

MINUTES OF THE THIRD PROJECT BOARD MEETING

00089307 "ICT for Urban Resilience"

Venue: UNDP CO, Conference Room, Ground Floor, Skopje

Time/Date: 16 March 2017, 11:00 – 12:00

Participants: Mrs. Narine Sahakyan, Senior Supplier, UNDP
Mrs. Cvetanka Ikonomova Martinovska, Executive, City of Skopje
Mr. Mutair Maksut, Senior Beneficiary, Crisis Management Centre (CMC)
Mr. Stevko Stefanoski, Project Assurance, Crisis Management Centre (CMC)
Mr. Nikola Jovanovski, Project Assurance, City of Skopje
Ms. Anita Kodzoman, Project Assurance, UNDP
Mr. Vasko Popovski, Project Manager, UNDP

OBJECTIVE:

- Presentation of the project and implemented activities in 2016 (Annex I.1 - Annual Project Report 2016, Annex I.2 - Annual Financial Report for 2016 + presentation)
- Review of project activities in 2017 (Annex II.1 Annual Work Plan 2017)
- Discussion & adoption of proposed decisions

AGENDA

11:00 – 11:05 Opening remarks
11:05 – 11:20 Presentation of the project and implemented activities in 2016 (Annex I.1 Annual Project Report 2016 and Annex I.2 Annual Financial Report for 2016);
11:20 – 11:35 Review of project activities on 2017 (Annex II.1 AWP 2017)
11:35 – 11:50 Discussion & adoption of decisions
11:50 – 12:00 Conclusions

1. Welcoming remarks, objectives of the meeting, proposed agenda

Mrs. Narine Sahakyan welcomed the participants on behalf of UNDP CO and thanked them for successful partnership for implementation of the project. She additionally thanked the City of Skopje for continuous significant financial support of the project activities for strengthening of the city's urban resilience. Also, she expressed gratitude to the Crisis Management Centre for participation in the Project Board (PB) and support of the project activities. At the end of her opening remark, Mrs. Sahakyan presented the objectives of the meeting that consisted of review of three points from the Agenda, discussions and adoption of the proposed decisions.

Mrs. Cvetanka Ikonomova Martinovska thanked UNDP for leadership in implementation of this project. It has significantly strengthened the City of Skopje's urban resilience and has contributed to efficient implementation of some of the City's core responsibilities and competences. For example, the Climate Change Strategy – Resilient Skopje, Skopje Green cadastre, the Greenhouse

Gasses Inventory or the Wells Registry and the External Plan for Emergency Situations from dangerous chemical substances financed with new budget would have not been prepared without UNDPs support. However, having in mind the local political context and the upcoming local elections, signing of the continuation of the project is most important in order the budgeted finances for this year to be timely transferred to the project account. At the end, she emphasized dedication and of hard work of the Project Manager, Mr. Vasko Popovski, as well as the overall support from the programme unit led by Mrs. Anita Kodzoman.

On behalf of the Crisis Management Centre, **Mr. Mutair Maksut** emphasized the longstanding successful direct project cooperation with UNDP starting from 2008 and lasting until 2015 when the project for support of the national risk and hazard assessments was finalized. Regarding the existing project with the City of Skopje, they are included as partners and are satisfied with the activities implemented and results achieved. At this moment, it is important to extend the time framework for project implementation and to sign the revision of the project document. Also, he extended congratulations to the project team on hard work and dedication to implement the project, to Programme Officer, Mrs. Kodzoman and Project Manager, Mr. Popovski. In addition, **Mr. Stevko Stefanoski** stated that the extension of project activities is of interest for the CMC as an institution that is involved in strengthening overall resilience on national and local level. He mentioned that there was positive cooperation during the implementation of project activities in the past two years e.g. upgrading of inventORIZATION of built environment/critical infrastructure in the city with spatial solutions for residential building and houses and wells and water supply systems, as well as exchange of GIS/spatial services with the City of Skopje. Therefore, with the extension of the project and the activities for revision of existing rule book and preparation of the external plan for emergency situations, and study on erosions protection, they see connecting points for further successful cooperation with the City of Skopje and update and exchange of data on the built environment and critical infrastructure.

2. Overview of project progress, main achievements, status and main issues

Information on the realized activities in 2016 (Annex I.1 Annual Project Report and Annual Financial Report + presentation)

The Project Manager, Mr. Vasko Popovski, presented the implemented activities, achieved results and budget utilization in 2016.

Within the **Output 1**, following results were achieved:

- Prepared draft version of the Integrated Urban Resilience Action Plan that will serve as a planning tool for design and implementation of programmes and project for further strengthening of the urban resilience of the city.
- Draft National Risk and Hazard Assessments updated with latest information and data from Skopje floods in August 2016. New hazard profile defined: floods, fires, earthquakes, extreme weather conditions, migrants/refugees, contagious diseases, air pollution, landslides/rockfalls, etc
- Development of the Registry of Underground Wells on the territory of the City of Skopje initiated with preparation of a Questionnaire for field survey. This measure will lead to improved water management and enhanced resilience through alternative water supply in events of disasters.

Main achieved results and implemented within the framework of the **Output 2** were as follows:

- First ever Climate Change Strategy of the City of Skopje – Resilient Skopje was finalized. It contains an Action plan with time framework for execution of mitigation and adaptation measures and actions.
- First ever Skopje Green Cadastre framework was established for better management with the public greenery enhancing the urban resilience of the city. In total 650 ha of urban greenery were geodetically surveyed 110,000 trees and shrubs. Furthermore, technical capacities of the City of Skopje and the Public Enterprise Parkovi I Zelenilo were strengthened through upgrade of the GIS platforms for improved management of the public greenery, including mobile solution for crowdsourcing of data on trees and shrubs.
- Regarding the Smart City concept, activities were focused on laying grounds of the City of Skopje Smart City Strategy through definition of the conceptual framework and strategic visions including the elaboration of the Sustainability Chapter with road map for implementation. Accordingly, partnership with Microsoft was concluded for implementation of the best practices from the City Next programme.
- Preliminary Flood Model Study updated with Skopje 2016 Flood.
- Climate change and urban resilience challenge “#ItDependsonYou” was organized for a second year in a row. At the call this year in total 68 ideas were received, out of which 9 were placed in the final round. The winning solution was ReBoot – smart recycling. In addition, several other ideas were awarded and possible support: Treebook – crowdsourcing of trees and better public greenery management and Air purifying billboards.

Output 3 was not realized since the BPPS has not provided the allocation of 50,000 USD as per the Project Document.

Within the **Output 4**, during the whole 2016 year, a sound project management was executed.

In addition, the Project Manager presented the Financial Report for 2016 with total expenditures per activity and fund. In total 153,636 USD were delivered for implementation of the planned project activities.

Overview of the project activities in 2017 (Annex II.I Annual Work Plan 2017)

At the beginning of the presentation, the Project Manager informed that since the regional project was finalized, as well as the national components in Armenia and Moldova, it is necessary to revise the Project Document and the original outputs to reflect the new project reality and continuation of the national level activities. Therefore, the project revision envisages removal of Outputs 1, 2, 3 and 4 and formulating of a new Output 1 under the same project outcome. This shall better reflect the impact of the results to be achieved. The newly formulated Output 1 was proposed as following: *Improved urban resilience of the City of Skopje through increased capacities of the city administration for planning and provision of services with use of ICT solutions.*

In addition, the revision proposes to extend the project duration until the end of 2017. The funds for implementation of the activities is increased to reflect the new cost-sharing from the City of Skopje in the amount of 120,610 USD for new activities in 2017. Accordingly, the Results and Resources Framework (RRF) shall be updated to reflect the new project reality. Within the framework of that period the activities as per the proposed AWP shall be implemented. The project will continue to be implemented under the Support to NIM Modality implementation arrangements. Within this project framework following results shall be achieved in 2017:

- Integrated Urban Resilience Action Plan for the City of Skopje finalized;
- Climate Change Strategy for the City of Skopje – Resilient Skopje promoted;
- Priority measures and activities for adaptation and mitigation to climate change in accordance with the Action Plan from the Strategy on Climate Change of the City of Skopje implemented – for this result to be achieved it is necessary the priority measures to be defined and approved by the Project Board;
- Sustainability Module of the Skopje Smart City Strategy and roadmap for its implementation developed;
- Vision and goals of the Skopje Smart City Strategy defined;
- Skopje Green cadaster established through inventorization of trees and shrubs, as well as GIS platform;
- Underground wells on the territory of the GUP of Skopje inventoried and registry established;
- Review of existing legislative and institutional framework for preparation of internal and external plans for emergency management of dangerous substances completed and a roadmap for development of the external plan for the City developed;
- Skopje GHG Inventory with data for 2013, 2014 and 2015 updated;
- Heating study for the specific planning needs of the City of Skopje adjusted;
- Erosion study for the City of Skopje including Action Plan prepared.

3. Discussions

Mrs. Narine Sahakyan thanked for presentations and invited the participants for discussion. It is presented chronologically.

Mrs. Narine Sahakyan stated that achieved results and comprehensive plan for this year confirms the good cooperation between the project partners. The AWP mentioned all planned activities. The priority measures for mitigation and adaptation from the Strategy Action Plan (whether it be green roof or green façade, etc.) should be realistic, well formulated and to be implemented during the year. The project should be strategically positioned regarding these measures and the proposed ones should be approved by the PB. It is necessary to promote the Strategy soon and to start to implement it. Regarding the External Plan, it is good to use the step-by-step approach and regarding the Erosion Study to see how far we can go with development of the action plan.

Concerning the extension of the activities it is necessary to sign a revision of the project document, as well as for cost-sharing of new funds it is necessary to sign a new Cost-sharing Agreement. Today's PB meeting is in direction to support successful and efficient implementation of project activities. Once the PB approves the proposed decision, document can be signed. She asked whether the funds for 2017 have been already allocated in the City of Skopje's budget.

Mrs. Cvetanka Ikonomova Martinovska confirmed that the above-mentioned amount is already budgeted in the annual budget and it is stated that shall be realized through the UNDP project. There are available financial resources but there are difficult procedures for their timely and quality utilization. Therefore, they would like to continue with the project implementation further and to finalize it jointly. Nevertheless, the City of Skopje plan additional funds for support of the activities aimed to increase the urban resilience of the city (e.g. for establishment of new public green areas and planting trees and shrubs, the annual amount is approx. 500,000 – 600,000 USD).

Mrs. Anita Kodzoman said that the work plan for this years is comprehensive and based on that many of the produced documents could be used in other areas. Also, based on the findings from

the Preliminary Flood model to see whether the planned Waste Water Treatment Plant is within the area of flooding. If it is the case, then it is good to prepare a plan for flood protection.

Mr. Mutahir Maksut stated that there are risk and hazard assessments adopted in the municipalities in the country. In almost all the cases, the flooding areas that were assessed, were flooded on the ground. Therefore, it is necessary these documents to be more actively used by the municipalities, including the City of Skopje.

Mrs. Cvetanka Ikonomova Martinovska stated that this project is of strategic significance for the City of Skopje and that the documents produced are shaping the work of the Department and the City of Skopje for next 5 – 10 years.

In addition, **Mr. Mutahir Maksut** proposed a new decision to be considered and adopted by the PB. Both the City of Skopje and CMC are part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure platform as per the EU Directive INSPIRE and they are providing spatial services to other institutions. Last year there was an excellent case when the inventorization of the underground wells related to the GIS platform of CMC through establishment of a database and update of the GIS platform. Now, the data that will be collected with the assignment can be presented in GIS and can be connected to hazard profiles and other risk elements. The City of Skopje will use the database through a spatial service and will not duplicate it. This shall improve the risk assessment and analysis and can lead to better coordination, communication and planning. Therefore, he proposed to continue the support of development of web applications and databases of risk elements including the critical infrastructure to enhance the interconnectivity and exchange of spatial services between the City of Skopje and the CMC (e.g. elements from the critical infrastructure nomenclature that are not covered, digitalization of the external plan or spatial presentation of the identified erosions areas on the territory of the City of Skopje).

After these discussions, the members of the Project Board accepted the proposed decisions regarding the activities implemented and resources utilized in 2016, AWP for 2017, as well as extension of the project activities for duration until the end of 2017 and newly proposed decision for continuous support of the development of databases and exchange of services.

4. Conclusions

The Project Board in its full capacity made following decisions:

- PB has reviewed and accepted the Annual Project Report and the Annual Financial Report for 2016;
- PB has reviewed and accepted Information on the overview of project activities for 2017 – AWP 2017 and approved the extension of the project activities for 2017;
- The Project Board has reviewed and accepted the proposal from the CMC to continue the support of development of web applications and databases of risk elements including the critical infrastructure to enhance the interconnectivity and exchange of spatial services between the City of Skopje and the CMC.

Enclosed documents submitted for Project Board Review:

1. Agenda
2. Annual Project Report 2016

- 3. Annual Financial Report 2016
- 4. Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2017

Signatures of the Project Board Members:

Mrs. Narine Sahakyan, Senior Supplier, UNDP



Mrs. Cvetanka Ikonomova Martinovska, Executive, City of Skopje



Mr. Mutair Maksut, Senior beneficiary, CMC


