



**2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Vienna Declaration Review Meeting**

*Brussels, 13-14 October 2005*

**SUMMARY REPORT**

Day 1:

*Review of Ministerial action-plans & learning from grass-root experiences*

Day 2:

*Regional Capacity Building Programme for Housing and Urban Development in SEE*



## 1 Background

In line with the overall objectives of Working Table II to promote economic reconstruction, development and co-operation in South Eastern Europe, the Housing and Urban Management Initiative (HUMI) is promoting the development of working housing markets, including affordable housing options for all segments of society as well as sustainable urban development.

At a high level conference on the issue of Informal Settlements in SEE organized by HUMI in Vienna in late September 2004, Ministry representatives from Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro (and later UNMIK/Kosovo) signed the "Vienna Declaration on Informal Settlements in SEE", reaffirming their commitment to formalising existing informal settlements and preventing future informal housing development. Furthermore, working group discussions during this Ministerial conference identified vital interest of SEE governments and international institutions to develop a capacity building instrument to train national as well as municipal officials in the area of housing and urban management.

## 2 Goals in 2005

To further the regional process initiated in autumn 2004, the Housing and Urban Management Initiative and its partners are working towards two main goals in 2005: the preparation of a final capacity building programme proposal for urban development and housing in the SEE region (Vienna Declaration, Page 2, Paragraph VII) and the formulation of Ministerial Action Plans to implement Vienna Declaration commitments (Vienna Declaration, Page 2, Paragraph II).

The achievement of these goals is considered the precondition for identifying and mobilising resources needed to enter the development phase of a capacity building programme in 2006 and to support specific activities of SEE Governments targeted at the implementation of National Action Plans re informal settlement issues.

Given the Stability Pact's role to act as a catalyst and facilitator for regional cooperation among the SEE countries, the transfer of responsibility to the SEE countries is a key objective for all SP initiatives. Therefore the successful development and implementation of a comprehensive regional capacity building programme based in the region is HUMI's key objective and the process is envisaged to take approximately two years. This capacity building programme, to be implemented by UN-HABITAT in co-operation with the Stability Pact will, among other activities, incorporate regional policy and institutional development assistance as well as monitoring responsibilities regarding the Vienna Declaration.

To implement this strategy in a consultative manner, SP/HUMI's activities to date were built around two "Technical workshops on housing and urban management in SEE" hosted in Brussels on 22 - 23 March 2005 and Vienna on 11 May 2005 providing the opportunity for Ministry representatives to presented and discuss their draft "Vienna Declaration Action Matrix" (VDAM) indicating each Ministry's goals, activities, benchmarks, involved actors and timelines regarding the implementation of their Vienna Declaration commitments.

### **Vienna Declaration Action Matrices (VDAMs)**

Draft matrices were presented by the representatives from Albania, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and UNMIK/Kosovo and reviewed by the workshop participants. It was concluded that each needed fine tuning



and further detailing to enhance the utility of the action matrix as a tool to monitor progress in action plan implementation and to generate external support for that purpose. The participants agreed to consider the above and submit a more detailed action matrix in the 2nd regional review meeting scheduled for 13-14 October 2005. In accordance with Page 2, Paragraph VIII of the declaration, it was further agreed that from 2006 onwards, upcoming (bi-annual) regional review meetings should be held in the region with SP financial and technical support to enhance regional sense of ownership. In addition, it was noted that the regional monitoring of Vienna Declaration implementation activities as well as related technical assistance for the Western Balkan countries will be incorporated in the envisaged regional capacity building programme.

### **Regional Capacity Building Programme**

To date, significant substantive areas of common concern were identified by the participants and the overall substance and objectives of the draft programme proposals were validated by the relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, the substance of housing related capacity building modules has been gradually consolidated and the programme's operational procedures and modalities have been discussed. Based on the conclusions of the Vienna workshop, the final report on housing related capacity building modules and a UN-HABITAT concept note for capacity building in urban development, it was decided that a final preparatory phase would be required to identify and formalise the operational anchor points of the programme in the region (through MoUs, etc.) and to formulate a comprehensive project proposal. This final preparatory phase to be entered by UN-HABITAT and the Stability Pact in late 2005 is envisaged to pave the way for start of programme implementation in late 2006.

### **3 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional VD Review Meeting – Brussels, 13-14 October 2005**

In accordance with the Vienna Declaration (Page 2, Paragraph VIII), the Stability Pact hosted the "2nd regional review meeting" in Brussels on 13-14 October 2005 attended by Ministry representatives and experts from South Eastern Europe, international sector experts and representatives of UN-Habitat, World Bank, CEB, EIB and UNDP. A list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

#### **Objectives of the meeting**

To ensure continuity in addressing informal settlement issues throughout the region, the 2nd regional review meeting provided an opportunity to:

- review updated and consolidated action- by the signatories of the declaration and assess progress in implementing the activities outlined by the five signatories of the Vienna Declaration (progress, obstacles, success factors);
- learn from regional grass-root experiences in addressing the issue of informal settlements based on project presentations from the Western Balkans;
- elaborate possibilities to host future review meetings in the region;
- discuss the status of preparation activities concerning the forthcoming regional capacity building programme for urban development and housing

#### **Vienna Declaration Action Plan progress**

The representatives of the signatory Ministries to the Vienna declaration presented progress in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration Action Matrices (VDAMs) in their countries. In addition, local case-study examples were presented from Durrës/Albania; Belgrade/Serbia and Sarajevo/Bosnia-Herzegovina, highlighting some operational experience in dealing with informal settlements.



The VDAM review indicated that considerable progress has been made in putting into place improved legal and regulatory frameworks for addressing informal settlements. For instance, a law on informal settlements development has been adopted in Albania, and is currently under review, considering the initial operational experience. Similar legislation is under preparation in several other countries.

It was observed that there is a need to revise the VDAMs to focus on quantitative outcomes, e.g. where possible, to include targets in terms of number of units/areas to be legalised and upgraded and/or number of alternative accommodations/serviced sites to be provided over a specific period of time, instead of only focusing on intermediate outputs, such as the above legal and regulatory provisions.

Most of the VDAM progress reports did not explicitly refer to the earlier presented VDAM, indicating progress along the matrix objectives, activities and benchmarks, but were more narrative in nature (with the exception of the presentation from UNMIK/Kosovo).

The discussion highlighted the following substantive issues:

- there is a clear need to distinguish conceptually and operationally between informal settlements which have emerged by default as a result of public sector failure to provide housing opportunities for the poor on the one hand, and illegal housing development responding to market opportunities (both for housing and recreational purposes) on the other hand, as the appropriate policy response to these two types of informal developments may differ;
- the experience demonstrates that special vulnerable groups are often included in the first category, such as demonstrated by the presentation of the Roma housing situation in Belgrade;
- in pursuing policies of legalisation and upgrading of informal settlements, emphasis must be placed on both on the empowerment of the residents by the legalisation process, but also on the obligations that such legalisation imposes on the residents: legalisation and upgrading bring such settlements into the mainstay of urban development, and in return residents must be prepared to pay legalisation charges to finance infrastructure upgrading; failure to pay such charges should lead to eviction and demolition of their houses;
- political will to adopt such a “carrot-and-stick” approach systematically and enforce it is often lacking, and operational capacities at local level to implement it are often very limited; as illustrated by the presentation from Canton Sarajevo, there is often no lack of sensible planning, but an inability to timely implement and enforce approved plans, so that they lose their practical validity as further informal development overtakes them;
- the experience with legalisation and upgrading of informal settlements in countries where this has been undertaken demonstrates that it is a lengthy and human resource intensive process (as e.g. illustrated by the example from Durres/Albania);
- in some countries the process is additionally complicated with the need to resolve restitution of land claims from pre-socialist era land owners;
- for those residential settlements or units that cannot be legalised, alternative solutions must be found by way of new housing or new serviced sites development; clearly this has not yet taken off in a major way in any of the countries in the region; this is an urgent issue, as such alternative options are not only needed to provide for unregularisable cases (e.g. in those areas that are prone to earthquakes, floods or other natural hazards) at present, but are



also urgently needed by way of measures to prevent future informal settlements development.

### **Regional Capacity Building Programme (RCBP)**

The preparation status of the RCBP was reviewed in the meeting, and the next steps discussed based on progress reports from HUMI and UN-HABITAT. A preparatory phase programme document was discussed in detail and agreed (with the note that several participants thought that the initiative is long overdue and action should have been taken much earlier). As provided for in this document, UN-HABITAT will take the lead (with support funds from several sources provided through HUMI) by appointing consultants to:

- Prepare the main unified programme document for a review by April 2006;
- Initiate several pilot activities in the region during November 2005 – March 2006.

A suggestion was made to change the name into “Capacity Strengthening” instead of “Capacity Building” as this phrase may unintentionally create the impression that there is no capacity at all.

The way the programme will initially operate was discussed, with an interim Regional Steering Committee (consisting of HUMI, UN-HABITAT and potential funding agency representatives – the CEB and EIB representatives agreed to participate in this arrangement - to be augmented in the main phase with country representatives); the need to appoint country focal points and establish country reference groups, as well as the need to identify possible pilot activities; initial priorities for these were presented by the Ministry representatives (including those from non-signatory countries Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia), based on questions raised by SP/HUMI.

It was clarified that each programme activity will be defined and described in an Initiating Brief (IB - a mini project document), which will be approved by the (interim-) Regional Steering Committee before it can be implemented. Activities can be proposed by any stakeholder through the country focal points or through the UN-HABITAT programme management, and must adhere to prior agreed approval criteria. Activities may be carried out within-country or regionally. An initial list of IB approval criteria has been identified in the preparatory programme document, and the criteria were reviewed in the meeting (adding the criteria of security and institutional/legal sustainability) and will be finalised by the UN-HABITAT consultants early on in their assignment along with an IB template format.

### **3rd Regional Review Meeting in spring 2006**

As agreed in the previous meeting, the 3<sup>rd</sup> regional review meeting will be held in April 2006 in the region. The meeting will have the same dual purpose as the previous ones (VDAM/RCBP). It will be very helpful to again have some specific case study presentations, as it was found that these significantly help the focus of the meeting. Conducting the meeting in the region will also enable local site visits to informal settlements and/or legalisation and upgrading projects. Four Ministries of signatory countries have expressed interest in hosting the next meeting, i.e. those from Albania, UNMIK/Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia (from which a formal offer has already been received by SP/HUMI), and this was reviewed against requirements and local constraints.



## **4 Next Steps**

### **Regional Review of VDAM Implementation**

- In the next regional review meeting (early April 2006) VDAM progress will be reported more precisely vis-à-vis the objectives, activities and benchmarks in the original Vienna Declaration Matrix prepared and presented in early 2005.
- Signatory countries may want to revise objectives and benchmarks in a modified matrix. This may include a focus on quantified targets, such as including estimates of planned informal settlements outcomes over the VDAM period, and/or including estimates of planned prevention measures outcomes, e.g. alternative housing options.

### **Regional Capacity Strengthening Programme**

- UN-HABITAT and SP/HUMI will make minor revisions in the preparatory project document to reflect the observations made in the meeting;
- UN-HABITAT will appoint consultants as soon as possible for a November 2005 start;
- SP/HUMI will prepare and disseminate the 2<sup>nd</sup> regional review meeting report (by end-October 2005);
- Country representatives will notify SP WTII/HUMI of their national focal point and confirm priorities for pilot activities (by 04 November 2005);
- Pilot activities/workshops will be organized in accordance with approved IBs (December 2005 – March 2006);
- The full programme document prepared by the UN-HABITAT consultants will be reviewed in the next meeting (early April 2006).

### **Future Regional Vienna Declaration Review meetings**

It was agreed that the focus and format of the next meetings to be supported in 2006 by HUMI will be similar to the 2<sup>nd</sup> regional review meeting (VDAM/RCBP). The following tentative schedule was agreed between SP/HUMI and the Ministries concerned:

- 3rd Regional Review meeting: early April 2006 - Tirana;
- 4th Regional Review meeting: October 2006 - Belgrade;
- 5th/6th Regional Review meetings 2007 - Podgorica / Pristina.



## Annex 1 – List of participants

### Ministry representatives from South Eastern Europe

Ministry	Position	Name	Contact
Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication, Albania	Director of Housing Department	Doris Andoni	Bldv. Deshmoret e Kombit, Tirana, Albania; phone +355 4 229406, fax +355 4 234978, email doan_lund@yahoo.com
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, Bosnia-Herzegovina	Head of Unit	Nermina Dzepac-Ganibegovic	TRG BiH 1, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; phone +387 33 442 870, fax +387 33 667 061, email nermina.dzepar@mhrr.org
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, Bosnia-Herzegovina	Advisor to Deputy Minister	Ivica Kovacevic	TRG BiH 1, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; phone +387 33 445 082, fax +387 33 445 122, email ivica.kovacevic@mhrr.org
Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, Republic of Croatia	Senior Adviser	Aleksandar Basic	Ul. Republike Austrije 20, 10000 ZAGREB, Croatia; phone +385 (0) 1 37 82 447, fax +385 (1) 3772 822, email aleksandar.basic@mzopu.hr
Ministry of Transport and Communication, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Head of Department for Documentation and Land Management	Gajur Kadriu	Pl. Crvena Skopska opstina 4, 1000 Skopje, FYRO Macedonia; phone +389 2 3145 487, fax +389 2 3117 012, email gajur@mtc.gov.mk
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning, Montenegro	Deputy Minister	Sinisa Stankovic	TRG "Vektra", Podgorica, Montenegro; phone +381 81 482 142, fax +381 81 234 131, email sinisas@cg.yu
Ministry of Capital Investments, Serbia	Head of Housing Department	Svetlana Ristic	10 A Kralja Milutina St, Belgrade; phone +381 11 32 31 628; fax +381 11 32 40 268, svetlanar@mugrs.sr.gov.yu
Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, UNMIK/Kosovo	Director, Housing and Construction Department	Lirie Berisha	Nazim Gafurri 31, Prishtina, UNMIK/Kosovo; phone +381 38 517 632, fax +381 517 800, email lirie.berisha@mmph.org

### Regional and International Experts

Organisation / Institution	Position	Name	Contact
Co-ordination Centre for Roma Inclusion, City of Belgrade	Director	Zivojin Mitrovic	Masarikova 5, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro; phone +381 11 3061 740, fax +381 11 3061 741, email zivojin.mitrovic@beogradsg.org.yu
Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)	Economist	Dimo Iliev	55 avenue Kleber, 75116, Paris, France; phone +33 (1) 47 55 55 62, fax +33 (1) 47 55 37 52, email dimo.iliev@coebank.org
European Investment Bank (EIB)	Senior Economist, Projects Directorate	Brian Field	100 Boulevard Konrad Adenauer, L-2950 Luxembourg, Luxembourg; phone +352 (43) 79 3471, fax +352 (43) 79 3494, email b.field@eib.org
Institute for Canton Planning, Sarajevo	Expert Associate for Executive Documentation	Natasa Pelja	Branilaca Sarajeva 26, 71000 Sarajevo, BiH; phone +387 33 664 347, fax +387 33 209 543, email NP@zavodzpr-sa.ba
Institute for Canton Planning, Sarajevo	Expert Associate for Executive Documentation	Zinaida Hrustic	Branilaca Sarajeva 26, 71000 Sarajevo, BiH; phone +387 33 664 347, fax +387 33 209 543, email NP@zavodzpr-sa.ba



<b>Municipality of Karpos</b>	Mayor	Andrej Petrov	Partizanski Odredi 68, Skopje 1000, FYRO Macedonia. Phone +389 70262272, fax + 389 23062925, email gradonacalnik@karpos.gov.mk
<b>Town Planning Institute of Belgrade</b>	Head of Master Planning Department	Miodrag Ferencak	Palmosticeva Ul. 30, Belgrade; phone +381 11 333 15 02, fax +381 11 3331 550, email miodrag.ferencak@urbel.com
<b>UNDP</b>	Deputy Project Manager, UNDP Serbia and Montenegro	Predrag Dakovic	Beogradska 24b, 81000 Podgorica, Serbia and Montenegro; phone +381 81 231 251, fax +381 81 231 644, email predrag.dakovic@undp.org
<b>UN-HABITAT</b>	Director, UN-HABITAT Liaison Office to the European Union and Belgium	Paul Taylor	UN House, 14 Rue Montoyer, 1000 Brussels, Belgium; email unhabitat.taylor@skynet.be
<b>UN-HABITAT</b>	Chief Technical Advisor a.i., UN-HABITAT Kosovo Programmes	Elisabeth Belpaire	Nazim Gafurri Street 33, Proshatina, Kosovo; phone +381 38 517 574/476, GSM +377 44 333 892, fax +381 38 517 836, email belpaire@un.org
<b>UN-HABITAT</b>	Gender & Civil Society Coordinator	Krystyna Galezia	Nazim Gafurri Street 33, Proshatina, Kosovo; phone +381 38 517 574 103, fax +381 38 517 836, email galezia@un.org
<b>UN-HABITAT</b>	Senior Urban Planning Advisor (Mostar Programme)	Aleksander Stular	Ulica Brace Fejica 34, 88000 Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina; phone +387 36 552 683, GSM +387 63 311 683, email stular@yahoo.com
<b>UN-HABITAT</b>	Consultant	Eric Vermeiren	Noeverseweg 9, 2845 Niel, Belgium; phone +32 497 447203, fax +32 3 4511169, email eric.vermeiren@pandora.be
<b>University of Belgrade</b>	Professor (Faculty of Architecture)	Nada Lazarevic Bajec	Bulevar Kralia Aleksandra 336, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro; phone +381 11 380 6646, email jbjajec@eunet.yu
<b>World Bank / EC</b>	Communication Officer, WB/EC Office for SEE	Alexander Rowland	Rue du Trône 4, 1000 Brussels, Belgium; phone +32 2 504.09.92, fax +32 2 504.09.99, email arowland@worldbank.org
<b>World Bank</b>	World Bank Office in Skopje (JPA)	Julia Tomova	Leninova 34, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia; phone +389 2 3117 159, fax +389 2 3117 627, email jtomova@worldbank.org

## Facilitators

Organisation / Institution	Position	Name	Contact
<b>Urb Act</b>	International Advisory Services for Urban Action	Dr. Emiel Wegelin	Hoflaan 63, 3062 JC Rotterdam, Netherlands; phone +31-10-4134129, fax +31-10-4134816, email UrbAct@cs.com
<b>Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe</b>	Director of Working Table II	Laurent Guye	Rue Wiertz, 50, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium; phone +32 (2) 286 1356 fax +32 (2) 286 1390, email laurent.guye@stabilitypact.org
<b>Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe</b>	Housing and Urban Management Initiative	Bjoern Gabriel	1 Place du Luxembourg, 1050 Brussels, Belgium; phone +32 2 2861 364, fax +32 0 2861 390, email bjoern.gabriel@stabilitypact.org



## Annex 2 – Meeting agenda

DAY 1 - Thu 13 October 2005			
Ministerial Action-Plans & SEE Project Experiences			
Time	Room	Event / Content	Min
09.15 – 09.30 h	SM	Welcome of participants, introduction of meeting objectives and adoption of agenda	15
09.30 – 10.30 h	SM	Presentation of consolidated Vienna Declaration Action Matrices (VDAM) by the signatories (20 min each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albania</li> <li>• Macedonia</li> <li>• Montenegro</li> </ul>	60
10.30 – 10.50 h	SM	Coffee Break	20
10.50 – 11.30 h	SM	Presentation of consolidated Vienna Declaration Action Matrices (VDAM) by the signatories (20 min each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serbia</li> <li>• UNMIK/Kosovo</li> </ul>	40
11.30 – 12.30 h	SM	Open discussion (progress, obstacles & success factors)	60
12.30 – 14.00 h	Ext	Lunch break	90
14.00 - 15.30 h	SM	Presentation of SEE grass-root experiences and good practices (30 min each) from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durrës, Albania (Co-Plan Institute for Habitat Development / MPWTT Albania)</li> <li>• Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Sarajevo Canton Planning Institute)</li> <li>• Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro (Co-ordination Centre for Inclusion of Roma, City of Belgrade)</li> </ul>	90
15.30 - 15.50 h	SM	Coffee Break	20
15.50 - 17.00 h	SM	International actors and the housing sector	70
17.00 - 17.30 h	SM	The way ahead – 3rd Regional Review Meeting in early 2006, regional ownership and next steps	30
DAY 2, Fri 14 October 2005			
Regional Capacity Building Programme for the Western Balkans			
Time	Room	Event / Content	Min
09.30 – 10.00 h	SM	Status of programme preparations	30
10.00 – 11.00 h	SM	Envisaged work-plan and next steps	60
11.00 - 11.20 h	SM	Coffee Break	20
11.20 – 12.30 h	SM	Open discussion: The role of stakeholders Summary Conclusions	70
12.30 h	SM	End of regional review meeting	90