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Remarks by Mr. Dusan Kozarev, Deputy Director, Office for Kosovo and Metohija
Government of the Republic of Serbia

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working session 11: Humanitarian issues and other commitments

Warsaw, 28 September 2015

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, I am Dusan Kozarev, Deputy Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija of the Government of Serbia. It is my pleasure to address you regarding the issue of displaced persons, and what is more important, to inform you about positive developments and valuable OSCE assistance.

According to UNHCR estimation from December 2014, there are around 230.000 persons originating from Kosovo and Metohija still living in displacement in the region, of which more than 200.000 in Serbia proper.

In line with the latest UNHCR needs assessment of IDPs in Serbia, more than 20% of all IDPs households declared will to return. Also, in 2009, UNHCR started registration of IDPs opting for unconditional return. By March 2015, there were 2.210 registered families. Nevertheless, return rate to Kosovo and Metohija is less than 5% out of total number of IDPs. Some of the major obstacles to return are:

- **Destroyed property, lack of compensation and lack of adequate mechanism for restitution of usurped property.**
- **There are no adequate mechanisms to apply court decisions in practice and for owners to really regain possession of their property.**
- **IDPs'property is usurped through the courts' procedures as well, by fraudulent transactions made by falsified signatures and documents.**
- **Emerging obstacle is legalization of facilities in Kosovo and Metohija on the basis of the Law for Treatment of Illegal Constructions.**

Other obstacles include:

- **Difficult access to personal documentation,**
- **High administrative taxes,**
- **Access to the courts in Kosovo and Metohija that is characterized by lengthy and costly litigation, and by inability to use Serbian language,**
- **Fragile security situation with constant attacks on returnees and their property, desecration of religious monuments and orthodox cemeteries, prevention of Go-and-See Visits.**

It became clear that the new approach is needed. Following the last assessment of the current status of voluntary return, OSCE Mission in Kosovo with support of UNHCR organized high-level conference in Skoplje, in November 2014. The aim was to facilitate institutional cooperation for achieving durable solutions for displacement from Kosovo and Metohija. Participating institutions from Pristina, Podgorica, Skopje and Belgrade, recognized need to work together and expressed their commitment to this regional initiative.

As follow up, obstacles enlisted above were identified as priority areas. All this was endorsed by the political **High-level Forum on 22 September 2015** through three documents:

1. Concept Note on Coordination and Planning, including guiding principles and reference to co-ordination mechanisms,
2. Set of Priority Areas and Measures, which constitute an agenda for the subsequent work of the process, and
3. Scope of Work for the Technical Working Group coordination mechanism.

These documents provide a practical framework and will guide the next steps of the participating institutions in their efforts to support durable solutions including both return and integration in place of displacement.

It is agreed to form one “Core group” with five thematic subgroups: on durable solutions, property rights, personal documentation, security, dialogue and reintegration. The “Core group” will monitor implementation of measures for return and integration.

On the High-level Forum, as practical contribution to the necessary new approaches that might foster sustainable return, we have presented a new model for return that responds to the needs of IDPs. This model, completely developed and financed by the Serbian Government, implies a comprehensive solution by provision of secure environment, access to health care, social services and education, as well as provision of job opportunities for returnees.

Practically, this means construction of the initial returnee settlement named “**Sunny Valley**” in the north of Kosovo and Metohija, where it is possible to ensure all the conditions mentioned above for around 300 families. Beside houses and basic infrastructure, this settlement will have kindergarten, school, health centre, post office, church and multiple local business projects to foster entrepreneurship. Economically viable, settlement will interact with wider surrounding, further attract exchange of goods, services and people, and contribute to the economic development of Kosovo and Metohija.

We use this opportunity to express our gratitude to the OSCE for recognizing need for regional cooperation to achieve durable solutions for displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija, and for supporting it with great commitment and energy. This presents good example and could serve as a model for solution in other OSCE regions with similar problems and challenges.

Thank you for your attention.



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Government of the Republic of Serbia
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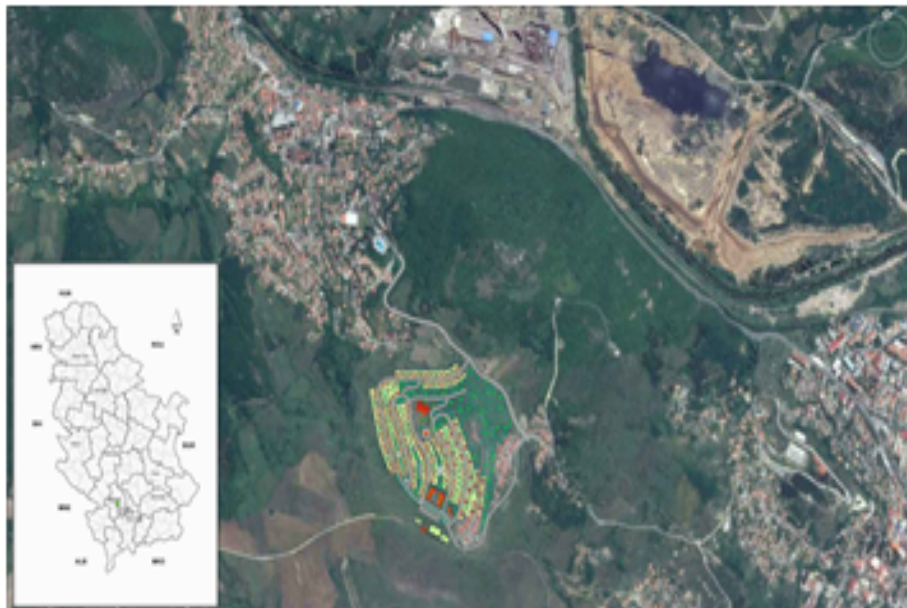
СУНЧАНА ДОЛИНА

SUNNY VALLEY
LUGINA E DIELLIT

Zvečan, Kosovo and Metohija

PROGRAMMIC AND URBAN CONCEPT OF THE "SUNČANA DOLINA" SETTLEMENT

The new residential settlement is located in the area between Kosovska Mitrovica and Zvečan. The wider site comprises the area of 24.5 ha, while the settlement itself covers an area of 14.7 ha. The area earmarked for the future settlement is located on the slope oriented towards south, southwest and west. Since it is planned to mainly build individual and semi-detached houses, most of them can be positioned so as to have the most suitable insulation. It is possible to build 200-300 houses in the settlement, depending on the building type.



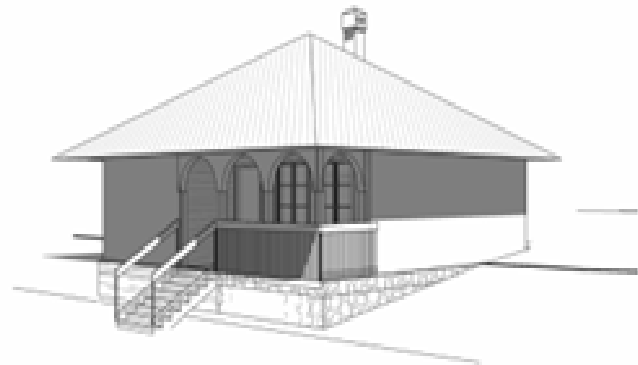
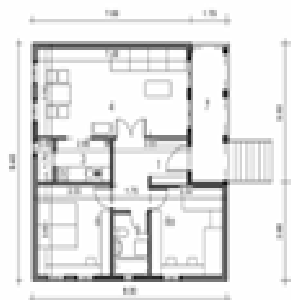
With Project Sunčana Dolina, Office for Kosovo and Metohija will promote a new vision of the economy and of small communities and their relationship to the rest of the local society ready to be better adapted to the new conditions we face.

Project Sunčana Dolina will promote a new vision of the economy and urbanization that reintroduces the ecology and sustainability of the urban planning.



The proposed forms of family houses allow variations in the function and shaping, both for the purpose of adapting them to different needs of future beneficiaries and for achieving the desired quality of visually diverse and socially sustainable residential settlement.

The design of the residential structures envisages the use of vernacular architectural elements, such as hip roofs, arcades and porches, as well as the use of traditional materials for façade finishes, first of all the stone and wood, and tiles for roofing.



Realization of planned activities in Project Sunčana Dolina will result in founding of new companies, then in establishing of complete legal frame for functioning of local population market economy mainly through passing and implementing of system laws harmonized with EU regulatory rules and WTO principles, and based on all that it will be demonstrated in active role of the Government in creating the economic policy and improvement of business environment and country's credibility.



With Project **Šunčana Dolina**, **Office for Kosovo and Metohija** will promote a new vision of the economy and of small communities and their relationship to the rest of the local society ready to be better adapted to the new conditions we face.

Project **Šunčana Dolina** will promote a new vision of the economy and urbanization that reintroduces the ecology and sustainability of the urban planning.

To achieve sustainability, with Project **Šunčana Dolina** we must incorporate natural capital and local habits into economic and social accounting and local systems of values.





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