



AMK held Work Assembly

In this Meeting, beside delegates, also took part Mayors and representatives of central institutions of the Republic of Kosovo and representatives of international organizations in Kosovo.

MAYORS seek resolution to the problem of property management and management of Public Enterprises

In a request of Dr. Bajram Rexhepi, President of AKM regarding the problems facing municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo in property management as well as management of Public Enterprises, sent to Mr. Sadri Ferati, Minister of MLGA, Mr. Ahmet Shala, Minister of MEF and Mr. Shkumbin Bicaj, Deputy Director of KAP, among others, it contains as following:

In the last meeting of the Mayors of municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo, with the presence of also Mr. Shkumbin Bicaj from KAP and Mr. Ramadan Sejdiu from MEF, it has been discussed on the problems that are facing municipalities in property management and management of Public Enterprises. As a result of numerous discussions respective recommendations and requests from the Mayors derived. These recommendations and requests were addresses to MLGA, MEF and KAP. Recommendations / requests are written below. We ask you to review these recommendations and return us an answer in a near future.

REQUESTS OF THE MAYORS

1. Kosovo Agency for Privatization (KAP) shall start its visits in municipalities and take note on concerns and obstacles municipalities have on privatization of Social Enterprises.
2. The government should sponsor the amendment of the law aiming that:
 - a) Municipalities are always consulted before privatization and the decisions shall always be in accordance with general interests in municipality
 - b) Municipalities will be able to expropriate with lowest cost and simplest methods all properties that are under the management of KAP, which are of public interest.
3. Municipalities should have the right to announce zones of special interest and this right should be recognized by the KAP.
4. Procedures for expropriation should be fast in some special cases, as there might be opportunities for foreign investments.
5. If the process of privatization continues with current policies, then the

municipalities in Republic of Kosovo will remain without municipal property and this situation will bring municipalities in a position impacting negatively Local Economic Development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Waste management should be done by municipalities. This enhances the efficiency and the link between citizen-municipality-company.
2. Water and canalization enterprises should be managed by regional companies but in the cases when this is possible and when other municipalities are not negatively impacted, these companies may be managed by municipalities themselves.
3. Managing Policies toward Sanitary Landfills should be changed.

We hope this request will be reviewed by you and we will receive positive answer.

With regards:
Dr. Bajram Rexhepi President of AKM

REPLY FROM THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE:

In follow up are to be found recommendations / comments carefully reviewed by MEF.

- RECOMMENDATION - I -: Waste management should be done by municipalities. This enhances the efficiency and the link between citizen-municipality-company.

Comment in Recommendation: the issue of waste management is regulated by Law on Public Enterprises, Article 3, paragraph 2, whereas representation of municipalities in Board of Directors of Public Enterprises is regulated by Instruction on this issue, and this Instruction is sent to all Mayors.

- RECOMMENDATION - II -: Water and canalization enterprises should be managed by regional companies but in the cases when this is possible and

when other municipalities are not negatively impacted, these companies may be managed by municipalities themselves.

Comment in Recommendation: Management of Regional Water Supply is regulated also by LPE, Article 3, paragraph 1 and two page lists 32 i.e. these are Central Public Enterprises. In the case there are requests for these to managed directly by the municipality, this is also regulated by Article 3, paragraph 3 where is decidedly said that for establishment of PE's is authorized only Government.

- RECOMMENDATION - III -: Managing Policies toward Sanitary Landfills should be changed.

Comment in Recommendation: Organization and Managerial structure

of landfills is as follows: one central landfill as Central PE (KLMC) managed by central level through Board of Directors and six regional PE for waste as well as local PE's managed by local level through representatives of municipalities in Board of Directors. This organization is not so successful for several reasons:

1. Low level of fee collection for services offered by KRM and shortcomings in performing the obligations toward operators.

2. Poor management of central company for waste management, etc.

We should have in mind that Commission of Ministers authorized professional officers to perform an auditing in KLMC and after it reviews the report on KLMC, it will take next steps regarding this company.

AMK held Work Assembly

Pristine, February 27, 2009 - The Association of Kosovo Municipalities on February 27, 2009 organized its Work Meeting. In this Meeting, beside delegates, also took part Mayors and representatives of central institutions of the Republic of Kosovo and representatives of international organizations in Kosovo (Minister of MLGA, Mr. Sadri Ferati, OSCE Ambassador, Mr. Werner Almhofer, USAID Representative Ms. Susan Fritz, SDC representative Ms. Sylvia Schaerhahn, GTZ Representative Mr. Michael Nebelung, and representative of UNDP, Mr. Krenar Loshi) .

Introductory work by President of AKM Dr. Bajram Rexhepi while welcoming word held Mr. Sadri Ferati, Minister of MLGA, Ms. Susan Fritz, representative from USAID Mission in Kosovo, Mr. Werner Almhofer, Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Mr. Krenar Loshi, UNDP representative,

Ms. Sylvia Schaerhahn, on behalf of SDC for Kosovo, Mr. Michael Nebelung, GTZ Head for Kosovo, Also president of AKM, Dr. Bajram Rexhepi presented Annual and Financial Report for 2008 while activities and future projects of AKM were presented by Mr. Sazan Ibrahim - Executive Director of AKM.

Executive Director, Mr. Sazan

Ibrahimi, also presented to the Assembly brief report on work of ten professional collegia during 2008.

In the end after discussion, with majority of votes was approved Work and Financial Report for 2008 from delegates of AKM Assembly and remarks given in the Assembly will be addressed further.

In the end, AKM Work

Meeting was greeted by Mr. Slobodan Vujcic from the Association of Kosovo Montenegrins saying that this invitation and participation shows that there is a new stage for cooperation with communities living together in Kosovo. This has another meaning since we have here also Mayors and other municipal officers that are very clear to citizen concerns.



It is signed the Administrative Instruction for Municipal Councils for Security in Community

In the follow up of joint activities of cooperation between Association of Kosovo Municipalities and central institutions, it is organized the meeting between the Mayors, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Local Government Administration and Kosovo Police. In the meeting took part Mayors of Kosovo municipalities, Mr. Zenun Pajaziti, Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Shpend Tërdevaj - Deputy Minister of Local Government Administration and representatives of Kosovo Police and Regional Commanders of Kosovo Police. Ministry of Internal affairs

presented to the Mayors Administrative Instructions regarding establishment of Municipal Councils for Security in Communities, with the purpose of identification and addressing issues related to crime, security and quality of life. Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Zenun Pajaziti said that creation of these mechanisms aims establishing trust between police, municipal authorities and local communities. He added that this also established partnership and joint initiatives for solving common problems of security in these communities. "I encourage you and offer my

support in supporting the MIA for making functional this very important mechanism which will introduce a new concept of security which is called human security", said Mr. Pajaziti.

Minister further added that this concept restores security of individual, certain groups or community in the center of attention. According to minister Pajaziti, this instruction is a concept where local and central institutions should urgently apply. This Administrative Instruction which was signed by the Minister of MIA and Deputy Minister of MLGA, Mr. Shpend Tërdevaj, is based on

the law for police and local government which will practically enable that idea for establishment of these mechanisms be in accordance with the law.

In this spoke General Director of Kosovo Police, Mr. Sheremet Ahmeti and Member of the Board of Association of Kosovo Municipalities, Mr. Naim Ismajli, representatives of American Government and Colonel Fahredin Verbovci Head of Department for Community Issues, presented the topic on Security on Community.

Remarks and suggestions provided by the municipalities regarding DRAFT LAW ON ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS

PRISHTINA MUNICIPALITY

I. We think that to definitions in Article 2, should be added following:

- a) Temporary Constructions (article 2 of the Law on Construction No. 2004/15);
- b) Houses for holidays (weekends)
- c) Development of illegal constructions

II. Article 12 is supplemented by paragraph 6 and 7:

6. Personal declaration of the person making appeal for legalization that takes the responsibility for every consequence that may come up from natural causes and/or usage of the building. According to this law, state is not responsible for compensation or refund in the cases of accidents as consequence of factors that impacted the sustainability of the building.

7. Personal declaration of the person making appeal for legalization, where is accepted implementation of regulation plan, including respecting public spaces, green areas, type of fence, colors, lighting, parking, etc.

III. Article 14 is supplemented by paragraphs (4,5,6,7 and 8)

4. it is constructed on agricultural land of the category I-IV;
5. it is constructed on the surface where minerals are exploited or surface that is reserved for this purpose;
6. it is constructed in the vicinity of water resources of categories I-II;
7. it is constructed in municipal buildings or facilities;
8. It is constructed in zones reserved for sports - ski tracks.

IV. Article 15

a) paragraph 1 of this article should be reduced or removed as the fine (100%) is high and discouraging for implementation of this process;

V. Article 24 is supplemented by paragraph 3)

3) Buildings to be legalized should be registered in cadastre in every municipality where the building is located in accordance with legal provisions.

PRIZREN MUNICIPALITY

Article 2 - in definitions dealing with general surface 450 m² with floorage P+2, there should be added provision that this depends on the part of the city where the building is located and the situation

in the field where there is no Urban Regulative Plan, the distance should be up to 3 m from regulation point and construction site and the floorage should be lower just as the general surface of the building.

Article 19 deadlines for complains should be removed - instead there should be lawsuit, since the interested party may initiate administrative dispute lawsuit in Supreme Court of Kosovo, and not complain.

Article 20 instead of word Decision, there should be Act of Decision since the body of first instance takes the act of decision in conformity with articles 82, 84 of LPA no. 02/L-28.

In last provisions there are not stipulated regular provisions of technical control for issuing permission since to perform technical control, first, the competent body established a commission to issue the perform this job. Therefore, within this, there should be added special articles for technical control but also for issuing permission.

VUSHTRRI/VUCITRN MUNICIPALITY

In this draft law are no clarification for treating the buildings that are removed from the registry

As well as treating the buildings that are not registered at all

Article 7, paragraph 2 after the word "procedures" to add the word "legalization".

NOVOBÉRDA/O MUNICIPALITY

Article 1, paragraph 3. in order to take the formulation should be different: taking the actions

Article 2 in the definition "project for construction corrections" to be replaced with the work "annexes"

Article 2 in the definition "households" to be replaced with word "annexes"

Article 3, paragraph 4 - it is needed to specify as to whom refers this provision, to Urban Regulative Plan or Municipal Plan for Treating Illegal Construction.

Article 3, paragraph 5 - after the word Municipal Development Plan it is needed to add "Urban Regulative Plan".

Article 7 we need clear formulation on the deadlines of other bodies (30) days; does it have to do with 30 days after the adoption of Municipal Plan? Or it has to do with 30 days after the time period of 90 days stipulated in paragraph 1 of this article.

Article 9, paragraph 1 after the deadline of 60 days to add the word from the day of publication of notification for application for legalization.

Article 11, paragraph 2 in the end we need to add the word according to criteria set in the Municipal Program and respective Municipal Regulations.

Article 12, paragraph 2, part competent person should be replaced with "Competent Body "

Article 12, paragraph 5, it is needed precise definition as what prove or financial obligations of the investor is being mentioned.

MAMUSHA MUNICIPALITY

Article 2.

-In the definition "Other Bodies" to use the definition "Responsible Ministry".

Article 3

-Provision 5, after the word "Municipal Development Plan" to be linked with word "Urban Plan".

Article 9

Paragraph 1, after the word "in period of sixty (60) days to be followed with word "after the public notification (vacancy)".

Article 13

In the title of article, the word "for legalizing" to be replaced with word "for legalization".

Article 20

In the title, the word "legalizing" to be replaced with word "legalization".

Article 21

In the title, the word "Inspection" to be replaced with word "verification".

Working meeting between Collegium of Legal Officer, MLGA and OSCE

On Thursday, March 26, 2009 in Hotel "Victory" in Prishtina, Collegium of Legal Officers met with representatives of Ministry of Local Government Administration and OSCE. The meeting was organized by the Association of Kosovo Municipalities and MLGA in cooperation with OSCE. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss on topics and unique techniques in drafting municipal acts, implementation of primary and secondary legislation in municipalities, training needs identification in the field of legislation, etc.

The meeting was opened by Director of Legal Department in Ministry of Local Government Administration, Mr. Agron Maxhuni who informed the present on the work which is being done in preparation of a manual on unique techniques in drafting municipal acts. He said that need for such a manual came long time ago, since we had variety of approaches when drafting these municipal acts, lacking one unique technique often relying in inexistent legislation.

He said that preparation of this manual will be done in close cooperation with Collegium of Legal

Officers in municipalities and it will be a practical guide as how to prepare various municipal acts based on a unique technique. According to Mr. Maxhuni, central level in Kosovo already has such a guide which is later transformed into administrative instruction.

Initial content of this manual was presented by Mr. Besim Myrtezani - Head of Division for Implementation of Law in MLGA, saying that this manual is in initial stage of drafting where he invited legal officers in municipalities to send their ideas on the content this manual should have. On the other hand, Chairperson of the Collegium of Municipal Legal Officers, Mr. Agim Salihu said that preparation of this manual is more than welcomed and he said that municipal legal officers will send their ideas on this manual. Legal officers from other municipalities also welcomed idea to draft such a manual and said that this will assist municipalities in proper drafting of various municipal acts by respecting a unique technique eliminating different errors in this direction.

They also asked to have a recommendation includ-

ed in this manual where is required from various municipal structures to consult legal officers during drafting of municipal and sub-legal acts.

In follow up of the meeting, Mr. Maxhuni made a presentation of a report on implementation of primary and secondary legislation in municipalities from the field of action of MLGA. In this direction he mentioned several challenges facing municipalities when implementing this legislation. He mentioned series of regulations and other sub-legal acts that municipalities partly implemented, such as: Adoption of Municipal Statute, Adoption of Regulation for Municipal Transparency, Adoption of Regulation for Cooperation with Villages, Dwellings and Urban Suburbs, etc. In this direction was required from municipalities to have active role in adoption of these sub-legal acts as soon as possible, as well as to have active role in their best implementation possible at the municipal level.

In the end of this meeting was discussed on the need for training municipal legal officers where was asked for identification of training needs.

Related to this, OSCE representatives Mr. Bilbil Kastrati, Mr. Arben Fetahu and Ms. Ida Manton expressed OSCE readiness to deliver training for municipal legal officers. They said that OSCE has human and financial capacities to assist Collegium of Municipal Legal Officers in organization of various trainings that will be held according to needs identified by municipal legal officers themselves.

They said that format of trainings will not be same as it was so far, in classical form, but it will formulated in a way as to work in focus groups that will come up with concrete results from these trainings.

Municipal legal officers welcomed this idea for trainings and the methodology which they saw as very appropriate and adequate. They identified several fields they need training such as: Techniques for Drafting Municipal Acts, Legal Libraries in Municipalities, Filing, Administrative Procedures, etc. It was also decided that legal officers in a time period of one week to send their ideas and training needs.

With the assistance of AKM is terminated the general strike of health care workers

Prishtina, March 5, - after numerous and long meetings, all parties involved agree to terminate the strike of health care workers. This was achieved after a meeting took place

between Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi with the Association of Kosovo Municipalities resulting with the agreement that an additional amount of 44 euro will be paid to health

care workers by the municipalities. 18 Mayors of Kosovo municipalities expressed the readiness to pay this amount starting from Wednesday which includes all workers of

Centers for Family Medicine. Parallel to this will go efforts to count working years which was another point in the agreement.

USAID/EMI in cooperation with AKM and MLGA allocated 520 thousand dollars for 15 Kosovo municipalities

USAID/EMI in cooperation with AKM and MLGA allocated 18 donations for 15 of Kosovo municipalities in amount of 520 thousand American dollars, as a part of initiative "Effective Municipalities" and in the support of reform of local government in Kosovo. This project in support to the municipalities was made possible in cooperation with USAID/EMI and Association of Kosovo Municipalities as well as Ministry of Local Government Administration. Director of USAID in Kosovo, Ms. Patricia Rader, encouraged municipal leaders that they will receive support from USAID in the future just as they did in the past. "I am

impressed with your ideas and I am satisfied with the work done so far in improving the life of your citizens. And I assure you that we will continue to carefully review your ideas" said Ms. Rader. The meeting was attended by Mr. Sadri Ferati - Minister of MLGA, Mr. Ahmet Shala - Minister of MEF, and Mr. Sazan Ibrahim - Executive Director of AKM. Municipalities benefiting from the awards were: Gjakova /Gjakovica, Vushtrria /Vucitrn, Dragashi, Gjilani /Gnjilane, Drenasi/Glogovac, Klina, Lipjani, Podujeva, Shtimja/Stimlje and Skenderaj /Srbica.

Following awards were given for respective categories:

- Usage of innovative management techniques (two awards with USD 20,000)

- Efforts for improvement in provision of services (eight awards with USD 15,000)

- Increase in Own Source Revenues (five awards with USD 45,000), and

- Implementation of new legislation for local government (3 awards with USD 45,000).

Projects in first two categories are selected by the commission composed by representatives of Ministry of Local Government Administration, Association of Kosovo Municipalities and USAID/EMI. Grants for these projects were in total USD 160,000 with municipal con-

tribution of USD 210,845. Grants in third category (own source revenues) were given to five municipalities that increased the most own source revenues (in percentage) in 2007 and 2008. Awards in fourth category are based in the principle if the municipalities implemented legal provision of the new legislation for local self-government. Municipalities were expected to prove to the commission that they implemented 25 main provisions of the Law on Local Self-Government which are related to municipal assemblies, executive (Mayor) and the democracy directly.

Re-launch meeting of the Local Democracy Agency Kosovo and the Steering Committee Meeting of the project Empowering the Role of Young People in Kosovo

Pristina, 10 March 2009 - The meeting was organised by the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies and the Association of Kosovo Municipalities. The meeting represented a kick-off event in the process of the re-launching of the LDA in Kosovo. The aim of the meeting was on the one hand to focus on the planning of the remaining activities within the project Empowering the Role of the Young People in Kosovo and on the other to discuss the future steps leading towards the opening of the new LDA in Kosovo, including the detection of the partners for the LDA, determining the host city/cities and organizing the first steps in the process of the re-launch. The meeting saw the presence of major stakeholders in the field and potential partners in the Youth project and of the new LDA: the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, Council of Europe, International Civilian Office, Trentino con il Kosovo,



Don Bosco Centre and Community Building Mitrovica representing the IKV Paxchristi. Concerning the Project Empowering the Role of the Young People in Kosovo agreement was reached first and foremost with AKM, Trentino con il Kosovo, Don Bosco Centre and CBM to build synergies on the project together with the partners of the old LDA based in Gjilan/Gnjilane. In this respect first meetings will be organized before June 2009. With regards to the activities leading to the re-launch of the LDA in Kosovo an agreement was reached to

keep the focus on the youth activities bearing in mind the demographic and economic situation in Kosovo but also to expand the activities towards the other objective of the LDA Kosovo, which is to bring together the local authorities and the civil society organisations in this way providing assistance necessary to ensure a smooth and stable transition towards democracy and European integration, with an emphasis on promoting tolerant and trust-based relationships within local communities. Bearing in mind the multi-ethnic nature of

Kosovo one of the priorities of the LDA will be to work towards the strengthening of cooperation of its communities and the facilitation of their economic and social integration - including the work with all communities in Kosovo and the enclaves. The participants of the meeting welcomed this idea and ALDA and AKM committed to speed-up the implementation process. With regards to the following steps in the process of the re-launch it was agreed that a mission to Kosovo and meetings between the municipalities of Pec/Peja and Prizren, ALDA, AKM and the stakeholders in the process such as Trentino con il Kosovo will be conducted already in April 2009. ALDA has already initiated the process of finding the partners for the new LDA with first positive results. By June this year all the potential partners of the LDA will be identified with a realistic goal of having the official re-launch of the LDA scheduled for September 2009.

AKM supports commence of decentralization process and transfer of competencies to Kosovo municipalities

AKM issued a declaration on decentralization process and process of transfer of competencies to Kosovo municipalities. In this statement is said: As it is known, with a solemn ceremony was signed Memorandum of Understanding between MLGA, MLSW, MEF and Mayors of Kosovo Municipalities, where it is stipulated transfer of competencies to municipalities which are related to social services and social assistance.

Association of Kosovo Municipalities welcomes process of transfer of competencies from central institutions to municipalities in

Republic of Kosovo.

AKM estimates that transfer of competencies in fields of social services and assistance in conformity with applicable legislation signifies first step in implementation of decentralization process. This is even more significant when we know that this transfer does not have to do with ethnic elements as it was misunderstood in the beginning. First it was perceived that this process has only the goal of ethnic divisions and this is very important for daily life of citizens in our municipalities.

This transfer of competencies has a special

meaning for AKM in enforcing local government in Kosovo transforming municipalities in main actors in managing services for citizens in line with consistent requirements of AKM in last four or five years.

It is worth to mention that by this transfer of competencies from central to local level, municipalities will be responsible in providing social services and to administer scheme of social assistance according to delegated responsibility as well as responsibility to draft legal infrastructure to regulate these services and strategic plans for devel-

opment of social and family services.

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities asked for this transfer in field of social services to municipalities four years ago, i.e. in 2005, when it estimated that municipalities know best the situation in the field of social assistance.

In other fields as in social assistance, AKM in 2005 came up with Policy Statements where it elaborated in details the situation and draw conclusions for implementation of transfer of competencies at the local authorities.

AKM Board meets Chairpersons of Municipal Assemblies

On February 13, 2009 AKM Board met with Chairpersons of MA where they discussed on various topics related to work of legislatures in local government. The purpose of this meeting was discussion on various topics such as Law on Local Self-government as well as functionalizing the Constitution of Kosovo as well as preparations on the eve of One Year Independence of Republic of Kosovo. Other aim of this meeting was also establishment of Collegium of Chairpersons of Municipal Assemblies as well as election of chairmanship of this Collegium. The meeting was opened by AKM president Mr. Bajram Rexhepi, who wel-



comed the present and appreciated the organization of this meeting due to the need for such a meeting caused by changes taking place at the local legislation and its implication on the work of local government. Therefore, this was a good chance to treat many topics related not only to legislation, but also on position of chair-

persons of MA, role of executive and legislative branch but also better coordination of both these levels. Afterwards he said that the purpose of this joint meeting is to find better way of representation of MA Chairpersons in the Association of Kosovo Municipalities by scrutinizing opportunity to establish the Collegium of MA Chairpersons. This Collegium would be good opportunity to serve as a forum of MA Chairpersons to articulate interests of legislative part.

In follow up of the meeting were various very active discussions from MA Chairpersons presenting their concerns on the position they have in MA? They

asked for clarification on position of Chairpersons of Municipal Assembly. They also asked to review the possibility to include the MA Chairpersons in the payroll of Municipalities instead of daily payments or other forms of compensations. Another request of MA Chairpersons was the need for clear division between legislative and executive in municipalities since both these segments should perform independent from each other. As one of the issues raised by the MA Chairpersons was lack of budget lines for municipal assembly, therefore they asked for establishment of distinct budgetary line. One of requests of MA



The AKM meets on possibility to organize municipal agriculture cooperatives

Prishtina, 22 January 2008

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) in cooperation with German organization AGRAR - CON organize one day meeting to discuss establishment of agriculture cooperatives with the possibility of development of Association of Kosovo Cooperatives. Mr. Joachim Hall presented the concept of agriculture cooperatives in general and cooperatives in Kosovo in particular. Mr. Joachim Hall is Director of AGRAR-CON from Germany. Whereas presentation of industrial program of German company CLIVENT was delivered by Mr. Werner Jatsch and Mr. Roland Eichkorn spoke on concept of linkage of cooperatives / municipalities in a local network.

AGRAR - CON has large experience in organization of cooperatives and based on this we think that it is welcomed that such organization starts to take place in Republic of Kosovo. Cooperatives are a sustainable and continuing cooperation of Kosovo



farmers in order to increase profit and agriculture production, creation of new working places as well as unification of medium scale economy. Agricultural cooperatives are a joint enterprise of independent farmers, which according to statute approved by their members; its sole obligation is to support farmers. This is the sole aim of the agricultural cooperatives.

Opening this meeting, Mr. Bajram Rexhepi President of AKM, among others said: "I express my pleasure that Association of Kosovo Municipalities in cooperation with CLIVENT took the initiative to establish Municipal

Agriculture Cooperatives. We are very well aware that agriculture is one of the main fields with the potential of development in Kosovo.

Kosovo is rich with agricultural land and I express my conviction that Kosovo has also many farmers that are dedicated to their work. The purpose of this meeting is to establish the Agricultural Cooperative and afterwards possibility to establish Association of these Cooperatives. In cooperation with CLIVENT representatives we will try to bring good German practices on the performance of Cooperatives there and try to gain from these experiences. I must emphasize that approxi-

mately every fourth person in Germany is member of a cooperative. I hope that municipalities in Republic of Kosovo will support such initiative and I express my deep conviction that we will benefit from making such cooperative functional.

Establishment of agricultural cooperatives is foreseen with the Law on Agricultural Cooperatives where it stipulates that Agricultural Cooperatives are legal entity of physical or legal persons that must be farmers and contribute with their private property in share capital. Cooperatives provide services to their members and do not rely in creation of profit for them".

Mr. Joachim Hall presented the concept of agriculture cooperatives in general and cooperatives in Kosovo in particular. Mr. Joachim Hall is Director of AGRAR-CON from Germany. Whereas presentation of industrial program of German company CLIVENT was delivered by Mr. Werner Jatsch and Mr. Roland Eichkorn spoke on concept of linkage of cooperatives / municipalities in a local network

Chairpersons was to have regular meetings with MLGA legal officers which would facilitate clarification of respective legislation regarding municipalities. Afterwards, the floor was taken by AKM members of the Board, Mr. Naim Ismajli and Mr. Bajrush Xhemajli who supported the organization of this meeting considering it as a good opportunity to make clarification that are

needed for the role of executive and legislative branch in municipalities, respectively the role of MA Chairpersons and the Mayor. Regarding this, they said that Mayors, based on vote they directly received from citizens, are confirmed as highest authority in municipality but always respecting the legislative. Therefore, having in mind this fact, they said that everything

is clear in this respect.

They also supported the idea of Collegium of MA Chairpersons within AKM where they could have the opportunity to present their interests and address them in respective levels. In the end of this meeting, participants unanimously decided to establish the Collegium of MA Chairpersons as well as election of its Chairmanship.

Chairperson of the Collegium was elected Mr. Njazi Kryeziu from Prizren municipality whereas Deputy Chairperson was elected Mr. Ruzhdi Jashari from Shtime municipality. Members of the presidency of Collegium were elected Mr. Bajram Morina - Kamenica municipality, Ali Sylqa -Peja municipality, and Ferit Idrizi - Vushtrri municipality.

European Commission allocated 6.6 million euro for regional economic development in Kosovo

Municipalities such as Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren and Gjilan, as regions will benefit up to 500 thousand euros through projects that will be prepared for economic development.

Five regional agencies for development in Kosovo (Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren and Gjilan) will benefit up to 500 thousand euros through projects that are expected to be prepared by

them. This is been enabled through European Commission Liaison Office (ECLO), that allocated for this purpose a grant of 2.5 million Europe within a total fund of 6.6 millions to be used in 2009 in support to regional economic development. The deadline for application for these projects is June this year while priority will be given to creation of a competitive regional environment, creation of new

working places, working skills, agriculture and infrastructure. "We are entering a new stage in the process of regional economic development in Kosovo. Now we are trying to make functional, empower and consolidate this process and agencies, so they become an instrument and mechanism for facilitation and promotion of economic development in Kosovo, European integrations as well as ethnic

reconciliation", said in the end Chief of Operations in ECLO, Mr. Kjartan Bjornsson. "We want to have concrete and visible projects", Mr. Bjornsson said. Mayor of Mitrovica Mr. Bajram Rexhepi, who is at the same time President of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, highly evaluated functioning of these agencies in the process of economic development in Kosovo.

AKM started the project on implementation of Administrative Instruction 08/2009 on establishment of Municipal Community Safety Councils

The Association of Kosovo Municipalities in cooperation with and financial support of East West Management Institute launched the project to support municipalities in establishment of Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSC). On Friday, April 3, 2009 in restaurant "Vila Gërmia" in Prishtina, it was organized joint meeting between Mayors, respectively Council of Mayors of the AKM, representatives of Ministry of Interiors and Ministry of Local Government Administration. The aim of this meeting is making preparations for implementation of Administrative Instruction 08/2009 signed by the Minister of Interiors dealing with Municipal Community Safety Councils (KKSb). This was first meeting within the project to be implemented by the AKM in assistance to municipalities in establishment of Municipal Community Safety Councils. Present in the meeting were Mayors of Municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Fatmir Xhelili, Deputy Minister of Interiors, Mr. Shkodran Manaj, Legal Officer in Legal Department

in the same ministry, Mr. Besnik Osmani, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government Administration, and representatives of USAID, EMMI, AKM, various NGOs, etc. The meeting was opened by Mr. Bajram Rexhepi, President of the AKM, while the meeting was moderated by Ms. Argjentina Grazhdani from EMMI. In follow up, President of AKM, Mr. Bajram Rexhepi welcomed all the present and spoke briefly on the importance of establishment of Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSC). He said that Municipal Community Safety Councils are very important for local democracy in general, and as such are established in many countries in the world, in consolidated democracies and those in transition alike, where these mechanisms are proven as very effective. He further added that fortunately, crime level in Kosovo, compared to other region countries in the transition, is not so high. But, on the other hand we are faced with the new phenomenon of crime, who has not previously existed in our

country and that directly impact our citizens in communities where they live. For example, the phenomenon of trafficking, abuse of narcotic substances by youth and its use in schools, violence in primary and secondary schools, thefts of vehicles and property of our citizens - are all issues that belong to the municipality. Therefore, we, municipal structures, civil society active in our municipalities and police stations across our municipalities can and should add to our cooperation so that in places we can, to enhance the security problems in order to create an environment where citizens feel that their life, their family and their property is protected, not only legally, but also by structures that support effective implementation of these laws. In the end he said, AKM has been an equal partner with institutions of the Republic of Kosovo in drafting Administrative Instruction 08/2009, which is related to re-launching the Council and in this context, AKM has requested that members of MCSC who do not receive

salaries from the Kosovo Budget, in the future be paid for their participation in such councils, so to believe that our request will be considered and as such will be accomplished during the review of Kosovo Budget in the following period. Following the meeting, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Famir Xhelili speaking on Administrative Direction 08/2009, congratulated the organizers for this meeting and for the project which will help municipalities in the creation of Municipal Community Safety Councils. He said that the establishment and functionality of these councils would be useful for municipalities as well as to central level, but in particular for citizens. He added that the Councils will be an important mechanism that would increase the level of cooperation between the various structures involved in providing security for citizens, so as to create the bridge connecting in the multi-sectoral aspect, local and central level. We, as Ministry of Internal Affairs will try in all ways to help municipalities

"We as representatives and local owners should ensure that businesses and citizen benefit from them. Creation of working places, development and reconciliation are without any doubt in top of our list of priorities - said in the end Mr. Rexhepi.

Both Mr. Bjornsson and Mr. Rexhepi expressed their hope that in this process will actively take part Serbian community in Kosovo as this process will not be politicized.

"Social economic develop-



ment, creation of working places is requirement of everyone and I think that there are examples where communities find common fields and reasons for cooperation and we

believe for this to be a forum where everyone will be able to see that it is not politics", said Mr. Bjornsson. In the meantime Mr. Rexhepi said that he expects for Serbian

community to be released from prejudices and give its contribution in this direction.

"This will benefit Mitrovica even more, where lack of cooperation is apparent; however, the doors are always open when they are ready. We will try through regional agencies to prevent this process from politicization, especially that inter-ethnic, but to be in contribution of development", said Mr. Rexhepi.

in the functionality of these councils, so we encourage municipalities during the establishment of these councils to respect the principle of representation of minority communities, as well as females. Functionalism of these councils in community safety will be a good opportunity for citizens who could express their concerns regarding various aspects of security that concern them and in this way through the municipality or the Municipal Mayor who will chair these councils, concerns of citizens relating to public safety can be addressed, so in this way, the level of general safety in the community will be improved. Commence of the implementation of Administrative Instruction 08/2009 on the establishment of Municipal Community Safety Councils was appreciated by Permanent Secretary of the MLGA, Mr. Besnik Osmani, who praised AKM and EWMI project in initiating this issue. In addition he said that the role of these councils will be significant for safety in the communities and this can be best seen in their composition, which will be very inclusive, including the most important actors at the local level such as municipal struc-

tures, security structures, religious communities, civil society, etc. Therefore the functionality of these councils would affect not only in increasing levels of safety and prevention of various negative phenomena in the community, but will also affect the activation and participation of citizens in general. Also, these mechanisms are a good opportunity for affirmation of the role of minority communities and gender equality in local government. In the end, Mr. Osmani said MLGA will be supportive of the municipalities in this regard by providing the financial means for projects related to safety in the community. Meeting and the start of the project was welcomed also by the representative of USAID in Kosovo, Mr. Peter Duffy, who highly appreciated implementation of Administrative Instruction 08/2009 on the establishment of Municipal Community Safety Councils. The functioning of these councils is very effective in many countries of the world, so this would be a good opportunity for the municipalities in Kosovo to create such mechanisms that will affect the prevention of negative phenomena in the community that are present

in every society. Following the meeting was the presentation of the content of the Administrative Instruction 08/2009 by Mr. Shkodran Manaj which presented in details the instruction. Within the presentation made by Mr. Shkodran Manaj attendees had the opportunity to know more regarding what brought to the adoption of the Administrative Instruction 08/2009 and what is foreseen in it. In this context it was said Administrative Instruction was issued as a result of legal obligation that the central level has, i.e. Ministry of Internal Affairs, the guidance governing the manner of establishment and functioning of the Municipal Community Safety Councils, which is established in each municipality of the Republic of Kosovo. MCSC is a consultation body on safety issues with broad representation of all communities of a municipality and representatives of civil society as defined in Article 7 of the Law on the Police. MCSC is the main body for consultation in the municipality on safety issues, in cooperation with the Police, examines all security issues for communities, to the benefit of all residents of the municipality. Following the

presentation was discussion on the purpose, composition, invitations for representation in MCSC, meetings of the MCSC, Chairperson and his duties, duties and responsibilities of the MCSC, reports and oversight. Meanwhile, Ms. Argjentina Grazhdani introduced guidelines and procedures related to invitations for nominations for members of Municipal Community Safety Councils.

At the end of this meeting there was active discussion by the participants regarding the Municipal Community Safety Councils. In this context they welcomed the establishment of these councils, but also expressed their concerns regarding various aspects of the Administrative Instruction and for the functioning of these councils. Some of concerns expressed by mayors were compensation for members of the council which may affect active participation of members. Another objection was the deadline given to municipalities to submit nomination for members of these councils, and representation of minority communities in Councils. In this regard, they requested the assistance of international organizations for the participation of all communities in these Councils.

AMK COLLEGIA MEETINGS

COLLEGIUM OF MUNICIPAL DIRECTORS FOR URBAN PLANNING AND CADASTRE

On Friday, March 13, 2009, Collegium for Urban Planning and Cadastre organized a meeting which was held in Restaurant "VILLA GERMIA", Prishtina. In the meeting were present Municipal Directors for Urban Planning and Cadastre, USAID/EMI representatives as well as representatives from AKM administration.

Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to deliver presentation prepared for this meeting. First presentation was delivered by Ms. Florina Jerliu on AKM participation in NALAS Conference; second one was prepared by USAID/EMI and HABITAT. One of the purposes of this meeting was also discussion on preparation of study visit of the Collegium planned to be conducted in Albania.

COLLEGIUM OF MUNICIPAL DIRECTORS FOR HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL WELFARE

On Friday, March 13, 2009 met Collegium of Municipal Directors for Health Care and Social Welfare. This meeting was organized in cooperation with Ministry of Local Government Administration and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. The meeting took place in hotel "AFA" in Prishtina. In the meeting were present Municipal Directors for Health Care and Social Welfare and representatives of both aforementioned ministries.

Purpose of the meeting

AKM in cooperation with Ministry of Local Government Administration and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare organized working meeting with Municipal Directors for Health Care and Social Welfare aiming broad information on the process of competency transfer from central to local level in the field of social issues. More concretely, this meeting served for information on the agreement for cooperation regarding transfer of competencies, budget planning for 2010, concern rising by the municipal officers on this process, etc.



THE MEETING OF THE COLLEGIUM OF MUNICIPAL DIRECTORS FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

On Tuesday, March 16, 2009, Collegium for Municipal Public Services organized its meeting as follow up of activities of the respective Collegium. In the meeting were present Municipal Directors for Public Services, experts involved in Policy Statement on Public Services (Provision of Water Services, Waste Water and Solid Waste, Energy Efficiency and Public Transport), GTZ representatives and representatives of AKM administration.

Purpose of the meeting

The meeting was held in order to discuss and review in details content of Policy Statement on Public Services and its final adoption, since the review was already done in previous meeting. From the previous meeting, members of the Collegium committed to read the Statement so that in this meeting in the presence of experts who prepared this document, propose necessary changes and provide with final version.

AMK COLLEGIA MEETINGS

COLLEGIUM OF MUNICIPAL ASSAMBLY CHAIRS

On March 17, 2009 met Collegium of Municipal Chairs. The meeting took place in Restaurant "VILA GËRMIA" in Prishtina with the cooperation and financial support of USAID/EMI. In the meeting were present Municipal Chairs, representatives from USAID/EMI, OSCBE, ICO and AKM. The meeting was attended by media.

Purpose of the meeting

One of the purposes for organizing this meeting was to have discussions on position of civil servants in Municipal Assembly, respectively two positions occupied by civil servants (Civil Servant + Member of Municipal Assembly) and how to come up with a recommendation to resolve this issue. The meeting aimed also to discuss on Administrative Instruction of MLGA No. 2009/01 on Procedure of Selection and Responsibility of Chairperson of Municipal Assembly. Another aim of the meeting was to discuss on draft plan for rules of procedure for the Collegium of Chairs of Municipal Assemblies for 2009.

COLLEGIUM OF MUNICIPAL DIRECTORS FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE

On March 20, 2009 the Collegium for Education and Culture held its meeting, organized in cooperation with OSCE, which took place in Restaurant "KATANA" in Obiliq. In the meeting were present representatives of Ministry of Education, Municipal Directors for Education and Culture as well as representatives of AKM. In the meeting was invited, but did not appear, Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Mr. Enver Hoxhaj.

Purpose of the meeting

On of the main goals for this meeting was discussions on changing Law on Primary and Secondary Education, creation of mechanisms for evaluation and monitoring, discussion on work plan of the Collegium, discussion on free-balance, etc.

COLLEGIUM OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATIONS

On March 18, 2009 Collegium of Officers for European Integrations organized its meeting. The meeting was supported by WYG International. The meeting took place in the hall of Municipal Assembly in Prishtina. Present in the meeting were the Mayor of Prishtina, Prof.dr. Isa Mustafa, representatives of Kosovo Agency for European Integrations, Ministry of Local Government Administration, WYG International as well as representatives of AKM Administration.

Purpose of the meeting

One of the goals of this meeting was to review the European Partnership Action Plan (EPAP) and the process of monitoring and reporting EPAP by the municipalities and coordination of activities with MLGA. Another goal was to incorporate the matrix in the municipal work plans.

COLLEGIUM OF DIRECTORS OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

On Friday, March 20, 2009 met the Collegium of Directors of Municipal Administration. This meeting was organized with cooperation and financial support of USAID/EMI. The meeting took place in Hotel "VICTORY" in Prishtina. In the meeting was present, Directors of Municipal Administration, representatives of USAID/EMI as well as representatives of AKM.

Purpose of the meeting

One of the main purposes for organizing this meeting was review and adoption of Rules of Procedures for 2009. Preparation of these documents was done with support of USAID/EMI and by the work of Chairmanship of the Collegium. Another aim of the meeting was discussion on current situation in municipal administration in general as well as concerns among municipalities in this respect.

ASSOCIATION OF KOSOVO MUNICIPALITIES

BULLETIN

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AKM has the status of an observer in Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe. It is a permanent member of NALAS (Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South-East Europe), member of LOGON network, member of LOGIN network and is an Invited Association (similar to the status of an observer) in Committee of Europe for Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

