

HUMAN SETTLEMENT COUNTRY PROFILE

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Decision-Making

Programmes and Projects

Status

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising

Information

Research and Technologies

Financing

Cooperation

Decision making: coordination: Sustainable planning and management of settlements is in the competence of the central and local authorities in the Republic of Serbia.

On the initiative of the Ministry for Protection of Natural Resources and Environment the Government of the Republic of Serbia established the Council for Sustainable Development whose member is also the representative from the Ministry for Capital Investments.

The Ministry for Capital Investments of the Republic of Serbia is central institution competent for preparation and enforcement of policies and laws in the fields of transport, telecommunications, physical and urban planning, construction, soil policy and residing. Residing and communal works are by a major part in the competence of local self-governments, and the Ministry for Capital Investments is competent for preparation of policies and laws in field of residing, while the Ministry for State Administration and Local Self-government is competent for communal issues on the central level.

The Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection is competent for the environmental aspect which represents the integral part of physical and urban planning, according to the Law on Planning and Construction; it prepares the elaboration and enforcement of the Strategy and schemes of spatial development of the Republic of Serbia, as well as of other physical plans of interest for the Republic. Supervision over the work of Agency is conducted by the Ministry for Capital Investments. The Republic Geodetic Institute, also within the Ministry for Capital Investments is conducting the expert and administration works of soil administration. The Republic Institute for Statistics is in charge of collection and processing of demographic data.

Local self-governments are competent for elaboration and enforcement of physical and urban plans on its administrative territory.

Legislation: Laws and regulations regulating the field of sustainable management of settlements are numerous, but we should point out to the most important ones:

- Law on Planning and Construction (May 2003) defines the system of physical and urban plans, contents and procedure for their elaboration, as well as the system of control and public insight; regime of construction land; object construction etc. This Law proscribes that the conditions of environmental protection represent the obligatory part of conditions of arranging and construction in the framework of urban plans. Law also provides the possibility of regulating the illegal construction, which represents a great problem for sustainable development of settlements in Serbia.
- Law on Physical Planning of the Republic of Serbia (1996) completely includes the aspect of environmental protection in the development planning of the Republic. In the part of preparation of physical plan in other physical and urban plans related to urban and rural areas, there are envisaged measures that should move the development of settlements in Serbia in the direction of higher sustainability (for example). In order to achieve the Physical plan, elaboration of strategy for sustainable development of the Republic is envisaged.

- Law on Environmental Protection (1991) regulates the measures of environmental protection in planning and construction, based on the principles of rational use of space and natural values. According to this Law, the ministry competent for the works of environmental protection participates in the process of preparation and adoption of physical and urban plans. Law envisages the obligation of investors to elaborate the impact assessment of objects and works which can to a great extent harm the environment.
- Regulation on environmental impact assessment of works and objects (1992) which determines the types of objects, i.e. works which require the environmental impact assessment, its content, way of elaboration and its evaluations. Environmental impact assessment is elaborated in two phases: previous assessment and detailed assessment. In case it is needed, the assessment can also contain the program of monitoring impact on the quality of environment which will be conducted after the start of operations.
- Law on residing (1992) determines the provision of living conditions for socially endangered categories, as public interest.
- Law on communal activities (1997) regulated the communal activities (purification and distribution of waters, transport of passengers, maintaining clean settlements, green areas, roads, public lights, landfills for solid waste etc.) as the activities of general interest.

Strategies, Policies, Plans: Physical plan of the Republic of Serbia from 1996 is a plan document which is still in force until the adoption of the Strategy and schemes of spatial development of the Republic of Serbia, as envisaged by the Law on Planning and Construction. Future Strategy of development of the Republic of Serbia sets long-term goals of physical planning and development in accordance with total economic, social, ecological and cultural-historical development.

Policy of environmental protection of the Republic of Serbia has not been adopted yet. Elaboration of National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) is under way. For certain towns (Nis, Pancevo, Zajecar, Subotica, Bor) local environmental action plans are elaborated, while some other are in the process of elaboration, which should significantly contribute to improvement, urban restoration and revitalization of devastated cities and settlements.

In the middle of 2002, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Strategy of solving the problem of refugees and internally dislocated persons, with the Plan of enforcement. In the framework of integration of refugees into local environments, this Plan elaborates the programs of residing and employment, as well as different forms of social and health protection.

At the end of 2003, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Strategy for Poverty Reduction which includes solving the issues of reduction of both urban and rural poverty, as well as social residing.

Numerous urban plans exist on the local level.

Inclusion of key stakeholders: Since the concept of sustainable settlement covers the wide field comprised of numerous economic, ecological and social aspects, development programs include sector ministries, local self-government, government organizations, scientific and expert institutions and non-governmental organizations. Law on Planning and Construction envisages the expert control and public insight in the process of elaborating physical and urban plans.

Programs and projects: In the seven municipalities in Serbia the realization of the Program of residing and integration of refugees, financed from the donation of the Government of Italy in the amount of EUR 15 million should begin. Enforcement of the Program in the following period of three years will be executed by UN-HABITAT.

During the preparatory phase, in which the Program Project Document was formulated, very good cooperation was realized with the representatives of international organizations, other state bodies, local self-governments, scientific and expert institutions. The Program envisages the construction of 670 units for refugees and local socially-economically endangered population, and parallel construction of new institutional structure and mechanisms of social residing, as well as the components of improvement of local administration's capacities in the field of planning and social-economical integration of refugees.

Status: Environmental protection is regulated as obligatory part of physical and urban plans, through legislative in this field since the middle seventies in Serbia. Law on Environmental Protection from 1991 regulates the measures of environmental protection in planning and construction. This law determined the prevention principle and envisaged the obligation of environmental impact assessment. It also determined the obligation of investors to conduct assessment and quantification of impact of activities to environment, to plan and enforce the measures which prevent harming the environment, or measures of recultivation, i.e. rehabilitation, and provide the realization of proscribed norms. This was further regulated by the Regulation on the impact of objects, i.e. works to environment from 1992. Physical plan of Republic of Serbia from 1996 is based, as a strategic development document, on the principles of sustainable development, i.e. full integration of economic and social aspects, as well as environmental protection in the planning of physical development of the Republic. Among numerous ways of realization of Physical plan, the most important one is elaboration of strategy for sustainable development. There were many different reasons for not realizing these for their time very prosperous law solutions, i.e. plans, and one of the main problems lay in the economic aspect. In the period of real-socialistic economy, the rapid process of industrialization and frequent migrations on the relation village-city were going on, while the planning of settlements was based on rigid economic system, which slowed down the enforcement of existing plans by far. In the period of the nineties, the wars in the country and surroundings, as well as international isolation, generated the long-term economic crisis, which had as the consequence the general weakening of society. Living conditions in urban areas are significantly worsen, which has a negative impact on the state of environment in city and

suburb areas. Central city areas are facing the problems of non-sanitary waste landfills, decay of water utilities and sewage system, increase of air pollution from traffic due to bad quality of fuel and obsolete vehicles, loss of green areas, etc. Many areas, as well as the system of state administration lacked the financial resources for solving concrete problems, enforcement of laws, policies and plans.

Challenges: In order to ensure the enforcement of existing plans, as well as the measures of environmental protection envisaged by the legislative in this field, in this period it is necessary to improve the capacities of local administration, both institutional and expert. It is necessary to establish adequate services, expert training of staff, as well as the better relations between all stakeholders.

Due to privatization process, which is under way, it is necessary to elaborate the country strategy for solving the issues of inherited pollutions. On one side, it is also necessary to conduct cleaning, reconstruction and revitalization of degraded industrial areas, and on the other to stimulate in different ways the introduction of ecologically and energetically more efficient systems, both in production and in households and public community services.

Capacity Building, Education, Raising Awareness: Basic principles of development of sustainable settlements are participation and transparency. All stakeholders, local administration, business representatives, experts, citizens, must actively cooperate in all phases of the process of planning and management of settlements. In order to make a positive step forward with this cooperation, it is necessary to improve the capacities of local administration, education in environmental field and system of information.

Availability of information in environmental field is enforced mainly through papers electronic media. Education and awareness raising is conducted through school programs, expert magazines, and institutional support giving to expert NGOs whose activity is the promoting of this field.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Due to the fact that it is not possible to provide significant financing for the sustainable development of settlements on the country level, efforts are made to obtain necessary resources to support national strategies through international cooperation. Through elaborations of LEAPs the possibility of local authorities to get financial support from international institutions and donors is increased.

Cooperation: No information available.

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