Co-PLAN GAZETTE

A Biannual Publication of Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Biannual Publication Gazette No. 4 - December 2012

2012 in Pictures

Highlights of events, research work, and developments high on the domestic agenda during 2012, particularly focusing on the fiscal decentralisation discourse, regional development, Tirana Architecture Weeks, and Policy Advocacy in Albania.



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Facts & Findings

Highlights - Territorial Planning in Albania

- The law "On Territory Planning" and the consecutive bylaws constitute a significant effort to address the gap between the development of the territory led by people and the legal and institutional response of the government to guide this development. It still remains a question mark, whether this reform will be successful.

- The new law is very complex for the users and requires a huge investment in capacities, as well as a mentality shift on how land development instruments can finance public infrastructure.

- Development rights belong to the government institutions and the planning process should effectively distribute these rights to guarantee sustainable territory development.

- The government should employ a guiding role in territorial development, in order to guarantee balance of public and private interests, next to sustainable development.

- The territory planning law may take long to integrate into the legal system of Albania. More than 80 laws need to be revised to match with the territorial planning law.

- There is no full decentralization in territorial planning. Urban planning is a local competence and territorial planning is shared between local and central government.

- There is lack of trust from the citizens on inclusive territory planning and development. Municipalities should be creative to involve citizens in planning processes and ensure the tangible outcomes of this participation.

The impact of EU policies in territory planning is not measured and the impact of the whole reform was not pre-assessed prior to drafting the law. The position of Albania in the EU planning systems/families is still not clear and is yet to be defined.

Required bylaw as defined in the TP Law	Status of approval
Law on Territory Planning	No. 10119, date 23.04.2009; Entered in force on 30.09.2011; Amended with: Law no. 10258, date 25.03.2010; The normative act of the Council of Ministers no. 4, date 25.08.2010; Law no. 10360, date 16.12.2012.
1. NTPA	DCM no. 1190, date 13.11.2009, "On the Organization and Functioning of the National Territorial Planning Agency"
2. NTC	DCM no. 87, date 7.2.2012, "On the Composition of the National Territory Council". The DCM on the Regulation of NTC has also been revised and is expecting approval by the Council of Ministers.
3. Uniform Regulation on planning instruments	DCM no. 481, date 22.06.2011, "On the Approval of the uniform regulation of planning instruments"
4. Model Planning Regulation	DCM no. 480, date 22.06.2011, "On the Approval of the model planning regulation"; Amended with: DCM no. 140, date 22.02.2012
5. Building Regulation	No drafting process yet.
6. Registry of the territory planning	DCM no. 460, date 16.06.2010, "On the organization and functioning of the territorial planning Registry" DCM no. 459, date 16.06.2010, "On the approval of the common geodesic and GIS standards".
7. Uniform Regulation on Development Control	DCM no. 502, date 13.07.2011, "On the approval of the uniform regulation on development control"; Amended with: DCM no. 88, date 7.02.2012; DCM no. 139, date 22.02.2012; DCM no. 345, date 9.05.2012.
8. Special Instruments of development control (bylaws for implementation)	No specific drafting process as yet.
9. Uniform structure of Annual Report of territory development	Draft prepared in June 2012, revised in October 2012 upon comments by line Ministries, pending approval by the Council of Ministers.
10. General National Territorial Plan	Commitment expressed; to be initiated

The State of Regionalisation in Albania

Progress and Challenges Ahead







This international roundtable was organized by the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the Regional Development Program Northern Albania[2], in the framework of the Albanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of Councils of Europe. The purpose was to establish a multi-stakeholder roundtable that would bring proposals and feed a healthy debate on the regionalization of Albania.

Despite continuous efforts to bring forward issues of regional development and regionalization, there are still related questions that need an answer. The aim of this roundtable was to enlighten these issues through an experts` debate and provide a list of key steps that the Government of Albania could take over in policy dialogue and decision-making.

(1) Qark has currently a relatively minor role in local governance as compared to municipalities and communes, but it can have an important role in fostering and coordinating bottom-up regional development. Shall Qark remain with the same functions and territorial borders, or a new Region shall be designated?

(2) If new Regions are to be designated, what will be the favourite type of regionalization that could take place in Albania to fulfil domestic needs in economic development and decentralization?

(3) How shall Albania align domestic Regional Development with the EU regional development and cohesion policy?

(4) What would be the institutional, legal and political implications of any reform on regional development and regionalization in Albania?

(5) How do efforts for regionalization and regional development mutually interact with the on-going process of the European Integration?

In order to support the response to these questions, the roundtable that was headed by Deputy Minister of Interior Mr. Ferdinand Poni, was built around four main themes. Theme 1: Challenges of devolution and regionalization of Albania from the perspective of the Congress of Local Authorities (Mr. Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress). Theme 2: The Status of the "Region" and options for improvement (Mr. Besnik Aliaj). Theme 3: The role of the "Region" in the context of European Integration (Ms. Grida Duma). Theme 4: The future of Regional Development and related institutions in Albania (Mr. Daniel Wagner).

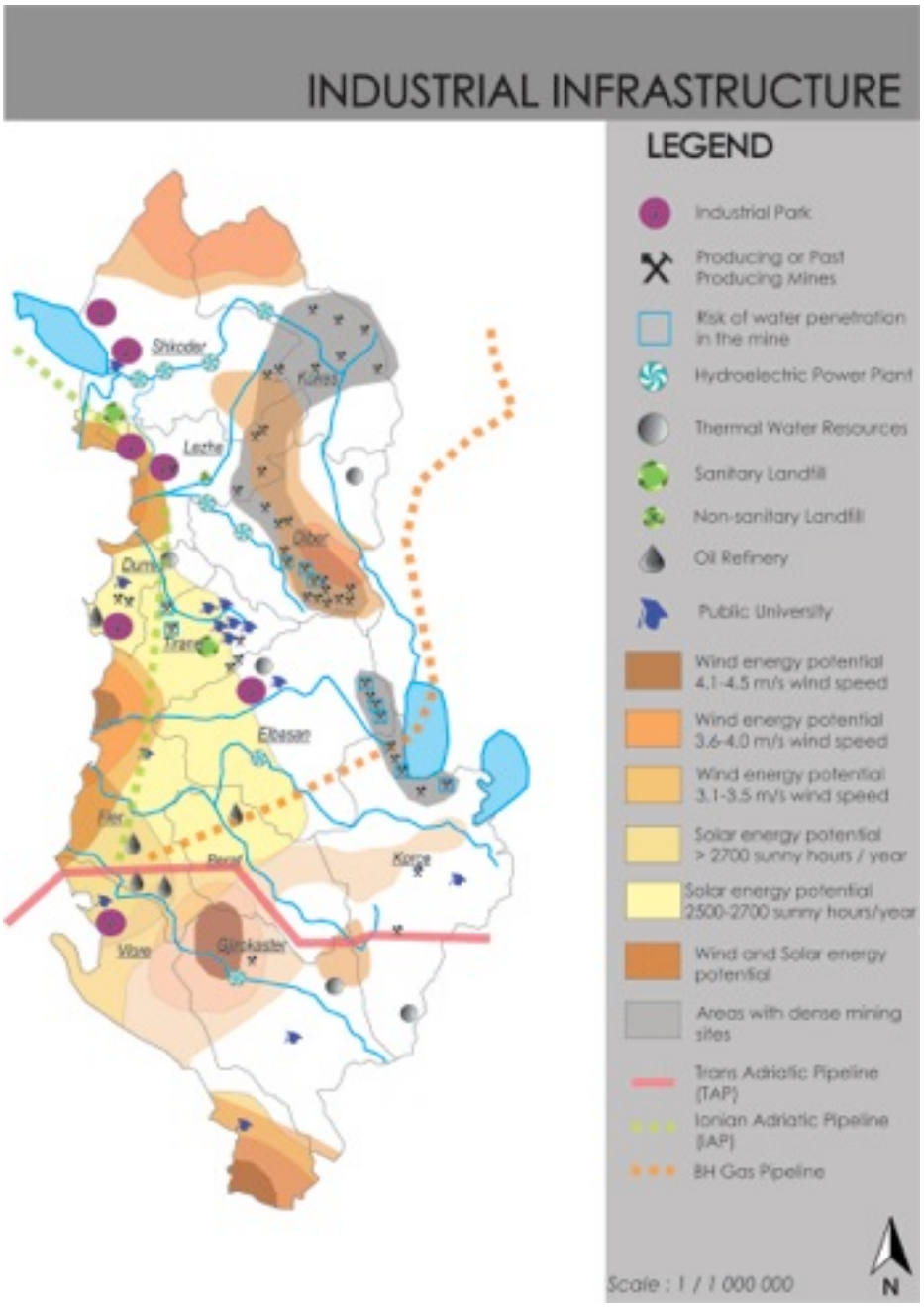
After 12 years of intensive work on decentralization for the first level of government, this conference aimed to direct attention towards the progress and challenges still ahead for the regionalization in Albania.

Decentralization & Democracy

The role of decentralisation in democracy consolidation in Albania and the European integration.

On the occasion of the Albanian Chairmanship of Council of Europe, the Ministry of Interior organised on October 30-31, 2012, the international conference .

This was the closing and the most important event organised under the Chairmanship, with the participation of the President of the Republic Mr. Bujar Nishani, Prime Minister of Albania Mr. Sali Berisha, Minister of Interior Mr. Flamur Noka, Speaker of the Parliament Mrs. Jozefina Topalli, Mayor of Tirana Mr. Lulzim Basha, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Mr. Thorbjorn Jagland, Ambassador of the EU Delegation Mr. Ettore Sequi, Secretary General of the Congress of the European Local and Regional Authorities Mr. Andreas Kiefer, Head of OSCE Presence in Albania Mr. Eugen Wollfarth and other representatives of ministries, international delegations, local and regional governments, program and civic society organizations.



The conference was in line with the policy contributions of Albania during Chairmanship: promotion of human rights at local government level; citizen participation and local and regional government level; consolidation of regionalization of Albania; strengthening of the role of local and regional councillors in sustainable economic development; and modernization of the administration.

The objective of consolidation of the regionalization and also the process of regional development in Albania were largely discussed in the workshops of the first, third and sixth theme of the Conference.

The first theme specifically focused on the "Consolidation of Regionalization" with discussions on Albanian regions challenges and roles, regionalization process in the EU accession framework and the perspective of regional development and multi-level governance in Albania. Co-PLAN also had a contribution through the presentation of Mr. Dritan Shutina, executive director, on the general framework of regionalisation in Albania and the further consolidation of the role of Albanian regions, together with challenges and tendencies.

The third theme focused on multilevel cooperation and its importance in overcoming trans-frontier obstacles, with special attention to IPA funds.

The sixth theme provided substantial input on instruments and practices for regional development, focussing especially on the role of Regional Development Agencies.

Latest Initiatives in Territorial Planning

Coaching of Municipalities to review their territorial plans





The National Agency for Territorial Planning (NTPA), in line with its legal obligation to facilitate planning processes, has organized a coaching process with 10 Local Government Units (LGUs) focusing on reviewing these units' General Territorial Local Plans and adapting them with the specifications of the Law no.10119, date 23.04.2009, "On Territory Planning", as amended and the respective bylaws. The review process, which took place from April to October 2012, was financed by USAID in the framework of the Planning and Local Governance Project 2012-2016 (PLGP) and technically supported by this project. The municipalities that participated in the program were those of Shkodra, Berat, Korça, Fushë-Kruja, Kamza, Fier, Gjirokastra, Vlora, Pogradec and Durrës. During this coaching program, five supporting sessions were organized, where Specialists from municipalities were advised on technicalities by fifteen NTPA Specialists and five external PLGP Consultants from Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development. These training sessions provided ample knowledge on five key components that will help to understand the requirements that these plans, related policies, regulations and other legally required documents will need to fulfill in order to comply with the new legal framework. The role of NTPA and external consultants was purely advisory and plans were adapted directly by the specialists of participant LGUs. At the end of the coaching sessions, the reviewed plans were approved by the respective Councils of the municipalities of Shkodra, Berat, Korça, Fushë-Kruja, Kamza, Fier, Gjirokastra, Vlora, Pogradec and Durrës. The municipalities of Shkodra, Berat, Fushë-Kruja, Fier, Durrës etc. were delivered to the NTPA to initiate the process of approval by the National Territory Council (NTC).

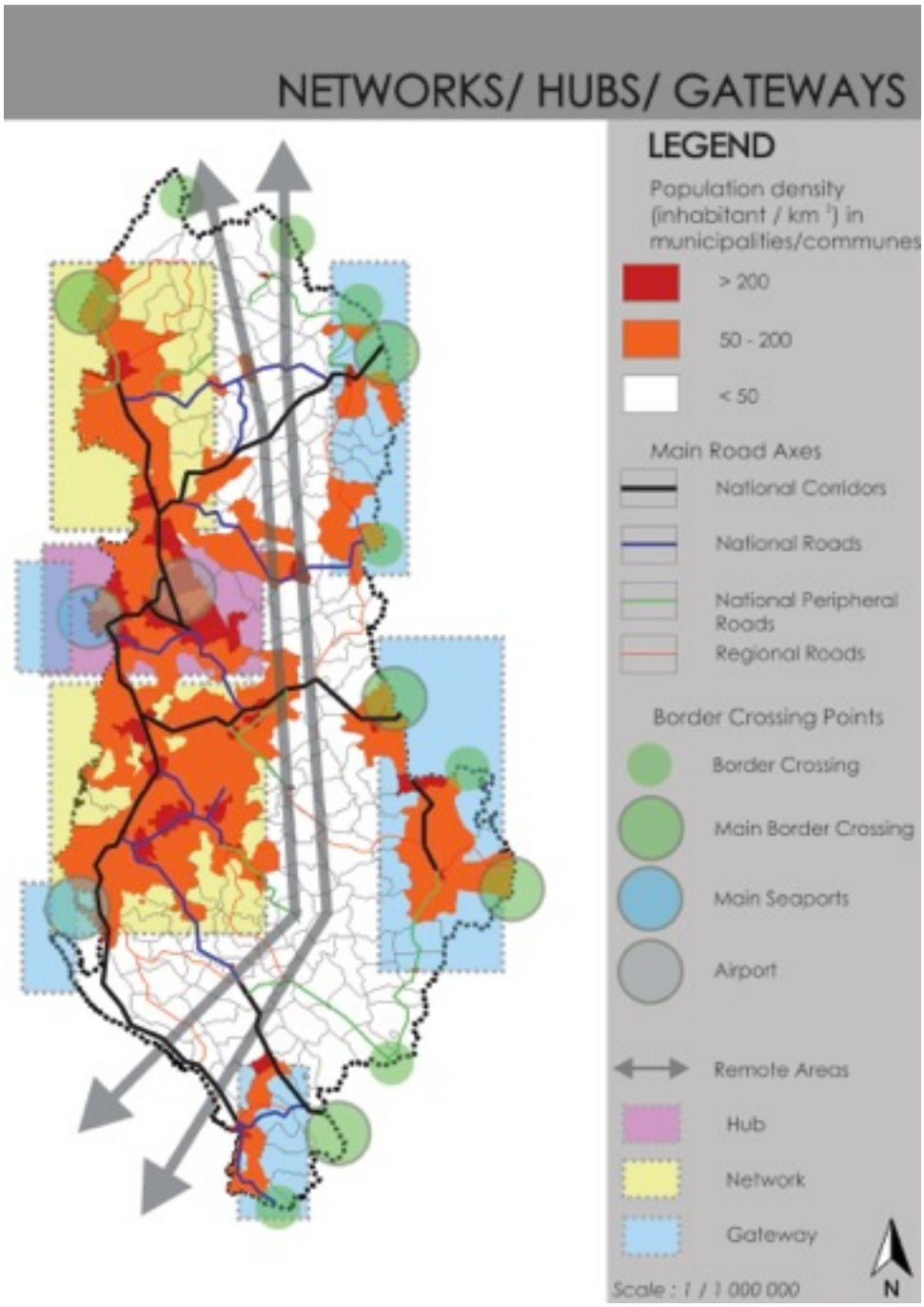
To celebrate the successful closure of this coaching process, on November 14th 2012, the *National Meeting for the Empowerment of Local Authorities in the Territory Planning and Administration Process* was organized. Among the participants were Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania Mr. Sali Berisha, United States of America Ambassador Mr. Aleksander Arvizu, PLGP Director Mr. Peter Clavelle, experts of PLGP, NTPA Directors and experts, Mayors and Planning Directors of participant LGUs supported by this process and by the PLGP, donors, NGO representatives, civil society representatives and other stakeholders. This meeting aimed to present the work carried out so far for the implementation of the reform in the territory planning sector, by focusing on the NTPA and PLGP coaching program for the review of plans, and the major challenges ahead for the successful accomplishment of the reform. The meeting discussions emphasized the key role of NTPA in the successful accomplishment of the reform, continuous government support as well as the need for donor support. The meeting ended with discussions among participants, who expressed their willingness and readiness for cooperation and coordination of steps that need to be taken, to guarantee not only the devising of general territory plans, but also their implementation in line with legislation and public interests.

The Role and Competencies of Qark & Other institutions related to Regional Development

Under the framework of the Regional Development Program in Northern Albania, Rudina Toto, Dritan Shutina and Besnik Aliaj have prepared an extensive policy paper reviewing the role and Competencies of the Qark and other supporting institutions related to regional development. The paper aims to call attention to the many challenges facing regional development institutions, as well as the process itself, in Albania and lays down the policy shift needed to address these challenges.

The paper provides a comprehensive background of regional development in Albania, including an analysis of the legal and strategic framework, instruments and stakeholders. The socio-economic, spatial and historical development of the region and the regional development is laid out, in an Albanian and European context, focusing on the Qark territory and Qark Councils and administration as a possible locus and institution for regional governance and regional development.

A comprehensive analysis of the process and expectations given Albania's EU integration priorities, deducted the main challenges facing regional development in Albania, which vary from the still undefined role of the Qark as an institution, to the insufficient legal and strategic framework for regional development and the overall political struggles to progress with political, administrative and fiscal decentralization in Albania.



Policy changes needed to tackle these challenges should focus on fostering a more comprehensive and integrated regional development process. The new policy should aim to address two overall objectives: (1) create institutional and legal conditions for the provision of qualitative, sustainable and efficient public services to citizens and (2) boost sustainable regional development by strengthening social-economic cohesion, enhancing economic competitiveness as well as building a comprehensive institutional and legal framework that responds to both domestic development challenges and EU integration requirements.

Territorial Development Policies *of Bushat*







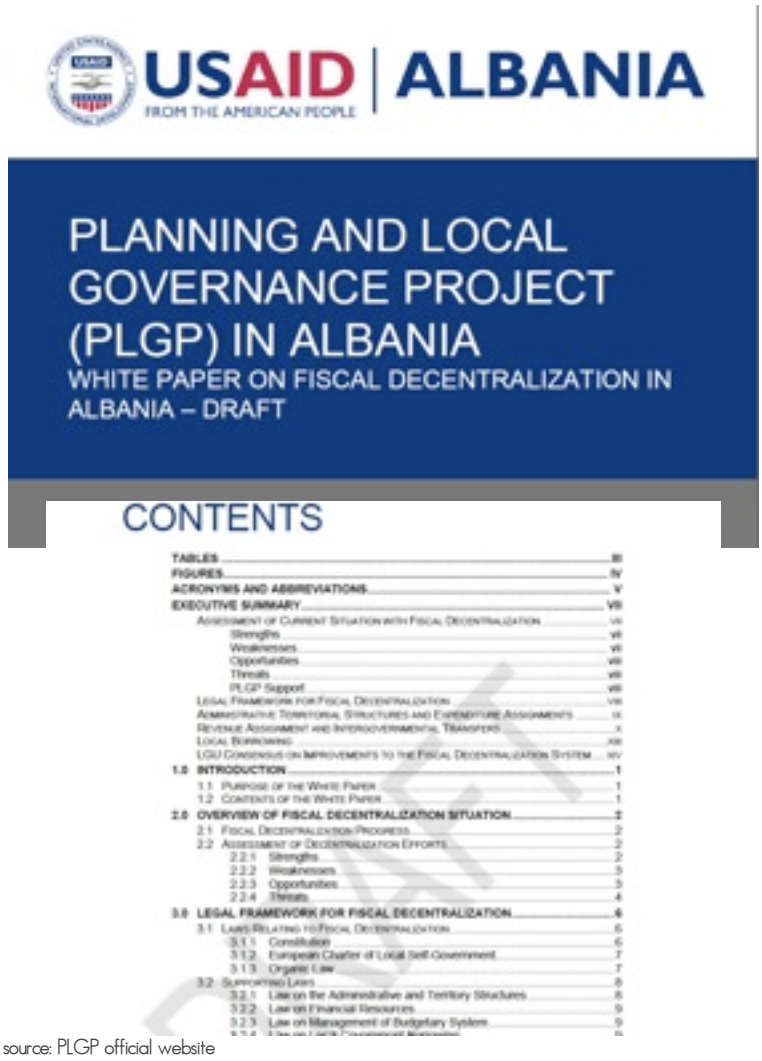
According to the Law no. 10119 date. 23.4.2009 "On Territorial Planning", as amended, all the commune and the municipalities that do not possess an instrument to control the development of the territory, must be equipped with one. Under the Law 10119 and with the help of the Association of the Communes of Albania, the commune of Bushat undertook, in April 2012, the initiative to draft the Territory Development Policy Document. The preparation of this paper was supported by DAAC project Phase-Out funded by SIDA, the Swedish International Development Agency in Tirana and was conducted by a joint working group consisting of representatives of the Commune of Bushat and Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development.

The draft document of the Territorial Development Policy Document is made through a process, in which the community is involved in every step of it, either through consultative meetings conducted at the premises of the Commune with representatives of interest groups, either through questionnaires conducted in the field by a joint working group.

This document was approved by the Council of the Commune of Bushat in October 2012. The Territory Development Policy Document of the Bushat Commune, it's the first Albania's planning instrument designed according to the provisions of Law 10119. It serves not only to guide the future territorial development, economic, social and environmental development of the commune, but it leads the way for the development of the Local General Plan (LGP) and the relevant regulations of the territorial planning.

ON FISCAL DECENTRALISATION

USAID-funded Planning and Local Governance Program (PLGP) present a White Paper on Fiscal Decentralization in Albania



source: PLGP official website

In a continuous effort to further the fiscal decentralization in Albania, the USAID-funded Planning and Local Governance Program (PLGP) presented a White Paper on Fiscal Decentralization in Albania particularly focusing on where the process stands at the moment, and what can be done in terms of policy-making to further it? More specifically, the White Paper was conceptualized more as an instrument to initiate dialogue among stakeholders, than just a document, focusing on four main areas: (1) legal framework, (2) administrative territorial structures and expenditure assignments, (3) revenues and intergovernmental transfers, and (4) local borrowing.

Findings of this White Paper, which can be downloaded from the official PLGP site, were broadly discussed with the Central and Local Government authorities as well as with the national local associations and donors' community. Comments and proposals received were included in the final draft of the White Paper, which was finalized in September 2012 and discussed in the Fiscal Decentralization Conference held at the beginning of October 2012. Contributions to the White Paper came from national and international experts in the field, including Co-PLAN experts, who assisted both in the preparatory process as well as the drafting of the document.

Building on the findings of the paper, and the overall objective, a Conference on Fiscal Decentralisation in Albania was held on October 4, 2013, a high profile event which was attended by the Albanian Prime Minister Mr. Sali Berisha, the US Ambassador Mr. Alexander Arvizu, Mayors of PLGP partner LGUs, representatives from Ministries of Interior and Finance, donor community working in local governance and NGOs.

The PLGP 'partner' local government units include: Tirana, Durres, Fier, Lushnje, Berat, Kuçova, Patos, Vlore, Saranda, Elbasan, Korça, Vora, Kamza, and communes of Kashar and Paskuqan.

Recommendations

! immediate action !

1. Revision and updating of the National Decentralization Strategy;
2. Completion of the existing Draft Law on Local Finance;
3. Reconciliation of the census and civil registry data;
4. Acceleration of the property registration process with transfer of property record information to the LGUs
5. Better distribution of the motor vehicle tax with more going to the LGUs.

! long-term action !

1. Revision of the administrative territorial structures following a period of voluntary structuring and then compulsory amalgamation;
2. Transfer of shared functions to LGUs based on willingness and capacity;
3. Sharing of taxes on Personal Income Tax once the technical problems of implementation are resolved; and
4. Definition of the role and responsibilities of the regions (Qark).

A Beginner's GUIDE TO ADVOCACY in Albania

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

The *Beginner's Guide to Policy Advocacy in Albania* introduces a number of policy advocacy initiatives fitted for the Albanian context. Public policy experts at Co-PLAN Institute for Habitat Development have capitalised on the significant organizational experience in working with local, central government authorities, and other stakeholders, in a rapidly changing socio-political context, under mounting urbanization pressure. As a result, the target audience of this guide is rather wide, encompassing both *curiosity-driven* individuals and professionals, including think tanks, research institutes, NGOs, academics, associations, coalitions or interest groups but also individuals, policy analysts and government advisors. In short, every individual or organization, that wishes to influence the policymaking process in Albania, may use this guide as a starter on how to raise an issue for public debate, how to make an impact on a current policy, or how to join efforts to bring about desired change in their area of interest.



To this end, a concise, practical introduction to the intricate process of public policy making in Albania and the ways advocacy can be used to influence it, has also been included.

The guide starts by introducing us to advocacy and the public policy arena. In the second chapter, a simplified theoretical framework introduces the different types of public policy and advocacy approaches that might fit each type. Chapter three narrows down to public policy making in Albania and looks at the process from both the institutional (legislative and executive) and civic contexts. Following background information on public policy in Albania, the on relevant actors and the political environment, we move on to how public policies are developed. Chapter four presents the policy cycle, a conceptual framework for understanding how policies develop via a stage-by-stage model and the implications of each stage for advocacy.

Examples and case studies play an important role in this guide, which is why different scenarios and approaches are illustrated with initiatives from the Albanian and international policymaking arena, to give the reader a feel of the challenges and effort it normally takes to achieve policy influence.

We hope that think tanks, civil society organizations, research centers as well as individuals and volunteer groups can use this guide as a first step into policy advocacy. In looking to make an impact in policymaking, advocates are also advancing their interests while fostering the active engagement of the Albanian civil society in decisions that frame public life.

Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development aims to further improve the quality and quantity of its policy-relevant research and increase the related impact on various policies in Albania and Western Balkans. The *Beginner's Guide to Policy Advocacy* is the first in a line of engagements and publications by Co-PLAN to pursue this objective and contribute to a democratic and deliberative policy-making environment in Albania.

TIRANA ARCHITECTURE WEEK

As anticipated since 2011, Tirana Architecture Weeks constituted the highlight of 2012 in the U_POLIS calendar with its international dimension and the intensity of activities organized and knowledge exchanged. During the month of September and October 2012, Tirana became a worthy host of international experts, professionals in architecture, planning and design, and turned the city into a vivid stage for the planned performances and activities envisioned as part of TAW 4 comprising blocks, namely Architecture, Art & Design, Public events & International workshops.

The aim of Tirana Architecture Week was to promote international knowledge exchange among professionals and enhance public interest in architecture, art and design, as disciplines deeply concerned with the contemporary city development.

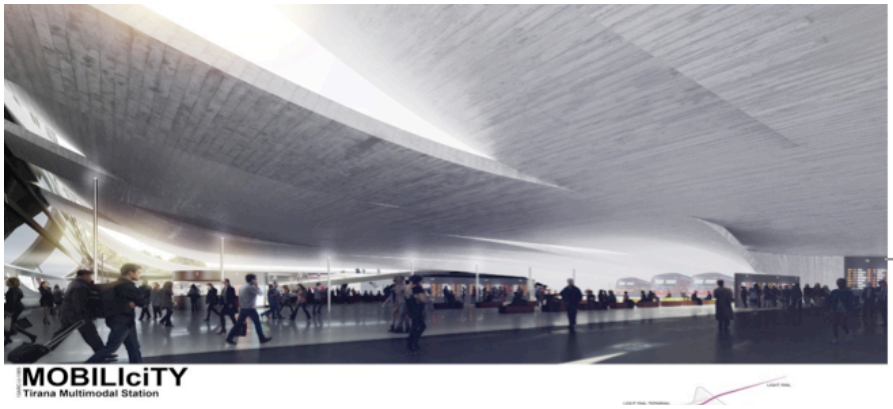
Architecture Events

Swiss Positions: 33 takes on sustainable approaches to Building - a traveling exhibition that was a collection of photographs of 33 key projects from the Swiss construction sector over the past twenty years, all of which had something to do with the theme of sustainable development. Swiss architecture and engineering enjoy an excellent reputation and high visibility not only on account of the quality of technical expertise and the inventiveness of their designers, but also on account of a far-reaching concern with sustainable development.









Tirana multimodal station - A public promotion of the ideas that were developed and then screened, in an effort to identify the most creative ones, as part of the AWR competition for the Tirana multimodal station. Two additional events alongside the competition, encouraged citizens to join and re-appropriate the space. On the opening day a jazz concert of an Albanian contemporary band was organized, and during the T.A.W. a public film screening of an Albanian movie (Binarët by Fejzo Muharram, 1987) touching on the importance of the railway in the citizens everyday life.

PLASTIC BOTTLE STATION

The first recycled plastic bottle structure in Albania, to serve as a bus shelter in the Commune of Kashar, was inaugurated during the Tirana Architecture Week events, on October 8, 2012. The bus shelter is situated in the vicinity of Polis University. The idea and design of this project dates back to the start of 2012, using 12 thousand plastic bottles (0.5l) for its construction. This project, original in its chosen way to recycle the plastic water-bottles, aims to promote unique and efficient ideas in design and recycling among the communes and municipalities of Albania.







STORY OF AN APARTMENT

"Story of an Apartment" (Co-Plan, Housing research) - Four stories of four apartments in Tirana, two from the communist period, 1950/90's and two constructed after 1990's, were at the center of an exhibition organized in the premises of U_POLIS, displaying and analyzing functional changes, how they have influenced on the users quality of life and how are they related with the general conditions in the society in that period. This exhibition is a section of a broader research: "Quality of life change the quality of space", conducted in cooperation with Co-Plan Institute for Habitat Development, through the project of research studies on the topic of "The Typology of Albanian Housing in its Balkan Context".

VIBRANT SQUARES

During the Tirana Architecture Weeks, a four-day-conference on Re-appropriation of the city was held, organized by Co-PLAN in collaboration with POLIS University, EXPEDITIO and Kor-CSD. The conference focused on the transformation of City Squares into new vibrant community places, as one of the key thematic events of the Tirana Architecture Week.

The Pythagoras' (un)constant (Exhibition) emerged as an inspiration from the project Revival of City Squares in Balkan Cities, whose aim is to reflect on a new creative idea of city square questioning people who use and live that spaces about values and problematic to re-use in order to create new vibrant, creative and livable spaces to use as city squares.

Art & Design Events



SPIRAL DYNAMICS & THE CITY

"Spiral Dynamics and the City: How Values Shape the Urban Environment" - by Peter Nientied and Rudina Toto.

The paper addresses the current dilemma of contemporary architecture and planning schools of thought: how to deal with cities to make them livable? In doing this, it brings to light many challenges such as the need for better problem definition in our urban environment, the need for methods to diagnose core problems in the city, identifications of possible courses of action in a changing city as well as the need for new approaches that realize effective change. These challenges need, first and foremost, a model that helps to understand and tackle these issues. The paper in question offers the Spiral Dynamics model as a tool to diagnose city evolution and dynamics by dissecting the complex relationships between the city and its inhabitants. This model tracks the changes in value systems to comprehend the dominant drives in any society and ultimately develop a better understanding of the city in a physical and socio-cultural sense. Illustrations of physical expressions of Spiral Dynamics values are taken from two examples from the city of Rotterdam in the Netherlands, as well as an in-depth case study of Tirana, the capital of Albania. The Spiral Dynamics model is used to explain and give direction to movements and effective action for turning the city into a livable environment. Under the theme of TAW – [Re]Appropriation of the City – the paper aims to ultimately discover what should be done to re-appropriate public space in Tirana, and offers rendering collective values to the city as a potential solution.



THE_PYRAMID









DRIVERS_PEDESTRIANS



TIRANA_BEFORE '90s



BUILDING_BLOCKS





PLANS&REALITY



SHOPPING_MALLS



COMMUNITY&GARDEN

BED&BUNKER

http://bunkerkunft.fh-mainz.de/

An international project co-operation by students of FH Mainz (University of Applied Sciences), Germany and POLIS University (International School of Architecture and Urban Development Policies), Tirana, Albania.



This project was inspired by a diploma thesis of a FH Mainz Interior Architecture student, born and brought up in Tirana. Having witnessed the widely bunker-ed landscape in both rural and urban Albania, the student had the idea to *recycle such structures for individual tourism use*. The project aimed to rebuild a water-resistant housing structure for tourists without grave changes to the bunker, as an alternative to campgrounds.

In the 1970s and 1980s hundreds of thousands of bunkers of different types were built in Albania for defending the country. The feared invasion never came and the bunkers were never used. Now the mostly round concrete buildings are embossing the characteristic landscape from the mountains to the sea and forming attractive viewpoints. Because of their strategic nature, the bunkers were placed in all types of reliefs, providing it had a good overview.

This project focused on a bunker placed by the coast; easily reachable by car, hiking or bicycle. About 400.000 bunkers are in existence, including all kind of bunkers, big or small ones, underground or in the mountains.





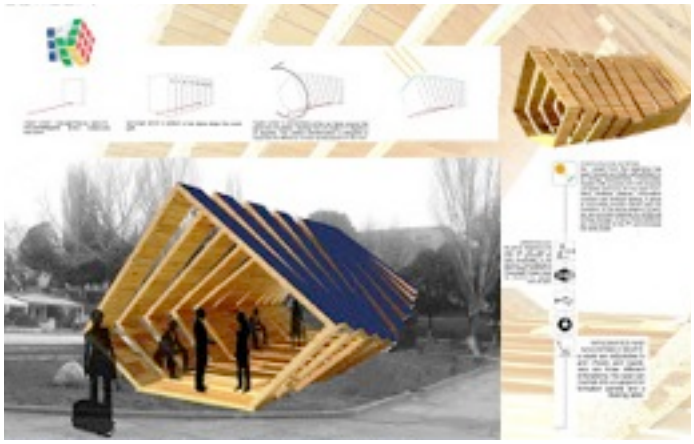






Fashion is not neutral: The theme of the fashion show was Surrealist Fashion using recyclable materials but not only. The students, having already studied the elements of surrealism, easily grasped the underlying concept and created 15 such dresses, assisted in the process by a professional tailor.

Public Events



Trans[a]cting the city, a set of improvised/informal tours, aimed to promote professional and social experiences with the objective to discover alternative itineraries and nontraditional transects of the city. Open to everyone, rich and colorful in its approach to stimulate social interaction, this activity worked as a plug-in mass which is constantly moving into the city and tries to inject vitality by implementing different performances and acts devoted to the activation of the public spaces of Tirana.

Tirana Urban Bundles (TUB), a common space that provides initial condition for people participation in the process of producing and managing their urban environment, is a political tool of the people that seek to exert influence the development of relations between private and public life in the city. In the case of Tirana, the Urban Bundle was a temporary installation in a public space intended to facilitate gatherings of the administrators, citizens, investors and experts in order to maintain their discussions and negotiations on developing Tirana urban conditions.



Urban Inter[action] focused on those particular interstitial spaces that make up the urban image, yet, usually missed by the eye. This event was conceived as an interactive re-creation of an existing public environment, stimulating the urban areas of the unconscious turn into resource and a starting point for a new vision of the city. The main concern and outcome of this event was the evaluation of existing urban areas as livable urban systems.

City Gaming - a strategic, timed construct, which started with the role distribution and the presentation of imaginary (or real) city problematic. The game was played in time lapse mode where each passing hour represented a larger time scale (ex. year). In that way, observers could watch developments in the city with each passing hour. Theoretical knowledge in various fields constituted a prerequisite for each player in this game, yet the public following the game received understandable outcomes with real life situations.



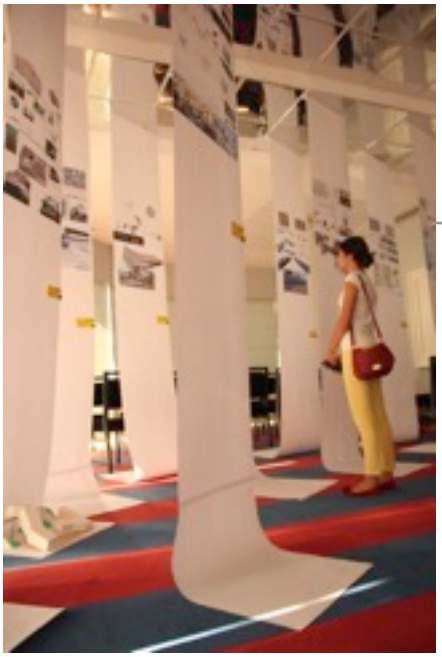


Workshops

Diagonal Workshops

The diagonal workshops focused on the transgressive relations between art, design and architecture. The workshops offered the opportunity to work with photography, design, and architecture through an experimental point of view: In order to get involved, creativity is the only skill that you should aspire to develop.

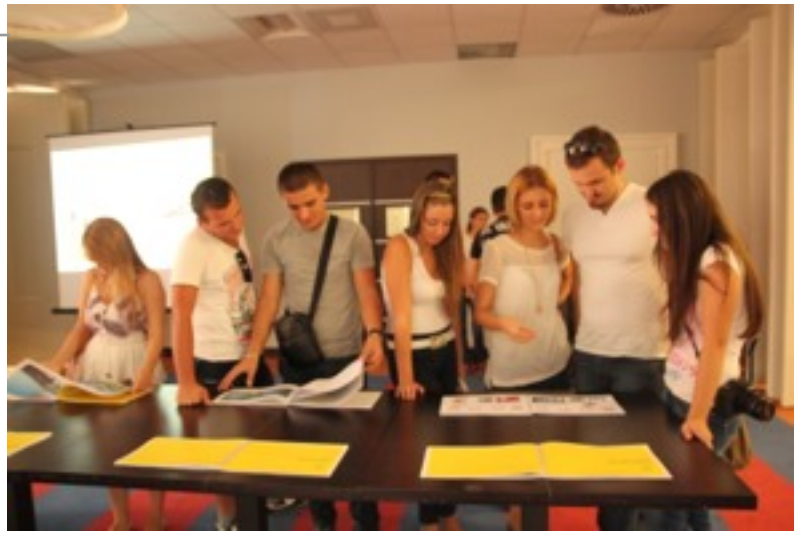




Vertical Workshop:

The city as a phenomenon along vertical dimension

The Vertical Workshop focused on the vertical layers of the city of Tirana and its immediate surroundings. Through the workshop the expression vertical layer was introduced so to emphasize the city as a phenomenon of accumulation and proliferation of physical materials along vertical dimensions. The vertical sprawl of functions in Tirana was the focus of the workshop, which considered the 'heights " of the city as new catalysts for the exploration and re-invention of specific urban and architectural conditions.



Horizontal Workshop:

Tirana River, a sign of horizontal city structuring

The Horizontal Workshop focused on the Tirana River – a complex and heterogeneous mix of realities, and a significant sign of the horizontal structuring of the city. The workshop comprised of alternate different lectures, direct surveys on the river's banks followed by some micro-transformations as exciting and inspiring urban activism actions. The workshop intended to raise awareness the Tirana River and highlight the future potentials of this location in the general city framework.