

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN SPATIAL PLANNING: A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH FOR MUNICIPALITIES

MUNICIPAL SPATIAL PLANNING SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Implemented by:

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Financed by:

**SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AGE	Agency on Gender Equality
AKM	Association of Kosovo Municipalities
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CHwB	Cultural Heritage without Borders
CIP	Capital Investment Project
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Child
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung/Foundation
EU	European Union
GM	Gender Mainstreaming
GoK	Government of Kosovo
KEPA	Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency
KGSC	Kosovan Gender Studies Center
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDP	Municipal Development Plan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MLGA	Ministry of Local Government Administration
MPT	Municipal Planning Team
MuSPP	Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme
NAP	National Action Plan for Gender Equality
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
RAE	Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SH	Stakeholders
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
UN	United Nations
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
WG	Issue-Specific Stakeholder Working Groups
WUF	World Urban Forum

FOREWORD

These guidelines are the result of the experience of UN-Habitat and its partners in Kosovo in supporting spatial planning and governance processes. They aim to assist central and local governments, as well as civil society, by providing recommendations for the integration of a gender perspective in the spatial planning process, inspiring through best practice, and offering a foundation for exchange and capacity building activities and tools.

Spatial planning and management are part of the broader framework of urban governance and sustainable development. Therefore, it is important to ensure that programmes, policies and projects positively influence and reinforce gender equality as part of the development processes. The rapid development of urban/rural areas and the different needs of women and men, girls and boys, have gradually led to the incorporation of a gender perspective in development planning and to the inclusion of women and men in decision making processes. The objective of a gender-sensitive approach is to ensure that women and men will have equal roles, responsibilities, access, and opportunities in strategic urban planning development processes, both at the central and local level, and will be able to benefit equally from development interventions. This means that different situations and conditions of women and men are always considered consciously, and all projects are designed in a way that contributes to the fostering of equality.

Effectively incorporated gender perspectives in municipal spatial planning and its objectives constitute one step further to the sustainable development of Kosovo municipalities, while also contributing to strengthen democracy and to promote a transparent planning process.

Local governments have a vital role and responsibility in engaging women and men as equals in municipal decision-making. Working with a gender and social equity perspective provides new opportunities for democratising further municipal governance and reducing poverty through the provision of quality, relevant, and effective services and opportunities for women as well as men.

Inclusive urban planning seeks to address the various needs of all members of a community in the most equitable way possible. As such, understanding the gender dimensions in the society will highlight the different needs and views of men and women in terms of the settlements in which they live. A gender perspective will give insight into the power disparities in society, and enable them to better address issues of inequality and marginalisation, both in terms of the planning itself, as well as in the participation of the community in needs assessments and consultations. Using a gendered approach in planning will also improve the level of commitment from stakeholders, thus improving the overall success of the process.

These guidelines, *Gender Mainstreaming in Spatial Planning: A step-by-step approach for municipalities*, are part of a series of guidelines and tools that the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP)/UN-Habitat is offering in support to spatial planning and governance processes in Kosovo. All of the guidance and toolkits in this series draw upon the experience and information generated by UN-Habitat's support to municipal spatial planning. These guidelines are intended to enable local and central level decision makers, non-governmental organisations, as well as representatives of local communities to acquaint themselves with a variety of methodologies most appropriate to their development contexts in support to spatial planning processes, whilst keeping in consideration a gender perspective. In a flexible and non-prescriptive manner, it offers detailed step-by-step guidance for the identification of key stakeholders and establishment of participatory planning and co-ordination frameworks; the generation of municipal profiles and development scenarios; the identification and prioritisation of development strategies; and the development of methodologies for implementation and monitoring.

MuSPP/UN-Habitat takes this opportunity to thank central and local government organisations in Kosovo that have actively participated in the process of drafting these guidelines, notably the Agency of Gender Equality (AGE), the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM), the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP), the Ministry of Local Governance Administration (MLGA), and the University of Pristina (UP). International organisations and non-governmental organisations have also been active participants in the process, as UN-Habitat partner organisations in numerous activities undertaken in relation to gender mainstreaming in MuSPP, including roundtable debates, workshops and/or as part of the working group on gender mainstreaming in spatial planning. In particular, we would like to thank the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) for their continuous support and feedback in what relates to democratic participation processes during these years of co-operation with MuSPP.

1. INTRODUCTION

“Girls have no status, no protection and no prospects in many families and communities - and this is simply the way things are. Inequality is so entrenched that it isn’t even questioned.”¹

The empowerment of women to fully participate in all aspects of public life, and the path built to reach a truly regenerated understanding of women’s role in society, should start by widening the discussion and questioning around the theme of gender equality.

The idea of mainstreaming gender stems from the recognition that the differences and disparities between women and men are associated with and have an impact on all aspects of society. Therefore, a gender perspective must be integrated at all levels and in all facets of urban and spatial planning and management. There is no single approach to achieving Gender Mainstreaming. Instead, it is a conceptual approach, which will be devised and implemented according to particular institutional arrangements, and to specific social and cultural contexts. Gender mainstreaming implies that a gender perspective will be integrated in every activity undertaken and will inform decision-making processes at both policy and operational level. It is also important to clarify that gender mainstreaming is not a goal in itself: it is a

shared among urban dwellers from all backgrounds in equitable ways (...). If these various elements are achieved, then cities will become ‘engines of growth’.²

Unfortunately, gender equality still remains a challenge, particularly when addressing sustainable development agendas at the global and local level. This publication highlights numerous good practices and may offer a source of inspiration and replication. A number of successful strategies have been integrated into programmes by Kosovo municipalities, notably through the Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP), implemented by UN-Habitat between 2005 and 2014, and funded by the Swedish Development Cooperation. These practices will be presented in these guidelines as experiences to be shared between all Kosovo municipalities. The purpose is to illustrate how these initiatives can address the needs of all the citizens at the local level and lead to an overall positive impact on sustainable development.

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