



Regional Capacity Strengthening Program and Vienna Declaration activities

Meeting of Focal Points

Warsaw, Poland - 25 February 2008



**UN-HABITAT RECENT
EXPERIENCE IN THE REGION -
ALBANIA**

UN-HABITAT recent experience in the region - Albania

- First contacts with UN-HABITAT:
 - HABITAT II conference in Istanbul: 1995 – 1996;
 - Impressions:
 - **Engagement of professionals** – architects, urban planner, economists, sociologists, tec..
 - **Participation** – governments, NGOs, associations, academia, media, etc...
 - **Important documents** – Habitat Agenda, Action Plan, Indicators, many others...;
 - **Warsaw office - UN-HABITAT come closer to Europe !**

UN-HABITAT recent experience in the region - Albania

- Some general remarks:
 - UN-HABITAT has an excellent practices related to human settlements: Housing & Urban Planning;
 - UN-HABITAT has excellent experiences and instruments to disseminate them;
 - It needs to develop its experience in transitional countries

UN-HABITAT recent experience in Albania

- Within the framework of RCSP:
 - Developed an action plan to address informal settlements, housing & urban planning issues;
 - Benefits:
 - Exchange of experience in a practical manner and frequently;
 - Discussions aiming in addressing:
 - informal settlements issues;
 - Housing;
 - Urban planning & management
 - Weaknesses:
 - Inability to attend all events;
 - No visible results;

UN-HABITAT recent experience in Albania


- Within the framework of RCSP (cont.):
 - Pilot activity – regional consultation on housing policy issues in collaboration with UNECE:
 - Social housing;
 - Financing housing;
 - Managing housing stock
 - Benefits:
 - Helped to improve practices & under preparation legislation;
 - Contributed to the regional discussions on housing policy issues;
 - Coordination of UN bodies with similar filed of interest
 - Weaknesses:
 - No visible results;
 - Low attendance

UN-HABITAT recent experience in Albania


- Within the framework of RCSP (cont.):
 - Pilot activity – second phase:
 - Local Capacity Building for Administration of Housing Issues;
 - Implemented through the Albanian Association of Municipalities;
 - Specific objective – to assist municipalities in preparing integrated housing programs;

UN-HABITAT recent experience in Albania - Local Capacity Building for Administration of Housing Issues

- Benefits:
 - a manual on the methodology for the preparation of 10-years housing programs;
 - Awareness at local level on their responsibility on housing increased;
 - Knowledge on the requirements of the new legislation increased;
 - Building housing local expert's capacities
- Weaknesses:
 - Needed more financial & human resources;
 - The manual is not enough for local gov. to get involved;
 - Needed more specialized expertise



UN-HABITAT recent experience in the region - Albania

- Technical assistance for CEB project – not a direct involvement of UN-HABITAT;
 - SILP – a new proposal for capacity building at local level, based on SIRP methodology;
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Some general remarks:

- **Confusion with the organizational structure**
 - **Head offices – Nairobi;**
 - **Regional offices:**
 - **Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States** Nairobi, Kenya
 - **Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific** Fukuoka, Japan,
 - **Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean** Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro
 - **liaison and information offices**
 - **Liaison & Information Office: Geneva, Switzerland**
 - **Liaison & Information Office: Beijing, China**
 - **Liaison & Information Office: Budapest, Hungary**
 - **Liaison & Information Office: Chennai, India**
 - **Liaison & Information Office: Brussels, Belgium**
 - **UN-HABITAT WEBSITES:**
 - **Asia and the Pacific**
 - **China**
 - **Latin America & Caribbean**
 - **Jordan**
 - **Serbia**
 - **Warsaw**

Some general remarks – continue

- Action Plan for VD and the Pilot projects :
 - Should not be limited to meetings / workshops / exchange of experience;
 - Activities should try to attract not only SEE countries;
 - Capacity building should be sustainable – this requires:
 - Not only targeting local government
 - education of the new planners;
 - Potential projects for exchange of students and/or educational programs;
 - Combination with investments