

URBAN EMPATHY – Work Package 3, Phase 2

Structured Dialogue

INTERVIEWS – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Partner: REIC

To be filled in by the partner responsible for the structured dialogue in each country

Answers from all the interviews realized in the country should be taken into account to prepare this report. Each interview does not need to be considered separately, but all should be merged in the summaries.

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Names of the decision-makers and position:

1. Biljana Trivanović, high-level public administrator at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, state level, energy planning,
2. Jasmina Katica; high-level public administrator at the Federal ministry of spatial planning; entity level; energy efficiency in buildings
3. Edin Terzić, Minister at the Ministry for spatial planning, traffic, communication and environment of Zenica Doboje Canton; local/cantonal level; sustainable urban planning

1. Sustainable urban policies in general

Summary of the main ideas developed: global evaluation of sustainable urban policies, including relevant ideas expressed in the questions of this section:

- Problems considered in the agenda
- Importance of policy areas
- Priorities of the new programming period

Spatial planning in BiH is made on lower levels (entity and cantons), there is no spatial plan on state level. Applied approach in development of spatial plans is very outdated, it is the same as it was in the 1970's, during ex-Yugoslavia. In this period environmental and EE

issues were not considered in the way as it is today. There is no inter-sectorial and multidisciplinary approach in developing in urban policies. Public participation is very low, and consequence of such situation is certain barriers in implementation.

However there are several cases in BiH of public participation in the discussions on draft environmental laws. For instance, in 2009, NGOs participated in the FBiH Parliament's discussion of the draft law on the protection against noise. The FBiH environment ministry involved NGOs in five roundtables discussing the draft FBiH Strategy on Environmental Protection with an action plan for the period 2008-2018. However, the involvement of NGOs in Governmentally-established working groups that influence the formulation and implementation of environmental policy continues to be low. NGOs do not participate in the meetings of the Inter-entity Steering Committee for the Environment. Contrary to the entity environmental laws, NGOs are not sitting on the supervisory boards of the entity environment funds.

In general, there is huge conflict regarding land use issues (conflict in space), mainly between the energy sector and those who promote increase of protected areas.

The lack of a spatial plan is, however, a problem in FBiH. Such a plan would be an umbrella strategy document, on the basis of which the use of space will be defined and development plans will be prepared.

2. Description of your work

Summary of the main ideas developed: work description, including relevant ideas expressed in the questions of this section:

- On-going urban developments
- Information source

Interviewers were identified in order to cover all levels of authority (state, entity and canton). The second criteria were on-going activities in urban planning of decision makers. Applying those criteria the following decision makers were identified and selected to be interviewed:

- Biljana Trivanović – high-level public administrator at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, state level, energy planning
She is head of department for energy issues particularly dealing with EU acquis transposition in the fields of urban planning, housing, energy, transport, public lightning etc.
- Jasmina Katica – high-level public administrator at the Federal ministry of spatial planning; entity level; energy efficiency in buildings
She is involved in development and implementation of policies in the field of urban planning and energy planning.

- Edin Terzić – Minister at the Ministry for spatial planning, traffic, communication and environment of Zenica Dobož Canton; local/cantonal level; sustainable urban planning

3. Application of European legislation

Summary of the main ideas developed: European regulation and transposition/implementation at national and local level

The Government has stated its commitment to putting environmental priorities high on its agenda. However, environmental management has not been a priority in the post-war economic recovery process in Bosnia and Herzegovina and environmental management and sustainable urban planning throughout the country suffers from suboptimal institutional, policy and legal frameworks. As a consequence, policies, plans and programmes fail to take into account environmental impacts.

The EU pre-accession period has created important opportunities for the country to start systematically adapting its laws and accessing additional resources and technical assistance. It also brings complex challenges for Bosnia and Herzegovina, since adoption of the entire EU environmental acquis requires extensive changes to the existing institutional and legal framework. Environmental laws have been harmonized in both entities and in line with a number of EU directives.

At the State level there is no energy strategy, although it is possible that an energy policy for BiH as a whole will soon be developed. However energy strategies exist at the entity level. Since 2002 there has been an electricity law at the State level. At the entity level, RS adopted a new energy law in 2009 but FBiH has not done so yet.

Although the potential for further development of renewable sources of energy is significant, there is no strategy for renewable energy at the State level. However international obligations exist, through the participation of BiH in the Energy Community Treaty and the Energy Charter Treaty and its protocol on energy efficiency. These provide guidelines for future policy in this field.

It can be concluded that EU acquis in the field of environment has been transposed quite well, while in the field of energy it is in the beginning phase, and many obstacles appeared (needs for huge investments, low competitiveness etc.).

4. Barriers about sustainable urban policies

Summary of the main ideas developed: barriers, including relevant ideas expressed in the questions of this section:

- Sources of financing

- Unexpected effects

Due to complex constitutional framework there is lack of capacities to transpose EU acquis since one ministry is in charge for following sectors:

- Energy
- Environment
- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Water management
- Waste management

Besides lack of institutional capacity, lack of knowledge and motivation of civil servants are present. There is no political willingness (of some political parties) to regulate sustainable urban policies on state level. For instance, National Energy Efficiency Action Plan is prepared but due to previous mentioned reason the document is not adopted officially yet.

Governance tools in use are the same as it was in socialism time. Those governance tools are not appropriate for the needs of open market economy.

5. Needs and expectations about sustainable urban policies

Summary of the main ideas developed: needs and expectations, including relevant ideas expressed in the questions of this section:

- Issues to improve or focus better
- What needs
- Additional financing
- Tools
- Organizational and participative instruments
- EU and next programming period

All interviewers are stressed to implement requirements set by the EU acquis and have huge expectations of benefits from EU projects (aids)

Interviewers considered as priority needs networking with relevant EU organizations (for instance provinces and cities agencies) dealing with development and implementation of urban policies through implementation of joint projects. In this context, implementation of demonstration projects is essential. Through participation in implementation of such projects EU best practices would be transferred and adopted to the local circumstances.

Development and training on using of advanced governance tools in urban policies are highlighted as priority needs.

It was stressed out that in the next programming period it is of essential need to be eligible financing of tangible demonstration projects (i.e. energy efficiency measures, renewable energy sources pilot projects, sustainable mobility pilot projects, improvement in waste management sector etc.).

It can be assumed that recently catastrophic events (floods and landslides) will have impacts on drafting sustainable urban policies and programs and will move those issues on the top of sustainable urban planning.