



Vlada Republike Crne Gore
Ministarstvo za ekonomski razvoj



STABILITY PACT
FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

**5. REGIONALNA
KONFERENCIJA
ZA IMPLEMENTACIJU
BEČKE DEKLARACIJE**
22 - 23. OKTOBAR, 2007. GODINE
PODGORICA, CRNA GORA

**5th REGIONAL VIENNA
DECLARATION
REVIEW MEETING**
22-23 OCTOBER 2007
PODGORICA, MONTENEGRO

PRESENTATIONS

(Day 2, 23 October 2007)

**Local Government and Public Service
Reform Initiative of the Open Society
Institute (OSI-LGI)**

Regional SEE activities

Archis Interventions

The Prishtina project & future activities in SEE

UACG University of Sofia, Bulgaria

Urban sprawl in SEE – A joint SEE research
project proposal for submission under the
Research Framework Programme 7 of the
European Commission (2007-2013)



Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (LGI)

Open Society Institute, Budapest

<http://lgi.osi.hu>

Kai Vöckler / Archis Interventions

**The Prishtina project and other activities
in South East Europe**

5th Regional Vienna Declaration Review Meeting
Podgorica, 22-23 October 2007

I.

Situation in Prishtina

Archis Interventions

II.

A Network of Urban Initiatives in South East Europe

Translocal Socioeconomic Forces and Local Urban Management

Situation in Prishtina

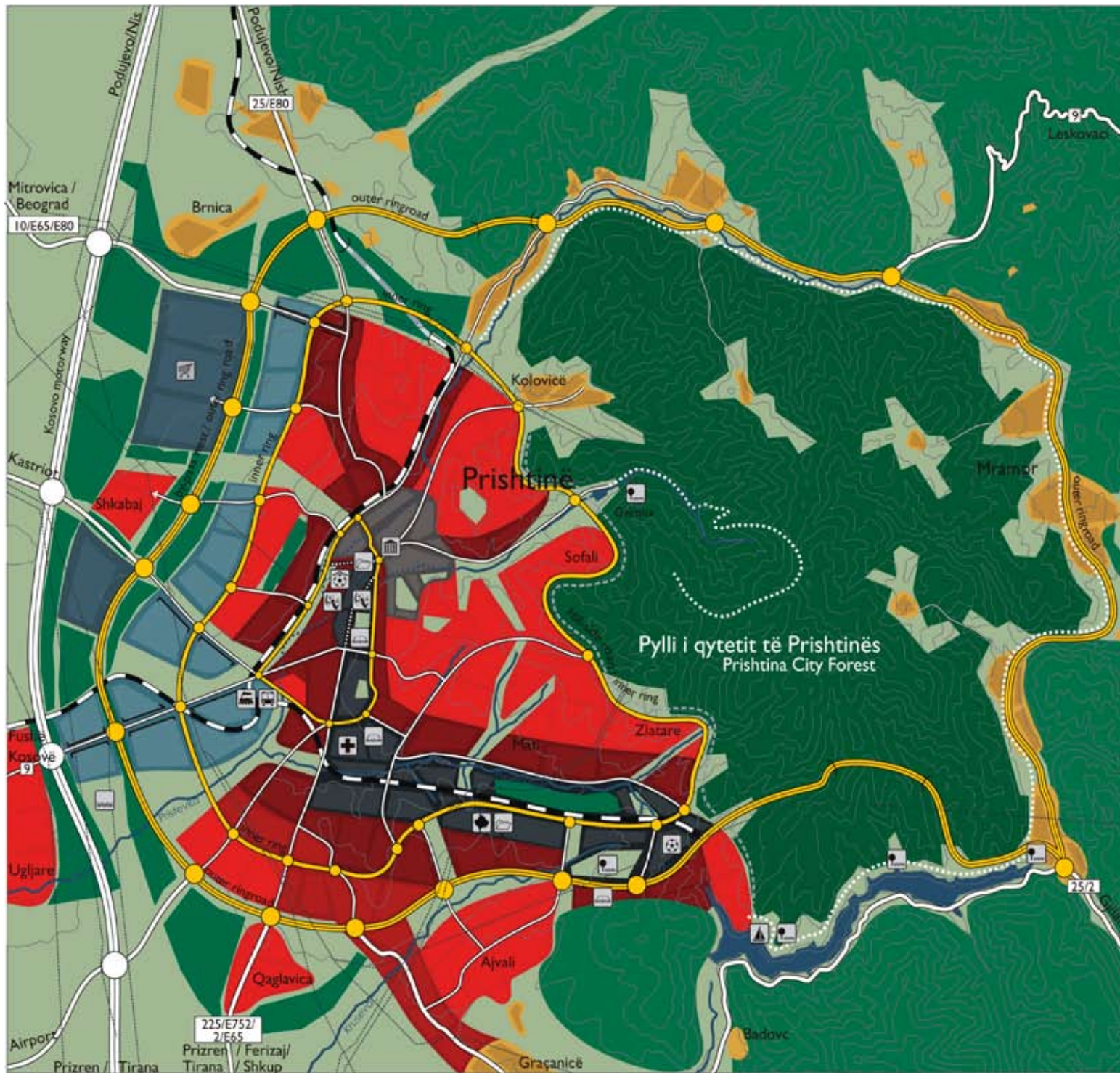


Prishtina 2006









- city backbone
- old town
- urban mixed zone: business and densed residential use
- suburban mixed zone: commercial and residential use
- mainly urban residential
- commercial zone
- industrial zone
- village zone
- forest / Prishtinë City forest
- open spaces
- border for built-up area
- motorway
- outer ringroad
- inner ring
- central ring
- other main road
- light rail / airport shuttle
- walkway
- powerline
- river / lake
- city entrance
- administration / Presidents Residence
- university
- Theatre, opera / other cultural institution
- University Clinic
- stadium/sportsarena
- recreation / marina
- railway station / busstation
- wholesale market / sewage plant

 **Kuvendi Komunal Prishtinë**
Municipal Assembly Prishtina

Plani Strategjik
Strategic Plan

Zhvillimi Urban i Prishtinës
Urban Development of Prishtina

shkalla C: Komuna Level C: Municipality

Spatial Development Plan

19.03.04

Plan C7 Për pjesa: 1:50.000
Plan C7 Scale: 1:50.000

DEJTORATI I PLANIFIKIMIT, URBANIZIMIT DHE NDËRTIMIT
THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

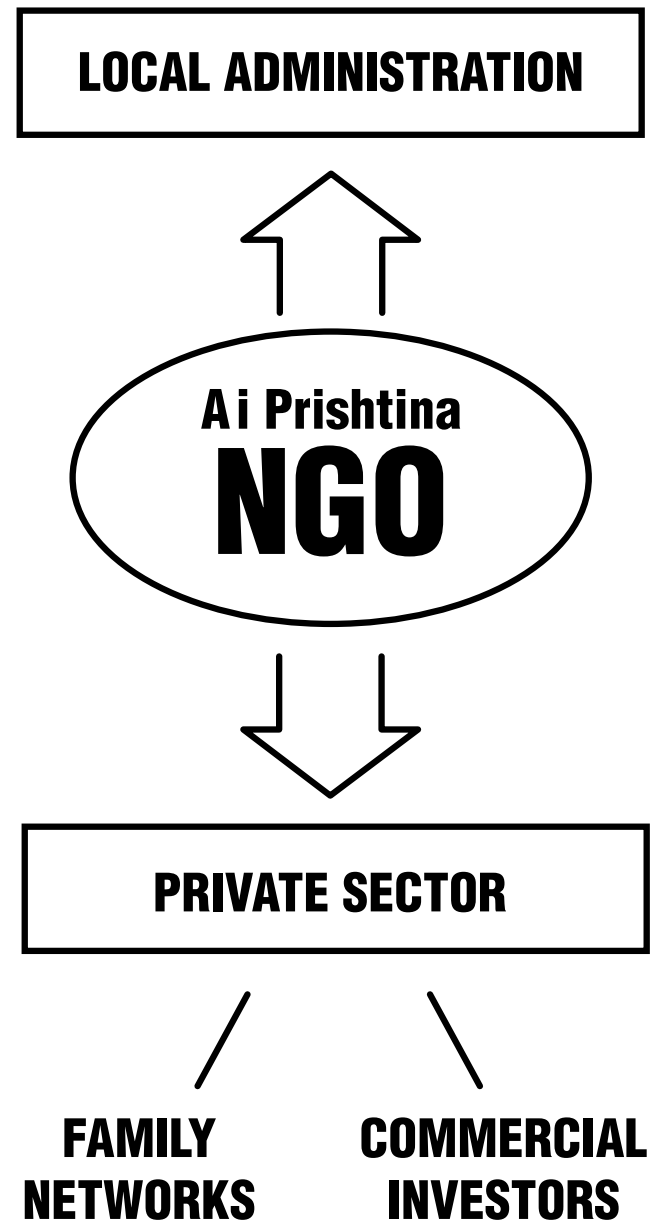
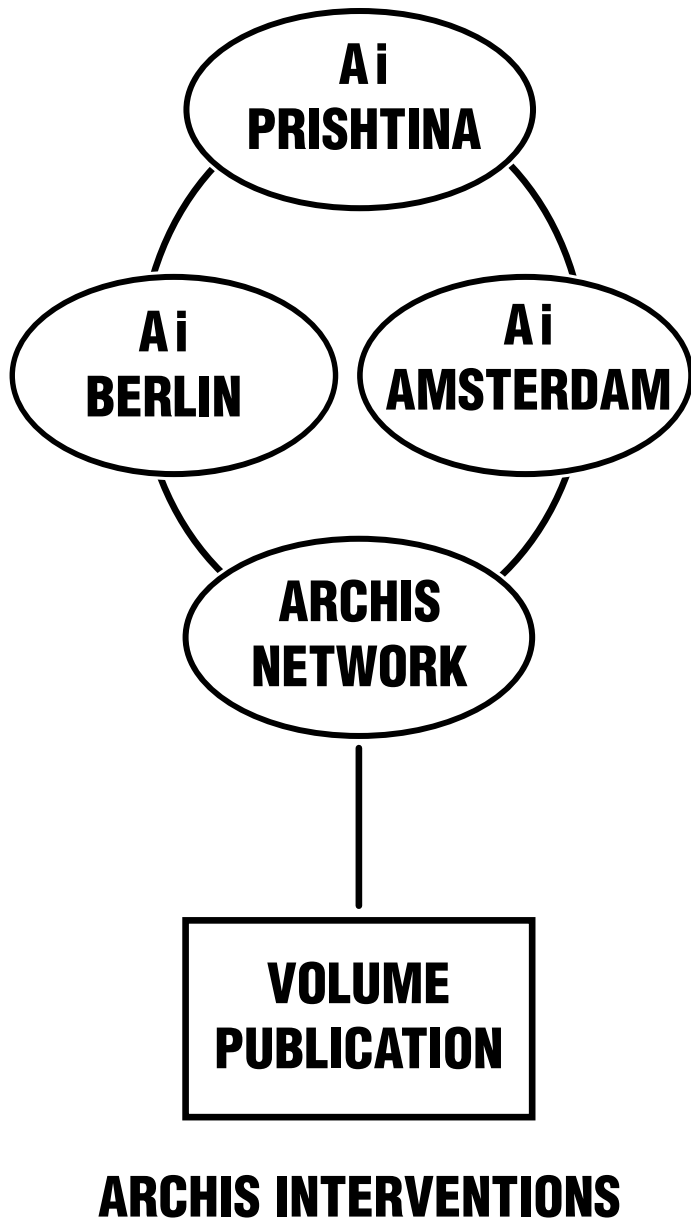
 







Archis Interventions in Prishtina



Volume 11
Archis 1/2007





Case Studies: Identifying Key Typologies

Prototype 01 Urban Extension

Single-family homes for own use, outskirts.

Individual family-based development. The owners are part of the community.

Legal Situation /Ownership – No dispute about land ownership, the building owners own the land. The land is generally owned or bought by builders (land register entry). Permission is generally not applied for or granted. Generally, neighbors know one another and ask one another before the land is sold, a tradition which is vanishing.

Safety – Construction is based on estimates and experience, but not on calculations. The structural members are usually over-dimensioned, and construction is generally executed by construction companies. Fire escape routes are still possible.

Infrastructure – Sewage is handled individually. Some households are illegally connected to the public sewage network. Some neighborhoods have jointly applied for connection to the public sewage network. Property access is via unpaved roads. No public transportation system exists. Public amenities are generally lacking, and private amenities are increasingly organized by individuals themselves.

Stakeholders – Private individuals

Growth – The UDP Strategic Plan foresees only apartment houses with a minimum of 4-10 stories; the growth of single-family homes is not supported.

Tasks

Architectural Scale – Improvement

Legalizing the informal buildings and obtaining permits. Improvement of building infrastructure and/or adaptation of the informal buildings to recent regulations (regulatory plans).

Architectural Scale – Channeling

Raise awareness of architectural design, aesthetic and functional needs.

Urban Scale – Improvement

Development of collective infrastructure such as water supply and sewage, road network and social amenities.

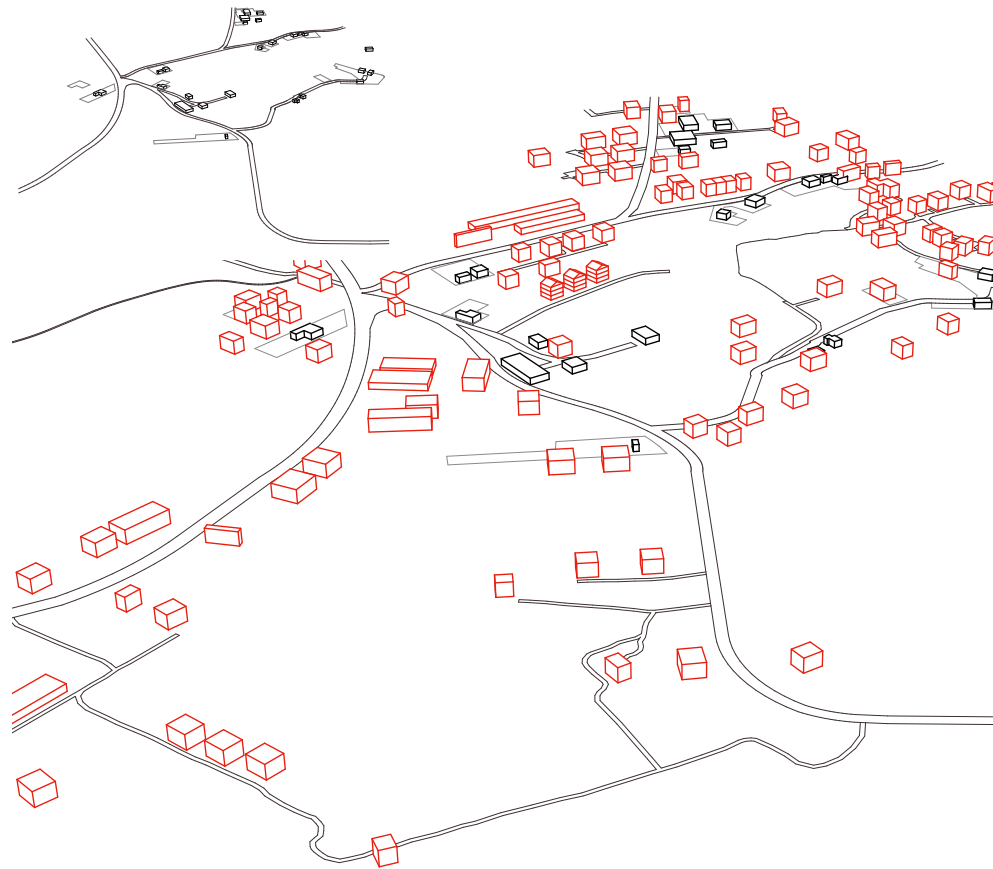
Urban Scale – Channeling

Assist in the development of new plans for neighborhoods. Encourage participation of the citizens in the planning process. Improvements on the neighborhood scale. Initiate sustainable processes. Raise awareness of urban design, aesthetic and functional needs.



Based on "Urban Development of Prishtina-Strategic Plan 2003 - 2020" (UDP-SP) - the latest existing document in town scale:

Case Study- Type 1:
- no reg. plan has been issued yet
- no infrastructure at all



Prototype 02 Urban Densification

Enlarged buildings for own use, inside the city.
Individual development, the owner is part of the neighborhood community.

Legal Situation /Ownership – There is no dispute about land ownership; the building owners own the land. In many cases, a permit for a single-family house with a ground floor, first floor and roof was issued, but the final building exceeds the maximum gross floor size for the site and the number of floors allowed. Several land owners work together with an investor to put up a new building, and each land owner gets a share of the final building according to the value of his land.

Safety – Construction is not sustainable due to the use of cheap or low-quality materials. Fire safety is limited due to missing or blocked escape routes, insufficient fire walls and insufficient fire protection to neighbors.

Infrastructure – Overload of sewage and electricity systems due to extensive overbuilding. Under-serviced garbage collection due to extensive densification. Energy efficiency is not considered at all; thermal insulation is rarely used. The surviving social infrastructure of the city

is used. The mostly legal connections to the water, sanitation and electricity networks produce extensive usage pressure on existing capacities.

Stakeholders – Families, investors and developers.

Growth – Demand for this type of housing development is still rising.

Tasks

Architectural Scale – Improvement

Improve structural safety, specifically the condition of the ground. Legalization and/or redevelopment of the informal buildings and permit acquisition especially for fire escapes, accessibility, parking infrastructure, safety, hygiene and energy efficiency.

Architectural Scale – Channeling

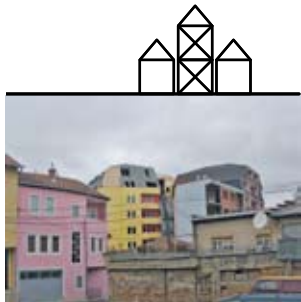
Encourage the process to adapt the buildings to the regulatory plan.

Urban Scale – Improvement

Adjust extreme densification. Transform the negative effects, such as blocked views or light. Negotiate the social dimension in order to avoid conflict. Improvements impact the urban surroundings.

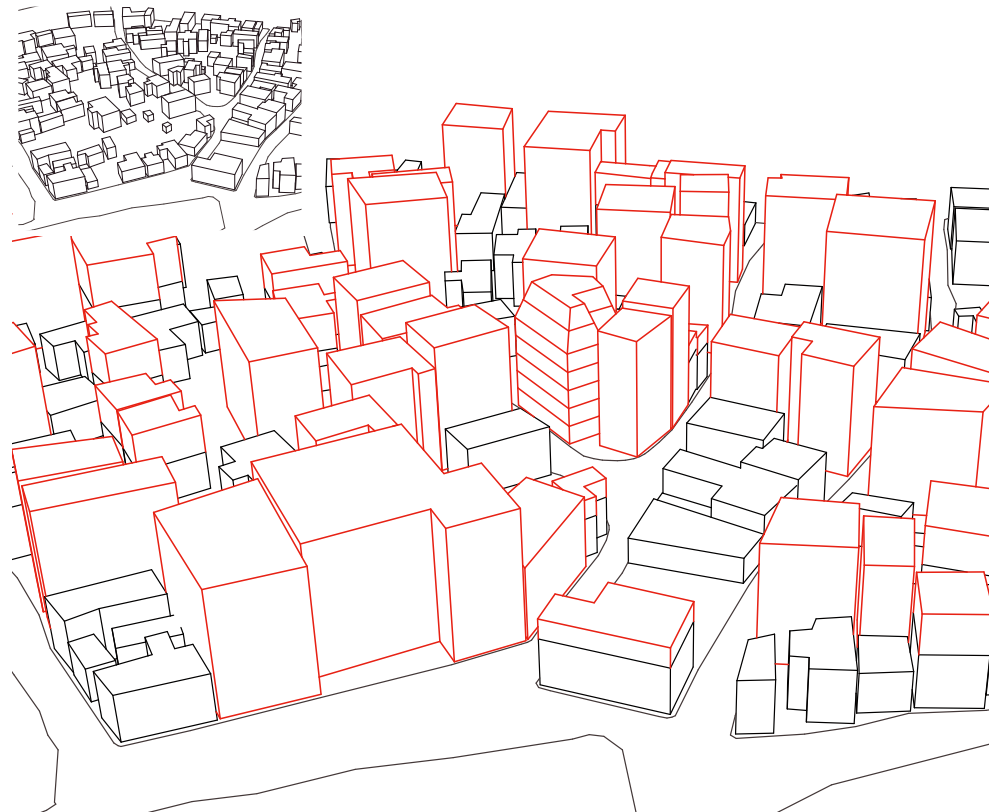
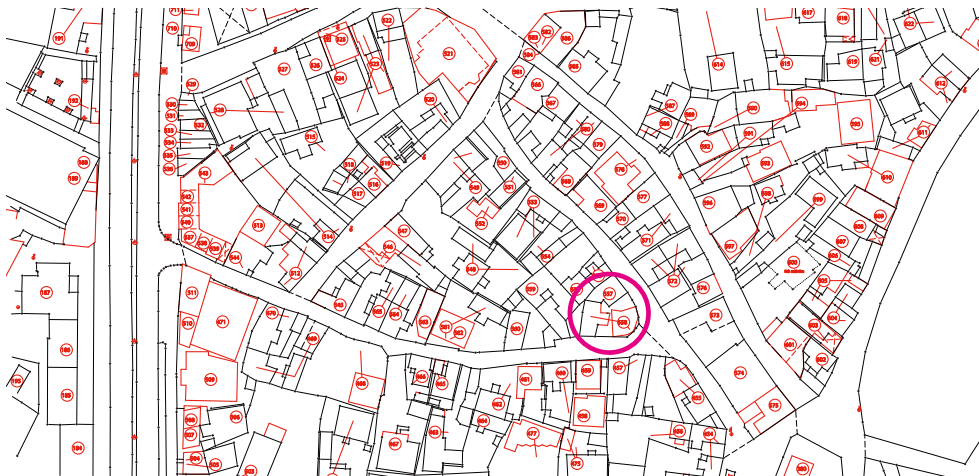
Urban Scale – Channeling

Address community and raise awareness of security, safety, hygiene and energy efficiency standards. Generate consensus on scale adjustment and the distances between buildings. Learn about owners' interests. Inform them about the consequences of enlarging their homes. Provide advisory board to prevent future urban development mistakes in order to protect the urban fabric and historical buildings.



URBAN REGULATORY PLAN
"Dodona", 2004

– Number of full storeys III-V,
in fact 7 full storeys
– Site occupancy 0,6
in fact full site occupancy
– Coverage type d1 (50m long
or 3m free space between buildings)
in fact full site coverage



Prototype 03 Urban Densification

Enlarged buildings not for own use (rental apartments, commercial spaces).
Investors and developers who are not part of the neighborhood community.

Legal Situation /Ownership – Recently, developers have started to buy and develop land for pure profit. The apartments are sold or rented. In some cases, the apartments are sold before the building is finished to cofinance construction. Planning permission status: most projects of this type have a building permit, and the buildings are constructed according to the regulatory plans.

Safety – Construction is not sustainable due to the use of cheap or low-quality materials. Fire safety is limited due to missing or blocked escape routes, insufficient fire walls and insufficient fire protection to neighbors.

Infrastructure – Overload of sewage and electricity systems due to extensive overbuilding. Responsibility rests with the city administration. Due to extensive densification, garbage collection is under-serviced. Energy efficiency is not considered at all; thermal insulation is not used. The surviving social infrastructure of the city is used. Legal connections to the existing water, sanitation and electricity networks produce extensive usage pressure on existing capacities.

Stakeholders – Investors and developers.

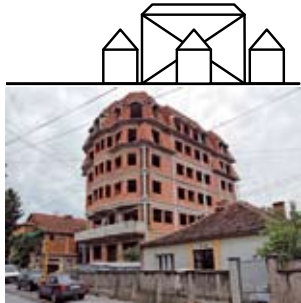
Growth – Rising demand for this type of housing development.

Tasks

Architectural Scale – Improvement
Reduction of building size. Reinstall sidewalks and necessary distances between the buildings.

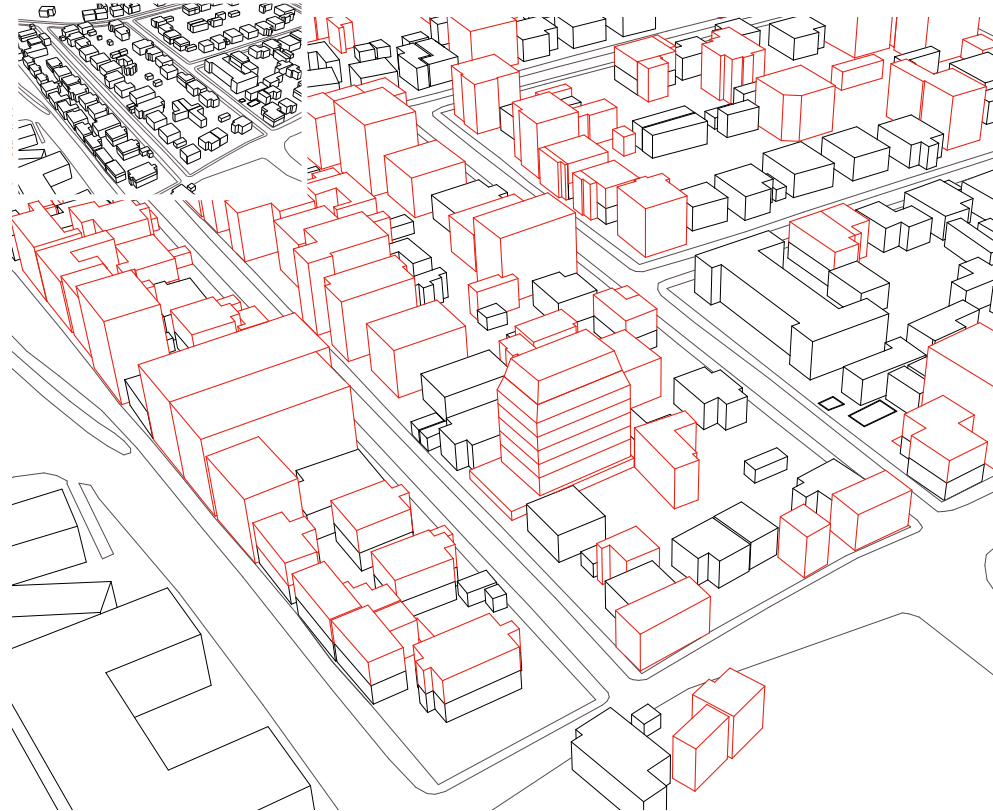
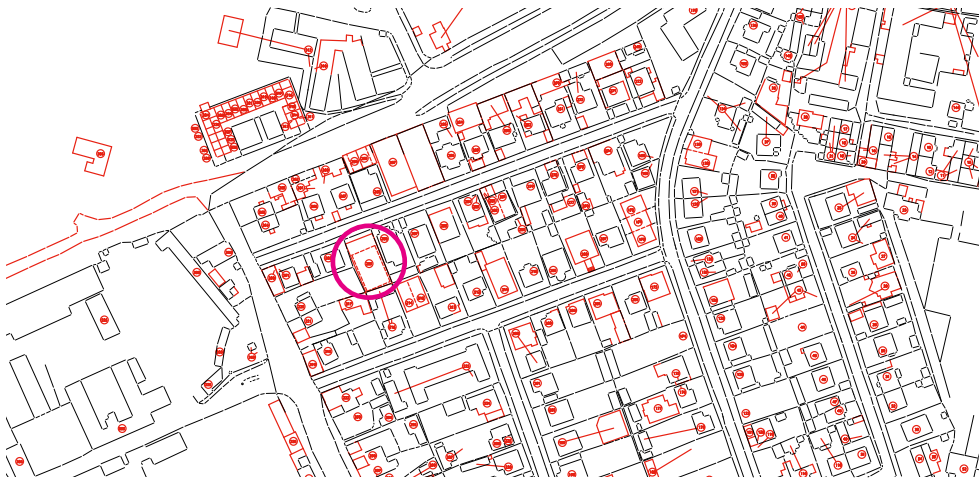
Architectural Scale – Channeling
Raise public awareness of the negative architectural consequences. Inform users and enable them to be more critical of construction in order to encourage a change in building standards.

Urban Scale – Channeling
Develop minimum apartment size standards and design-related organizational principles.



URBAN REGULATORY PLAN
dating from 1978

- The area was foreseen for individual houses P+1
- in fact multi story commercial building
- Site occupancy 0.6,
- in fact full site occupancy
- Coverage type distance between buildings 2.5-3m
- in fact full site coverage



Prototype 04 Urban Densification

Urban parasites (extensions, annexes, roof extensions and cuts into buildings; houses on roofs). Individual developments; the owners are part of the neighborhood community.

Legal Situation /Ownership – Roof extensions are often semi-legal, with basic permits which are exceeded. The municipality supports the transformation of flat roofs into pitched roofs, and therefore raising the roof by one floor is permitted. Many, however, raise their roofs by two, three or even four floors. Often, entire houses are built on the roofs of privatized communal buildings. The owners bought the apartments individually, and the roof becomes the common property of the apartment owners. Needed roof renovation usually causes the apartment owners on the top floors to raise the roof on their own

initiative, saving the community the costs of renovation. Small, individual and hidden extensions to apartment buildings are mostly illegal and carried out without permits, and are often not coordinated with other owners. Renovations to ground floors are mostly carried out with permits for a change of use, but later, load-bearing structures are often taken out or modified. Basements are then often utilized for various purposes, and their ownership is often disputed.

Safety – Serious safety problems are created by structural changes to the ground floor and basements due to the removal of

supporting walls. This safety risk is increased by the additional load of the roof extensions. Even if concrete perimeter beams are built on the existing building, the roof extensions do not have any vertical connection to the main load-bearing walls. Most buildings not older than 20 years are able to take the additional load of a two-story roof extension, but even that is often exceeded. Emergency escapes are ensured by connecting to existing escape routes.

Infrastructure – Excepting for a few unprofessional connections to the existing sewage system, there are hardly any hygiene

problems. Often, owners apply for and get an official connection to the sewage system. Permission to connect to the sewage system is generally granted, even for building extensions carried out without permits, due to bureaucratic inefficiencies. Access to the extensions is provided by the existing access routes.

Stakeholders – Mostly families and private apartment owners. For ground floor extensions, shops are bought and used by individuals. Basements are used by individuals.

Growth – Development will most likely continue until all flat roofs are converted and extended, and the ground floors and basements are transformed into nonresidential spaces.

Tasks

Architectural Scale – Improvement
Improve structural safety of buildings in line with the buildings' transformation. Legalization and/or redevelopment of the informal structures and acquisition of permits, especially for fire escapes, accessibility and safety.

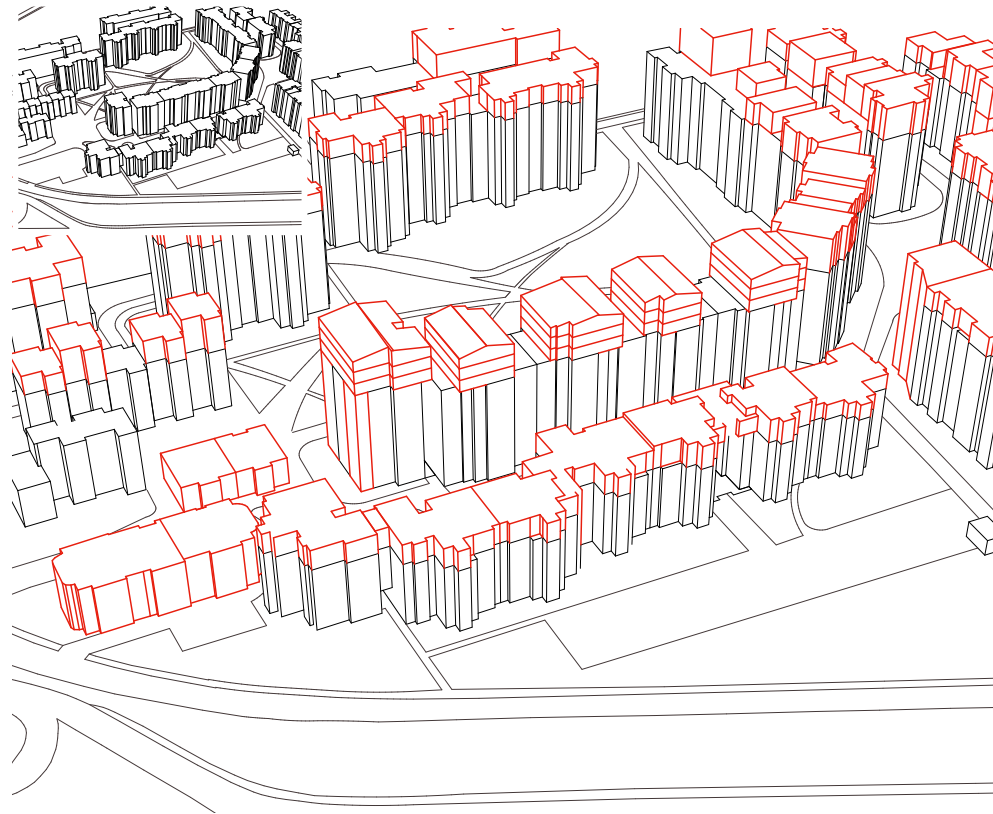
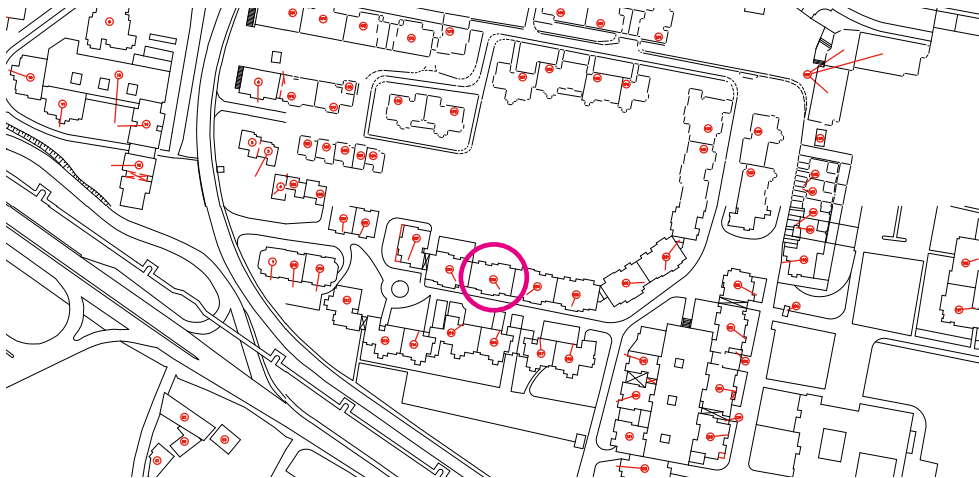
Architectural Scale – Channeling
Provide knowledge about adequate building materials, technical standards and functional needs.

Urban Scale – Improvement
Eliminate access via public land, such as staircases on sidewalks.

Urban Scale – Channeling
Impart an awareness of how to improve the roofscape within the neighboring context.



URBAN REGULATORY PLAN
dating from 1978
- Number of full storeys 8-12
in fact 15 storeys
- Uncontrolled stability of the construction
- Commercial occupancy of common spaces for the dwellers



STRATEGIES

The strategies developed in the workshop combine different approaches to achieve public awareness and raise sensitivity to environmental qualities and architectural values. They address different stakeholders, local as well as international, and are designed to bridge the gap between them.

Communication Strategy

Public awareness regarding the problems of informal building will be encouraged through different media and a specified strategy. Apart from the users/builders, we aim to draw the attention of competent persons, such as professionals and decision-makers. A public discussion will integrate both authorities and users into the process of thinking about better living conditions in Prishtina.



TV-show

In the summer of 2007, Visar Geci (one of the founders of Ai Prishtina), also known for his seasonal TV shows, will organize weekly TV shows with a key topic being informal building in Prishtina. Crucial problems of safety as well as infrastructural needs will be explained by means of cartoons. Interviews with owners and neighbors will document the social dimension. Questions of legalization will be discussed with local authorities, and the quality of building construction with local contractors. The TV show will address the individual users of informal buildings. It will also show them examples of good practice and solutions to major problems. It will inform private builders about how to consult the advisory board of Archis Interventions/Prishtina in order to get access to professional advice. It will also promote the manual, which includes information about how to improve buildings. The major Kosovar TV channels are highly interested in broadcasting this program.



Newspaper campaign

We will enclose a copy of the 'Urban Pathology Map' in newspapers, which will show the city's development on an urban scale, and how it is driven by informal building activities. Examples of highly problematic situations will allow readers to identify the problems neighborhoods are facing.

Newspaper competitions – 'Who can find the best example of worst architecture in Prishtina?' Public awareness of the problems produced by informal building will be raised by means of a weekly competition. The winner is whoever finds the worst example. Determination of what this is will have to be publicly argued, so that everybody taking part becomes aware of how informal activities can lead to problematic situations.



Leaflet

Leaflets with simple drawings explaining, for example, the need for vaccination or how to avoid infection are very common in Prishtina. This form of communication is popular and can be used to address simple problems, especially the blocking of fire escape routes.



Architectural competition

Through an architectural competition addressing the improvement of a highly problematic situation in the city, architects as well as planners will be motivated to contribute their professional expertise. The first prize will be awarded to the best improvement to building structures as well as public spaces on the basis of efficient cost management.



Architectural exhibition

The results will be exhibited and accompanied by a public media campaign showing the different solution strategies.

Architectural Strategy

Different architectural approaches will achieve sensitivity to environmental qualities as well as an improvement of the quality of life and will teach the general population to understand the cultural value of a proper urban fabric.



Manual 'How to do it better'

A manual will be written along defined key typologies of informal buildings to show the problems and help individual builders by providing solutions.



Advisory board

An advisory board of local experts can be consulted by users of informal buildings to get advice for legalizing as well as for improving their buildings.



Prototypical small-scale individual projects

Individual projects will serve to illustrate improvement possibilities and instill more confidence in and awareness of professional architectural expertise.



Model project

At the neighborhood level, the problems which go beyond individual needs, such as lacking infrastructures (technical as well as social), safety problems (fire safety, escape routes, unstable housing structures) and social problems (blocked views), will be addressed. The model project will help the neighborhood to collectively find solutions and will also give advice on formalizing buildings.

Participatory Strategy

The integration of all parts of society affected by the informal building process by means of different participation strategies will address users' real needs and also guarantee a sustainable development.



Encouragement of interest groups

The combination of public campaigns with the offer of professional expertise will help different groups to identify their specific interests and incite them to articulate their needs. They will then have a public presence and will be able to find solutions to their problems. This will enable local authorities to gain a better understanding of the needs of different neighborhoods.



Activation of local knowledge

Directly addressing the intellectual elite of the city via public campaigns, so as to encourage them to take responsibility and contribute their local knowledge, will make the process of improvement sustainable.

Networking Strategy

The strategy concept established in the workshop reflects how this can be generalized and prove helpful in different circumstances, given the international urban discourse as represented by the Archis network.



Archis issue: integration in the international Archis network

By presenting the results in an issue of VOLUME (Archis 1/2007), the Archis network was activated to respond to the issue of informal building and to provide Archis Interventions/Prishtina with professional expertise.



Workshop and conference

Following up on the December 2006 workshop, a second workshop in the form of a working conference will be organized in 2007. Ideas and results from the first workshop will be tested in discussions with stakeholders and specialists, and compared to experience elsewhere.



Encouragement of Balkans experts network/city network

By inviting the experts needed to back the local initiatives and interventions, a practical network can be established to support the longer-term goals of Archis Interventions/Prishtina. This will lead to a regional network of experts from the Balkans.

Educational Strategy

The strategy focuses on knowledge transfer.



Student projects

The education and training of future architects and planners by intervening in the process of informal building via their own projects and helping citizens to contribute to Prishtina's improved development is of great importance. In cooperation with the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture of the University of Prishtina, students can be integrated into small-scale projects.

Lectures/workshops

Experts from the international Archis network will give lectures and hold workshops to demonstrate their way of practicing architecture and urban planning. The special aspect of 'communicative planning' with its specific participatory strategy and communication strategy will give students of architecture a new perspective on integrating social aspects into planning. This will show a young generation potential ways to contribute to their society.

Support Strategy

New capacities can be built by supporting different stakeholders in the building process and mediating between them.

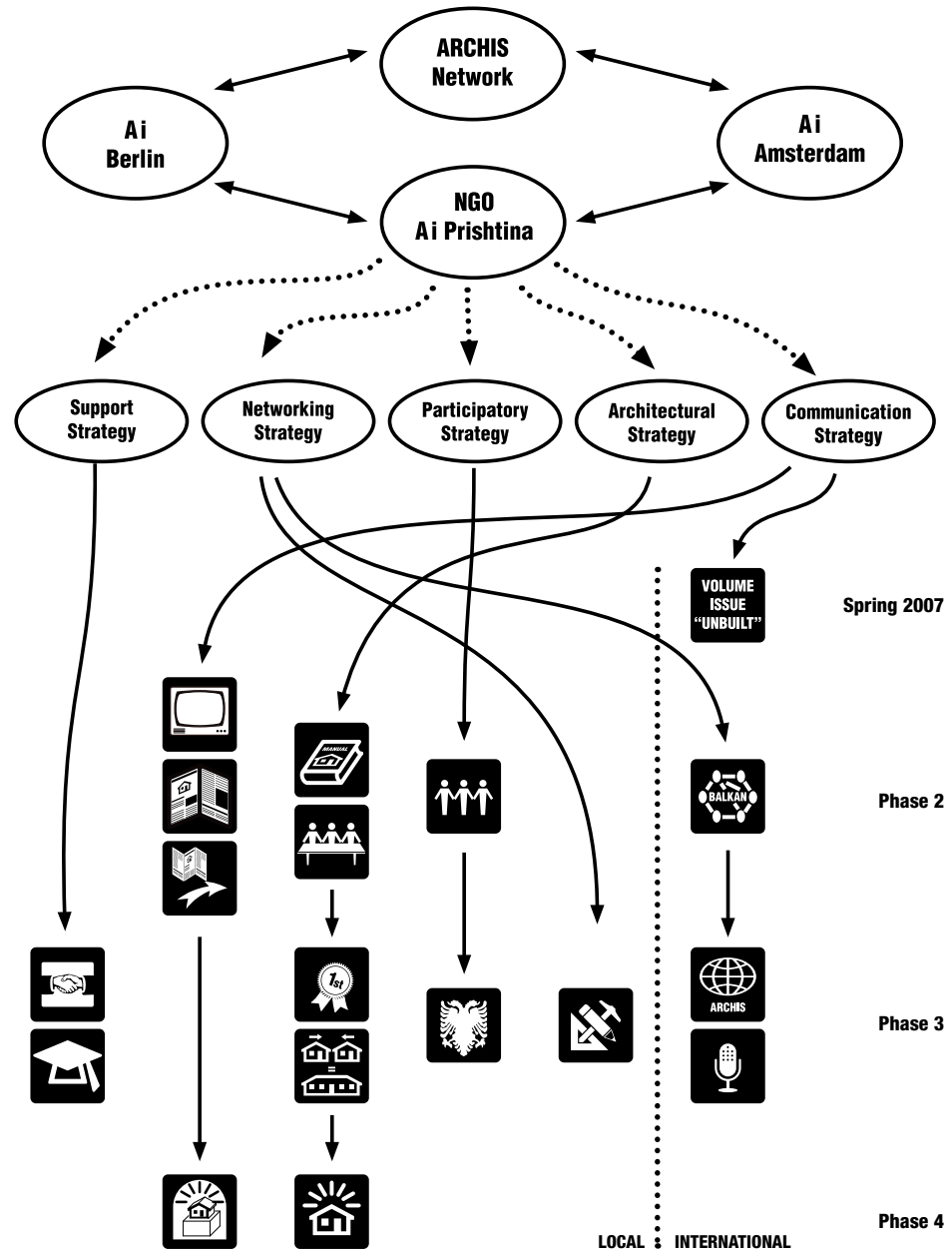


Mediation between stakeholders

In the current situation, the interests of most private investors are in conflict with the proposed plans of the local administration. As a non-governmental organization, Archis Interventions can mediate and create a dialogue leading to solutions acceptable to all sides.

Communicative planning

In order to address and integrate different social stakeholders and to support the local administration, current planning should be flexibilized and changed from 'comprehensive' to become more 'communicative'. Archis Interventions will work as an 'advocacy planner' and contribute to the city's development with its professional knowledge.



Planning for Uncertain Cities Towards an Urban Post-Conflict Strategy

- Planning without a plan
- Planning without a neighborhood
- Planning without ownership
- Legality without law
- Enforceability

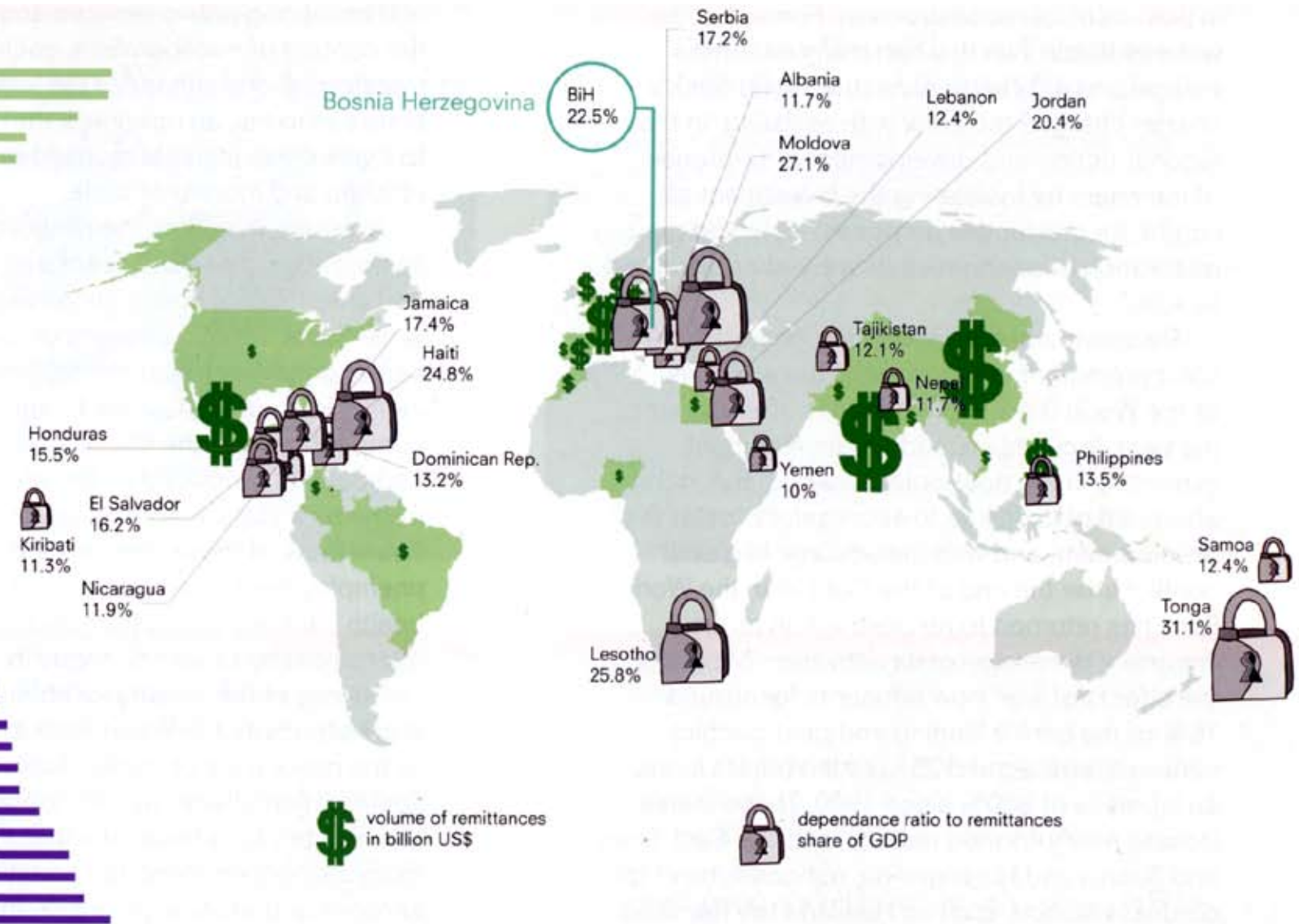
Published in Volume 11; Archis 1/2007, and with the focus on Kabul in the upcoming issue of the Italian architecture periodical »Parametro«

A Network of Urban Initiatives
in South East Europe

These urban developments, in spite of their regional characteristics, represent a new form of structure that differs markedly from informal settlements in non-European countries. They are the expression of a development set in motion by a wide cross-section of society, which strongly consolidates investment. These specific urban development forms are the result of spaces being linked in new ways under the influence of media images, migratory movements and monetary flows. Documentation, analysis, classification and interpretation of newly emerging urban forms can provide the tools by which to achieve an insight into future urban developments. This includes examining the question as to whether increasing deregulation and less state intervention in the traditional sense of comprehensive planning have forged new forms of relationships between the public and private sectors, requiring a new approach to planning.

**Translocal Socioeconomic Forces
and
Local Urban Management**

B I L L I O N S D O L L A R S	India	21,7
	China	21,3
	Mexico	18,1
	France	12,7
	Philippines	11,6
	Spain	6,9
	Belgium	6,8
	Germany	6,5
	UK	6,4
	Morocco	4,2
S H A R E O F G D P	Yemen	10
	Kiribati	11,3
	Albania	11,7
	Nepal	11,7
	Nicaragua	11,9
	Tajikistan	12,1
	Lebanon	12,4
	Samoa	12,4
	Dominican Rep.	13,2
	Philippines	13,5
Honduras	15,5	
El Salvador	16,2	
Serbia	17,2	
Jamaica	17,4	
Jordan	20,4	
BiH	22,5	
Haiti	24,8	
Lesotho	25,8	
Moldova	27,1	
Tonga	31,1	



Bosnia Herzegovina

BiH 22.5%

Serbia 17.2%

Albania 11.7%

Lebanon 12.4%

Jordan 20.4%

Moldova 27.1%

Jamaica 17.4%

Haiti 24.8%

Tajikistan 12.1%

Nepal 11.7%

Honduras 15.5%

Dominican Rep. 13.2%

Yemen 10%

Philippines 13.5%

El Salvador 16.2%

Kiribati 11.3%

Nicaragua 11.9%

Lesotho 25.8%

Samoa 12.4%

Tonga 31.1%

Cities influenced by migration flows could legitimately emerge as the new key pillars for the management of migration-related urban issues, in close collaboration with traditional development agencies and governments.

The scope of today's migration flows challenges existing institutions in terms of mandate, resources, effectiveness and coordination, and challenges the nation-states paradigm.

While the United Nations is currently debating on the need for a renewed institutional framework for organizing international migration and its positive economic outcome at national and global level, little attention is given to its urban impact at local level.

In an effort to link migration, with urban development, and post-conflict reconstruction, it is necessary to highlight the extent to which migrants and their financial and social remittances reshape cities.

Urban Vision

An urban post-conflict strategy should include an urban vision which evidences the developmental perspective. This perspective should develop new forms of coordination and implementation of developmental measures in regard to translocal forces shaping the urban environment, mediate between the international and local levels, and (last but not least) in this way generates architectonic value.

Thanks for your attention!

5th Regional Vienna Declaration Review
Meeting

22-23 October 2007
Podgorica

**INTEGRATING ACADEMIC RESEARCH POTENTIAL
IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE
TO MEET EMERGING URBAN CHALLENGES**

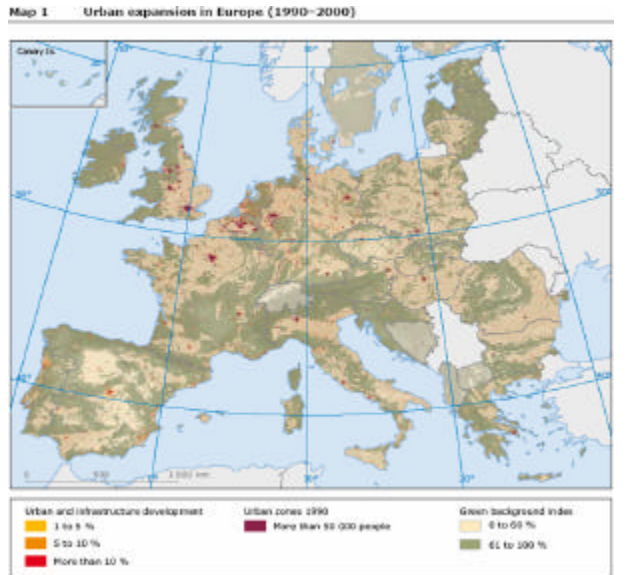
Elena Dimitrova 
University of Architecture, Civil Engineering
& Geodesy, Sofia

Main items to discuss

- Urban sprawl phenomenon
- The need for strategic approaches in addressing sprawl
- The role of SEE academic research potential in the field of urban development
- The SEESPRAWL research project proposal under the 7th Framework Programme of EC (FP7)

Urban expansion in Europe

1990-2000



EEA, 2006
Urban Sprawl in Europe:
The ignored challenge,
Technical Report No 10

Author: E. Dimitrova

What is sprawl?

“the physical pattern of low-density expansion of large urban areas, under market conditions, mainly into the surrounding agricultural areas.” (EEA, 2006).

Adverse effects ascribed to sprawl:

- increased energy, land and soil consumption;
- environmental pollution;
- reduced quality of life in cities.

Evidence suggests that

- where unplanned, decentralized development prevails, sprawl would occur in a mechanistic way;
- sprawl is being driven by factors, most of which come outside the area where the spatial changes are observed.

Author: E. Dimitrova

5th Regional Vienna Declaration Review Meeting, Podgorica, 22-23 October 2007

4

EU spatial policy framework: objectives and barriers

The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP, 1999):

A long-term priority objective of “a balanced polycentric development of urban systems in Europe” aimed at a well spread network of prosperous regions and areas, playing important economic role in Europe and at the same time providing good quality of life for their citizens.

Current barriers to addressing urban sprawl:

- lacking coherent policies to articulate urban issues in both analysis and treatment (management procedures);
- Lacking or poor responsiveness of the policies to the peculiarities of local conditions.

European Research on CEE/SEE with regard to urban development & sprawl:

(Research News 1/2007, www.bbr.bund.de).

SEE - not strictly defined and bearing multilayered geographic, political and cultural connotations, one of the most heterogeneous areas with a significant economic, political, social cultural and natural diversity.

“international disparities undermine the position of Central and South-East Europe within Europe as a whole”

PlanetCense, (INTERREG IIIB - CADSES, www.planet-cense.net)

- Central and South-East Europe “shows a more distinct polycentric structure than the EU-15 area at least in terms of the morphological structure of the urban system”.
- the region of **CEE has a special position** in European spatial development research and policy;
- **no comprehensive information on its current state, no comprehensive or common strategies for its future development are at present existing.**

Peculiarities of urban sprawl in SEE

- occurs in parallel with profound structural transformations with high impact on all societal spheres;
- large migration flows are motivated in the region by diverse economic and political reasons;
- an extremely fast process;
- national spatial planning systems are not capable of effectively influencing the process being in a process of transformation themselves in most of SEE countries.



Sofia 2007:
densification and change of city scale



Author: E. Dimitrova

5th Regional Vienna Declaration Review Meeting, Podgorica, 22-23 October 2007

9

Sofia 2007:
housing pressure on the periphery



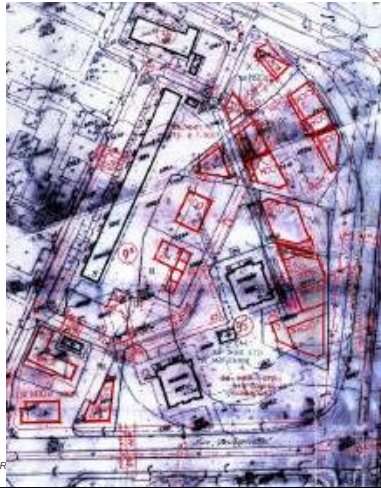
Author: E. Dimitrova

5th Regional Vienna Declaration Review Meeting, Podgorica, 22-23 October 2007

10

Sofia 2007: effects of urban land restitution

Building permits (red contours) on public urban greenery (restituted urban land) in housing estates



The compact city: rushing to the mountain



increasing car flows and traffic jams

office and housing development alongside Bulgaria Boulevard

**Business
Park,
Sofia,
2007**



Stimulating
factor for
further urban
development

The central public open space of Business Park
Sofia under reconstruction, July 2007

Author: E. Dimitrova

5th Regional Vienna Declaration Review Meeting, Podgorica, 22-23 October 2007

13

Sofia 2007:
ongoing urban sprawl



SEE ACADEMIC RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Why is academic research important to spatial policy?

Cultural context matters in many ways in both urban development and planning (*culture is here regarded as a mode of behaviour under changing societal conditions*);

Academic institutions/ universities in the process are responsible for :

- (a) **Outlining and analysing** the broader factors and the long-term considerations in city development;
- (b) **Educating professionals** both sensitive to the cultural and spatial identity of their cities and towns and capable to creatively implement EU spatial policy principles;
- (c) **Supporting policy efforts** to develop a more democratic and dialogical planning culture.

Estimated research needs with regard to urban sprawl: an academic point of view

Need to understand:

- the nature of the sprawl phenomenon as a pattern of societal behavior that reflects particular social values;
- its spatial implications to contemporary urban structures - physical, but also social and cultural.

Need for a vision on the spatial development of Europe's cities and regions:

- respectful to their cultural identity, but also
- responsive to changing economic and technological background and
- to the social and cultural patterns of contemporary urban life.

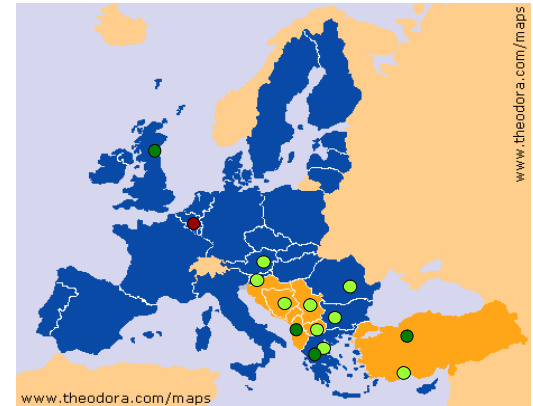
EC Framework Programmes

- **Research focus** on issues of European and regional importance; on international co-operation; on the practical effectiveness of research results into everyday practice;
- **Funding opportunities** for research and technological development – according to estimated EU priorities in the main research areas.
- **Difficulties for SEE academic participants** to join in the process: financial difficulties for many of the universities; insufficient experience in EU research cooperation and its funding principles and schemes; lack of experience in effectively searching for and using information on programme calls and respective research priorities;

European Challenges: South-East European cities

Through the support of the Stability Pact for SE Europe (HUMI):

- **A Regional Roundtable meeting:** UACG, Sofia, March, 2006
- **A Regional academic workshop:** UACG, Sofia, May 2007
- **A research project proposal** to be submitted under FP7, call deadline: November 29th, 2007



The FP7 call addressed

SSH-2007, Activity 8.2. Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective: paths towards sustainable development

SSH-2007-2.1.1. Analyzing, comparing and evaluating the various societal models in a medium- to long-term perspective,

Call aim:

“to achieve a better understanding of:

- the **different approaches taken across countries or regions** or local communities to combining economic, social and environmental objectives,
- the **extent to which these approaches are part of the various societal models** in those places,
- their **degree of success in combining them and their ability to confront new challenges**, in order to draw lessons for the future.
- **Specific challenges facing developing and emerging countries** in combining the objectives could be included.”

An idea for a SEE region based research project proposal under FP7-SSH-2007-1

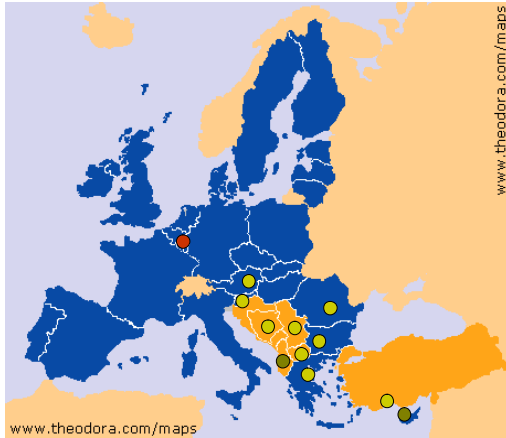
Project focus: Emerging Sprawl Phenomena in SEE Cities:

Aim and objectives:

- While regarding SEE cities as a peculiar spatial manifestation of European urban culture, to achieve **a better understanding** of the driving forces, the interconnected social and cultural processes behind urban sprawl in SEE and their spatial manifestation in the urban environment;
- To develop an **integrated methodological approach** to the challenges and potentials of emerging new forms of urbanity;
- to provide **practically applicable guidelines and tools** for a long-term policy towards sustainable urban development based on the respect for cultural and spatial city identity and open to all the actors in the urban process – urban experts from theory and practice, public administrations, business companies, civil organizations, etc.

Current research partners

- **UACG**, Sofia (*coordinator*)
- **Aristotle University** of Thessaloniki
- **BOKU**, Vienna
- **University of Ljubljana**
- **Ion Mincu University**, Bucharest
- **SS Cyril and Methodius University**, Skopje
- **University of Belgrade**
- **University of Sarajevo**
- **Akdeniz University**, Antalya
- **Co-PLAN**, Institute for Habitat Development, Tirana
- **ALA Planning**, Nicosia



CONCLUSION

Research on urban development is a long-term process, it needs continuity of commitment and the joint efforts of many actors in the field;

Regional research cooperation provides synergy - it is helpful to:

- strengthening our own awareness and respect for the unique cultural value of our cities;
- Increasing the effectiveness of our dialogue within Europe by translating regional urban identity into the language of European urban policies and practices;
- Enhancing the regional professional capacity for applying innovative approaches to urban governance and planning.

THANK YOU
for your attention!

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