus, Community Building Mitrovica and Radio-TV Mitrovica. The participants were representatives of civil society and media organi-



Map of Mitrovica - The pins highlight places in the memories of participants

sations and citizens of Mitrovica North and South, mobilized by the co-organizing civil society and media organisations (2x10 citizens + 2 representatives per co-organizer). Also 6 professional urban planners of Mitrovica North and South were taking part, as well as 6 staff members of UN-HABITAT.



Central Skopje at Night



Participants at the Workshop Introduction

The economic crisis and poor quality of life that people are suffering both in North and South parts of the city was a starting point for the brainstorm and dialogue between the two communities.

THE PURPOSE AND ACHIEVEMENT

The purpose of the workshop was to explore in an informal set-up the possible issues and actions to improve the quality of the living environment of all citizens in Mitrovica. The economic crisis and poor quality of life that people are suffering both in North and South part of the city was a starting point for the brainstorm and the dialogue between the two communities. Expressing their concerns and preferences, people from both parts of the city identified the common issues and worked together on the solutions from which could benefit all.



OSCE provided transport



Workshop activities are explained

The workshop achieved the engagement and empowering of civil society and media organisations in Mitrovica South and North, as well strengthening the dialogue and cooperation between civil society organizations and professional planners of North and South Mitrovica.



MULTI VISIONING

By using the method of Multi Visioning all possible ideas were explored in a very creative way.

Multi Visioning the living environment of Mitrovica means that everybody was free in expressing their own vision and ideas, without the need to integrate those ideas in a single vision.

Although this approach allows different



visions for North and South, the aim was to discuss openly the common and conflicting elements of the elaborated visions and ideas, resulting in a common Vision Statement for the future development of Mitrovica on short (2012) and longer term (2022).

OBJECTIVES



Working together

The objectives of the Workshop were set out as follows:

*Empowering civil society and local media in inclusive spatial and community planning to improve the spatial conditions of the quality of life in Mitrovica North and South

*Strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between civil society organizations of North and South Mitrovica.

*Strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between civil society organizations and professional planners of North and South Mitrovica.



'Breaking the ice' with the pink ball

“Empower civil society and local media”

“Strengthen the dialogue and cooperation”

METHODOLOGY

The Workshop utilised many approaches including: a story telling session, training sessions, parallel working groups, plenary discussions, experience sharing sessions, socializing activities and multi-media presentations.

Sessions were able to start with mixed working groups and a separate planners group, then end with plenary discussions.



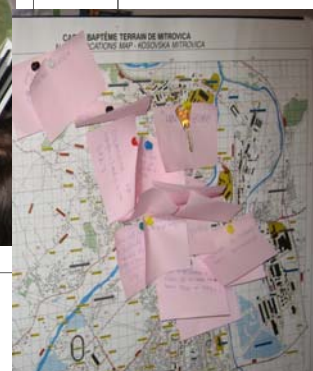
Story telling session, outlining places that hold strong memories for residents

STORY TELLING

The story telling session was a virtual study tour, a self introduction through a 5 minute speech describing favorite places/events of the participants. This session brought a spirit to the workshop by telling stories and unfolding memories and good moments of their childhood. This session gave an opportunity to show how much participants adore their city: the city with the best geographical position, the location and the rivers that all other cities in Kosovo would dream of, the city with a beautiful sunrise....



Participants place notes on the map about favourite



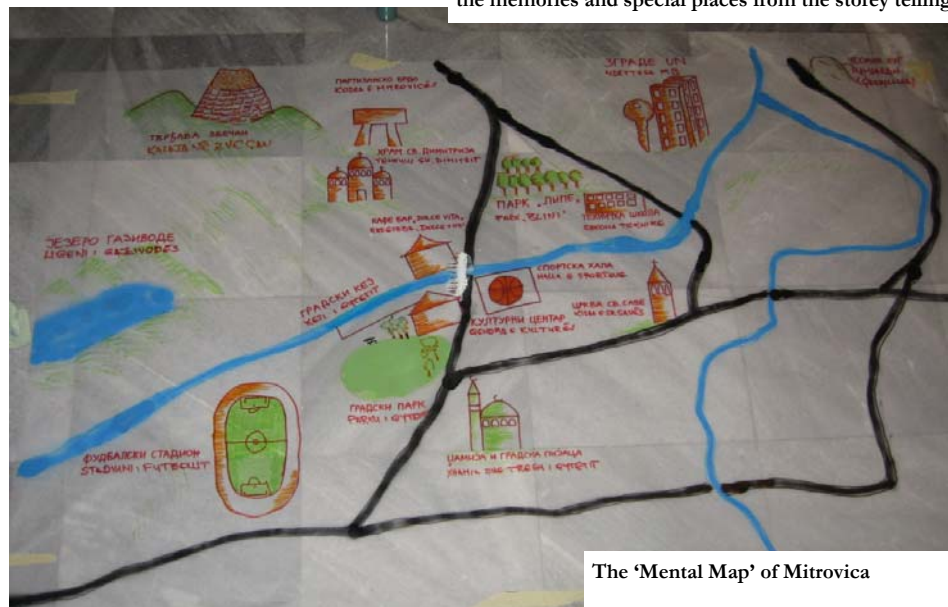
MENTAL MAP



Placing post-it notes on the map of Mitrovica to outline places in the memory. This led to the creation of the Mental Map.



Participants create a mental map of Mitrovica that brings together the memories and special places from the story telling session



The 'Mental Map' of Mitrovica

ICE BREAKERS

Each morning a short session was dedicated to something fun and relaxing to help 'break the ice' and prepare for the day.



'Ice breaking' activities were a good way to start each day.

SELECTING TOPICS

The topics of most relevance to Mitrovica:

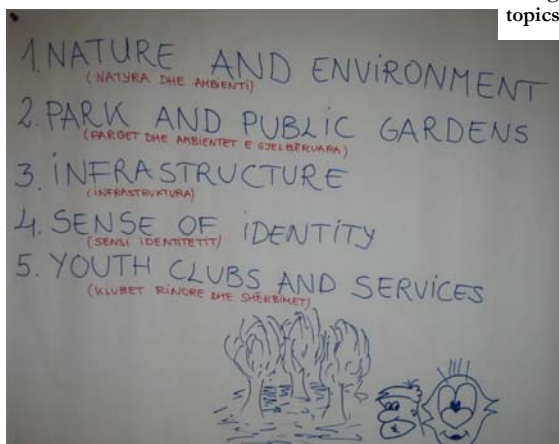
1. **New Economic Development**
2. **Environmental Quality**
3. **Infrastructure and Mobility**
4. **Public Services and Facilities**
5. **Urban Quality and Sense of Identity**

Participants were divided in 5 mixed working groups. Each group discussed the issues and topics of most relevance to Mitrovica now and in the future.

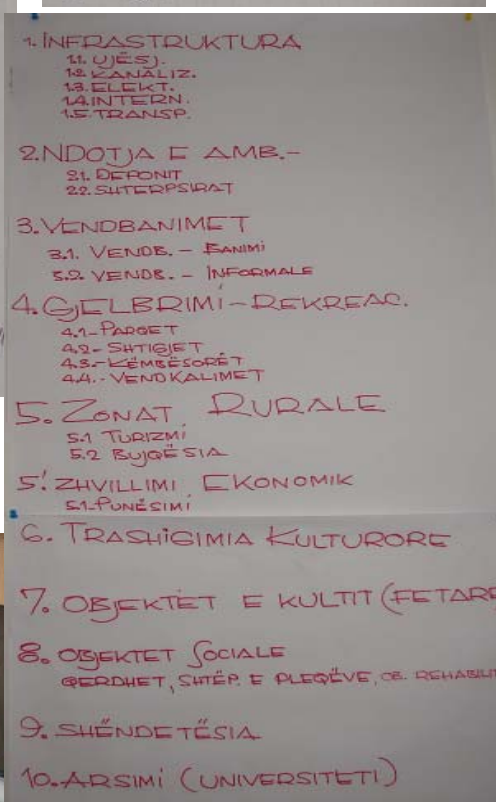
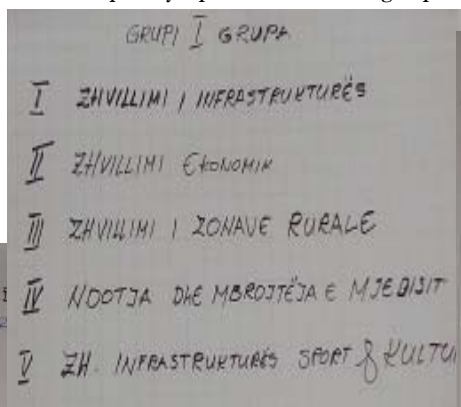
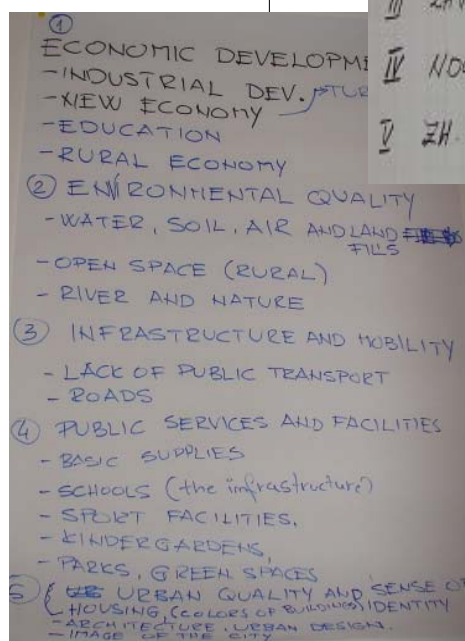
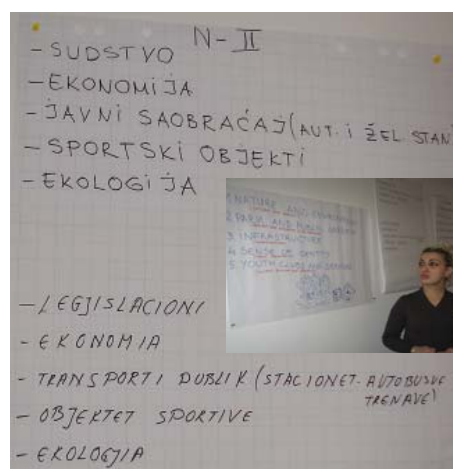
In the Plenary discussion, issues were presented and there were many common topics identified. The group then determined the top 5 'most-important' issue themes. These topics then guided the remainder of the sessions.



The groups discuss the selection of the most important topics and issues for Mitrovica.

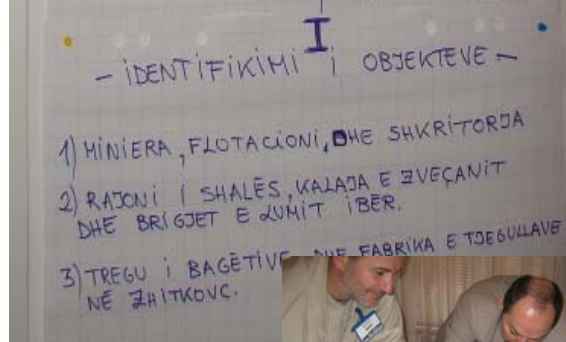
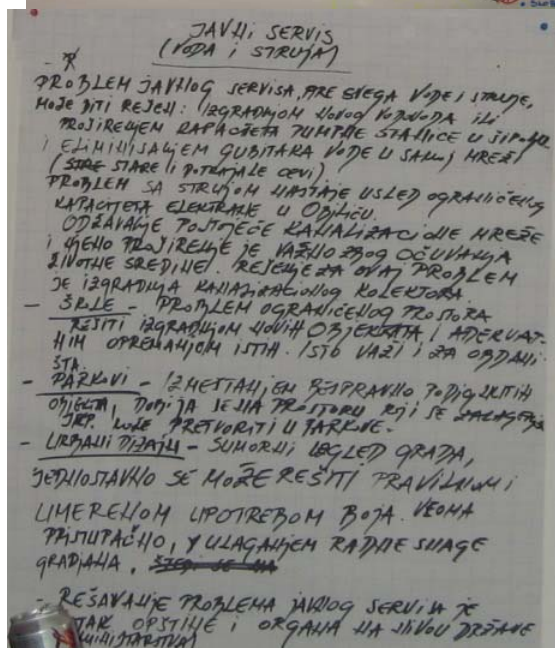
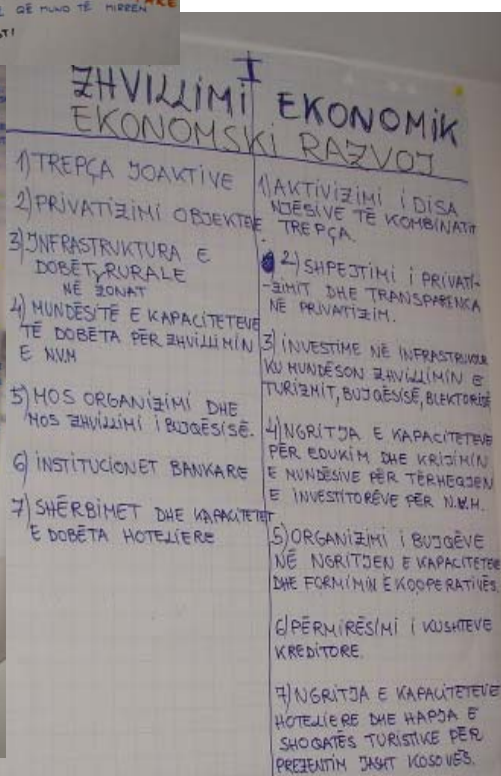
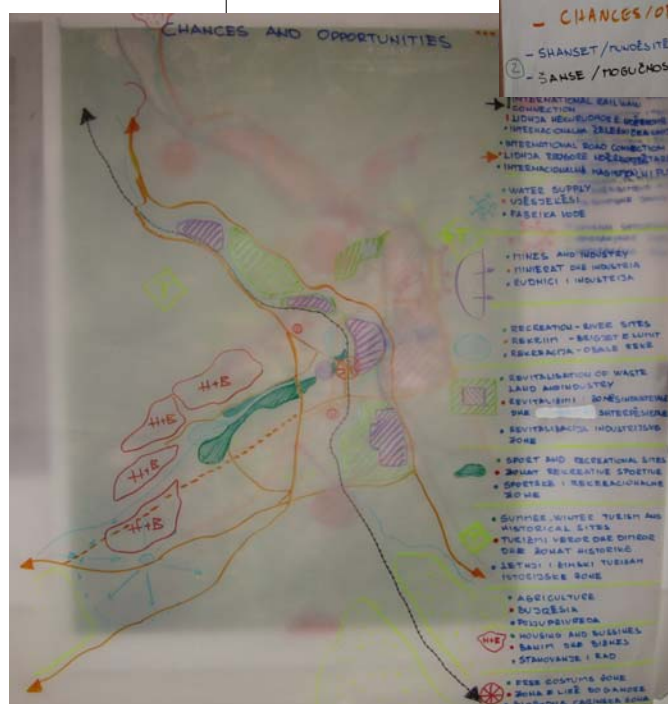
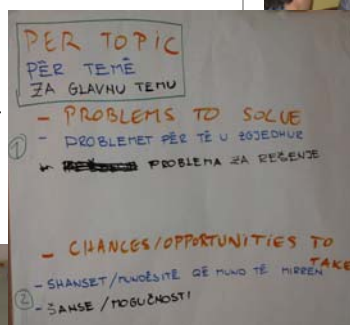


The priority topics for some of the groups



Weaknesses and Opportunities.

Each group outlined a list of problems and opportunities related to the specific topic of the group.



The planners work on a visual SWOT of integrated topics (all 5 topics).

MITROVICA NOW—SWOT ANALYSIS

The results of the SWOT Analysis of each group was presented in the plenary session.

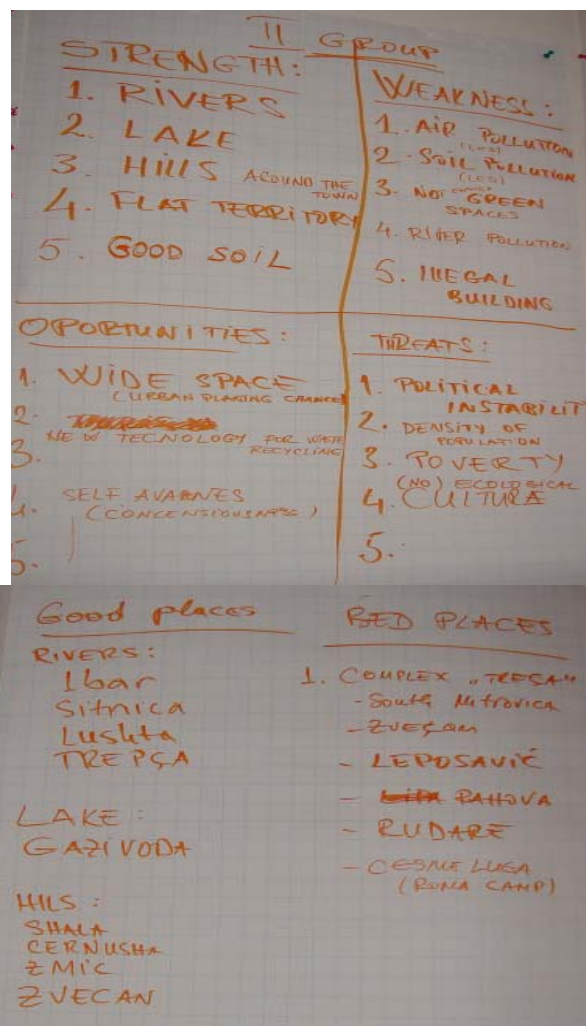
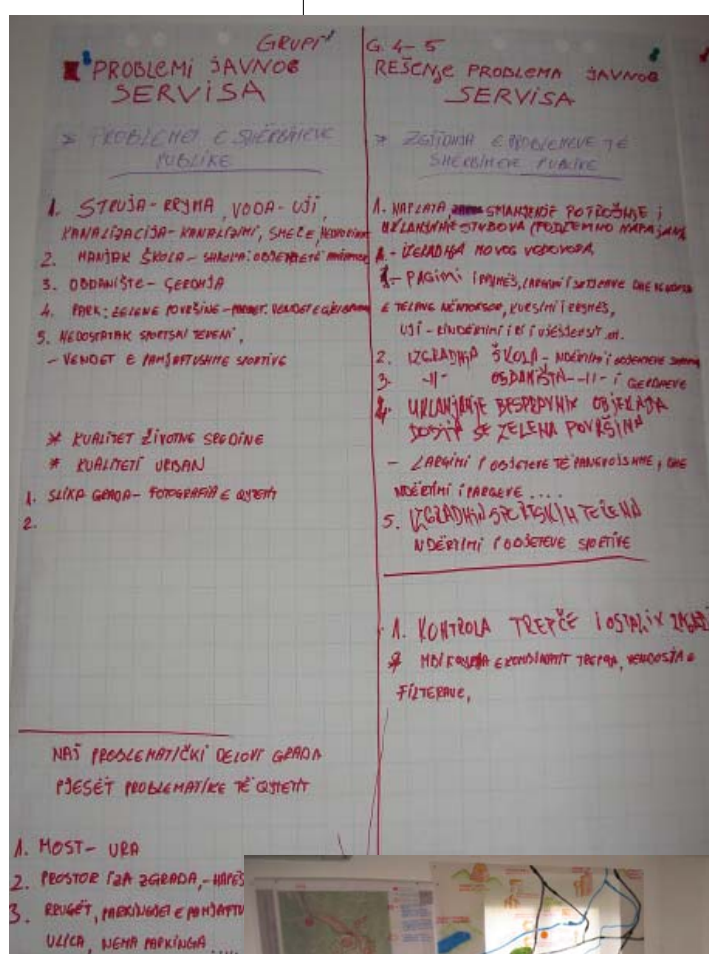
Weaknesses highlighted include:

- environmental pollution,
- pollution of riversides,
- lack of public services and land fills,
- inactiveness of Trepca,
- low infrastructure,
- inactiveness of agriculture,
- bank institutions, and
- low capacity of recreational

facilities

Opportunities included:

- improvement of road network,
- international railway connection,
- water system,
- mines and industry,
- recreation in river sides.



- summer and winter tourism,
- agriculture,
- revitalizing some parts of Trepca,
- new investments on infrastructure that would contribute on improvement of tourism,
- agriculture and animal farming,
- and
- educational capacity building

MITROVICA TOMORROW—VISIONING

As the workshop continued the groups were eager to work on city's vision statement and slogan.

The ideas from the SWOT Analysis were expanded upon in the visioning exercise.

Each group worked on determining a vision statement, slogan and logo for a future Mitrovica based on the theme of their topic group.

Each group then presented their visions and slogans to the plenary group.

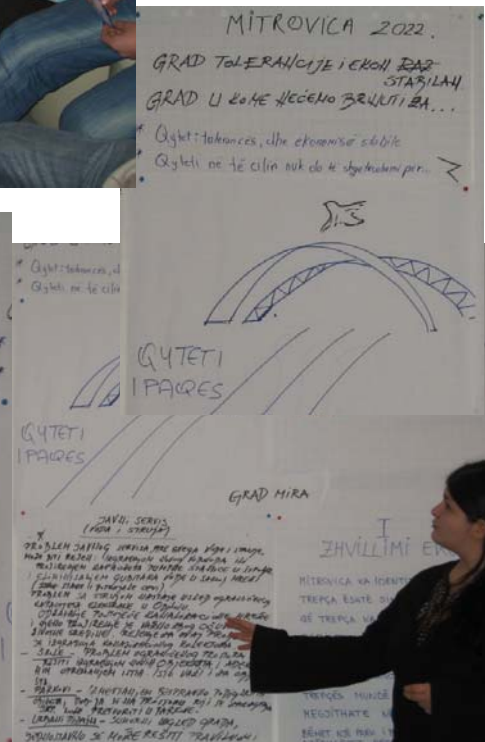
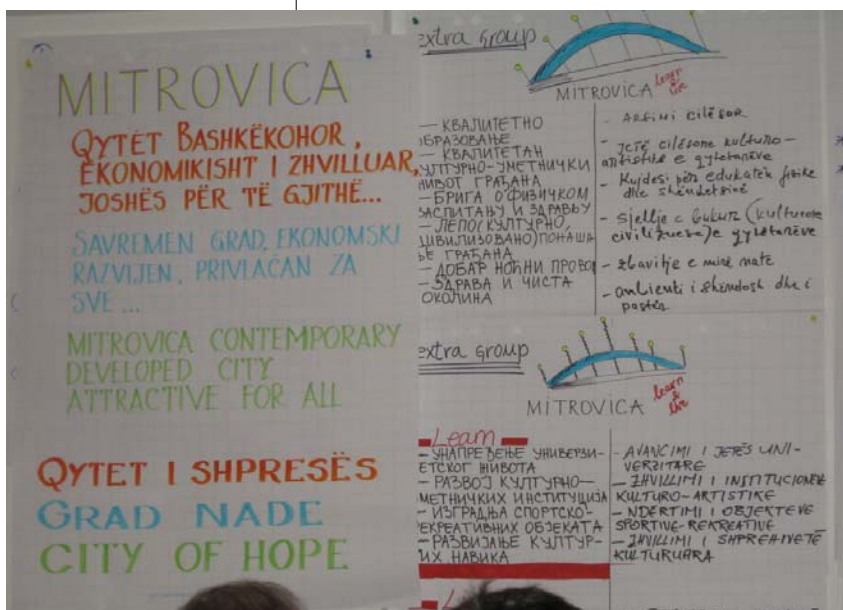


One of the visions:

“Skies full of birds, rivers full of fish, fields full of green”

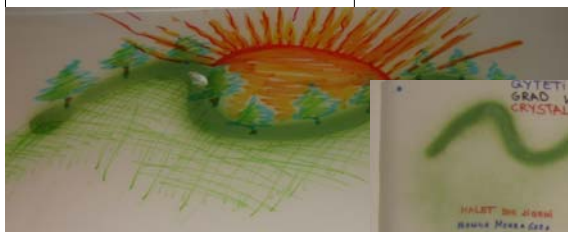


Depending on the topic of the group the statements and slogans were different for example: for the River city – “Skies full of birds, rivers full of fish, fields full of green: and for the Crystal City – “Where the crystals and rivers meet the tradition and culture”, which was chosen as the best slogan.



Presentation of the Vision Statements and Slogans were made by each group

MITROVICA TOMORROW—VISION DESIGNS



*From words to
pictures—
visualising future
activities.*

Mitrovica:

Crystal City,

River City,

Mobile City,

Public City,

Culture City,

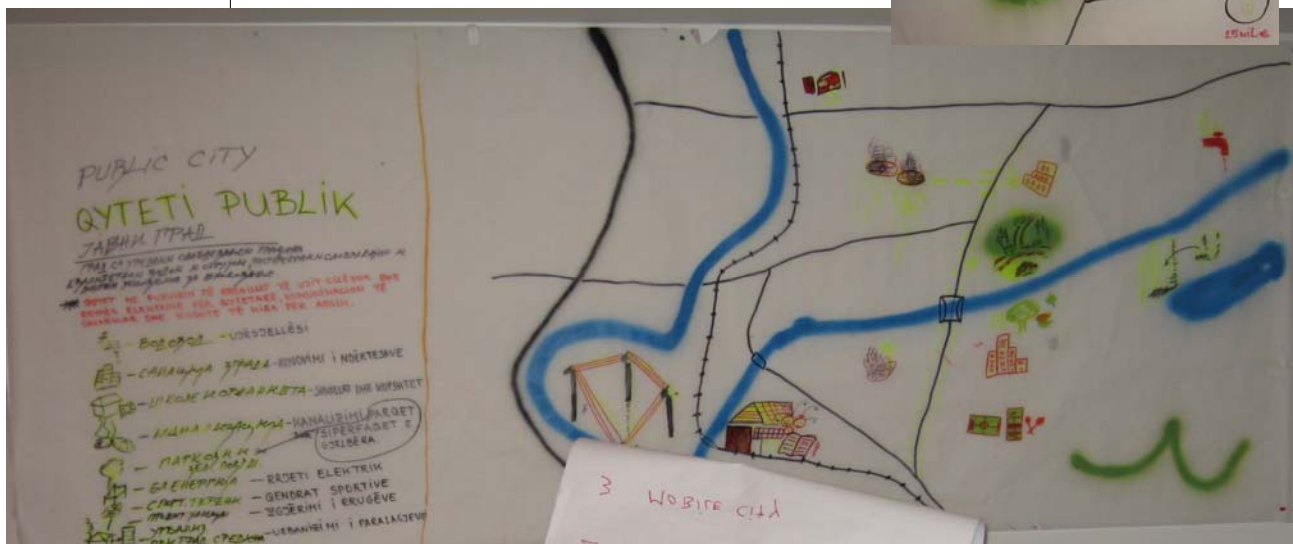
Treasure City.



The ideas from the visioning exercise were then transferred to the visual medium of large informal thematic city maps., figuratively named as follows:

1. Crystal City – Economy
2. River City – Environment
3. Mobile City – Traffic
4. Public City – Public Services
5. Culture City – Culture
6. Treasure City – (planners group) included all topics.

The groups created beautiful pictures and colourful maps.



When the ideas were transferred to the informal maps, different coloured post-it notes were used to indicate whether the activity was short, medium (5 years) or long term (15 years). They also indicated projects that could be undertaken by community groups, the local administrations and central government agencies.

MITROVICA TOMORROW—VISION DESIGNS

Project suggestions included: revitalising industrial zones, creating new green pockets in the centre and planting 3 trees per inhabitant.

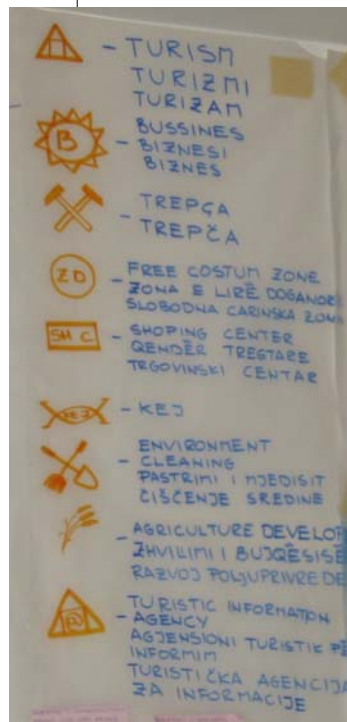
Short to Medium Projects (5 years) suggested included: Revitalize industrial and green zones, Clean industries and diversify reconstruction, New sewage system, Revitalizing the river banks, Creating new green pockets in the center, Planting trees (3 trees per inhabitant), Touristic development (Gazivoda lake, Shala hills), Upgrading existing roads, Implement parking system, Bus/Railway station, Parking with market place,



Basic services such as new schools and kinder gardens, Upgrading rural areas, Organizing cultural events.

Longer term projects (15 years) included: High speed train, Improved and new highways, Cable car, New power plant (at central level), Creating a new common library close to cultural palace and museum, Bicycle lanes / networks.

There were very few conflicting points among the groups. The main points of difference regarded the location of polluting industries and the location of large industrial sites within the city.

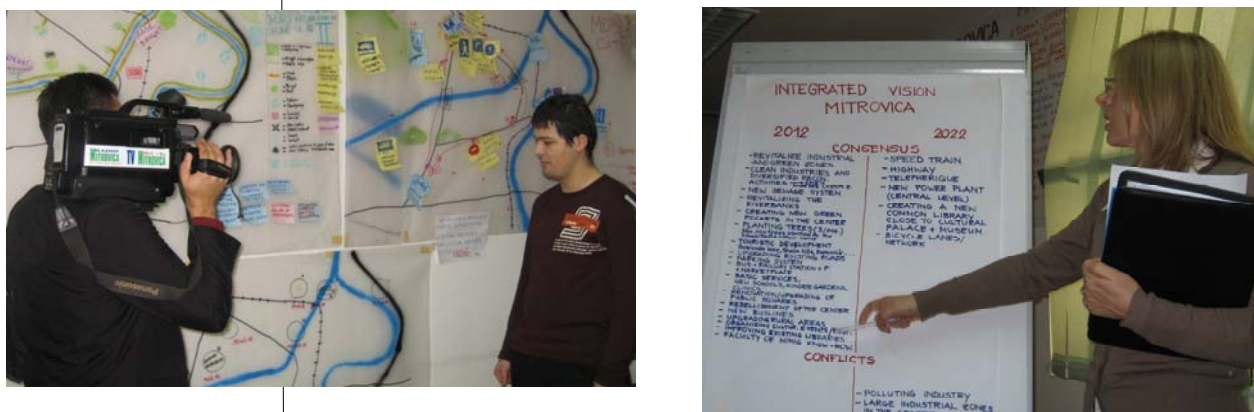


Post-it notes represented future activities and investments—Pink short term/low cost, Yellow for medium term (5 years) and Blue for larger, long term projects.

MITROVICA TOMORROW—FINAL PRESENTATION



The final presentation of the workshop was held at the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC) and the visual maps, SWOT Analyses, Consensus and Conflict points, Slogan and Vision were presented to the whole group as well as representatives of Sida, OSCE and MCIC that attended the closing event.



POSTSCRIPT:

In any situation such as this there is always a degree of politicization, though there was a concerted effort during this workshop to adhere to the stated and agreed guidelines that included keeping the political situation out of discussions and to look only at options to improve the living environment in Mitrovica. The workshop was not related in any way to the MDP/UDP process, and UN HABITAT is not directly involved in this process in Mitrovica.

It was, however, noted that there was a general lack of transparency by the Municipality of Mitrovica (south), with participants from both sides of the city expressing a lack of knowledge about the MDP/UDP process and company engagement for this purpose. Participants from the North have requested that a postscript be added to this report outlining their dissatisfaction with the lack of consultation and involvement of the citizens and professionals of the North. They have further requested clarification and resolution of these issues in the best interest of all parties concerned and have indicated they will not resume any participation in further spatial planning processes until a new municipality is formed in North Mitrovica.

Following this request, UN HABITAT assisted in obtaining information from the Municipality of Mitrovica (South) about the planning process and MDP/UDP project and this information was forwarded to the civil society partners from both sides of the city. UN HABITAT is committed to continue to work with the communities and professionals from both sides of Mitrovica, to focus on specific issues such as mobility and capacity building and to look for the best way forward in light of the new momentum created with the Athisaari package.

MITROVICA— INTEGRATED VISION STATEMENT AND SLOGAN



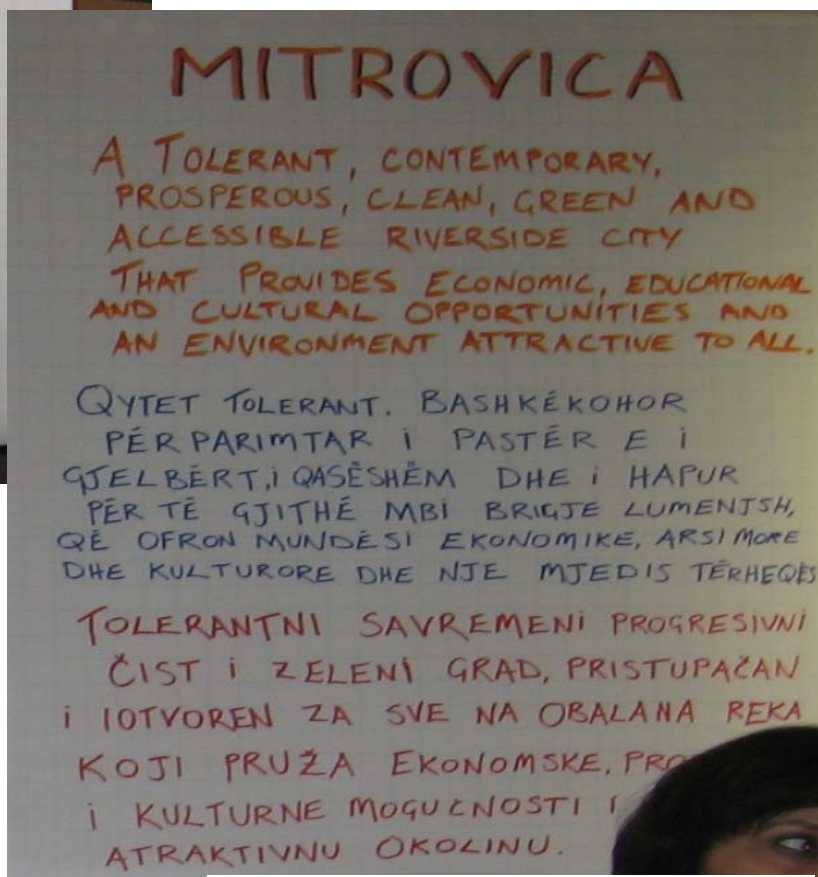
The suggested Slogan for Mitrovica

The work and results from this Vision Workshop are part of an ongoing process.

The next stage will involve a wider public debate event where these ideas can be further discussed by a larger section of the community.



Option for City Logo



The suggested Vision for Mitrovica



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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