



Stakeholder engagement workshop on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, Mitrovica South Municipality © UN-Habitat/Kosovo

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A sectoral intervention to strengthen inclusive planning in Kosovo\*

In 2013, the municipalities of Mitrovica North and South became independent cities, largely split into Kosovo-Serbs and Kosovo-Albanian residents. The cities have separate institutions, local assemblies and governance systems and services such as telecommunications, water and electricity supply. Football and basketball teams play in different leagues and transport is segregated. Separation is reinforced by institutional practices, infrastructure, utilities and urban segregation.

Since 2018, UN-Habitat has helped the municipalities of Mitrovica North and South to work on their Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) in line with European guidelines. SUMPs are strategic plans for transportation aimed at improving and harmonizing

people's needs for free and safe movement while enhancing quality of life. When applied in Mitrovica North and South, they increased movement opportunities locally, between cities and the region, by finding better and more sustainable ways for people to get to work, get children to school or for vendors to reach local markets in the neighbouring municipality.

SUMPs in both cities were designed to ensure all pedestrian areas, transit options and amenities help people with mobility difficulties to increase their physical and social activity and access to community resources. They also improved people's health, climate action and urban air pollution by reducing transport-related carbon dioxide emissions and enhancing accessible green space.

\*Any reference to Kosovo in United Nations documents and United Nations websites, whether to the territory, institutions or population, is to be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo. Kosovo is therefore not listed as a country.

Saint Demetrius Serbian Orthodox Church, North Mitrovica © Shutterstock/Giannis Papanikos



Kosovan man wearing a traditional beret, Mitrovica © UN-Habitat/The Road Provides

In contrast to traditional transport planning approaches, Mitrovica North and South's sustainable urban mobility planning model is long-term, people-oriented, inclusive and multi-sectorial. Good policy coordination among transport, land use, environment, economic development, social policy, health, safety and energy sector actors and continuous involvement of citizens and stakeholders in all planning processes is key to the success of this sustainable urban mobility system.

Integrating communities using the power of a participatory sustainable urban mobility process

Different stakeholders and extensive reviews of local, regional and global plans when drafting SUMP determined the city's objectives and

provided solutions to achieve them. The process started with establishing the working structure of both municipalities to promote political and institutional ownership, notably through the creation of inter-departmental working groups. Developing local government capacity was at the project's core.

Many non-governmental organizations and local associations were consulted in the drafting of SUMP. Civil society and private sector actors were asked to participate as members of the Joint Regional Transport Body, a council that has municipality representatives to coordinate a territorial approach to establishing bus services.

The main principles towards creating a sustainable urban mobility system comprise:

- Planning for sustainable mobility for the entire functional urban area based on population density and travel-to-work flows;
- Cooperating across institutional boundaries and involving citizens and stakeholders;
- Defining a long-term vision and a clear implementation plan and assessing current and future performance;
- Developing all transport modes in an integrated manner and arranging for monitoring and evaluation for quality assurance.

UN-Habitat's support to Mitrovica North and South municipalities, and other local institutions, built capacity and ownership, enhancing their ability to advance mobility planning processes. The project has strengthened cooperation between the two municipalities on regional mobility planning and increased opportunities for financing future urban mobility projects to improve people's lives and accelerate positive environmental outcomes.

Territory: **Kosovo**  
 Cities: **Municipalities of Mitrovica North and Mitrovica South**  
 Donor: **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency**  
 Local Authority: **Municipality of Mitrovica North, Municipality of Mitrovica South, Kosovo**  
 Implementing Partners: **Community Building Mitrovica, PAX, UN-Habitat**  
 Duration: **2017–2021**

For Mitrovica North municipality, considering the challenges it has faced in the last 20 years in order to ensure a good quality of life, the sustainable urban mobility plan will solve the issues of traffic jams, safety, accessibility for all, contribute to the health and environmental protection, and create opportunities for sustainable development of other areas, with the main focus on people and social equality. This leads us to our vision to be a '15-minute city'. This whole participatory process has been made possible by the great support of UN-Habitat, for which we as a municipality are more than grateful.

Milan Radojević, Mayor of Mitrovica North Municipality

People want less congested and safer roads, and through the development of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan we are marking the first milestone towards a more sustainable urban mobility system, which will not only contribute to efficient movement management, but also improve accessibility, air quality, public health and overall urban attractiveness and environmental performance of our municipality.

Agim Bahtiri, Mayor of Mitrovica South Municipality