



Urban Regeneration: European Network of Towns

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS

KUMANOVO, FYROM

Municipality of Kumanovo





BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

This territorial analysis is part of the URGENT Project co-financed by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union. URGENT is a two-year project led by ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy (France), and involving 12 other European partners. The aim of this territorial analysis is to introduce the context and characteristics of the target area chosen by each project partner to implement its pilot projects in the framework of the local path of the project.

Reuniting three local authorities, four associations of local authorities, four civil society organisations, an academic institution and a foundation, the main objective of the URGENT project is to improve social cohesion in local communities by promoting migrants' integration through the development of urban policies fostering intercultural dialogue and the use of common spaces. Implemented from September 2016 to August 2018, the URGENT project focuses on “local paths” implemented in one city per each partner country (except in Italy, where activities take place in two cities). During these local paths the cities get familiar with migration issues at local level in order to then elaborate pilot project ideas for intercultural dialogue in deprived and conflicting areas and finally implement these pilot projects on the ground. In between the three phases of the local paths, international events are organised in different countries for partner cities to compare their situation, share problems and potential solutions.

There are four main objectives in the URGENT project:

Objective 1: To create spaces of discussion and mutual learning among citizens from different socio-cultural backgrounds and from different countries of Europe.

Objective 2: To foster active citizenship and co-creation of policies and services in local societies, particularly for citizens who are often excluded from the decision-making processes.

Objective 3: To enhance the capacity of local institutions to be “multipliers” in their own communities in order to engage a wide range of stakeholders.

Objective 4: To provide a new impetus to the EU enlargement process, contributing to the establishment of a long-lasting thematic network of cities that are strongly active and committed as key players in Europe.

Leading partner: ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy – France

Project partners:

SSIIM Unesco Chair, Iuav University of Venice - Italy

Local Democracy Agency Mostar – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Association of Albanian Municipalities – Albania

SPES – Associazione Promozione e Solidarietà – Italy

SOS Malta – Solidarity Overseas Service – Malta

Fundación Privada Indera – Spain

Municipality of Kumanovo – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Amphictyony – Greece

Kallipolis – Italy

Rede DLBC Lisboa – Portugal

City of Strasbourg – France

Municipality of Novo Mesto - Slovenia



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POSITION





CONTEXT: THE MUNICIPALITY OF KUMANOVO

Total population of the city:

105 484 inhabitants

Percentage of migrants on the total population and top 10 nationalities

0.2 % of the total population are migrants who are coming from Syria and Iraq

Number of refugees & asylum seekers, and main nationalities

0.3% of the total population are refugees & asylum seekers coming from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Algeria

The main transformation in the last decade related to populations that populated the city

Kumanovo has always had a consistent population structure – Primarily and a majority of Macedonian citizens, with Albanian, Serbian and Turkish minorities.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TARGET AREA: TABANOVCE TRANSIT CAMP

Dimension (square meters)

14 0500 km²

Total population

At its peak about 1500, as of March 2017, 35 and declining

Percentage of migrants on the total population

In relation to the village of Tabanovce, about 1%

Number of refugees & asylum seekers

In relation to the village of Tabanovce, about 1%

Most relevant national groups of both migrants, and refugees and asylum seekers

Syrian, Iraqi, Afghani, Pakistani



REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS POPULATION

Gender ratio

28% Female; 48% Male

Ageing index (The ageing index is calculated as the number of persons 60 years old or over per hundred persons under age 15)

Cannot be calculated at the present time due to the camp housing only 30 people currently.

Legal status

55 applicants for Asylum from 2015 to 2017, other don't have any legal status

Main religious groups

Muslim

Households composition

Mainly lone travelers, unaccompanied minors, as well as few dozens of families mainly lacking the mothers or wives

Number of unaccompanied minors

At a given period, 250 unaccompanied minors were in the camp

NATIVES

Gender ratio

52% Male; 48% Female

Main religious groups

Orthodox Christian

Households composition

Mainly families of 3 or more people



INTERACTIONS AND MUTUAL PERCEPTION

If and how natives and migrant groups relate to each other

At first, interaction between them was limited, due to the whole situation being chaotic, but as time passed both sides took on a more relaxed view which spurred the interaction and facilitated cohesion

If and how different migrant groups relate to each other

There has been no notice or complaint of any incidents between different migrant groups

Main conflicts and problems

Refugees complained that the natives charge them higher prices for products and services, natives were afraid of water and soil pollution, and were worried about their safety

SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Health centres

3

Hospitals

1

Associations, migrant associations, CBOs, NGOs, social enterprises and informal groups working in the social and health field

9

Public kitchen

0 (except inside the camp)

Public showers

0 (except inside the camp)

Outreach services/activities

Yes, refugees are visited by various organizations that provide outreach activities

Key actors involved to collaborate with

- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
- Center for Crisis Management
- Red Cross
- Various NGOs, including but not limited to: Legis, Open Gate, SOS Child Village, Association of young lawyers

Service delivery and response to local needs

There have been rare occurrences of complaints by the refugees, but mainly everyone is content and satisfied by the services offered and the extent of the help and assistance received.



CULTURAL, EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Parks, squares, public spaces

The camp has its own grounds for recreation

Transportation hubs

Train, bus (although their movements are restricted and usually done with oversight from the Red Cross)

Cultural centres (library, other cultural spaces, neighbourhood centres)

Library

Churches and religious spaces

3 mosques, a dozen churches

Schools

Both elementary and high schools available

Interactions between different populations in the most relevant public spaces

The contact between the local population of the City of Kumanovo and the refugees is constricted and limited

Main conflicts, and bridges

None, because of the rare contacts

Possible areas to perform some activities related to the project

Public square, parks and venues, facilities used by NGOs



HOUSING

Reception centres

1 (Tabanovce)

Temporary private apartments for reception

Available on request, privately owned

Key actors providing help in access to housing

The camps facilities were built in collaboration with UNDP, MOI and MLSP, Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity

Are there vacant spaces or buildings (not necessarily houses) where to anchor some future activities?

There are 3 vacant buildings in the village of Tabanovce, which could be used for activities but are in need of renovation.

ACCESSIBILITY TO/FROM THE TARGET AREA

Physical barriers isolating the area (i.e. railways track, big streets etc.)

Fences

List of public transport serving the area

Train, bus, private taxis

Frequency of main public transportation lines

Twice a day

Is the target area a peripheral area or a central one?

Peripheral area, 9km from the city of Kumanovo

Connections between the target area and other neighbourhoods

Road infrastructure is excellent, village and the city are very well connected.

This territorial analysis is the result of the European Project URGENT, led by a consortium of 13 partner organisations established in 10 countries, with the support of the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union, from September 2016 to August 2018. The project aims at improving social cohesion in local communities by promoting migrants' integration through the development of urban policies fostering intercultural dialogue and the use of common spaces.

For more information, please contact URGENT partners:

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