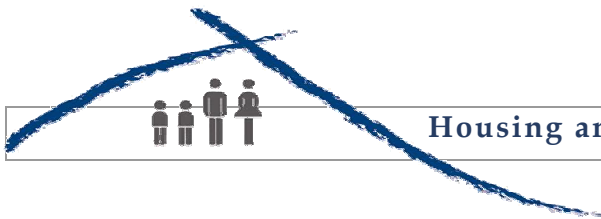




STABILITY PACT

FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Summary report on
Technical workshop on housing and urban management issues in SEE,
Brussels, Swiss Mission - 22&23 March 2005



Housing and Urban Management Initiative

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1 BACKGROUND

In September 2004, Ministers from South Eastern European countries strongly reaffirmed their commitment to address urban development issues by signing the “Vienna Declaration on Informal Settlements” at a high level meeting organised by the Stability Pact, supported by the Institut für Donauraum und Mitteleuropa (IDM) and hosted by the OSCE and the Vienna municipality. Subsequent working group discussions during this Ministerial conference confirmed a vital interest of SEE governments and international institutions to develop a capacity building instrument to strengthen institutions and train national as well as municipal officials in the area of housing and urban management.

As a follow-up to the above commitments made in Vienna, the Housing and Urban Management Initiative (HUMI) of the Stability Pact, together with its partners, during 2005 intends to:

- (i) *support the development of a capacity building programme for housing and urban management in South Eastern Europe (open to all interested parties) and*
- (ii) *assist the signatories in implementing the Vienna Declaration and addressing informal settlement issues.*

This effort is supported by the Ministère des Affaires Etrangères of the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg. As a first step, and in order to sustain the momentum of the process initiated in autumn 2004 and to generate support from the international donor community, it was deemed important for all stakeholders to jointly work towards **two goals** in the first half of 2005:

1. Preparation of a *final project proposal for a capacity building programme* and
2. Formulation of *National Action Plans to implement Vienna Declaration* commitments in all countries that signed the declaration.

The achievement of these goals will facilitate further identification and mobilisation of resources needed (a) to enter the development phase of a capacity building programme and (b) to support activities of SEE Governments targeted at the implementation of National Action Plans on informal settlements resolution.

To start this process the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe hosted a technical workshop in Brussels on 22 - 23 March 2005, participated in by Ministry representatives from South Eastern Europe (signatories and non-signatories of the Vienna Declaration), international experts and representatives from UN-Habitat, GTZ, World Bank Institute, UN-ECE and the Council of Europe to jointly discuss further steps to achieve the important goals highlighted above. *The workshop programme and list of participants are attached as Annex 1.*

2 WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

The workshop was conducted in two segments as follows: on 22 March 2005 (day 1 of the workshop), participants reviewed and discussed two draft programme proposals for housing and urban planning/management capacity building activities in South Eastern Europe, one on Urban planning and management presented by the Kosovo-based UN-HABITAT team and one on priority housing issues presented by the Stability Pact consultants tasked with this assignment. The proposals generated considerable discussion and a proposal for a joint further development process, as summarized in section 3 of this report.

On 23 March 2005 (day 2 of the workshop), Ministry representatives presented and discussed their draft “Vienna Declaration Action Matrix” (VDAM) indicating each Ministry’s goals, activities, benchmarks, involved actors and timelines regarding the implementation of Vienna Declaration commitments. This matrix is intended to serve as an efficient tool to (a) generate necessary technical and/or financial assistance for implementation of national strategies and (b) monitor regional progress of activities related to informal settlement resolution and prevention. Matrices were presented by the representatives from Macedonia,

Montenegro and Serbia and reviewed by the workshop participants, with recommendations for further development as described in section 3 below. Due to the absence of representatives from Albania and UNMIK/Kosovo (problematic VISA application), their matrixes could not be presented and discussed. Nevertheless, Ministry representatives from Albania and UNMIK/Kosovo already confirmed their willingness to present the missing matrices in a second workshop tentatively scheduled for 11 May 2005.

On both days, Mr. Bjoern Gabriel welcomed the participants and opened the workshop on behalf of HUMI/SP. The workshop was moderated by dr. Emiel A. Wegelin on behalf of HUMI/SP. At the end of the workshop Mr. Bernard Snoy, Director Working Table II of the Stability Pact thanked the participants for their contributions and endorsed the continuing partnership with UN-HABITAT in capacity-building. In his closing statement he also emphasized that the Vienna declaration is an “open” declaration, and that additional countries could sign the declaration, if so desired, or otherwise participate in the deliberations (as was done by Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia in this workshop).

3 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Day 1: Capacity-building in urban development and housing in South Eastern Europe.

Based on the two presentations made by UN-Habitat and a consortium of Dutch consultants, the participants agreed that both proposals addressed high priority capacity building needs and that their further development is therefore urgent. As significant substantive areas of common concern were identified by the participants (e.g. the spatial planning/informal settlements resolution nexus, and the issue of security of land-tenure), it was agreed that it will make sense to work towards a unified approach to develop a capacity building programme for urban development and housing in the SEE region (namely Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and UNMIK/Kosovo). An alternative parallel preparatory trajectory was seen as sub-optimal, given the limited absorptive capacity in the SEE countries, and the potential for duplication and competition for the same resources for programme implementation.

It was further agreed that co-operative programme preparation will be undertaken in 2005 between UN-Habitat and HUMI/Stability Pact in consultation with the countries concerned. Participants discussed the following tentative parameters for co-operative programme preparation:

a) Programme design features:

- The programme will be designed as a regional facility with a coherent modular approach to be tailor-made for each country.
- The Urban Planning and Management Framework Approach (UPMFA) developed by UN-HABITAT will serve as the conceptual over-arching umbrella.
- The proposed modular approach will include housing components, and these need to be further defined. More specifically, it was felt that the relation housing – planning should be based on a definition of issues/ topics.
- The programme should be based on an inventory of what has already been done.
- The programme should consider the environmental dimension of urban planning, housing and communal services.
- For each of the countries, the design should describe the priority setting process which will have to happen in each of the countries to set priorities for the implementation of specific modules and activities in each country. Operational

mechanisms and procedures such as employed by other global or regional capacity-building programmes with which UN-HABITAT has experience (such as e.g. the UMP, the SCP and the Cities Alliance) should be reviewed as to their operational relevance for the proposed programme.

- The design should define envisaged qualitative and quantitative outputs, to be laid down in measurable benchmark indicators, including process indicators.
- The programme design should build on and maximally exploit existing networks and institutions, and in doing so leverage on-going capacity-building efforts where they already are on the way. Annual stakeholders meetings will be a design feature for the purpose of ensuring coherence of efforts during the life-time of the programme.
- A major feature will be the development of additional best practices in selected aspects of urban management and housing.
- The programme design should consider that entry points may be different from country to country and be flexible enough to embrace that. The programme design should also specify the conditions for programme sustainability in terms of self-sustaining capacity of anchoring institutions in the region.

b) Programme tools:

- Preparation/dissemination of manuals (all stakeholders incl. civil society)
- Specific substantive training curricula
- Training of trainers facility
- Twinning (City-to-city, Universities, National level)
- Comparative indicators (starting point / zero option) and implementation benchmarks

c) Consideration of vulnerable groups

Some participants felt that this requires specific attention and that international standards for support to Roma, IDPs and other vulnerable groups need to be articulated in the programme.

d) Programme size and budget requirements

It was agreed that this is quite arbitrary, given the needs identified. However, it was also agreed that the programme designers need a benchmark for the development of the programme. It was therefore agreed that the urban development programme component should be designed at an initial cost of € 8-12 million for a programme duration of 4 – 6 years.

e) Next steps:

- „Programme design“ internal meeting will be held on 1 April 2005 in Brussels between UN-HABITAT/Stability Pact/Consultants to firm up the arrangements for further programme preparation, including the utilization of Stability Pact consultants' resources. The Stability Pact consultants undertook to prepare a note on the housing dimension as a basis for the discussion. HUMI/SP will prepare the agenda and facilitate the meeting.
- Programme document draft review meeting will be conducted with stakeholders in Brussels on 11 May 2005. The document at that stage may not yet be in draft final form, but it was deemed important that all stakeholders (including not only the

Ministerial representatives, but also representatives from capacity-building institutions and from potential donor agencies) will have an opportunity to review a next stage draft consolidated document.

- Presentation of the draft document at the SP Regional Table meeting in Sofia during 17/18 May 2005. It was felt that this could be the springboard for resource mobilisation action under the joint auspices of UN-HABITAT and the SP.

Day 2: Implementation of Vienna Declaration action-plans

The workshop reviewed the action-plans prepared for Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia and 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.

It was agreed that external support resources will be required for action plan implementation and monitoring in all three cases. Based on external support requirements to be formulated by the Ministries, the HUMI/SP will assist in identifying and mobilizing such resources.

Workshop participants also discussed the draft programme of the “International Conference on Municipal Infrastructure Finance in SEE” to be hosted by GTZ and NALAS (with support from SP) in Belgrade on 20 and 21 May 2005.

Next steps:

- The presenters agreed to consider the above and submit a more detailed action matrix in a follow-up meeting tentatively scheduled in October 2005. It was further agreed that the next monitoring meetings may be held in the region with SP financial and technical support to enhance regional sense of ownership. Expressions of interest to host the next meeting may be submitted to HUMI/SP early, so that specific (support) arrangements can be made timely.
- In addition, it was highlighted that the regional monitoring of Vienna Declaration implementation activities as well as related technical assistance for the Western Balkan countries will need to be taken over from SP by a suitable institution/network within the next two years (end-2006 by the latest). Since SP does not have sufficient technical capacity and needs to be considered a temporary instrument, it was recommended to prepare ToR for the regional monitoring activities required in order to pave the way for a future handover of responsibilities.
- Additional action-plans from Albania and UNMIK/Kosovo are proposed to be presented in the above 11 May review meeting in Brussels. HUMI/SP will co-ordinate this with the Ministerial representatives from both.

Generation of international support – working towards implementation

On 17 & 18 May 2005, the bi-annual Stability Pact Regional Table meetings will be held in Sofia. In the light of this event, Stability Pact and its partners will approach the donor community in order to promote a demand driven capacity building programme for housing and urban planning/management in South Eastern Europe. More precisely, the Stability Pact will (i) present the status quo of the programme development phase and (ii) aim at the generation of potential technical and financial support to start capacity building programme development and to initiate national activities as indicated in individual VDAMS as soon as possible.

ANNEX 1.1 – Workshop Programme**Technical workshop on housing and urban management in SEE – Brussels, 22&23 March 2005**

| DAY 1, Tue 22 March 2005 | | | |
|--|------|--|-----|
| Capacity building programme for Western Balkan countries | | | |
| Time | Room | Event / Content | Min |
| 09.30 - 10.00 h | SM | Welcome of participants, introduction of meeting objectives and adoption of agenda | 30 |
| 10.00 - 11.00 h | SM | Presentation of <i>draft capacity building programme proposal(s)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Planning/Management: UN-Habitat • Housing: Urban Solutions | 60 |
| 11.00 - 11.20 h | | Coffee Break | 20 |
| 11.20 - 12.30 h | SM | Comments and suggestions from all stakeholders | 70 |
| 12.30 - 14.00 h | | Lunch break | 90 |
| 14.00 - 15.30 h | SM | Open discussion | 90 |
| 15.30 - 15.50 h | | Coffee Break | 20 |
| 15.50 - 17.00 h | SM | Conclusions and recommendations for preparation of <i>consolidated capacity building programme proposal</i> | 70 |
| 17.00 - 17.30 h | SM | The way ahead - 1 st Regional Review Meeting in May 2005 and next steps | 30 |

Technical workshop on housing and urban management in SEE – Brussels, 22&23 March 2005

| DAY 2, Wed 23 March 2005 | | | |
|---|------|---|-----|
| Implementation of Vienna Declaration - Action plans | | | |
| Time | Room | Event / Content | Min |
| 09.30 - 10.00 h | SM | Introduction of meeting objectives and adoption of agenda | 30 |
| 10.00 - 11.15 h | SM | Presentation of <i>Draft Vienna Declaration Action Matrix (VDAM)</i> by signatories of the declaration (15 Minutes each) | 75 |
| 11.15 - 11.30 h | | Coffee Break | 15 |
| 11.30 - 12.30 h | SM | Joint review of draft action-plans (scope of targets, structure of approach, timeframe, eventual obstacles to implementation, etc.) | 60 |
| 12.30 - 14.00 h | | Lunch break | 90 |
| 14.00 - 15.30 h | SM | Open discussion I/II - Consolidation of draft action-plans | 90 |
| 15.30 - 15.50 h | | Coffee Break | 20 |
| 15.50 - 17.00 h | SM | Open discussion II/II - Towards implementation of VDAMs | 70 |
| 17.00 - 17.30 h | SM | Conclusions and outlook | 30 |

ANNEX 1.2 – Final list of participants

| Ministerial representatives from South Eastern Europe | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| | Function | Name | Contact |
| BiH | Head of Department, Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees | Nermina Dzepac-Ganibegovic | TRG BiH 1, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; phone +387 33 442 870, fax +387 33 667 061, email nermina.dzepar@mhrr.org |
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|--|--|---------------------|--|
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| Facilitators | | | |
| Organ/Instit | Position/Job title | Name | Contact |
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