

## Editorial

### Let's talk about the spatial status of Kosovo!

With political decisions taken about the future of Kosovo, it's time to deal more seriously with the physical and social status of this part of the Balkans. "More seriously" means that **sustainable development** should be on everyone's lips and in everyone's minds. Kosovo needs development and it has to be sustainable in terms of economic growth, social welfare and well-being, and last but not least environmentally. And to be clear, this is the opposite way of the current trend; in other words, we have to break the trend of the unsustainable development of the past decades and particularly the years after the conflict.

The way we organise the limited space of Kosovo—what we call spatial planning—is crucial in this aim; the way we organise and manage growing cities in Kosovo—what we call urban planning is equally important, as more and more people tend to live in cities and Pristina remains the magnet for many. UN-HABITAT supports this great challenge of **sustainable spatial and urban development in Kosovo**. But positive changes can only be achieved if the central and local level stakeholders of Kosovo are committed and dedicated to this goal. This also requires strong alliances and partnerships among public authorities, the private sector, civil society and international community.

Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP), which supports spatial planning in the 6 secondary cities in Kosovo, can be considered as a "warming up" for the marathon of sustainable urban development. With the support of Sida, UN-HABITAT introduced a challenging capacity building and strengthening programme with expert teams based in the municipalities. We promoted a "learning-by-doing-approach" and

applied it to ourselves too. The focus was—and still is—mainly on drafting the Municipal and Urban Development plans—but we also launched new tools like participatory visioning and "new" issues like sustainable urban mobility and "place-making". We also supported firmly an innovative approach towards the challenge of Informal Settlements in Kosovo, and last but not least we launched seven small urban projects to demonstrate urban planning in practice. It's too early for an evaluation, but there have been indications from our Swedish sponsor, Sida, of its intention to provide further support to this innovative planning approach and we are looking forward to it.

In this edition **the focus is on public space and urban design**, with practices in Mitrovica (south and north), Gjakova/Djakovica and Ferizaj/Uros-evac. Often those practices are rooted in the field of transport and mobility, and it shows that urban design of public spaces can bridge the "different worlds" of spatial planning and transport. Bridging these worlds was also the aim of the first Conference on Transport and Spatial Planning in Kosovo, jointly organized by the Ministry of Transport and Post-Telecommunication and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, with support of MuSPP. The Conference aimed to bring together Kosovar and

international experience and promote the role of public transport in sustainable urban development in Kosovo. Also the Kosovo-wide Workshop on **Informal Settlements** showed the readiness of many stakeholders, MESP, OSCE, Association of Kosovo Municipalities and UN-HABITAT, for a multidisciplinary and inclusive approach, marked by "heart" to these settlements as living and livable communities. The large number of participants in these events proves how important these issues are for Kosovo's present day and its future.

You will also read about another Tri-Partite Review meeting. Despite the overall satisfaction of the partners and donor with the progress made so far, there is still work to be done, particularly with reference to Municipal and Urban Development Plans. Therefore we need full commitment of our local partners to implement the joint road maps towards the municipal approval of those crucial planning documents. We count on a continuous effort to have most plans ready by the end of MuSPP1 (end of April), so that we can start all together the next stage of the marathon of implementation, monitoring, evaluation, revision, project development, ...in short the "never ending planning cycle" with tangible results for citizens and with their participation.

**Frank D'hondt**

*Spatial Planning Coordinator MuSPP1*

*Send us your ideas how to make Kosovo and its cities a better place to live, to work, to move about and to express oneself*

*info@unhabitat-kosovo.org*

## THE NEED FOR URBAN DESIGN IN KOSOVO

The Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European cities (May 2007), considers "creating and ensuring high quality spaces...to be of crucial importance for strengthening the competitiveness of European cities".

This article considers this statement from the perspective of Kosovo, why it is just as valid here as elsewhere in Europe and what it means. Recent years have witnessed a rapid growth in the population of Kosovo's towns and cities, most notably Pristina which has doubled in size since the end of the conflict. This physical change has been paralleled by social upheaval as traditional bonds of clan and family are eroded with urbanisation and infrastructure (roads, open space and schools as well as water, sewers and electricity etc) has struggled to cope with the demands of more people with increasing expectations. These demands and expectations are fuelling the competition for city space, with a desire to facilitate personal mobility being prominent on the agenda of most decision makers. Perhaps one of the principal expressions of this is the roads of Pristina and other cities in Kosovo which are clogged with traffic that occupies nearly all the space from building wall to building wall. With discontinuous footpaths that are pot-holed, blocked by parked vehicles and with little landscaping they discourage any use other than vehicles moving through them.

This is a major issue when you consider that streets and open spaces typically make up around 20% of most cities. They are the principal forum for social interaction, they connect the places we have to get to in order to meet our needs (school, work, healthcare, shops, etc) and are the

perspective from which many of our day to day experiences are gained.

Urban Design seeks to enable people to get more from their surroundings. Changing this unhealthy relationship requires intervening in the built environment to reconcile competing demands and allow people to forge new links with each other and with their surroundings, while holding the negative influences of social exclusion, economic fragility and physical blight at bay.

Urban design seeks to create places with meaning for the people that occupy them to provide people with opportunities to meet their needs. However, defining people's needs is not always easy. As individuals and as a community people's needs will vary significantly. They are likely to change over time and between people. What someone needs at any given time will be influenced by their gender, age, upbringing, experience, values, the time of day (they might be tired or hungry, etc).

Designing places that are relevant to everyone means designing places that can be used in many different ways by many people. Urban space is too precious to commit to a single use. In urban design, as in nature, a monoculture is best avoided. Good design does not cost significantly more, nor take longer to complete than poor design. The desirability of achieving these goals for Kosovo is self-evident, but the extent to which they can be achieved depends on two key factors:

Perhaps the most important is the ability to create a culture of urban design. We all influence the quality of our surroundings, from the mayors and planners who make

big decisions, to the people passing through a street whose smile or laughter momentarily lights up a space, or an individual who drops litter or parks on a footpath. Getting people to value shared space, to recognise its contribution to people's lives and to provide the democratic mandate for cities to make and pay for improvements is essential. This may seem like a big ask but visionary leadership and coordinated programs of information, education and public works have changed the culture of cities (and found economic benefits) in places as diverse as Bogota in Colombia, Copenhagen in Denmark, Melbourne in Australia and Tirana in Albania. Secondly, and very much connected to the first point, is the development of a uniquely Kosovan sense of urban design. At the end of the day, importing overseas urban designers is not sustainable, no matter how good the designers.

Beyond some fundamental ground rules that relate to accessibility, comfort and safety, what is 'good' is to a large extent culturally specific, and the best people to understand that sense of place are the people for whom that place is their day to day experience.

If these changes are made, the cities and towns of Kosovo can become places within which the newly urbanised people will have a better chance of thriving and reaching their potential. It is an essential part of making the most of Kosovo's finest asset: its people and helping them compete on an equal footing with other European centres.

**Jenny Donovan,**

*Expert in Urban and Public Place  
Design UN-HABITAT-MuSPP Kosovo*



## TOWARDS URBAN DESIGN CONTEXT

The work of the Mobility and Transport Working group in Mitrovica municipality has been strongly focused on developing a new project – the extension of the initial proposal for demo project, at the intersection of the South entrance to the city.

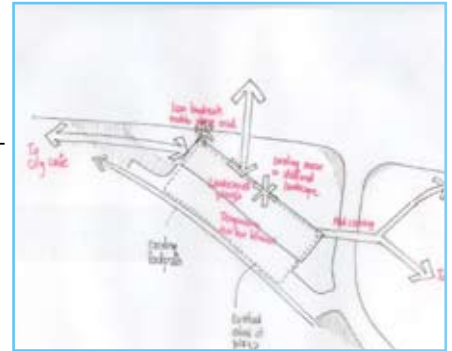
The location of the triangle/tip of the Solana Park, one of the main entry/exit points to the city centre, is also a connection of the city with the Solana Park and an important public space of this area.

A creative process of rehabilitation of this location, seen as a part of the Solana Park in the future, would have a significant impact in creating a unique place – part of the coherent public realm, aiming at the recreation of qualitative urban areas and a more inclusive environment.

In this regard the recommendations made by the MuSPP/UN-HABITAT expert in urban design were highly embraced by the group.

The ideas of creating a landscaped plaza in the center of the triangle surrounded with seating areas in a sheltered landscape with lot of greenery, linked with continuous and coherent pedestrian routes and safe crossings, providing safe access to the minibus station from the plaza and to the area of the park in the future, are being developed by the municipal planners in the main design of the project.

Particular attention was given to the safety of the pedestrians, by using different structural elements that prevent misuse of the pedestrian areas, as well as future links with Solana park. Spatial layout is one of the most persistent things about place and can have a long-term implication, therefore carefully planned and designed roads, pedestrian routes and public spaces become an imperative not only because they determine the way people move through their cities, but also how they experience their city.



## MOBILITY AND DESIGN

In the north part of Mitrovica, traffic, parked cars and pedestrians struggle over the limited amount of public space in the city. A 'Mobility and Transport' working group, made up of local and international professionals from UNMIK Administration, Kosovo Police Service, UN Civilian Police and MuSPP/UN-HABITAT team as well as local civil society representatives, has been working towards improving mobility, alleviating this struggle for space in order to improve the quality of life in the city.

The working group, with support from MuSPP/UN-HABITAT, undertook to contract a transport expert from the University of Novi Sad to assist with the formulation of project proposals that would be a starting point to improving mobility and transport in the north part of Mitrovica. These proposals considered the option of a new railway station, possibilities for public transport provision and urban design issues in the allocation of public space in neighbourhoods.

Recommendations of the study included:

- The optimal location of the new train station is at the extension of John Kennedy Street
- A bike path should be defined to and from the railway station

- A proposal for necessary construction and connection of the street network would help to achieve more balanced traffic and could introduce one way movements in order to get new parking places
- Possibilities and conditions for installation of funicular, cableway or lift for transportation of citizens to the church, in order to eliminate car traffic except with special permission
- Public transportation should completely be privatised, but its organization and work regime must be determined by the local authorities

This work has been presented and discussed in a public forum and will be finalised shortly, with a view to implementing mobility improvements starting by next year.



### Solving traffic and urban problems in the north part of Mitrovica

On October 25th 2007, the project proposal of a bigger programme for solution of traffic and urban problems was presented in Mitrovica (northern part). On this occasion, Dr Milomir Veselinovic, transport expert from the University of Novi Sad, presented the proposal which aims to improve the quality of life in the city through the improvement of mobility. Dr Veselinovic stated that the next step is the configuration of the proposal presented into a document and informing relevant institutions working on this topic as well as all political structures that are relevant for the implementation of this project.

The biggest contribution of this proposal, and the ambition we need to follow, is that the traffic will operate where it naturally should operate. We need the connection of streets for that, and that comes practically step by step. These are very small investments and individually there are lots of those. We can apply a certain regime of a disciplined and concrete behaviour of people in the main streets in terms of traffic lights and pedestrian, biking or disabled movement", said Dr. Veselinovic. He also added that the initiative means involvement of all structures in resolving the traffic functioning problem and he was also very optimistic about the implementation.

Source: Kontakt Plus Radio, 25/10/07

## A CONCEPT DESIGN FOR THE CENTRAL PARK-DEMO PROJECT IN GJAKOVA/DJAKOVICA

A concept design has been prepared by MuSPP/UN-HABITAT's expert in urban design for upgrading the Central City Park of Gjakova/Djakovica. The purpose of this concept design is to provoke a discussion about the processes and products of equitable urban design. The municipality of Gjakova/Djakovica submitted this project as a demo-project proposal to MuSPP/UN-HABITAT. This concept design proposal is part of a series of activities of MuSPP to demonstrate a participatory the planning process.

The initial proposal lacked citizens' participation in the planning and design process which is an important criterion for a successful demo project. That's why the MuSPP team of Gjakova/Djakovica organized an event on the World Habitat Day 2007, called 'walkabout in the city park' in collaboration with the representatives of local authorities and the Informal Council of Civil Society Organizations. A range of citizen representatives such as school students, youth, women and elderly participated in that event and gave comments on how this green area contributes to the city's quality of life. The MuSPP expert's concept design interprets the findings of this exercise and outlines the process by which the plan was generated.

Both elements (the process and the product) are important but the usefulness of this concept lies in documenting the way the two are connected, providing an example about how an inclusive, equitable urban design process can be undertaken.

The process has four components:

- Understanding the site as both a physical and a social composition
- Preparing a design agenda, outlining suggestions about what the priorities of the study should be
- A possible design solution, that addresses those priorities
- Design Rationale that explores in a little more detail how those objectives can be met by this concept.

Normally, the design generation and testing with the community are done



collaboratively, but time constraints did not allow this. As a result, the design concept is put forward as an example of what could be achieved and as some ideas for stakeholder consideration, rather than as completely resolved proposals. The next stage in the process is to confirm, amend or abandon the concepts and assumptions explored in the concept design. Key suggestions include:

- A new café and sanitary facility block incorporated into an iconic structure

that can help provide and enhance an image for not just the park but for the entire city, acknowledging the significance of the location (see illustration).

- Landscape enhancements to retain and enhance the park's character
- New seating, lighting and improvements to play equipment
- New paths to respond to existing 'desire lines' and improve access within the park and to the surrounding city centre.

## Demo-Project in Ferizaj/ Urosevac

### INTERNATIONAL SPATIAL DESIGN COMPETITION

### Mobility Centre Project

As the result of several activities of the mobility working group addressing mobility and transport issues and using the lessons learnt from the study visit in Lund, Sweden, the municipality of Ferizaj/ Urosevac decided to work on the concept of a Mobility Centre which integrates the train and the bus station.

With further advancement and accepted by the Municipal Assembly, this concept was chosen as a demo-project for an International Design Competition on the project idea of a Mobility Centre. This demo-project is co-financed by the municipality of Ferizaj/Urosevac and MuSPP/ UN-HABITAT.

A Selection Committee, composed of by relevant representatives from Kosovo Railway, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP), Ministry of Transport and Post-telecommunication (MTPT), the Business Community, representatives

from the Private Transport Association and civil society, MuSPP/UN-HABITAT and the municipality, has been set up. This group will decide the final result of the competition with the advice of a Technical Jury.

This project is an achievement while integrating different planning levels and decision-making, different sectors, civil society and it encourages public-private partnership in drafting the project proposal. The whole commitment to this process, the principles and specific factors in the context of the future development of the city are compiled in the "Urban Charter of Ferizaj/Urosevac City" that at the same time is a part of the technical documentation of the competition.

The concept of the Mobility Centre, through the integration of the train and bus station, seeks to promote a multi-modal transport system and the improvement of the functional transport in Ferizaj/

Urosevac in a sustainable way. It will also help to achieve a functional conjunction of the city aiming at regenerating the city centre as well as creating the new identity that Ferizaj/Urosevac will gain thanks to the existence of the railway.

The advertisement of the international competition for the idea project on Mobility Centre in Ferizaj/Urosevac aims at collecting the best ideas for the implementation of the concept.

The advertisement is opened from 17 November 2007 in more than 15 international websites and the deadline for the submission is 17 March 2008.

*For more information visit our website: [www.unhabitat-kosovo.org](http://www.unhabitat-kosovo.org) and [www.ferizaj-komuna.org](http://www.ferizaj-komuna.org).*



Use of Building			
	Detached House		Public facilities
	Flat with shop		Public transport
	Flat with services		Under Constructio
	Commercial		Used or Destroy building
	Industry		Others
	School		

## Urban Planning

### BEST PRACTICES ON "CREATING HARMONIOUS CITIES"

"Creating harmonious cities" was the motto of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM), held in Rome on 29 and 30 November 2007. Pejë/Pec was one of selected cities after a formal application procedure approval conducted by the organisers of the conference. Twelve cities were represented at EGM. The outcome of this meeting was a preliminary draft of recommendations that should finally be approved during World Urban Forum IV in Nanjing, China. Agron Sallova (Urban Planning Advisor UN-HABITAT/MuSPP) and Modest Gashi (Urban Planner from Pejë/Pec Municipality) attended the EGM in Rome.

The purpose of the Conference was to exchange methodologies and experiences of urban planning as a tool that can create sustainable urbanisation, in other words "harmonious cities". Harmonious cities will simultaneously generate eco-

nomie growth, address urban poverty and reduce the ecological footprint of the city. The aim was to try to establish the most effective levers of action for achieving this. Each city presentation was expected to contribute in terms of:

- Innovations in urban planning practice identified
- Analysis and comparison of the main problems in generating and implementing sustainable urban plans.
- Identification of alternative planning solutions in participant cities.
- Future collaboration prospects.
- Selection of the most promising examples of planning for harmonious cities.

The presentation of Pejë/Pec city left a good impression on all participants, and as a follow up to that many bilateral dis-



cussions took place. Especially important for the EGM was information on innovative aspects of the planning process, tools applied and clear frameworks for plan implementation. Relevant for Kosovo context is the possibility of more active involvement of Pejë/Pec city and MuSPP/UN-HABITAT on WUF IV in Nanjing/China 2008.

It is expected that relevant information will be posted soon on UN-HABITAT's web site.

## MUNICIPALITY OF GJILAN/GNJILANE CLOSE TO COMPLETION OF MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

On 26 November 2007, the municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane launched the public review for the Municipal Development Plan (MDP).

Preparation of this plan included a wide range of relevant stakeholders: the planning team from the directorate of Urbanism, Reconstruction and Environment and other directorates, civil society representatives, media, citizens and the business community.

The process of drafting the Plan was supported by MuSPP/UN-HABITAT and in some phases also by the USAID project-Initiative for Local Governance (LGI).

The opening event of the public review, which lasts until 25 January 2008, gathered a considerable number of interested people in the Municipal Assembly Hall. Some citizens took opportunity of the

short time available for questions, suggestions and proposals during the event. It is expected that on following days citizens will take a closer look at the proposed plan and use the possibility to know more on what is proposed and provide their comments and suggestions.

In the proposed plan Gjilan/Gnjilane is seen as the meeting point between the two triangles: Pristina-Ferizaj/Urosevac-Gjilan/Gnjilane and the cross-border region

between Gjilan/Gnjilane-Bujanoc (Serbia)-Kumanovo (Macedonia).

The vision declaration derived from the plan is:

*By using the central position between the two triangles, Gjilan/Gnjilane will be a modern bridge, offering qualitative services in a sustainable environment, dynamic education with the modern technology supporting economic growth, with the emphasis on agriculture development and in a function to better urban and rural living conditions in a full partnership; a regional and university centre while strengthening its identity and cultural and human values.*

We, as the stakeholders involved in the planning process, hope that the newly elected Municipal Assembly will accept the final plan proposal after the public review and will find the ways of public and private sector cooperation and partnership to implement the plan.

**Naim SHAQIRI, Coordinator**

*On behalf of NGO "Peace with Nature"*



## CONSULTANT BRIEF FOR OUTSOURCING THE DRAFTING OF MDP

Municipality of Prizren has decided to outsource the drafting of the Municipal Development Plan (MDP). As a result of that decision, the MuSPP team of UN-HABITAT in Prizren and the Municipal Planning Team (MPT) established a core group from the wider MPT to develop a comprehensive consultant's brief for drafting the MDP. In the process of discussions the core group developed a Consultant Brief.

The core group then had several meetings with the procurement department in order to negotiate and finalise the tender process in general. As a result of the achieved consensus, the Municipality of Prizren opened the tender for drafting the MDP in the daily newspapers. The Consultant Brief clearly states that the successful contractor is expected to develop a strategy and policies for growth and

development for the Municipality of Prizren, incorporating all the elements of sustainability i.e. innovative transport solutions, development patterns, construction practice and long-term urban and rural management etc.

The developed strategy and policies should add significant value to quality of life for existing and new inhabitants, businesses and visitors to the Municipality.

### *Progress on Demo Project*

## CREATING A SAFER SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

The Municipality of Prizren has opened the tender for the Demo project in the national newspapers on 14 November 2007.

Opening of the bids took place in the Municipality of Prizren on 10 December 2007 in the presence of the bidders and MuSPP/UN-HABITAT. The Demo project aims to create a safer

school environment by reconstructing a school wall of the school "Lidhja e Prizrenit" in Prizren, which is currently unsafe for pupils as well as pedestrians.

In taking the project forward, the Prizren MuSPP team had several meetings with a local youth NGO "Fisnikët" and have begun exploring the value added benefits of

the project to the immediate community around the school and the town as a whole.

The representatives of this local NGO expressed their willingness to engage in developing ideas that would be beneficial to all concerned.

## UN-HABITAT CORNER

### WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY

#### **08/11/2007, Edinburgh, Scotland**

The way that cities are growing today is not sustainable; the Commonwealth Association of Planners said in a statement calling on governments to "rethink" before it is too late.

"We have 10, maybe 15 years, to get on to a new track.

After that the slum problem, environmental damage and urban insecurity will become so entrenched that they will dominate international relations for the rest of the century" said the association's president, Ms. Christine Platt, a planner who works in South Africa.

In a statement marking World Town Planning Day, she said some 327 million people in Commonwealth countries currently live in slums, their numbers increasing daily. Their life expectancy is dramatically less than their compatriots who live in better conditions.

"Because the poor live in the most hazardous locations they are disproportionately vulnerable to the local impacts of climate change" Ms. Platt said in a view widely

concurring with that expressed recently by UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibajuka. "The problems are particularly acute in small island developing states where the growing threats from rising sea levels and extreme weather conditions are not matched by growing capacity to plan and manage settlements in sustainable and equitable ways.

Urban growth is going to be huge in this generation.

It will create great wealth that can lift people out of poverty.

However, we have to get the cities right, and that needs smart planning", said Ms. Platt, who recently visited India to see how they are handling the urban consequences of an economic boom. We need a quantum leap in management capacity: more trained people with better skills and planning legislation that is fit for purpose in today's world.

This is something that we are working on, together with our member institutes, our Commonwealth partners and also UN-HABITAT.

Too often, even in rich countries, the approach of governments to urban development is one of curative medicine: clearance, infrastructure after the development has happened, too little too late in environmental protection.

Planning means preventative medicine; it's about acting now so that our cities and rural areas are not allowed to degrade to the extent that recovery becomes a prohibitive cost.

There are encouraging signs that some governments within the Commonwealth are realising that they need to re-invent planning.

The Commonwealth Association of Planners is made up from the professional planning institutes in over 25 Commonwealth countries. For several years, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, with some 200 members in over 40 Commonwealth countries, has been collaborating closely with UN-HABITAT in many countries around the world.

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

## MuSP PROGRAMME GETS DONOR SUPPORT FOR 2ND PHASE

Sida, UN-HABITAT and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) met again on November 6-8, 2007 to discuss the progress of MuSP Programme and make plans for the future. The original closing date of the programme was extended to April, 2008 which will allow for the completion of the current activities and the development of a final proposal for the 2nd phase of the Programme.

The discussions concentrated on the advancement of the municipal and urban development plans, demonstration projects, co-operation with civil society organisations and the key issues which should be addressed in the 2nd phase of the programme.

The review of the highlights of the six-month period between April and September 2007 included:

- **The approval of the MDP/UDP for Peja/Pec** by the Municipal Assembly and successive work for the development of the implementation framework. The Process of developing the Municipal and Urban plan was selected as a case study for the Expert Meeting on Urban Planning in Rome organised by the UN-HABITAT's Best Practices office. Other municipalities are in the final stage of drafting these plans and the public review process in Gjakova/Djakovica and Gjilan/Gnjilane was already under way during the TPR meeting.
- **Three more visioning workshops were held** during this period which allowed completing the process in all partner municipalities. Planners and civil society representatives active in the Informal Councils of Civil Society Organisations from Gjakova/Djakovica, Peja/Pec and Prizren worked together during these intensive 5-day events to develop a common vision for their cities. In a number of municipalities these workshops were followed up by a formal hand-over of the vision to the local authorities for the formal inclusion in the planning documents. These events got a broad coverage in the local media, whose representatives have also been included in the vision drafting process.
- **Seven demonstration projects were successfully launched** and they mark an important step in the planning process. The project proposals submitted for co-



funding by MuSPP relate to the improvement of public spaces, increased safety of school environments and more efficient mobility in urban areas. The World Habitat Day, traditionally marked on October 1, gave another opportunity to promote public participation and engage citizens in the discussions on the implementation of projects as part of the urban development process.

- Due to awareness raising campaigns and workshops on **Informal Settlements** partner municipalities started to identify such settlements and initiated planning actions. Co-operation with the MESP and the joint Informal Settlements working group continued throughout this period and preparations for a Kosovo-wide conference/workshop were well advanced during the TPR meeting. An in-depth analysis of the existing legislation as well as social and planning context was completed just before the TPR in the preparation of the grounds for the development of Kosovo-wide strategy on IFS to be prepared by MESP.

- The programme worked intensively with the Ministry and some municipalities, particularly Prizren, on the issues of **special protective zones**, as defined in the Ahtisaari proposal. The Programme also introduced the concept of the Urban Governance Index as a tool to analyse various aspects of governance. The Municipality of Gjakova/Djakovica set up a multi-stakeholder group for this purpose and started to work on its report.

Part of the TPR meeting was focussed on more detailed discussion on the proposed continuation of MuSPP as its 2nd phase. Consultations with MESP, the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) and local government representatives confirmed the need for further professional support both to municipalities and the central level in order to consolidate the planning practice. With the continued pressure for capital investments in response to key local priorities, it is crucial to ensure that

their implementation results from the municipal and urban development planning process and that their spatial impact is in line with the development agenda of the municipality. In practical terms it means optimisation of land use and land management policies, protection of the natural environment, improvement of infrastructure and the construction of housing in areas best suited for such investments. A need for stronger inter-municipal co-operation has also been stressed in relation to the **regional co-operation zones** identified in the Kosovo Spatial Plan. This would allow the inclusion of a few smaller municipalities in the Programme. Informal settlements and ways of addressing this issue at the central local and community level would be another area of interest of MuSPP 2.

The focus on vulnerable groups and responsiveness to the needs of men and women both in terms of their participation in the decision making processes and expected benefits from the planning initiatives and capital projects will be an important element of the next phase of MuSPP.

The TPR meeting also gave the opportunity to the MuSPP staff to hear more from Sida representatives from the Stockholm Office and Kosovo about their impressions from the review of the MuSPP 1 activities and plans for the future, as well as to learn about most recent initiatives of UN-HABITAT Head Quarters in Nairobi, such as a campaign on sustainable urbanisation under development now, preparations for the **World Urban Forum** to be held in Nanjing, on 13-17 October, 2008, under the motto of Harmonious Urbanisation, where Peja/Pec case is expected to be presented in one of the Forum's sessions. Participants in the TPR visited the Kolonia Informal Settlement in Gjakova/Djakovica and also met with the representatives of Junik pilot municipal unit and representatives of Culture Heritage without Borders (CHwB) to discuss the outcomes from the Junik visioning workshop.



## INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS – LIVING COMMUNITIES

Informal Settlements are part of urban reality not only in the Balkans but in many countries all over the world, with as many as up to 70 per cent of inhabitants of cities in the rapidly developing world living without security of tenure, access to services or full participation in democratic governance structures. As such they are often pockets of poverty, social and economic exclusion and discrimination.

Looking for effective ways to deal with Informal Settlements (IFS) in Kosovo have been a subject of continued concern of Kosovo central and local government institutions, donors, NGOs and the international community. MuSPP, in close co-operation with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and OSCE, organised a workshop on IFS on 11-12, December 2007. Some 170 central and local level professionals, experts and representatives of NGOs took part in the workshop which served as a forum for international, regional and local experience sharing.

One of the conclusions from earlier meetings was the need to differentiate and separate the issue of IFS inhabited by vulnerable groups and that of illegal buildings, often of a relatively good standard but built without permits. Therefore, the agenda of the workshop provided for both of these topics. Sessions of the workshop dealt with the legal implications of informal settlements, experiences of the efforts to regularise IFS in Peja/Pec, a review of the situation of Roma communities in Kosovo, the current state of affairs as regards IFS world-wide and efforts undertaken in Brcko, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to resolve the issue of illegal constructions. (Link to materials on IFS available at <http://www.ks.gov.net/mmph>).

In their opening remarks, the heads of the partner organisations stressed the importance of a comprehensive approach to IFS which can only be solved through concerted and committed efforts of central and local level authorities, professionals and communities themselves, with support of donors and international organisations. One of the ways of preventing IFS is to create conditions for sustainable urbanisation. UN-HABITAT has a mandate to promote socially and environmentally sustainable t



owns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. People in IFS have rights but also responsibilities. They have rights to services, infrastructure and the right to contribute to spatial planning practices. They also have the responsibility to pay taxes, bills and respect planning regulations.

Municipalities are currently in the process of drafting their municipal and urban development plans and this process offers a unique opportunity to include the IFS in these plans and provide for their future development options. The current assessment speaks of some 70 such settlements across Kosovo, but municipalities are not always ready and properly technically equipped to develop improvement plans for such areas.

The Ministry has initiated work on a Kosovo strategy on IFS, specified as part of the EPAP (European Partnership Action Plan), which is intended to give the direction to new initiatives of the government in this field. One of the important issues is the creation of a coherent legal framework to address the security of tenure, land management, social housing as well as well-designed policies of integrating inhabitants of IFS, particularly the vulnerable groups, in the social and economic development actions in Kosovo. Although a lot was said about the IFS of ethnic minorities, particularly Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, one must remember that vulnerable groups also include elderly, women-headed households, the disabled and the poor, irrespective of their ethnic origin. Ways of resolving IFS issues have been subject to Vienna Declaration Review Meet

ings co-organised by the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and UN-HABITAT and for the last two years hosted by the signatories to the Declaration. The 5th Regional Meeting was held in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 21-22 October 2007. The meetings which are part of the Regional Capacity Strengthening Programme serve as a learning and experience sharing forum for participating countries. Many of them are in the process of preparing legislation and policies to deal with IFS and related issues such as legalisation of illegal buildings and social housing.

Learning from others has proven to be a way for developing general concepts and ideas, but which need to be adjusted to specific country conditions: e.g. Albania has decided to go for a general amnesty of illegal buildings and only later will look at the issues of urban planning, for Croatia the major issue is the protection of coastal zones from illegal constructions, for Serbia the focus is on social housing, Macedonia is working on the legalisation process and the issues of procedures and costs of legalisation in reference to vulnerable groups are under review, Kosovo initiated the process of developing strategy on IFS and has drafted laws on treatment of illegal buildings and social housing. There is no one-good-for-all way to solve this issue but the countries of the region are determined to work for progress and keep the date of 2015 as the deadline for solving the Informal Settlements issue. Progress on these initiatives will be presented in the next meeting. At the end of 2007, the Stability Pact completed its mission and the responsibility for the continuation of the Programme was vested with UN-HABITAT.

## First Conference on Transport and Spatial Planning in Kosovo

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT ORGANISATION, POLICY AND PLANNING

Transport and spatial planning are intimately linked, like two sides of a coin. Although transport and planning experts often have different priorities, concepts and tools, they share the responsibility for building a system, where functions are accessible, transport is efficient and goods and people are mobile as to ensure a striving and sustainable social and economic life.

In this perspective, the Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications (MTPT), the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP), the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) and MuSPP/UN-HABITAT in Kosovo, with the support of Capacity Building for European Integration (UNDP/EU) are organising a cycle of conferences on Transport and Spatial planning.

The general purpose of these conferences is to **facilitate the dialogue** between partners from different institutions, professional disciplines, organisational levels and sectors. The first conference of the cycle, held on 31 October 2007 at Grand Hotel Pristina, was dedicated to Public Transport and was attended by more than 160 persons from all target groups.

All speakers stressed that public transport is one of the strategic issues that determine the future development of Kosovo: its territory, society and economy. **Spatial planning, by definition, is also transport planning.** Only a coherent, integrated, spatial and transport policy can lead to success. But spatial planning with or for Public transport is pointless if there are no operators who actually offer the service. Furthermore, planning with Public transport becomes more effective if the operators develop their business in a regulated and organised manner.

The regulation and organisation of interurban bus services in Kosovo can certainly be qualified as a success story, as described by Qamil Feka, Head of the Road transport department in MTPT. The system based on 10 main corridors that are served with more than 1000 vehicles links all major and secondary cities of Kosovo to Pristina and among each other, every weekday from 7 to 19 hours, with a frequency of up to 8 departures/hour. Last not least, the system is entirely financed by passenger revenues. From this achievement, the system will have to evolve as to keep up with the demand for mobility and the competition from private cars. The further de-



velopment of the system will require:

- The development of municipal public transport and their coordination with the inter-municipal system, as to form an attractive service from "stop to stop" (coherence between networks is made of physical interchanges, coordinated timetables, complete and uniform customer information and, finally, common pricing and ticketing).
- Passenger transport by rail can also play a growing role in this integrated system and contribute to maintaining and expanding the demand for complementary bus services. "Informal" minibus services can also be integrated into the regulated and organised system, as to ensure that service offer remains acceptable in marginal times and places.
- The guarantee of good operating conditions for buses of all networks on regional and municipal roads. Indeed, with growing car traffic, buses face more traffic hazards and longer trip times. As a consequence, operating costs increase while the service offer becomes less attractive. This will lead to a vicious circle that will make public transport dependent on public subsidy and a shift of passengers from buses to private cars and, hence, more congestion, etc. This higher level of organisation requires new forms of co-ordination between public authorities responsible for different components of the system.

Constantin Dellis, Regional manager of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) stressed the importance of institutions that organise the co-operation between public authorities and (private) operators. He presented theoretical and real world models that show how **"Organising authorities"** can fulfil this role. But the task of co-ordination is only incompletely fulfilled if it is limited to the organisation of public transport services. Effective strategic integration must

also include transport and spatial planning.

**The co-ordination between spatial planning and transport planning** is a matter of urban, environmental, economic and social policy. Ramadan Duraku, Head of Section at the MTPT and Luan Nushi, Director of the Institute of Spatial Planning, presented the impressive amount of recent studies that include relevant elements for the elaboration of the transport policy (analysis of traffic flows, cost structures, organisational models, development scenarios, etc.). Muhamet Morina, Department of public utilities of the City of Pristina, explained how the first post-war urban bus system was implemented and how the transport system is planned to develop, according to Pristina's Urban Development Plan.

But **policies are also made of strategic political choices.** Policy makers can choose to let spontaneous development determine the pattern of urbanisation and leave it to the public transport sector to decide whether, where and when to serve new markets. In this case, urban development is most likely to be largely car based. Policies can also recognise that public transport is the most efficient urban transport mode and that, therefore, access to the city and larger distances within the city should primarily be carried out by means of public transport. In order to achieve this, urban development plans need to include well designed high capacity public transport networks and ensure that urban development and densification builds up around these strong public transport axis.

Frédy Wittwer, Director of the International Institute for Mobility Training, Geneva, pointed out that investments in public transport corridors are strategic decisions that should take into account the full range of external costs, i.e. accidents, air pollution, consumption of public space.

(Continues page 11)

The long term evaluation should also take into account rising energy prices, the long lasting effects of efficient urban form and infrastructure. In his view, Kosovo can make the wise and determined decisions now that will avoid the country going down the costly road of car dependence.

Two Municipalities, Ferizaj/Urosevac and Peja/Pec are making concrete plans for providing public transport. Ferizaj/Urosevac municipality has decided to rely on the railways, in the future, too, and value its privileged situation as the major stop between the two capital cities (Prishtina-Skopje). In this perspective, it is crucial to ensure that the urban centre remains and develops around the location of the railway station and that this location will offer a maximal degree of accessibility by all means of transport, that it offers a large amount of high quality space for employment, shops and housing and that the public space in the area is pleasant and attractive.

Mustafë Zariqi, Chief of the Planning Section of the Municipality of Ferizaj/Urosevac, presented the **Mobility centre design contest** that was launched in November 2007 and will reward the best proposals for meeting this challenge.

In Peja/Pec, the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is finalised. Agron Sallova, MuSPP Spatial planning advisor, explained that tackling the mobility and transport challenge is recognised as the principal factor for the success of its implementation. If the Municipality does not manage to limit traffic congestion caused by cars and to ensure easy access to the city centre from the peripheral neighbourhoods and from other locations, many more urban functions will migrate to the outskirts or even rural locations, which will, in turn, encourage inhabitants to leave the city.

**The creation of an effective Citybus network** is one of the solutions to this problem: a network of urban bus lines converge in a city centre location at regular and relatively short intervals, precisely on time as to ensure reliable service and easy transfers between lines. This requires the guarantee that the buses are never caught in traffic jams.

But Municipal strategies to rely more and solidly on the inter-municipal bus network and on the railway for their accessibility from distant locations can only succeed if other Municipalities develop the same strategy and if the services offered by the buses and the railways evolve as to serve

growing quantities and proportions of traffic. In this respect, Xhevat Ramosaj, Managing Director of Kosovo Railways has presented the rebirth of the Prishtina-Peja/Pec railway line for passenger traffic on 1st October 2007. Of course, the current share of total traffic of this newly opened line that is still operated with only two units is very small. But the seed for a modern, efficient multimodal and sustainable transport system is planted and will grow, if transport and spatial planning policies are determined to continue in this direction.

Throughout the day, discussions between the speakers and the public were lively. Most interventions pointed to the risk of discrepancies between the theory of sustainable development exposed by planning and transport experts and the reality of car based development that is taking place on the ground.

It therefore is urgent that Transport and Spatial planning experts, administrations and decision makers quickly produce more ambitious action for **integrated spatial and transport planning** and use their combined competence and powers to implement, rather sooner than later, the fundamentals of sustainable urbanisation in Kosovo.

## CO-PRODUCTIVE WAYS TO RELATE VISIONING AND STRATEGIC URBAN PROJECTS

The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) held its annual world congress in Antwerp, Belgium in September, attended by 356 delegates from 44 countries, representing five continents. The congress theme was Urban Dialogues Co-productive ways to relate visioning and strategic urban projects - a very relevant theme to the work that MuSPP/UN-HABITAT programme is undertaking in Kosovo. The word 'trialogue' is a play on the word 'dialogue' to cover the interaction of three parties or elements. The idea of an urban triologue can be manifold, such as the interaction between the urban community, the public and the private sector but one important description introduced in the congress concerned the links between the three elements of Strategic Projects, Sustainability and Participation. These links need to be made in order to achieve effective urban planning.

Visioning and Collaborative Planning were key themes and it was highlighted that visioning is the result of negotiation - it must have a consensus. It was suggested that planners should have an idea or 'pre-vi-

sion' before entering the debate with the citizens, that planners should do the planning but not decide the goals and objectives. "Planning is not about forecasting the future but about preparing the future" and strategic urban projects can make abstract visions visible. It was suggested that projects should start earlier during the development of the spatial plan, this way more knowledge and information can be gathered early. It is also important to note that participation in planning creates expectations and this requires commitment, critical reflection and action.

Key questions at the congress included: how to bridge the gap between theory and practice, how to use the tools of planning and politics, how to undertake participation with non-homogenous and un-united communities, how to deal with informal settlement development, how to revitalize rural communities and how to balance economic, environmental and social hierarchies. There was much discussion regarding the accessibility of planning departments to the community, and the level of real interaction and mutual understanding between plan-

ners and citizens. The question was raised "how much should planners immerse themselves into the neighbourhood?" This led to thinking about what could be encouraged in Kosovo in order to more organically improve participation in planning? Perhaps municipal planners could instigate regular, informal 'meet the citizens' afternoons each month.

This could be in the form of a drop-in session, with coffee (maybe even cake!), where casual interaction and knowledge sharing can take place outside formal public or municipal meetings. This could be extended to the use of new technologies and virtual interaction, with online forums and regular online news updates regarding planning issues. As it was noted at the congress, educated communities are essential to achieving sustainability and planners need to be less technocratic and more community minded to help ensure this. Breaking down the barriers and encouraging a truly inclusive planning process would surely lead to better outcomes for Kosovo's cities.

For more information go to: [www.isocarp.org](http://www.isocarp.org)

## VISIONING JUNIK

**Junik—is really UNIQUE.** It is a place of tradition and Oda as an institution, an Ethnographic Park of natural and cultural heritage, whose protection will generate wealth and sustainable development for its citizens, with a substantive role in the regional tourism offer and European integration..

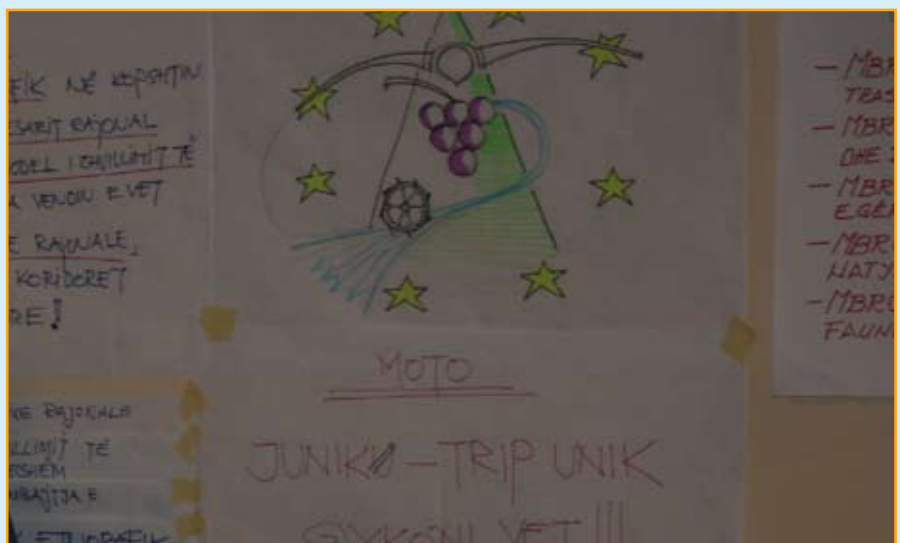
The “Visioning Junik” workshop was held between 17 and 22 October with the support of the CHwB-Cultural Heritage without Borders and UN-HABITAT.

Participants in the workshop included experts of different fields, planners, representatives of the business community, members of cultural heritage initiatives from Junik and civil society. The natural, cultural and historical heritage of Junik municipality makes it a place with special characteristics. This was the starting point which motivated the participants of the workshop to work on developing a clear vision for Junik municipality. The vision for Junik municipality speaks of a better future and easy access to development services.

The workshop started with the nostalgic map, followed by the selection of the main issues including: development of tourism, regional cooperation, urban zoning and neighborhoods and protection of natural and cultural heritage. Discussions on SWOT analyses, objectives and activities held during the workshop were followed by a graphical presentation of the vision in the spatial structure planned for Junik municipality. All participants, as important stakeholders in inclusive local development planning, worked together and contributed to the formulation of the vision for Junik.

Junik is a traditional place with a valuable past and a bright future, and this message was reinforced during the workshop. As such, the municipality and its citizens deserve a better future and commitment of the local government as well as from the community to cultivate the natural heritage including the cultural heritage, to protect and make it attractive, not only for the visitors, but for the citizens of this municipality as well.

On 14 November 2007, the vision was presented to the citizens and media in a restored Kulla in Junik. Results in this workshop contributed to initiating the first phase of the Urban Development Plan. Once de-



veloped, it will give grounds for the urban regulatory plan which is a priority of the municipality and for which cooperation with UN-HABITAT and CHwB would be most needed. Both of these organisations deserve credit and acknowledgment for their

assistance and contribution to developing Junik’s vision as a place which is unique.

**Shkodran Gaxherri**  
Vice-Mayor of Junik Municipality

## PLANNING ISSUES IN THE PILOT MUNICIPAL UNIT HANI I ELEZIT

In November 2007, a three day workshop on spatial planning issues was held in Hani i Elezit. The aim of the workshop was to introduce the staff and the new administration of this Pilot Municipal Unit (PMU) to the challenges in municipal planning.

The workshop was organized by OSCE and PMU Hani i Elezit, while the professional support was given by MuSPP/UN-HABITAT experts.

On the first day of the workshop international principles in urban and spatial planning were introduced by MuSPP municipal planning expert Ismajl Baftijari, followed by discussions among participants.

The second day of the workshop included the presentation on the legal and technical issues in regards to spatial planning in Kosovo. The presentation was done by the legal expert, Lazim Salihu. This was followed by discussions and questions on the issues of public property designation and its use.

The second day combined the presentations on the spatial development framework and the municipal profile by the MuSPP municipal planning advisor in Gjilan/Gnjilane, Huig Deneef, and a presentation of the profile of Hani i Elezit by Sami Stagova, chief



of planning section in Hani i Elezit and the coordinator of the Planning Experts Group.

A SWOT analysis was done for different planning fields, including: economy, infrastructure, mobility, housing, socio-cultural issues, ecology, and agriculture. The groups came up with interesting presentations.

The third day sessions of the workshop provided information on vision, principles, aims and development framework. The participants highly valued the opportunity to gain experience while working in groups and have discussed these topics, but also

hearing the experiences of other municipalities on the preparation of Municipal and Urban Development Plans, and in particular the visioning process.

On behalf of the participants I would like to thank and acknowledge MuSPP experts for the support in the spatial municipal planning process. We look forward to a continuation of this kind of cooperation.

**Sami Stagova**

*Chief of planning section in Hani i Elezit and coordinator of the Planning Experts Group*

## EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF SPATIAL PLANNERS IN NICOSIA

16-18 November, 2007 the European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP) held its General Assembly meeting in Nicosia/Cyprus. The ECTP brings together 26 professional spatial planning associations and institutes from 24 European countries. It is an umbrella association providing its members with a common framework for planning practice, planning education, continuing professional development and the definition of professional responsibilities (for more see <http://www.ceu-ectp.org>).

In Nicosia the ECTP meeting was welcomed by the Greek Cypriot Minister of Interior Affairs and Spatial Planning. He opened a special session on some spatial planning issues in Cyprus with European relevance. Phaedon Enitiades, planning consultant, presented the results of Urban Guard, an EU-funded project to facilitate the incorporation of sustainability indicators into the spatial planning process in Cyprus through a custom made GIS-tool. (see [www.moi.gov.cy/moi/urbanguard/urbanguard.nsf/](http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/urbanguard/urbanguard.nsf/)),

Glafkos Constantinides, planning consultant, presented the Nicosia Master Plan, a joint initiative of both communities of the divided city (Greek and Turkish Cypriots), under a UNDP umbrella (read more on <http://www.undp-unops-pff.org/News.asp?CID=97>). This presentation and experience of the divided city is relevant for the case of Mitrovica. A visit to the divided city centre of Nicosia and the information kiosk on the Nicosia Master Plan was very useful to witness the huge planning challenges on both sides.

Other topics discussed at the ECTP meeting were:

- the Romanian Planners Association was welcomed as new member
- ECTP will organize a Conference "After Leipzig" (see latest MuSPP newsletter), in London, early 2008
- ECTP will support the organisation of the next Biennial of Towns and Town Planners

in 2009, in Nancy/France

- ECTP will organize a ceremony with European Planning Awards, autumn 2008, in Dublin.

Regarding the future membership of Kosovo planners, possible scenarios were explored with the newly elected president, Ms Virna Bussadori. ECTP is very much in favour of welcoming planners from former central and east European countries and regions, including Western Balkans. The Serbian planners entered already with an observatory status, and the same could happen to the Kosovar planners.

Miran Gajsek, vice-president of ECTP and president of the Slovenian planners' association is appointed as focal point and mentor for the Kosovar Planners. Miran Gajsek is well familiar with the Kosovo situation and hosted the MuSPP delegation on our study tour to Slovenia in 2006.

## VOLUNTEERISM IN MUSPP/UN-HABITAT IN KOSOVO

Volunteerism is a natural and fundamental part of most societies. The UN Volunteers programme (UNV) advocates the benefits of civic engagement, integrates volunteerism into development programmes,

and mobilises thousands of volunteers every year in pursuit of distinctive contributions to development effectiveness. Today UN-HABITAT/ MuSPP employs 6 International and 8 National UNVs who

commit their work to help in the improvement of quality and living conditions in MuSPP partner cities. The motivation and experience of four UNV working with MuSPP are summarised in the texts below.

### Retrospective by a UN Volunteer

Undoubtedly, I was not the only urban planner with that feeling. I had a diploma and a suitable job that had provided me a sound understanding of the operation of the state and the society. I functioned as a cog in a well-oiled system, and was wondering if I as a person who actually made a difference. I realised that there are quite some regions in the world where the machine is not running that smoothly, and where a touch of western expertise could be welcomed. And I thought that it could be really exciting to broaden my own horizons and help at the same time.

UN-HABITAT is one of the organisations that could provide an answer to my questions. Through the UNV Programme, the organisa-

tion managed to recruit the right expertise and to build policy supporting programmes for the short and medium term with a rather limited budget. I applied for the MuSPP and in the spring of 2006 I arrived in Kosovo. Personally, I'm satisfied when I look back on my nineteen months as a UN Volunteer in Peja/Peć. After my arrival, it took me some time to find the right accents. It was known to me that the spatial problems in Kosovo are very unlike those in Belgium. But how different they were was a question I only got answer after I had lived and worked in Peja/Peć for a few months.

Within the functioning of the administration there were larger obstacles, but my local colleagues did their best to involve municipal officials in our work. And after I had adjusted my personal goals a little, I could

accomplish my mission with the feeling of satisfaction in October 2007. I am convinced that the functioning and the targets of several officials were influenced by my efforts and adjusted in a more pro-active direction. But for myself, I also benefited a lot. The immersion in a different culture was a fascinating experience. And I enjoyed very much the infinite desolate landscapes in the "Cursed Mountains". Furthermore, I got the chance to visit a large part of the Balkans and to sniff the whole range of cultures and histories. And I am already prepared for a happy return: Kosovo and the surrounding countries are still on my list of future holiday destinations!

**Kobe Boussauw, Gent, Belgium**

*Ex International UNV in Peja/Peć*

This is my first contract as a National UN Volunteer (NUNV). When I came to work, the MuSP Programme in Gjakova/Djakovica has been already going on and I had to catch up with things quickly.

Being part of UNV programme means taking part of promotion of Volunteerism. Volunteerism brings a great feeling; I think this is the spirit of Kosovars as well. Sometimes I really feel that what we do is too little, concerning the great needs of people but always I go back to Mother Teresa's words "Sometimes we ourselves feel that what we are doing is just the drop in ocean, but the ocean will be less because of that missing

drop"; this sentence makes me feel confident and continue working with more dedication. Working for MuSPP in Gjakova/Djakovica has offered me a chance to learn more on how to build partnership and co-operate with officials, civil society, community and relevant stakeholders in spatial and urban development processes.

The greatest success is that we raised the awareness among people for the importance of citizen's participation in the planning process. Sometimes we might feel what we are doing seems to be too little if compared to the greater needs of our society but we should see it as a start for something to change or improve. Gjakova/Djakovica citi-

zens are becoming aware of the fact that civil society has an important role in making their city a better place to live. Today more than ever citizens of Gjakova/Djakovica feel responsible for co-operation with local governments for upgrading the quality of life.

Enhancing the civic participation in planning processes can be achieved through increased volunteerism. I therefore believe that we can do more on this matter by using the great potential of voluntarism.

**Pren Domgjoni**

*MuSPP NUNV in Gjakova/Djakovica*

After six months of being a National UN Volunteer (NUNV) in MuSPP in Kosovo I am more glad to say that it is a great honour and pleasure to be a part of such an important organisation.

I am very satisfied with the work I do and the team I work with, although I am aware that we can always do better and more. The feeling of helping people creat-

ing a better future for their city is really a great satisfaction and something what each person should experience.

Our work requires a lot of energy, time, patience and motivation, but knowing that my work actually helped at least one person to make his or her life better and nicer is great and nothing else matters any lon-

ger. If each of us would dedicate at least five minutes a day to help the others, the world would be a much better place to live. I hope my work as a NUNV will continue in the future and I will do my best to fulfil our goals and mission, as I was trying to do until now.

**Darko Djoric**

*MuSPP UNV in north part of Mitrovica*

### UNV with MuSPP/UN-HABITAT: Making the plan work

As a spatial planner I love cities. They always develop and are never finished. UN-HABITAT as an UN agency which is concerned with cities and mandated to promote their socially and environmentally sustainable development, through the MuSPP in Kosovo employs UN Volunteers. I contribute as a volunteer in Peja/Peć, a medium size city along the river situated at the foot of snow-topped mountains.

This is my city now and I love it! An Urban Development Plan was adopted re-

cently and many ideas for implementation are ready. My job is to assist the Municipality in making the implementation of the plan work.

There are many challenges that plan aims to meet: improve the traffic situation, upgrade the quality of the public spaces, etc. A lot of new buildings have been constructed in recent years. Investments are there, but there is a need to guide them. For us, as planners the task is to help steer the urban development in the right direction.

As a volunteer I try to be close to the people. Of course I'll bring my experience from the

Netherlands, but I can learn a lot in Peja/Peć as well. At least, I am not an international consultant who needs a large fee to work.

Working as a volunteer is a new occurrence for me. It makes me rethink my work ethics. Why do I want to contribute to the urban development of Peja/Peć? For me it's about building trust and reciprocity among people. So, I hope the city of Peja/Peć loves me as much as I love the city.

**Wouter van der Heijde**

*MuSPP International UNV in Peja/Peć*

## LAND SUBDIVISION: A NEGLECTED ASPECT OF LAND DEVELOPMENT IN KOSOVO

*"Houses make a town, but citizens make a city" (Jean-Jasques Rousseau)*

Kosovo's urban landscape has been increasingly dominated by the colour of new bricks. The rapid flourishing of constructions is one of the most striking aspects of the post-conflict period. Although precise data and numbers are always elusive, cities such as Pristina are clearly showing that the process of urban land development has intensified recently. This process has taken many shapes, ranging from the precarious occupations - of their own or someone else's private land, or of public or socially-owned land - by poor people and minority social groups such as the Roma/Ashkali/Egyptian "mahalas", to more consolidated forms of land development generating

middle-class neighbourhoods. Many, if not most, of these situations have been the result of informal development (another process of difficult definition and even more difficult estimation in numbers), in that, to different extents and in different ways, the prevailing legal provisions have been disregarded, either because of legal problems of land ownership, or because of the lack of respect for the urban planning and construction regulations in force.

If the growing process of informal development is to be successfully prevented in Kosovo in the near future, it is fundamental to widen the conditions of access to serviced

urban land, in which process the regulation of future land subdivisions is of utmost importance. Most Kosovans have already shown that they can build, and well, through their own socioeconomic mechanisms; however, better constructions require not only better specific technical requirements, but a better regulation of the land development process underlying them, that of land subdivision.

A broader analysis of the censuses of informal settlements is directly available on [www.unhabitat-kosovo.org](http://www.unhabitat-kosovo.org)

**Edesio Fernandes**  
MuSPP/UN-HABITAT Legal consultant

## MEDIA CORNER

**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**

### **GJILAN/GNJILANE** **"Gjilan 2005 – 2015"**

The article provides information on the public review of the Municipal Development Plan of Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality. "This plan is very advanced and positive", said Fadil Sherifi, acting director of Directorate of Urbanism, the responsible authority for this project.

"By using its central position in the double triangle, Gjilan/Gnjilane will be a contemporary bridge, by offering qualitative services to its citizens in a sustainable environment, dynamic education and modern technology that supports economic growth, in particular agriculture development", said Shkëlzen Qorraj, the representative of Intech company, who drafted the plan.  
*Source Lajm, 27 November 2007*

### **GJAKOVA/ DJAKOVICA** **Vision Declaration for Gjakova/Djakovica is completed**

The Municipal Assembly of Gjakova/Djakovica, assisted by UN-HABITAT completed a Vision Declaration for the future of Gjakova/Djakovica.

In this declaration, Gjakova/Djakovica is presented as a place with rich cultural, historical and natural heritage; city of rivers; capital of Gjakova/Djakovica Highland, and a place of economic and agriculture development; a free border zone, open for cooperation with neighbouring countries and the world, using its airport; a University centre in specific settings; a healthy and ecological environment that can attract foreign investors; a city with modern infrastructure and a good offer for a development of tourism, integrated into the European development network and ready in meeting actual challenges.

A cycle of workshops with the civil society representatives, representatives from government, business community and experts in Gja

kova/Djakovica helped the compilation of this statement. "We want to give this vision declaration to the municipal authorities in hope that it will become part of the Municipal and Urban Development Plan" said Ramush Hajdari, UN-HABITAT representative in Gjakova/Djakovica.  
*Source Lajm, 12 November 2007*

### **PRIZREN** **Civil society supports drafting of the municipal development plan**

The article provides information on the integrated vision document for Prizren municipality which supports the preparation of the Municipal Development Plan (MDP). A workshop was organised by UN-HABITAT, aiming at the integration of the objectives put forward by civil society for the future development of Prizren.

A UN-HABITAT consultant, Frank Schwartz, moderating the meeting, explained that the workshop would enable the preparation of a strategy prepared with the participation of the civil society to be used during the preparation of the MDP. The outcomes from the workshop emphasized the importance of the protection of the historical centre, the expansion of the industrial zone; making the housing areas less dense and protecting agriculture land.  
*Source Koha Ditore, 23 December 2007*

### **PEJA/PEC** **Fame of the tradition**

Peja/Pec is still known as a centre in which business is a family tradition, inherited by children from their parents. But the decline in business activities in Peja/Pec is coming as a consequence of growing competition and decrease of purchasing power. The Municipality is searching for options to develop a business development zone, where small-and-medium sized businesses would find good conditions without negatively affecting the urban environment. This zone might be established across the road

Pejë/Pec-Deçan, close to the Italian KFOR base.  
*Source Koha Ditore, 30 October 2007*

### **FERIZAJ/UROSEVAC** **Many needs, lack of money**

This article carries information on the new major's projects to be invested in 2008 in Ferizaj/Urosevac. The biggest investments will be done mainly in infrastructure. The capital project with an investment of 800 000 Euros will be in the water system network for some parts of the city including ten villages. Over 533 000 euros are foreseen for the construction of schools, while 400 000 euros for the adjustment of sewage system mainly in the villages.

"Different to previous years, this time the board of directors has offered to the Policy and Finance Committee of the Municipal Assembly a big list of the projects for 2008, with an amount of more than seven million euros. Having in mind the actual possibilities, the Committee has chosen the most urgent projects to be implemented in 2008. Citizens will not participate in all investment project, only the ones on which Municipal Assembly decided", said Dukagjin Hetemi, the former Chief Executive of Ferizaj/Urosevac municipality.  
*Source Lajm, 27 November 2007*

### **MITROVICA** **30 kiosks removed**

The article provides information on the action taken by the Municipal Assembly in Mitrovica on the removal of the kiosks from the old market to relocate them to the new market.

The space of the old market, with the exception of the part dedicated to the green market, will be turned into a green space according to the new urban development plan.  
*Source Lajm, 22 October 2007*



## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

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

### The Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum

#### Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development

UN-HABITAT and the Government of China welcome you to the Fourth session of the World Urban Forum at the Nanjing Convention and Exhibition Centre, 13–17 October, 2008. Held every two years, the Forum is the world's premier conference on cities and the problems they face in a world where half of humanity is urbanized – in the new era of *homo urbanus*.

Situated in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, the ancient Chinese city of Nanjing dates back more than 2000 years and is known as the ancient capital of the Six Dynasties of China. It is home to almost 4 million people, a population which is rapidly expanding, propelled by a dynamic local economy. Nanjing and UN-HABITAT welcome you to the Fourth session of the World Urban Forum, October 13–17, 2008 at The Nanjing Convention and Exhibition Center.

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The World Urban Forum is held every two years. It was established by the United Nations to examine rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies.

More information is provided in [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

## 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



UN-HABITAT



Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo

Head of Office  
Elisabeth Belpaire  
[office@unhabitat-kosovo.org](mailto:office@unhabitat-kosovo.org)

Office:  
UN-HABITAT Kosovo  
Nazim Gafurri Str, No. 33,  
10000 Prishtina, Kosovo  
Tel.: +381/38/517835  
Fax: +381/38/517836

Information & Communication/PR  
Lumnije Gashi  
[lumnije.gashi@unhabitat-kosovo.org](mailto:lumnije.gashi@unhabitat-kosovo.org)

More informations about  
UN-HABITAT/MuSPP  
[www.unhabitat-kosovo.org](http://www.unhabitat-kosovo.org)

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