



**Workshop on Local Government in Post-Conflict Situations:
Challenges for Improving Local Decision Making and
Service Delivery Capacities**

**ANNEX 12: Presentation by Mr. Radomir Kezunovic,
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Workshop on local government in post-conflict countries: Challenges for international development.

Governance and conflict prevention

Local societies in post-conflict

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In general

- **the institutional structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its entities – the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska – is extremely complex, shaped by the specific requirements of multi-ethnicity;**
- The current constitutional, legal and administrative structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina must be seen as the outcome of the armed conflict between ethnic groups after the country's secession from the former Yugoslavia in 1992 and, subsequently, the Dayton Peace Accords, the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which, under pressure from the international community, and especially NATO and its forces (IFOR / SFOR), brought the conflict to an end in December 1995. The treaty draws boundaries, ensures peace and sets out the constitution. According to this system, which remains applicable today, the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a State under international law and has the Constitution contained in Annex 4 of the Dayton Peace Accords.

A month ago:

- Evident progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina especially in the field of local self-government according the provisions of European Charter of local self-government...

These days:

- **Bosnia crisis warning as tensions rise**
- By Tony Barber in Brussels **FINANCIAL TIMES**
- Published: November 9 2007 02:00 | Last updated: November 9 2007 02:00
- Rising nationalist rivalries are pushing Bosnia-Herzegovina towards its most acute crisis since the 1992-95 war and may soon grow worse because of related tensions in Kosovo, according to western diplomats based in Sarajevo.
- "People in the west want to believe everything is fine and on the right track. It's not on the right track. This has been the most disappointing year post-Dayton," said one official, referring to the 1995 settlement that ended the Bosnian war.c.
- The Serb Republic's secession, and the reaction of the Muslim-Croat federation, which comprises the other half of Bosnia's territory, would be especially dangerous because of the growth of privately held arms caches, diplomats said.
- As much as 30,000 tones of surplus weaponry and ammunition is lying in virtually unguarded storage sites and, in a country whose population numbers just 4m, hundreds of thousands of individuals privately own weapons.
- While no one is predicting a conflagration on the scale of the 1990s, one diplomat with long experience of the Balkans said: **"It's bad and it's getting worse. We're monitoring them."**

Post or pre-conflict?

- Most of the people including competent persons i BiH wondering the same dilemma.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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State of Local Governance in BiH

- Different legal frameworks and fiscal arrangements in RS and FBiH
- Fragmentation of competencies/accountabilities – affecting public service delivery
- Progress in recent years – LSG laws, introduction of VAT
- Low professional expertise / weak capacities for managing local development processes and service delivery
- Deficiencies in data capturing and analysis
- Limited external scrutiny of municipal decision making / small interaction with civil society

ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES OF THE FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The mission of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is to promote democratic, effective and efficient local government, by

Representing the common interest of its members to the state and federal government,
providing its members with professional services, and
creating a platform for exchange of knowledge and information.

ABOUT US

The Association of Cities and Municipalities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is an independent organization whose main goal is development of local self-government..

The Association aims to provide professional services to local governments through the Association and to advocate their common interests at the state and the Federation level. In the work with central government Association enables local governments to be heard and to express their interests. Through providing support and services the Association is helping members to build their capacities. The ultimate goal is to ensure that local governments are effective in serving the needs of their citizens.

THE ASSOCIATION'S HISTORY

Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Republic Bosnia and Herzegovina was established in 1973 having goal to improve and develop local autonomy system and to protect local community's interest. Today's Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was instituted as the legal successor of the above mentioned Association on May 29, 1992 on the founding assembly. At that time 56 municipalities joined the Association.

From the international aspect there are 3 (three) key events that made new perspectives of the Association and they are as follows:

- 1. Ratification of Local Autonomy European Chart**, on October 1994
(Government of the RBiH)
- 2. Joining the Community of Municipalities and Cities of the BiH to the Congress of Local and Regional Autonomy of Europe (CLRAE) as a Special guest status** (November 1994)
- 3. Joining the Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Council of Europe**
(April 2002)

Membership

Today the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina represents interests of 78 municipalities.



Main activities

Development of new and strengthening of existing services for the members/municipalities

Lobbying/Advocacy

Legal Service

Trainings

Communication Service (Exchange of knowledge and information)

Work on different projects in cooperation with international organizations on development of local self-government

MA(S)CIP Project, Municipal Associations Capacity Improvement Programme, in cooperation with VNG INTERNATIONAL and financial support of Holland Government
Beacon schema (Best practices in municipalities) in cooperation with COE and OSCE and financial support of UK and Swiss Governments

Training of Councillors - Strengthening Municipal Associations in BiH, project in cooperation with KS(Association of Local and Regional Authorities of Norway) and financial support of Norway Government

Strengthening Municipal Associations in BiH, project in The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, CLRAE

Network of Associations of local authorities in South Eastern Europe, NALAS

cooperation with Council of Europe

Trening of municipal PR Officers in cooperation with UNDP, Project Sutra
International representation



ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND TOWNS OF REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA

About us

Association of municipalities and towns of Republic of Srpska is established in Brčko 1998. as independent, non-political ,non-party association of local authorities directed to the supporting and promoting of local self-government.

Members of Association are municipalities and towns gathered on voluntary basis in order to exchange experiences, to improve inter cooperation and to act as one aiming on realization of joint interests defined in Association statute , laws and other legal acts.

Why do associations/coalitions of local authorities appear in all countries of Eastern and Central Europe ? Why is it useful to have an association of local authorities? Why should municipalities with already existing financial problems be ready to finance an association?

There are three motives for this:

Together we are stronger.. Municipalities face problems of competence and financing. Competition about competence with central government and financial dependence on central government exists everywhere. Local authorities consider they could do their job much better in more decentralized conditions.

Together we are more effective. The second motive of collaboration with association is saving of money while working together. The Association is an effective way to organize specialized activities and functions that are too expensive if municipalities would deal singly with them.

Together we know more. The third reason for existence of the association lies in achievement of better communication. Three ways of communication need to be mentioned:

Horizontal communication – communication among municipalities with aim of exchange of ideas and experiences;

Vertical communication (formulation ideas on local level and their transmission to the central level);

Vertical communication (from bellow upwards) -transmission of new ideas (for instance, about new laws) from central to level of local authorities.

Our mission

The mission of the Association of Municipalities and Towns of Republic of Srpska is to promote democratic, effective and efficient local government by:

Advocating the common interest of its members at the state level

Providing its members with professional services

Creating a platform for exchange of knowledge and information

The Association of Municipalities and Towns of Republic of Srpska, is a nongovernmental organisation, which is working on promotion of effective local government and providing its support to local authorities.

The Association's goal is to provide professional services to its members advocate their common interest at the state level, create common voice and joint platform for action at the state level and to help exchange of knowledge and experiences among its members.

Its mission is development and strengthening of local government.

The Association of Municipalities and Towns of Republic of Srpska is not a party based or political organisation.

Its main focus is on:

Promotion of principles and values of local government,

Development and protection of local government on principles of democracy and decentralization,

Improvement of cooperation among local authorities and their organisation,
Advocating common interests of its members at the state level. Initiating dialogue with representatives of the state institutions on behalf of its members.

Cooperation with the national and international associations of local authorities.

Structure Bodies : *General Assembly* - highest body. It consists of 63 members, all LSG mayors in Republic of Srpska.

Presidency - Assembly's executive body. It consists of 17 members , 17th member is secretary general.

Monitoring board- Assembly's body. It consists of 3 members. Forms of acting :

Commissions and sections Functionaries:

President

General secretary Secretariat :

Project manager

Legal advisor

Officer for budget and finances

Public relations officerSearch

VNG

VNG International, the international agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities has over the past several years been present in Bosnia and Herzegovina implementing projects in the field of local self-governance. These projects were and are financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Dutch Embassy in Sarajevo.

Currently VNG- international is still our strongest and most involved in our work and capacity building. Supporting us both financially and providing guidelines and guidance in our future growth.

KS

Norway Association of local and regional authorities

Project MA(S)CIP

VNG International / KS
Municipal Associations Capacity Improvement Programme
in
Bosnia and Herzegovina

CoE

Seminars / Conferences

2007/2008 International Training Programme (ITP) in Ecological Sanitation
Sponsored by Sida
Targeted for Asia, Africa and EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)
UNDP-PLOD-SUTRA-ILDP...
GAP

Cooperation between Association of towns and municipalities of Republic of Srpska and UNDP has been realized through next activities:

In cooperation with UNDP there has been held an Seminar under title „Project cycle management“, which enabled all participants to get a new basic knowledge about project planning methods and about mechanisms necessary for preparation of the projects financed by EU.

UNDP representatives actively participated at the I Congress of local and regional authorities of Republic of Srpska, held from 19.-20.October 2006. in Teslic, and also gave their support both on organizational and financial level. In the framework of the Congress, there has been held 6th regularly Assembly session of the Association of towns and municipalities RS, where Mrs.Renata Ilic (UNDP) presented to mayors which activities municipalities must fulfil in order to approach to EU funds.

UNDP project prepared unique presentation of two Associations via internet, where are placed all relevant information's related to local government. Approach to this web-site have PR's from both Associations and they can freely place new information on it. Training on updating of this web-site was held in the Association premises on 30th March 2007.

In cooperation with UNDP were held Workshops on topic „Public communication- main communication techniques; electronic medias as a instrument of communication with public“, where all participants had opportunity to learn or to improve their knowledge in area of press conference preparations, interviews, public performances and similar, all what they regularly face in their everyday job.

UNDP forwarded to Association of towns and municipalities RS invitation for Study visit to Hungary with aim to introduce Hungarian experiences during creation of structural frameworks at the central level, relations to EU funds, organization of local action groups, etc.

In September there has been held three Round tables in Trebinje, Zvornik and Prnjavor, under topic „Financing of the local self-government units“, where we had full support from UNDP. One of the lecturers was Mr.Samir Sosevic, who had lectures about „Project financing system in EU“.

UNDP response and challenges

- **Partnerships with > 50 BiH municipalities**
- - strengthening capacities for democratic governance & social inclusion
- integrated and participatory approach to local policy design and service delivery
- local pro-poor initiatives via area based development programmes

- **Upcoming initiatives**
- - modernising & professionalising local development planning and management (ILDPA)
- - strengthening local democracy and cooperation with CSOs
- - institutionalisation of training and capacity development

- **Challenges: need for customized approach & on-the-job training / mitigation of possibly insufficient commitment/ownership of stakeholders, weak CS**

Concerning the future activities, there has been held first working meeting of key actors for support to a new UNDP/SDC partnership programme „Programme of integrated local development“ (23.August 2007. Sarajevo). This project is a new initiative which will be implemented by UNDP in partnership with Association of towns and municipalities RS. Programme realization period is from September 2007. until December 2010.

This project promotes socially integrated and inclusive local development through building of more responsible and effective municipal administration. By the planned activities, project aims to modernize and professionalize local development planning and management in the group of around 20 municipalities from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The final aim is to make accordance with EU standards in area of service delivery in public sector, as well as capacity building necessary for management of pre-accession funds. Activities were organized in the framework of the three connected components:

Development and implementation of the best practice of integrated and inclusive development planning;

Improvement of programme management capacities, including establishment of innovative service delivery models;

Strengthening of participatory mechanisms by which citizens and civil society organizations can participate as “outside controllers” related to choosing of development solutions and practices.

Conclusion

An evaluation of development processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina depends on opposing points of view that may lead to a more optimistic, critical, disappointed, radical or pragmatic attitude.

The experience of an armed conflict with victims and traces that can still be seen everywhere shows how far the country has to come in achieving a relatively well-functioning public life with public services, administrative and political structures and mostly peaceful co-existence between political, religious, ethnic groups. The simple facts of peace, that the country belongs to the Council of Europe, that there is a currency that functions, that co-operation with the European Union is possible, with the prospect of future membership, and that tourism has achieved a certain level of development may serve as signs of normalisation. Local self-government has made significant contributions to this normalisation and may in itself justify a certain degree of optimism.

THANKS FOR ATENTION

