

INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE
URBAN PLANNING:

A GUIDE FOR MUNICIPALITIES

1

VOLUME
One

Volume 1:
An Introduction to Urban Strategic Planning

UN  HABITAT

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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Foreword

The world has seen a significant rise in the number of conflicts and an intensification of their impacts, over the last few decades. UN-HABITAT has responded swiftly and effectively to these situations, whether in the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia or Sudan. One of the key areas of UN-HABITAT intervention and assistance has been institutional development and capacity-building in post-conflict situations, where conflict is often characterized by a breakdown of governance institutions and anarchy in human settlements reconstruction and redevelopment. UN-HABITAT has played a key role in the Balkans, especially in Kosovo, in restoring urban governance practices and introducing new local development planning process.

UN-HABITAT has been engaged with the central and local governments in the Western Balkans through several interventions, most of them focusing on strengthening processes of participatory governance. The Urban Planning and Management Programme (UPMF) in Kosovo was a path-breaking intervention where UN-HABITAT worked closely with both central and local institutions to support the development of new policy and legislation relating to urban and spatial planning; to enhance local capacity for good governance and inclusive planning; and to strengthen local institutions with support from experts and professionals from across the world. UPMF is still being applied at the time of publication to train municipal and urban planners in inclusive, strategic and action-oriented planning practices.

Globally planning is in a state of flux and is reinventing itself to incorporate many of the characteristics mentioned above. Traditionally, urban planning has been seen as a means to control and regulate the development of towns and cities. In the cities of the developing world as well as in the post-conflict and post-disaster context, however, these traditional planning approaches have failed to address the challenges of rapid urbanization and the poverty, exclusion, informality and vulnerability which it brings in its wake. At the third session of the World Urban Forum held in Vancouver 2006, discussions on a renewed role for planning in ensuring sustainable urbanization generated enormous interest. Several events brought to the fore several innovative cases and examples of how things are changing. UPMF is another example. It was also highlighted, however, that there is still a lot to be done, in order to change the practice of planning across the world, especially in post-disaster and post-conflict contexts.

This publication synthesizes UN-HABITAT's experience Kosovo in the area of strategic, inclusive planning. I hope that it will be a useful resource to planning practitioners grappling with planning issues and problems in other post-disaster and post-conflict situations, and will guide them towards introducing new approaches and developing new skills to address these problems.



Anna Tibaijuka

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Preface

This series of publications on “**Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Planning: A Guide for Municipalities**” has been developed by the UN-HABITAT’s Urban Planning and Management Programme (UPMP) in Kosovo (2002-03), which was funded by the Government of the Netherlands. Executed under the aegis of the Disaster, Post-Conflict and Safety Section of UN-HABITAT, UPMP trained about 100 urban planners from all municipalities of Kosovo in strategic planning approaches and methods. This series is based on the four-phase Urban Planning and Management Framework (UPMF), described in detail in the first volume, and the training materials (eleven manuals and numerous tools) that were developed as part of the UPMF.

The series reflects the inclusive and strategic approach to planning, putting primary of emphasis on the dynamic character of the planning process , engagement of stakeholders and the importance of the development of action plans and securing financial outlays for the implementation of selected priority projects.

The process of planning is not linear but cyclic and some of the activities can be conducted in parallel, but for the purpose of clarity we decided to divide it to phases and steps to help those who will try to do it on their own using the Urban Planning and Management Framework as their model.

This approach to planning has been the basis of the Law on Spatial Planning passed in Kosovo in 2003 including the accompanying by-laws. Kosovo experience inspired the paper on Re-inventing Planning, which was broadly discussed during the World Urban Forum III and the World Planners Congress in Vancouver in June 2006. In its current use, the UPMF has been enriched by incorporation of spatial aspects necessary for the strategic spatial planning such as spatial diagnosis, envisioning exercise for future spatial development or the assessment of spatial impact of sector policies. Space being a limited resource needs to be taken into account while planning for sustainable development. This enriched approach also contributes to the harmonisation of the planning systems in the South Eastern Europe while being in line with the current spatial planning practices exercised in the EU countries.

The UPMF series has been shared with UN-HABITAT teams in Somalia, Afghanistan , Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with partners in Kosovo, in its electronic version, and the current printed version incorporates the latest editorial changes.

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