

United Nations Development Programme

Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use Management
in Dragash/Dragaš

Municipal Development Plan for the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš 2013 - 2023

Dragash / Dragaš, Kosovo
August 2013

Contents

Contents	2
List of Figures	3
List of Tables	3
1. Introduction	5
Project Background	5
Purpose of the MDP	5
Public Consultation	5
National framework	5
2. Dragash/Dragaš Municipal Profile	7
Description of the Municipality	7
Population	8
Cultural and historical background	10
Challenges inherent in existing situation	10
Settlements	11
Challenges inherent in the existing situation of settlements	11
Natural hazards and risks	13
Water resources	14
Challenges inherent in the existing situation of land use and soils	15
Education	15
Health	15
Challenges inherent in the existing situation of education, health and social welfare	16
Economic Development and Employment	16
Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)	15
Impact of migration	16
Challenges inherent in the existing situation of the economy	16
Forestry and Agriculture	16
Challenges inherent in the existing situation of forestry and agriculture	17
Biodiversity and Nature Protection	17
Challenges inherent in the existing situation of biodiversity	17
Tourism and Culture	18
Challenges inherent in the existing situation of tourism and culture	19
Road Network and Transport	19
Challenges inherent in the existing situation of roads and transport	19
Solid Waste Management	19
Challenges inherent in the existing situation of solid waste management.....	20
Infrastructure and Utilities	20
Challenges inherent in the existing situation of technical infrastructure.....	22
3. SWOT Analysis	22
4. Vision	23
5. Spatial Development Framework.....	24
Principles for functional development of settlements.....	24
Additional settlement functions:	26
Framework of the road network	26
Development framework of land use	26
Additional function in the landscape: tourism	27
Socio-economic and Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed framework	27
6. Strategies	28
Nature conservation and biodiversity	28
Settlement	30
Health and social welfare	36
Education	37
Tourism and Cultural Heritage	39
Forestry	44
Energy	46
Water and Sanitation	48
Waste Management	50

7. Implementation provisions	52
8. Mid-Term Action Plan 2013-2016 (Phase I)	52
MUNICIPAL TEAM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION (MTIME)	59
FINAL PROVISIONS	59
10. List of Maps	59

List of Figures

FIGURE 1: STRUCTURE AND SETTLEMENT NETWORK. SOURCE: SPK 2010-2020, P. 126.	6
FIGURE 2: CLIMATE DIAGRAM FOR DRAGASH/DRAGAŠ MUNICIPALITY	7
FIGURE 3: POPULATION OVER TIME IN DRAGASH/DRAGAŠ MUNICIPALITY 1921-2011	8
FIGURE 4: POPULATION PYRAMID FOR DRAGASH/DRAGAŠ MUNICIPALITY (DATA FROM 2011 KOSOVO CENSUS)	9
FIGURE 5: POPULATION BY ETHNIC/CULTURAL BACKGROUND FOR KOSOVO, AND DRAGASH/DRAGAŠ MUNICIPALITY	10
FIGURE 6: DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK MAP	24

List of Tables

TABLE 1: POPULATION OF THE VILLAGES OF DRAGASH/DRAGAŠ MUNICIPALITY 1921 – 2011	8
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1. INTRODUCTION

Project Background

The preparation of the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) has been undertaken as part of the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use Management (CBSLM) project, which covers the whole of the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš. CBSLM is a three-year programme that started in November 2010, which is funded from the Government of Finland managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This document is the summary version of the MDP. It contains the essence of the Municipal Development Plan Part I (Introduction, Profile and SWOT-Analysis), Part II (Vision, Spatial Development Framework, Strategies and Implementation Provisions) and Part III (Maps).

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the CBSLM are set out in the UNDP Project Document: Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use Management in Dragash/Dragaš (September 2010). Outputs 1 and 2 of this programme state that the following will be achieved:

Plans and policies in place for the adequate conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land use management.

Plans and capacities developed for improved livelihoods.

The preparation of the MDP falls, for the most part, within these programme outputs.

Purpose of the MDP

The Municipal Development Plan is, according to the definition in the Law on Spatial Planning, a “multi- sectoral plan that determines the long-term goals of economic, social and spatial development”. It covers the entire territory of the municipality.

The MDP for Dragash/Dragaš has been prepared to cover a timescale of 10 years from 2013 to 2023. During this period the MDP’s principal purpose will be to act as a strategic planning document for the municipality. In so doing, it will fulfill the following key functions:

Plans and policies in place for the adequate conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land use management.

Plans and capacities developed for improved livelihoods.

The preparation of the MDP falls, for the most part, within these programme outputs.

- To provide an updated analysis of the existing situation for the Municipal area;
- To outline strategic plans and policies for the ten-year period;
- To provide a framework for detailed spatial planning (such as for Urban Development Plans and Urban Regulatory Plans) in the Municipal area;
- To promote poverty alleviation and socio-economic development for Dragash/Dragaš and, in so doing, to promote social inclusion and equal opportunities for disadvantaged groups;
- To promote environmental sustainability and nature conservation as a key dimension for sustainable development in this rural area.

Public Consultation

The preparation process of the MDP has incorporated public consultation at various levels. It is very important that different sectors of the community in Dragash/Dragaš participate in decision-making and take a stake in the content of the plan. It is equally important that the content of the MDP incorporates a strong degree of public consensus and that it effectively integrates the communities’ views. This has been undertaken as part of the early stages in the preparation of the MDP, including during the information-gathering process for the SDA. Different working groups were involved in the planning process.

Municipal Working Group: The Municipal Working Group (MWG) is a participatory, consultative forum established under the leadership of the local authorities. The MWG accompanied and supported the whole process of the MDP. Members are the representatives of the municipal government (by sector), representatives of the business sector and representatives of civil society.

[ref: Dragash/Dragaš Municipal Guidelines (for International Cooperation) (2011-2013)].

Village working groups: In addition, village groups were consulted for their views on the planning needs in early 2011 [ref: Dragash Municipal Guidelines (for International Cooperation) (2011-2013)]. The first five village working groups

(established in 2010-2012) included Bellobrad/Belobrod, Blač/Bljač, Brod/Brod, Brrut/Brut and Restelica/Restelicë. Additional five working groups were established in 2012 in villages Bresane, Kuk, Shajne, Rapce and Zlipotok. Village working groups: In addition, village groups were consulted for their views on the planning needs in early 2011 [ref: Dragash Municipal Guidelines (for International Cooperation) (2011-2013)]. The first five village working groups (established in 2010-2012) included Bellobrad/Belobrod, Blač/Bljač, Brod/Brod, Brrut/Brut and Restelica/Restelicë. Additional five working groups were established in 2012 in villages Bresane, Kuk, Shajne, Rapce and Zlipotok.

The public consultation exercise for the MDP continued with a four-day Visioning Workshop in early September 2011. There were some 45 attendees from different sections of the local population (village residents, non-governmental organisations, private sector representatives and municipality officials) who contributed towards the key issues that needed to be addressed by the MDP, as well as the most important elements of the plan's Vision. The workshop is described in more detail in Section 5.1.

The formal process of preparation of the MDP evolved over the period in an iterative process between the different actors involved: experts, core planning team in Municipality, Municipal Working group and Assembly members, civil society and working group representatives and public institutions in Dragash. In July 2012, the Strategic Development Options were presented to the Municipal working Group and the Municipal Assembly representatives, including representatives from different sectors of the community in order to ascertain their views and preferences. The opinions of these participants contributed to the formulation of the Preferred Strategic Development Option, which has been used as the basis for defining subsequent policies and proposals for the MDP. The discussion and consensus on the Strategic development Options evolved over a period of 3 months of iterative work between the different experts and local actors and the final versions were reviewed in workshop held in October 02, 2012

The Republic of Kosovo Law on Spatial Planning (Law No 2003/14) requires that the Draft MDP be made available for review and comment by the public and government agencies during a 60-day consultation period. The public consultation process was held in Dragash – after decision by the Municipal Assembly of March 26, 2013 – during April 4 and June 4 of 2013. The comments from the public have been either incorporated into the finalized plan, or, alternatively responses given on why they have not been incorporated (documented in Annex 1).

Public Consultation

The MDP fit into the national planning context, which is defined by the Law on Spatial Planning and the belonging Administrative Guideline as well as the Spatial Plan of Kosovo (SPK). The SPK includes a definition of responsibility and the relative importance of each settlement within the settlement network and a definition of the geographical characteristics, potential development and economic activities (regional area). According to this Dragash/Dragaš town is regarded as a small centre. The Municipality Dragash/Dragaš lies in the “Gardens of Kosovo” (the Orange Area), where the main focus is on culture, tourism, service, trade and the agricultural industry. The pasture areas in Dragash/Dragaš and the Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park are regarded as Special Interest Spatial Areas.

Smaller centres shall have an active role in future spatial development in the aspects of improvement of service provision and efficacy

- in strengthening links to surrounding villages and
- in efforts that the area as a whole function according to pre-determined development programmes.

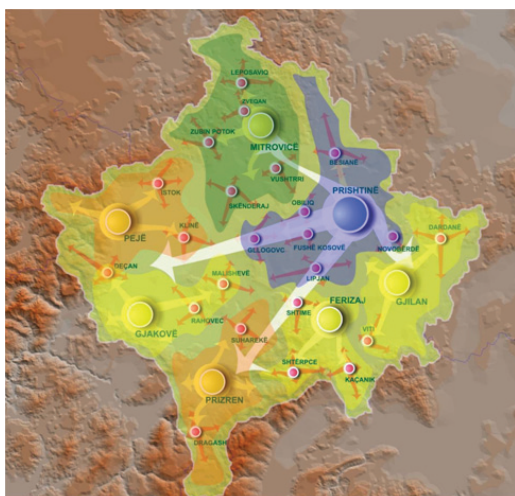


Figure 1: Structure and settlement network.
Source: SPK 2010-2020, p. 126.

The general goals for the southern Gardens of Kosovo are:

- Development and enhancement of physical infrastructure
- Development of an attractive network of planned cities, with the governance of public services in favour of the citizens, with increased quality of life of citizens, employment and social equality

- Development of farming
- The LED Program (local economic development) through promotion of SME (small and medium enterprises)
- Development of regional infrastructure
- Development of mountain and cultural tourism, protection of natural, cultural and historical heritage

2. DRAGASH/DRAGAŠ MUNICIPAL PROFILE ¹

Description of the Municipality

Dragash/Dragaš is the southernmost municipality in Kosovo, sharing borders with the neighbouring countries of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYR Macedonia) to the east and south, and Albania to the west. To its north, Dragash/Dragaš is bordered by Prizren municipality which is the centre of the Kosovo South region under which Dragash/Dragaš falls.

The municipality covers an area of 435.8km², approximately 4% of the entire territory of Kosovo and is eighth largest of Kosovo's 30 municipalities. Dragash/Dragaš municipality comprises 36 settlements with the small town of Dragash/Dragaš as the municipal centre. The municipality is edged by the high Sharr/Šar Mountains on its southern and eastern sides, stretching into FYR Macedonia and Albania.

Dragash/Dragaš's territory is identified as comprising two areas: Opojë/Opolje in the north and Gora/Gorë in the south. The altitude of the municipality varies between 750 and 2550 metres above sea level, with the average lying at 1620m. The hilly and mountainous geography has influenced the development of small, concentrated and rural settlements along the three main valleys, but is also the cause of the municipality's isolation and current infrastructural and other problems. 55% of the territory is classed as Steep or Very Steep and respectively provides limited or no access for machines.

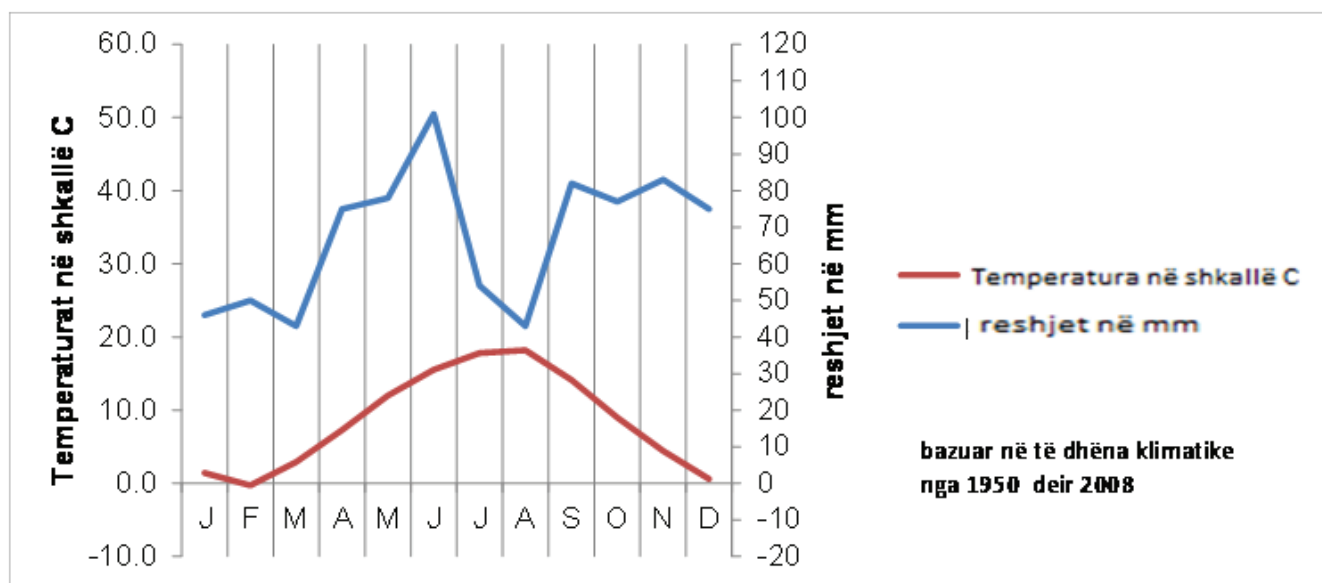


Figure 2: Climate diagram for Dragash/Dragaš Municipality

Dragash/Dragaš municipality has a subalpine climate with an average yearly temperature of 8.6° Celsius. Summers are short and fresh with an average temperature of 18.1° C, with long and relatively cold winters (average temperature -0.4° C).

Dragash/Dragaš experiences a high level of rainfall and snowfall, spread evenly across the municipal area. The highest amount of rain falls during June with just over 100mm, and subordinate peaks in September and November. The average rainfall at lower altitudes is 800 mm, with snow cover for around 120 days per year, while rainfall is on average 1370 mm in higher areas with snow for around 280 days.

¹ For detailed information about Dragash/Dragaš's assets see long version of MDP and Sustainable Development Atlas (SDA).

Population

The latest available data on population has come from the national census conducted in 2011. Figures from the 2011 Census suggest that around 33, 997 persons live in Dragash/Dragaš as permanent residents.

Popullsia (të dhëna nga Agjencia e Statistikave të Kosovës; llogaritjet për 2008)								Official Census	
Village	1921	1948	1953	1961	1971	1981	1991	2008	2011
Baçka / Bačkë	167	222	249	259	311	381	215	44	52
Bellobrad / Belograd	232	415	345	385	568	808	998	1780	948
Blaç / Bljać	360	474	503	594	797	1123	1415	2150	1,455
Brezne / Brezna	590	908	871	946	1410	1971	2465	4103	1,990
Brod / Brod	1863	2248	2229	1604	1485	1685	1741	1200	1,544
Bresanë / Brodosavce	844	1219	1229	1353	1861	2498	2999	4500	2,839
Brrut / Brut	450	596	584	575	798	1097	1319	1800	1,164
Buçe / Buće	269	398	400	437	574	766	913	1005	645
Buzez / Buzez	74	102	102	127	191	240	366	380	320
Dikance / Dikanc	162	318	320	349	392	282	257	133	124
Dragash / Dragaš	172	408	480	612	694	1114	1532	1893	1,098
Globočica / Glloboçicë	391	648	683	757	813	1002	968	630	960
Kapre / Kapra	154	214	255	265	354	496	582	503	452
Kosavë / Kosavce	300	488	486	525	720	912	1033	1200	905
Krstec / Kërstec	299	465	440	475	562	798	837	272	420
Kruševo / Kruševë	126	281	319	377	513	645	738	625	857
Kuk / Kukovce	433	640	655	669	985	1335	1619	2550	1,658
Kuklibeg / Kukljibeg	234	408	383	409	516	658	916	1100	852
Kukuljane / Kulkanë	361	543	551	482	605	777	621	290	235
Leštane / Leshtan		537	493	513	658	758	679	197	783
Ljubovište / Lubovishtë	211	344	352	384	541	690	799	360	773
Mlike / Mlikë	260	461	428	428	455	506	335	114	92
Orçuša / Orçushë		415	370	396	431	427	221	57	60
Pllavë / Plava		462	449	493	690	972	1125	420	1,000
Pllajnik / Plajnik		322	321	365	485	549	576	1200	405
Radeša / Radeshë	440	753	794	837	884	1279	1226	953	1,224
Rapča / Rapçë	622	889	877	885	1125	1647	1781	863	853
Restelica / Restelicë	745	1393	1471	1772	2576	3476	4274	4200	4,698
Rrenc / Renc	127	188	177	202	292	473	685	700	581
Shajne / Šajnovce	440	626	639	705	921	1253	1415	1950	1,069
Vranište / Vranisht		755	771	815	884	926	731	297	352
Xërxe / Zrze	90	215	202	205	269	335	373	250	236
Zaplluxhe / Zaplužje	470	667	663	666	967	1275	1504	2250	1,273
Zgatar / Zgatar	435	435	401	415	640	818	985	1400	885
Zlipotok / Zlipotok		486	488	532	568	625	619	322	610
Zym / Zjum	139	197	167	215	315	457	573	480	585
Municipality	11460	20140	20147	21028	26850	35054	39435	42171	33997

Table 1: Population of the Villages of Dragash/Dragaš Municipality 1921 – 2011

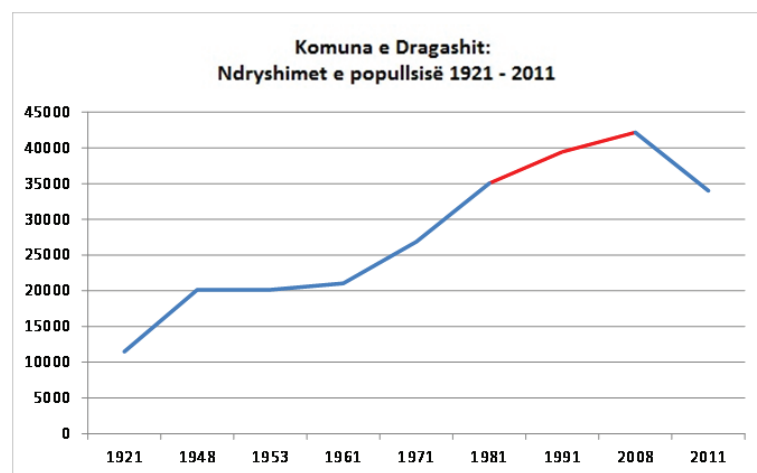


Figure 3: Population over time in Dragash/Dragaš municipality 1921-2011
[The red line indicates a period when the accuracy of data is doubted.]

Between 1921 and 1981 the municipal population grew by almost 300%. From 1981 population growth was reported primarily in the northern part of the municipality (Opojë/Opolje), while the villages in the Gora/Gorë region (south) experienced a sometimes-dramatic decline in population. There has been a slight overall decrease in Dragash/Dragaš's population since 1981 in spite of the higher population estimates provided for 2008.

High unemployment and lack of opportunities coupled with the upheavals of the 1990s and the conflict in 1999 have added to traditional patterns of movement, revealing that Kosovo has experienced and continues to experience significant population migrations. Much of this has been observed in the shift from rural to urban areas across Kosovo, as well as in emigration abroad.

According to field data collected in 2007 a number of 6609 emigrants of Opojë/Opolje and 18012 emigrants of Gora/Gorë region are living abroad, mainly returning back to Dragash/Dragaš during the summer.

Analysis of population Data shows specific characteristics:

- The municipality comprises approximately 1.95% of the total population of Kosovo. Of these, the majority of the population (36%) lives in households of 2-4 persons; 33% live in households of 5- 6 persons, and a relatively high proportion of the population (26%) live in households of 7 or more persons. The average household size for Dragash/ Dragaš is 5.5 persons, which compares with the national average in Kosovo of 5.9
- The ethnicity of population is around 60% Kosovo-Albanians, 12% Bosniaks, 26% Gorani, and small numbers of several other ethnic groups. This proportion corresponds with the differentiation between village populations of the two geographic regions of Gora/Gorë (primarily Gorani/Bosniak) and Opojë/Opolje (primarily Kosovo-Albanian).
- Around 57% of the population is under 34, of which 60% are under 19 years of age. 65% of Dragash/Dragaš's resident population is considered of working age (15-59 for women and 15-65 for men) with around 9% over 65.
- The birth rate across the municipality is approximately 1.7%, while the mortality rate is about 0.58%. In contrast to the natural population growth (1.12%) it is supposed that Dragash/Dragaš will experience a slight decline in natural population growth because of the impact of migration.
- The average density of Dragash/Dragaš municipality is 78 persons per km², the fifth least densely populated municipality in Kosovo.

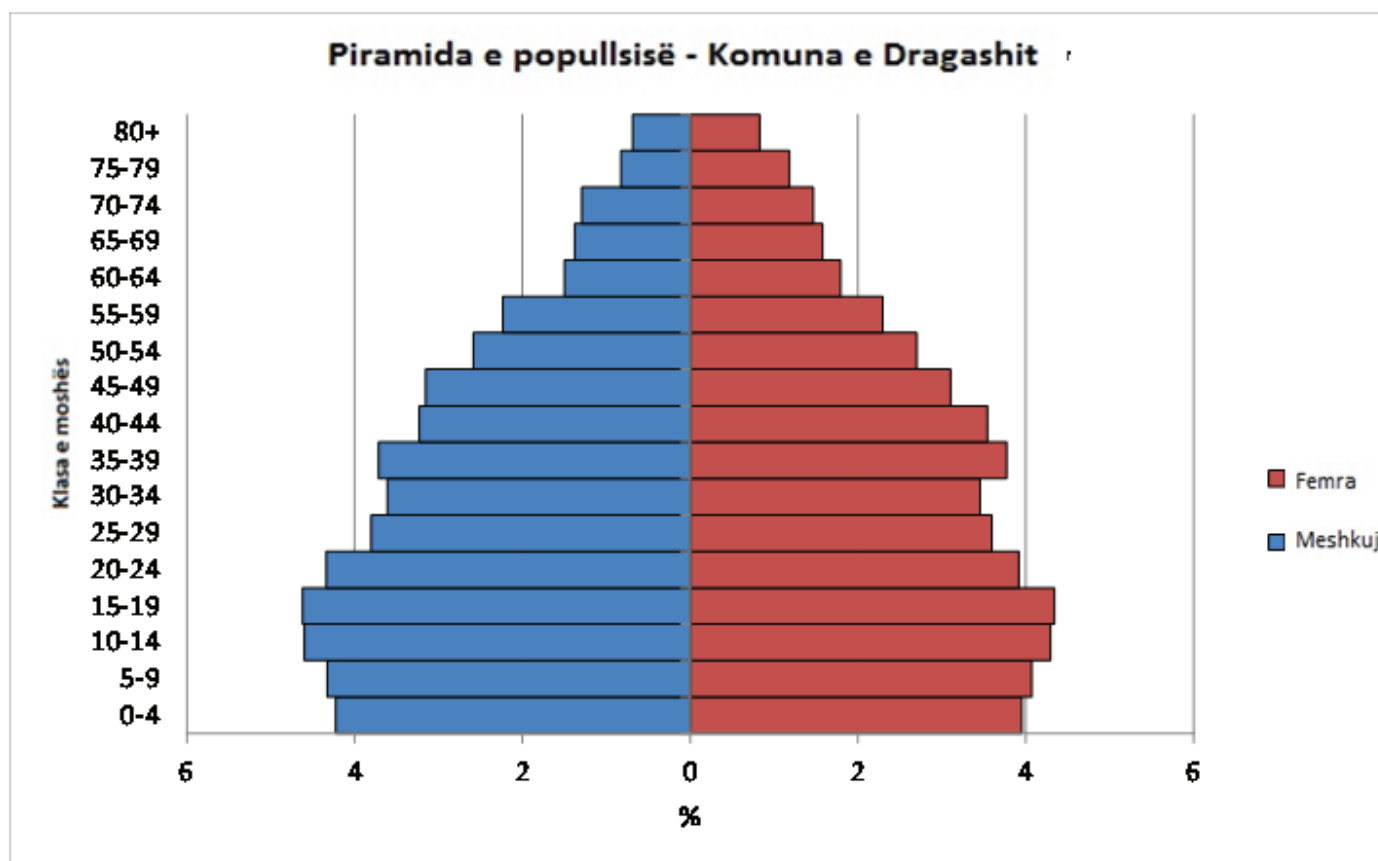


Figure 4: Population pyramid for Dragash/Dragaš municipality (data from 2011 Kosovo Census)

ETHNIC OR CULTURAL BACKGROUND												
	Not avail-able	Alba-nian	Serb	Turkish	Bos-niak	Roma	Ashkali	Egyp-tian	Goran	Other	Prefer not to answer	TOTAL
NATIONAL %	0.11	92.93	1.47	1.08	1.58	0.51	0.89	0.66	0.59	0.14	0.05	99.89
Dragash / Dragaš No.	22	20,287	7	202	4,100	3	4	3	8,957	283	129	33.997
DRAGASH/ DRAGAŠ %	0.06	59.67	0.02	0.59	12.06	0.01	0.01	0.01	26.35	0.83	0.38	100.00

Fig 5 .In contrast to the national situation, the good level of tolerance and peaceful co-habitation of different ethnic groups in Dragash/Dragaš municipality is a significant strength. It is a source of richness in the area's cultural life and provides not only as a strong foundation for the municipality's future but also sets a positive example within Kosovo.

Cultural and historical background

Settlement in Dragash/Dragaš is said to date from ancient times, similar to elsewhere in the Prizren region where evidence of Neolithic and Iron Age inhabitation has been found, as well as significant records from the Roman and Ottoman periods.

During the Ottoman reign from 1445-1912, the area of Dragash/Dragaš municipality formed part of the Sançak and, later, Vilayet of Prizren (1871), a wide administrative district that included areas in currentday FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Serbia and covered most of what is today Kosovo. Prizren was known for its powerful trading links as a crossroads for both military and commercial routes, and was thus a highly important centre to which communities in the Dragash/Dragaš area would have had strong connections, as they do today.

The word “gora” means “mountain” in Slavic languages, and thus the Gorani people are said to be the “mountaineers”. The language spoken by the Gorani (“Našinski”, roughly translating as “ours”) is a mixture of Macedonian, Serbian, Bosnian and Turkish. Since communities in Dragash/Dragaš have been long connected with those in FYR Macedonia across the mountains along livestock migration and agricultural trails, Dragash/Dragaš has formed a bridge between both Slavic and Albanian communities across contemporary national borders.

Challenges inherent in existing situation

Dragash/Dragaš's location in the very south, high in the mountains means that it is considered a “dead end”.

- How can the geographical remoteness be overcome?
- Which new connections can be established and which existing connections should be strengthened?

Topography and climate in Dragash/Dragaš cause strong winters with a high level of snowfall.

- How can the municipality ensure safe access to the villages?
- What conditions can be improved to ensure good livelihoods also in winter?

Dragash/Dragaš's population is very young and active for work; but on the other hand the unemployment rate is high.

- How can the municipality create good living opportunities for the youth?
- How can jobs and income for youth be generated to avoid the loss of the younger generation by emigration?

Dragash/Dragaš has experienced and continues to experience significant population migrations (from rural to urban areas across Kosovo as well as emigration abroad).

- How to increase the appeal of Dragash/Dragaš to stop emigration?
- What kind of structural improvement can be reached within the next years?

Dragash/Dragaš is a municipality which combines Slavic and Albanian communities and traditions.

- How can Dragash/Dragaš's special cultural traditions be preserved?
- How can Dragash/Dragaš benefit from its cultural and historical background?
- How can equal development be ensured across the whole Municipality and in every subspace?

Settlements

The very low level of sealed surface – 1.21% of the territory's area – indicates that Dragash/Dragaš is a highly rural area, which is not undergoing significant urban development. Urbanisation tendencies occur around Dragash/Dragaš town and along the main road towards Prizren.

Like most areas in Kosovo, Dragash/Dragaš features a large proportion of newly built houses, although there are also a high number of older buildings. Approximately 38% of the dwellings in Dragash/Dragaš were counted as being uninhabited in Census 2011, while the majority of these are inhabited during the summer months when the diaspora returns.

- 11 settlements have experienced an overall increase in population between 1981 and 2011. This has occurred mostly in a cluster in the northeast of the Opojë/Opolje region in villages that are well-connected to each other and to the main roads leading to local sub-centres, as well as Dragash/Dragaš town and Prizren.
- 12 settlements have experienced an overall population decrease between 1981 and 2011. Those settlements which have experienced large and significant decreases in population are mostly located in hilly areas of the central part of the municipality, on the foothills of the Sharr/Šar and Koritnik massifs.
- 13 villages are judged to be stable in their populations, having undergone small increases or decreases to +/- 10% of their population between 1981 and 2011. Those settlements are located both in Opojë/Opolje and Gora/Gorë region.

Classification of settlements

The population data from the 2011 Kosovo Census has been used in the following classification of settlements.
Primary Settlements: population over 1700 inhabitants.

The three settlements considered primary centres are Brezne/Brezna, Restelica/Restelicë and Bresanë/Brodosavce. Apart from Brezne/Brezna, they contain a high number of amenities in comparison to the other settlements which are far less well provided. Lower than average for the other settlements in the municipality (39%), around 30% of conventional dwellings in Dragash/Dragaš's primary settlements are uninhabited or vacant. This suggests that emigration from these settlements is also likely to be lower and that the difference between the summer and winter population is comparatively more stable (although still significant).

Secondary Settlements: population between 800 and 1700 inhabitants
Beside Dragash/Dragaš town these are Bellobrad/Belobrad, Blaç/Bljaç, Brrut/Brut, Kosavë/Kosavce, Kuk/Kukovce, Kuklibeg/Kukljibeg, Pllavë/Plava, Shajnë/Šajnovce, Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje and Zgatar in Opojë/Opolje and Brod, Globočica/Glloboçicë, Kruševo/Krushevë, Radeša/Radeshë and Rapca/Rapçë in Gora/Gorë.

Many of these villages are comprised of a number of smaller, more dispersed settlements, or neighbourhood clusters joined by low density development along roads. They are characterised by moderate infrastructure access and communication, particularly in their connections to the main roads to Dragash/Dragaš town and to Prizren. On average, around one-third of the conventional dwellings in these secondary settlements are unoccupied or vacant; this means that there is likely to be a significant difference between summer and winter populations in these settlements.

Tertiary Settlements: population under 800 inhabitants (some are also classified as Remote Villages, being subject to a decline in population and being located in a particularly remote area) 17 of Dragash/Dragaš's 36 settlements are considered tertiary centres: Bačka/Baçkë [remote], Buçe/Buce, Buzez/Buzez, Dikance/Dikanc [remote], Kapre/Kapra, Krstec/Kërstec, Kukuljane/Kukulanë, Leštane/Leshtan, Ljubovište/Lubovishtë, Mlike/Mlikë, Oçuša/Orçushë [remote], Pllajnik/Plajnik [remote], Rrenc/Renc, Vranište/Vranisht, Xërxe/Zrxe [remote], Zlipotok, Zym/Zjum. Many of these villages are undergoing population declines, with the village appearing “abandoned” for most of the year. There are significant problems with communication networks and infrastructure, especially in solid waste management. Despite negative economic and productive outlooks among the population, there is a strong sense of ownership and a high value placed on the natural features and heritage aspects of these villages.

Challenges inherent in the existing situation of settlements

Productive land and untouched nature are important resources, but are subject to deterioration due to current development.

- How can agricultural land be preserved and its degradation by current development be prevented?
- How should housing be oriented in order to minimise the loss of agricultural land, but also to preserve the traditional typology of housing?

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Spatial development in the municipality is poorly conceived, and construction is unsupervised.

- How can spatial development be structured and regulated?
- What conditions can be formulated by the MDP to reach well-thought-out regulation of settlement expansion, which will be adhered to by the citizens?

Some settlements are almost depopulated.

- How should these settlements be treated? What conditions should be provided to the inhabitants of small villages in order to return them to their settlements?

Natural hazards and risks

The municipality has to face several risks of natural hazards due to its geographical and topographical situation as well as human behaviour towards the environment.

- According to village surveys, fires are frequently observed. The majority of these are located in the central and southern parts of the municipality, primarily in the mountainous, rural areas.
- Fires may occur naturally, when vegetation or garbage starts burning, but fires are also manmade and used for clearing pastureland from shrubs. Due to the high incidence of manmade fires, it is important to resolve this problem.
- The areas at highest risk of avalanches correspond with mountainous areas with steep valley sides, particularly along the valleys leading to Brod and Restelica/Restelicë, and the areas to the west close to the villages Orčuša/Orçushë and Rapča/Rapçë.

Areas at risk also correspond with those which have little transitional woodland, crown cover or shrubs, which would otherwise offer some protection.

On 4th February 2012, an avalanche hit the village of Restelica/Restelicë destroying several houses after a lengthy period of heavy snow during a particularly harsh winter. Two of these homes were occupied at the time and 10 people were killed in the accident, which is said to have been the worst disaster experienced by the municipality. The avalanche came from the southeast direction. A hill at approximately 300m altitude sits above the settlement, the slope of which is not very steep, but long and continuously inclined. There are no trees and only a few shrubs growing, probably due to traditional grazing and possibly burning.

- Due in large part to the steep, mountainous terrain, higher altitudes, vulnerable soils, high water volumes, inappropriate land use, and over-clearance of vegetation/forest, there is a significant risk of erosion across the municipality.
- Floods occur after heavy rainfall or snowmelt. The areas most at risk are the water meadows in Opojë/Opolje region, two areas in Brod valley and surrounding Lake Brezne/Brezna.
- The risk of rockfall increases with altitude, with the areas to be most affected being located higher up the eastern Sharr/Šar Mountains. Hillsides within the mid and southern Sharr/Šar Mountains exhibit a likely risk of rockfall. The recent tragedy in Restelica/Restelicë has increased the fear of further disasters among the inhabitants. There is also fear of the risk of rockfall or landslide in another part of Restelica/Restelicë, where around two hundred houses are situated below some rocks. It is reported that these rocks have been subject to erosion and have largely lost their foundation, so there is a possibility that they may start moving of their own accord or in the case of a small earthquake.

Water resources

Water is a strong natural resource in Dragash/Dragaš, with numerous water springs from the lowest altitudes to the highest areas above 2500m, and on average 1130mm/m² rainfall per year.

- Approximately 76% (700km) of Dragash/Dragaš municipality's water courses are located in the mountainous Gora/Gorë region, where river valleys and postglacial lakes contribute to the high number of waterways.
- About 24% of Dragash/Dragaš's waterways are located in Opojë/Opolje (215km). The largest proportions of these water courses are small or temporary.
- The two main lakes are Lake Shutman/Šutman and Lake Brezne/Brezna.

- The rate of water flow peaks in the month of May for all three rivers. The lowest water flow rate occurs between August and October due to low rainfall. Higher rainfall rates from September to December result in higher flow rates.
- Forests and wetlands are unequally distributed throughout the municipality. These provided buffering to fast discharges of rainfall and snowmelt, and are therefore important in the control and regulation of ecosystems in Dragash/Dragaš.
- Due to the mountainous terrain, the southernmost areas of the municipality have little forest and significantly less regenerative areas than in the north, comprising less than 20% of the area. This lack is countered by larger areas of wetlands (841ha). In contrast, high forest and coppice forest cover in the northern parts of the municipality account for higher proportions of water regenerative areas, especially around Mount Koritnik.
- Water quality of the rivers is mainly good (64% of test samples), but about a third of the test samples show substantial to severe pollution – reaches in more developed and settled areas of the northeast part of the municipality, close to the main road to Prizren.

Challenges inherent in the existing situation of land use and soils

70% of Dragash/Dragaš's territory is characterised by natural grass- and shrublands interspersed with rocky or sparsely vegetated areas, wetlands and forests.

- How can land use management be improved, taking nature conservation into consideration?

Natural hazards, especially avalanches, erosion and fires, are risks that have to be taken seriously.

- How can loss of life and goods be prevented? Where should urgent interventions occur?
- How can suitable soils and other natural resources be preserved from erosion and landslide?

Water is a strong natural resource in Dragash/Dragaš; it contends mainly with organic pollution.

- How can water resources be protected from loss and pollution?
- How can water quality be improved?

Education

The role that Dragash/Dragaš municipality plays in local education includes the fostering of collaboration among educational personnel, students and parents, issuance of disciplinary rules, codes of conduct and discipline, selection of principals and teachers, and maintenance and repair of school facilities/buildings through public funds.

NOTE that records in Dragash/Dragaš Municipality refer to Grades 5-9 as 'Upper Primary'. This terminology will be used in this MDP Profile, although the standard national term (as defined in Ministry of Education, Science and Technology) is 'Lower Secondary'.

- There are 14 Central Schools (Grade 1-9), 22 Sattelite Schools (Grade 1-4) and 2 Secondary Schools (Grade 10-13) in Dragash/Dragaš
- There are 8929 young people resident between the ages of 6 and 19. This reflects those who should attend compulsory education up to the age of 15, and those who can continue to complete their secondary education.
- Of these, around 94% of students attend mandatory schooling while only 62% continue to complete secondary school.
- On average, the attendance rate of secondary school in the Opojë/Opolje region is around 70.4% while in Gora/Gorë it is 55.2%.

A number of reasons account for the disparity: transport and access to school is lengthy, costly and difficult, especially during winter and from the more remote locations. Furthermore, these more rural settlements have a heavier reliance on (and probably deeper tradition in) agriculture and in particular animal husbandry. From a young age, young people may be expected to contribute to and help with these rural agricultural activities, that often leaves little time (or options) for study or alternative employment. The low attendance rate may also be caused by fewer females continuing with their education.

Parallel system

The so-called "parallel system" means that Serbia is financing the school system in the Gora/Gorë region. Teachers' salaries are therefore paid by the Serbian government, rather than being employees of the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš. The municipality is financing the maintenance of school buildings. In the parallel system Lower Primary school comprises Grades 1-4 and Upper Primary school is Grade 5-8. This is one year less than in the Kosovan system. The parallel system also has different curricula to the Kosovan system. The municipality has not interrupted the parallel system, as it has provided a large financial contribution to the educational system, but it is attempting to slightly reduce the Serbian influence, so that students can, for example, choose the language and the curriculum of their education. Of the 39 schools in Dragash/Dragaš/Dragaš municipality, 27 are funded by Kosovo institutions, 9 are funded by Serbian institutions and 3 receive partial funding from both Kosovo and Serbia.

- Dragash/Dragaš's low density of small settlements means that the principle of "Education at the nearest point" can not be followed without some exceptions. Some Children attend school in neighbouring villages. In the depopulated Remote Villages there are some very small schools, with an unclear future.
- In contrast to the high level of school provision for Lower Primary students in almost all settlements, just under half the settlements have the capacity to extend education to the compulsory minimum for leaving school age of 15 (Grade 9) within their settlements. Travel between settlements to attend Upper Primary school is therefore a frequent occurrence.
- The actual data collected in 2012 indicates that there has been an improvement in higher education (especially for girls).
- It is expected that attending secondary school will become obligatory in Kosovo by law. This would address the low level of Secondary education and gender inequity in schooling in rural areas. In addition, a large, new Secondary school is being built in Dragash/Dragaš, near Shajne/Šajnovce, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. This school will also offer vocational training, skill development and lifelong learning courses.
- National requirements indicate that there should be a minimum of 10 and maximum of 35 students per teacher. The average number of students per teacher in Dragash/Dragaš is 12.09 across the 33 settlements providing educational services, which can be explained by the very low population in some of the villages that skews the results. While there are 13 schools with a higher student to teacher ratio there is a significant number of 17 schools, where the ratio is less than 10 students per teacher.
- National standards require there to be 2.5m² floor area per pupil. Most of the schools in Dragash/Dragaš exceed this requirement, largely due to there being a low number of children in the villages for the size of existing school premises. Across the municipality, the average floor area per pupil is 8.7m², almost 3.5 times the national requirement.
- 8 of the schools were judged as having poor conditions in UNDP field surveys where the building condition and equipment was assessed. This consisted of surveys of the building structure (walls, floors, windows, doors, roof) and of the furniture (desks, chairs, blackboards etc).
- Between 2007 and 2011, there were 23 school improvement projects funded by the municipality, mainly in upgrading existing facilities (e.g. with new windows, roofs, paving etc). Municipal investment was approximately 360,000€ - about 8% of the total budget for the five years.
- The application of energy efficiency measures for fuel saving and reduction of heating costs is a viable option for the school buildings (e.g. for solar hot water systems).
- Children frequently walk to school, including to neighbouring settlements. This distance is too great in three villages so minivans are paid by the municipality to transport children to school.
- This is not possible at Secondary school level due to the schools' locations in Dragash/Dragaš and Mlike/Mlikë. There are 7 buses transporting students to schools: 5 private buses and 2 municipal buses. Costs for this transportation must be paid by the families.

Health

- Dragash/Dragaš municipality has one Main Centre for Family Medicine (in Dragash/Dragaš town, providing 24 hour assistance), five Centres for Family Medicine (providing additional access to medical specialists) and eight Health Clinics (providing a basic medical supply at the village level).
- Due to budgetary constraints not all villages have a health centre. Nevertheless a zoning exercise has been carried out to verify provision of services. According to this hierarchical system, every medical facility has an outlying area (hinterland) or catchment villages to provide citizens access to healthcare.
- The Municipality considers that the construction of medical buildings is complete. Nevertheless further improvements of physical and technical equipment to attain modern standards will be necessary in the future.
- Another need for improvement applies to transportation facilities. For example, patients who need regular blood dialysis have to be transported to Prizren three times a week which requires additional vehicles and drivers.
- 40% of positions in health facilities in Dragash/Dragaš/Dragaš are held by Gorani-Bosniak persons, with the remainder being Kosovo-Albanian, which indicates a good level of nonmajority community representation in public sector posts in the health field and is in proportion to population representation.
- The number of staff that may work in municipal health systems is limited by the Ministry in relation to population size. According to information from the Director of Health, the latest figure for Dragash/Dragaš's health service is 103 employees overall. But staffing does not meet the minimum standard for number of doctors, nurses, dentists, gynecologists, or midwives according to national staff requirements per number of the population in Dragash/Dragaš. The Municipality has difficulty in finding specialists such as gynecologists, as they prefer to work in urban areas.
- Between 2007 and 2011, approximately 200,000€ of the municipal investment budget was spent on the health sector. This is about 4% of the total budget.
- The conditions in the Main Family Health Centre in Dragash/Dragaš have been improved after the installation of the solar water system and revitalisation of the hot water grid with central hot water storage. Bresanë/Bresana's Family Health Centre has also been improved after installation of a solar water heating system and hot water grid with central hot water storage.

Challenges inherent in the existing situation of education, health and social welfare

A parallel school system exists in the Gora/Gorë region which means that there is a lack of coordination and oversight of education provision; it reduces the coherence of the municipality as a spatial unit and does not contribute positively to inter-community relations and building of tolerance.

- How can the differences be resolved between the Serbian (parallel) and Kosovo school systems in Dragash/Dragaš municipality?

Dragash/Dragaš has a specific settlement structure with 36 small and dispersed settlements; rather every village has a school, from this it follows that the student : teacher ratio in some villages is very low.

- How can the national principle of “Education at the nearest point” be ensured?
- How should schools which have small numbers of pupils be considered?

Even though there has been an improvement, some pupils (especially girls) still do not finish Secondary school.

- How can access to secondary education be facilitated, especially for girls?
- How can unskilled men and women be supported?

Even if the health system of Dragash/Dragaš attains the national standard, there is a lack of medical staff in several parts of the municipality.

- How can the lack of medical specialists and equipment be resolved in small villages and remote areas?

Economic Development and Employment

Between 2004 and 2009, the number of companies registered in Dragash/Dragaš rose by 54%. The progression for the whole of Kosovo for the same period is 82%.

Registered enterprises in Dragash/Dragaš are mostly very small businesses, often only providing employment for the owner. The total number of formal jobs within the municipality is thus estimated at around 2500.

- The largest business sector in Dragash/Dragaš is Trade and Services, closely followed by Manufacturing. The majority of trading occurs through local shops: groceries, construction yards, warehouses and petrol stations. A very small number of other commodities are provided, selling paint, jewellery, leather, textiles and tools.
- In terms of manufacturing only six businesses are registered, most with just one employee processing raw materials (such as wood). Its large contribution to the employment market comes from the Remateks textile factory in Dragash/Dragaš town, which provides 380 jobs mostly in the production of synthetic fabrics with a small amount of wool production, and is the largest single employer in the municipality. The main market for these products is abroad.
- Another significant part of the job market is that generated by hospitality and catering enterprises; this generally relates to cafes, bars and restaurants which exist in the majority of villages, rather than to hotels since the tourism industry is as yet under-developed and there are only two registered hotels.
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing account for only 1% of the registered businesses in the municipality, which suggests that there is little active capitalising on available natural resources to generate income. Much agriculture that occurs in Dragash/Dragaš is subsistence and informal, providing food for private families with occasionally excess to sell at markets. There are high unemployment levels in whole Kosovo (45.4%) as well as in Dragash/Dragaš, where only 32% of the population over the age of 15 is considered economically active. Women account for 67% of the not economically active population in Dragash/Dragaš.

15

The largest businesses with more than 10 employees are in Dragash/Dragaš (4), Pllavë/Plava (1) and Buzez (1), which are notably in the northern area of the municipality (Opojë/Opolje) and much better linked to Prizren and other markets through main roads. In these locations the number of employees exceeds the overall number of businesses, demonstrating a positive contribution to the employment of Dragash/Dragaš residents. These businesses are involved in the sectors of wool and meat processing, construction and metal work, with one registered as a holding company.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

There are 67 registered SMEs in Dragash/Dragaš municipality.

- The majority of these are active in products originating from Dragash/Dragaš's natural resources, including agriculture and farming. Of these, most are involved in live animal husbandry (raw material), although an almost equal number are engaged in the end product (livestock and food industry).
- Women comprise 20% of the SME labour force, in keeping with national findings, although the sectors of participation are primarily in livestock and fruit/plant collection.
- The SME survey showed that the factors restricting development or success of SMEs in Dragash/Dragaš are:

- Access to financing
- Roads, accessibility
- Access to knowhow and technology
- Lack of storage capacities
- Waste water management
- Quality of electricity supply (Dragash has almost regular electricity supply, but the quality of electricity in many cases is bad because of the low voltage of the electricity.)
- Quality of Equipment and workplace
- Solid Waste Management

- Before the creation of the socially owned enterprise, Sharrprodhimi/Šarproizvod, agriculture was well organised in Kosovo. Since the dissolution of this socially owned enterprise there is no longer a broad market for products or livestock. This has resulted in a dramatic decline in the number of cattle in Dragash/Dragaš.
- The road leading south from Restelica/Restelicë to FYR Macedonia was formerly an important road for access to agricultural markets outside Kosovo, but this no longer functions as it is not an official border crossing.

Impact of migration

Remittances from Kosovar migrants living abroad (the diaspora) account for 13% of Kosovo's GDP, and remains the most important source of external funding for the country. In the Prizren region 23.3% of households receive remittances. Emigration may be seen as an indicator of strength of a community that is capable of bringing up and sending "into the world" dynamic individuals. Through the diaspora, the community is directly linked to both positive and negative external factors.

The members of the diaspora are the best ambassadors and networkers for their communities of origin.

In their professional and in their private environments, they can stimulate interest for the opportunities that Dragash/Dragaš has to offer for foreign investors and clients. Due to emigration, productive members of the community are missing in the local institutions, businesses and families who, as a result, may not even have enough human resources to respond to the opportunities that members of the diaspora may be able to point out to them. Threats include the fact that the image of the successful emigrant instils a culture of emigration and lack of vision for the home community.

Challenges inherent in the existing situation of the economy

The number of companies registered in Dragash/Dragaš is slowly increasing. Most enterprises are very small, only providing employment for the owner.

- What conditions could be offered to increase the number of employed people?
- How can the MDP contribute to the improvement of the business market in Dragash/Dragaš?
- How can the educational level of workers and the competitiveness of businesses be improved?

Forestry and Agriculture

The territory of Dragash/Dragaš Municipality is characterised by natural grass- and shrublands interspersed by rocky or sparsely vegetated areas and wetlands, and forests. These main types of land uses account for over 70% of the municipality's surface. Only 27% of the land is used for agricultural purposes. Due to the high altitude, grasslands dominate over tillage and permanent cultures (18% versus 9%). Only 1% of the surface is covered by settlements or infrastructure.

Forests

Hundreds of years of pasture-grazing in once-forested areas have left about 17.1 % (8,124 ha) of forest in Dragash/Dragaš, mainly in the North Western part of the municipality. 5199ha of the entire forest area are public (64 %), including the outstanding old Bosnian Pine forest in Koritnik which is over 70 years old. 1160ha of this forest on Mount Koritnik, are part of the National Park and one of the biodiversity highlights in the municipality.

- Private forest (2925ha) is mainly coppice forest (2814ha) and an important source of firewood for the community. The total area of coppice forest is 4048ha.
- Plantations cover 211ha (approximately 3 % of the total forest), in only a small area in the north of Dragash/Dragaš.
- The 2462ha of forests on thin soils need special care in forest management in order to prevent erosion and maintain their water retention capacities.
- 18ha of forest are degraded due to illegal harvesting, forest fire or other unspecified reasons.
- The mixed forests, the forests over 70 years old, and the alpine forest-grassland transition at the treeline are habitats for bear and lynx and form part of their regional ecological corridors.

Agricultural areas with arable land, permanent crops and complex land uses composed of annual and permanent crops with hedges are concentrated in the Opojë/Opolje region where the terrain is flatter than in the Gora/Gorë region.

- Agriculture today in Dragash/Dragaš provides a complementary and informal occupation and income to a large number of households who are not able to lift their farms into the formal economy, and forms a large part of household activity.

- There are a total of 3500 farms in Dragash/Dragaš, of which 95% are subsistence family farms, 3.5% produce for both domestic needs and for market sale and only 1.5% of the farms are commercially-focused. This indicates that the entire agricultural sector is under-mechanised.

- The processing of agricultural produce within the municipality is also almost entirely absent (with the notable exception of the Meka butchery employing 40 persons in Pllavë/Plava). There are four local milk collection points: Kuk/Kukovce, Buzez, Kosavë/Kosavce, and Bresanë/Brodosavce.

In addition to this, significant amounts of milk are sold informally. There are three slaughterhouses in Dragash/Dragaš municipality and three dairy processing plants.

- In Dragash/Dragaš also special land uses as the collection of firewood, mushrooms, medicinal herbs, wild fruits and the keeping of bees take place. Main areas for special land uses exist in Gora/Gorë region, while beekeeping is a notable feature of the majority of villages across the municipality and is largely equally spread.

Challenges inherent in the existing situation of forestry and agriculture

Forests account for 22% of the territory, largely broad leaved forest, with lower proportions of mixed and coniferous woodland, and coppice forest.

- How can forestry in Dragash/Dragaš be improved with regard to quantity and quality?

There is a small amount of land suitable for crops in Dragash/Dragaš; in addition, productive land is partly uncultivated. The entire agricultural sector is under-mechanised.

- How can the agricultural sector be improved?

Biodiversity and Nature Protection

Dragash/Dragaš municipality exhibits a great diversity of plant and animal species and habitats, due in large part to the widely ranging altitudes (between 730m to over 2660m above sea level), a variety of bedrocks and soils, and influences from the Mediterranean and Continental climates.

- Dragash/Dragaš boasts a rich wildlife heritage, with 1500 vascular plant species with 150 endemic species. This makes up approximately 20% of flora within the Balkans. There are 730 vascular species above 1500m.

- Extensive alpine landscapes, mountain grasslands and forests, including primeval treestands of the endemic Macedonian pine and Bosnian pine, contribute to the natural wealth of the area with a considerable number of natural habitats and rare flora and fauna species, including species of common European importance such as the brown bear, wolf and Balkan lynx.

- The Sharr/Šar National Park was created in 1986. In December 2012 with the new Law on Sharr National Park new borders have been defined with expansion into Dragash municipality as well. A high proportion of the municipality's terrain (55.5%) is included within the protected Sharr/Šar National Park.

The term "National Park" is often stigmatised by the perception of restrictions and social fear that economic development will be limited, that agricultural activities including forestry will be strictly controlled, and that tourism, construction and other activities will be limited.

But this is not the case. According to the law, activities that do not harm the harmonious interactions of humans with nature and the development and conservation of nature itself are allowed within a National Park and its vicinity.

These are often activities which have been practised for centuries and form a valuable part of the National Park text, and will be promoted as such. Most of the territory is socially owned land, and inhabited areas are not included within the National Park borders. The percentage of private land inside the borders of Sharr National Park in Dragash/Dragaš is approximately 3100ha or 12.6%. Zoning of the territory will define permitted activities.

Challenges inherent in the existing situation of biodiversity

Dragash/Dragaš is one of the Balkan's hotspots with regards to its exceptional biodiversity containing a considerable number of endemic and rare species.

- How can municipal development and nature protection coexist? A high proportion of the municipality's terrain (55.5%) is included within the protected Sharr/Šar National Park.

- How can Dragash/Dragaš benefit from the extension of the National Park into its territory?

Tourism and Culture

Cultural facilities

A number of groups, associations and organisations contribute to contemporary cultural and social activities and resources in Dragash/Dragaš.

- There are two registered cultural-artistic associations that are currently active: Bresana (from the village of Bresanë/Brodosavce) and Biseri (in Restelica/Restelicë).
- Four Cultural Houses exist in the municipality, offering room for film screenings and performances, libraries and internet facilities.
- The Office of the Local Community and Youth in the village of Kruševo/Krushevë offers a library and rooms for communal use.
- There are four football clubs, two ski clubs, one hiking association, one wrestling club and one shooting club in Dragash/Dragaš
- There is a lack of sporting equipment, especially missing sporting facilities or playgrounds in schools

Cultural heritage

Dragash/Dragaš municipality falls under the Prizren region, with the Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage – Prizren office headquarters located in the town of Prizren.

- Under the former Yugoslavia, Dragash/Dragaš (as part of the Prizren region) contained three listed monuments that were protected at the national level: Ruins of Fortress “Hisar Hill” in Kruševo/Krushevë, Mosque of Kukli Beut in Bresanë/Brodosavce and Ruins of religious site/artefact in Buzez.
- Currently, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports is undertaking an inventory of cultural heritage across Kosovo. This includes an extended list of 12 sites, monuments and artefacts that are currently under temporary national protection, including the three monuments that had been formerly protected under Yugoslav law.
- Furthermore there are cultural heritage assets, which are not at the level of protected monuments within Kosovo, but conform to international cultural values as defined in a wealth of charters and conventions from UNESCO, ICOMOS and the Council of Europe. This includes consideration of natural heritage and cultural landscapes, intangible cultural heritage, vernacular architecture (including agricultural buildings) and ensembles of buildings, as well as an extended list of potential archaeological sites, religious sites/artefacts and other potential monuments.

Tourism

Dragash/Dragaš currently has limited facilities to support visitors, despite its local potential as an area for skiing and outdoor activities.

- There are two functioning hotels – the Arxhena hotel in Brod and the Meka Hotel in Dragash/Dragaš, which opened in 2012. There is also a hotel in Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje which has been recently completed but is closed as there have not been enough guests and the owner lives abroad. These facilities, if functioning, would offer up to approximately 110 beds.
- One private house (Brod) has been converted into guest accommodation although this is in need of renovation and higher quality presentation. Likewise, the newly constructed restaurant (and, soon, hotel) in Restelica/Restelicë requires further upgrades to road access before this becomes a viable tourist location. In addition, a mountain hut between Dragash/Dragaš town and Prizren may be able to offer overnight accommodation to campers, hikers and walkers. Dragash/Dragaš has much potential to develop a tourism strategy based on its natural and cultural features. A crucial aspect of this is the place-based authenticity which presents the link between nature and rural mountain culture. The municipality's isolation may be the cause for many of its current problems; but it can also be considered a strength since it has been able to preserve much of the traditional activities of agriculture and livestock, traditions and ways of life that has disappeared in much of Europe, and may thus be an attractive location to tourists. The three pillars of Dragash/Dragaš's tourism potential are:

1. Natural Beauty (mountains, biodiversity)
2. Culture and Heritage (Opojë/Opolje and Gora/Gorë culture, traditional way of life)
3. Hospitality and cuisine (locally produced food; village hospitality)

Challenges inherent in the existing situation of tourism and culture

Lack of public institutions and public areas for culture, sports and recreation is evident.

- How can necessary new areas/facilities be identified (e.g. library, theatre/cinema, public squares, playgrounds, sport fields...) and how can they be provided? Dragash/Dragaš has a number of cultural assets, which are not inventoried and protected; further research is required.
- How can historical buildings and traditions be safeguarded within the process of development and modernisation? Dragash/Dragaš has high tourism potential but currently has limited facilities to support visitors.
- How can Dragash/Dragaš's position, natural and cultural values be used to advance touristic and economic development?
- Which areas and villages should be the focus for tourism development?

Road Network and Transport

Dragash/Dragaš municipality is connected to the rest of Kosovo by two roads:

- One paved road, which is directly connected to the new highway between Albania and Prishtinë/Priština and starts in Zhur/Žur and enters close to Brezne/Brezna, and another dirt road which enters close to Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje.
- A single dirt road from Restelica/Restelicë leads to the borders in the south, connecting Dragash/Dragaš to the Gorna Reka region in FYR Macedonia at the Lukovo Pole mountain pass (1500m), although this has been closed since 2001. Other footpaths and agricultural trails stretch across informal border crossings into FYR Macedonia and Albania. It has been illegal to cross the border by vehicle since 1999. From early 2012 there are now three newly constructed border stations on the Albanian side.

Dragash/Dragaš – Albania:

A few agricultural trails, gravel roads and footpaths cross the border into Albania. A number are still in use as livestock trails. It has been illegal to cross the border by vehicle since 1999. From early 2012 there are now three newly constructed border stations on the Albanian side:

- West of Orçuša/Orçushë: vehicle border station, connected by local gravel road to Orgjost on the Albanian side, but only to a footpath on the Kosovo side.
- Northwest of Globočica/Glloboçicë: small pedestrian border station, connected to footpaths on both sides.
- Northwest of Kruševo/Krushevë: vehicle border station, connected by local gravel roads to Novosej in Albania and to Kruševo/Krushevë.

Dragash/Dragaš – FYR Macedonia:

The border between Dragash/Dragaš Municipality and FYROM approximately follows the peak line of the Sharr/Šar Mountains. Due to this, there are only two cross-border connections.

- South of Restelica/Restelicë: A dirt road from Restelica/Restelicë leads to the borders in the south, connecting Dragash/Dragaš to the Gorna Reka region in FYR Macedonia at the Lukovo Pole mountain pass (1500m). This connection was of great importance for transhumance and the trade of agricultural goods, but it has been closed since 2001.
- Southeast of Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje: A dirt road leads up from Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje village to the mountains and reaches the border to FYR Macedonia in at the Skarpë/Skarpa Mountain at an altitude of 2474m. Due to this altitude and as there is no prosecution of the other side, this is without great importance yet.

The opening of the borders and the construction of new cross-border roads is likely to create major potential for the economic development of Dragash/Dragaš. Nevertheless these projects cannot be discussed without regard to the environmental impact, which may be particularly high in these sensitive mountain ecosystems.

- There are about 570km of roads and trails within Dragash/Dragaš municipality, of which approximately half (278km) are accessible to ordinary vehicles. These vary greatly in quality.
- In the last few years, the municipality has undertaken great efforts to improve the situation of local roads. Between 2007 and 2011 the municipality spent the majority of its municipal investment budget on improving the roads. In total almost 3 million euros has been spent – 60% of the overall investment for this period.

The winding roads of Dragash/Dragaš's mountainous terrain mean that the majority of transport occurs with cars (including shared 'taxis'), rather than bus or other public transport.

- There are more connections with Prizren between Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje and Bresanë/Brodosavce than directly between Prizren and Dragash/Dragaš (only 1 bus line). Other buses provide a service from the villages to Dragash/Dragaš town.
- Bus transport is more difficult in the more rural, mountainous villages where journeys tend to be made by private vehicles. There is no bus from Prizren to the Gora/Gorë region or from Opojë/Opolje to Gora/Gorë.
- The last bus stop for Gora/Gorë is Dragash/Dragaš town, from which journeys continue in private cars or by taxi. Transportation to some Gora/Gorë villages is provided only for students during the academic year.

Challenges inherent in the existing situation of roads and transport

The road network coverage is relatively good, but the road quality is poor and there are still many unpaved roads; road connections leading out of the municipality are especially weak.

- Where are urgent interventions needed in the completion and improvement of the road network to facilitate mobility of inhabitants and visitors?
 - Which connections abroad should be strengthened, taking environmental and economic criteria into account?
- Public transport is not organised properly; in some parts of the municipality there is no public transport at all.
- How can public transport and services in the Opojë/Opolje and Gora/Gorë regions be improved?

Solid Waste Management

Waste was collected in Dragash/Dragaš from 1968 by the “Municipal Construction, Water, and Hygiene Company,” which had 22 staff members. The company was split into two companies in 1993, dealing separately with water and waste management.

- Waste collection service is offered to about 64% of the villages (23 settlements out of 36), with 60 bin containers of 1.1m³ capacity which are distributed according to necessity, request and the amount of waste.
- In Opojë/Opolje every village has access to waste collection services, in Gora/Gorë region only 3 out of 16 villages are serviced.
- Those areas which are not served by municipal waste services therefore often dispose of waste in inappropriate ways (such as burning or dumping in informal landfills or rivers) which pose serious threats to human health and the natural environment.
- Public-owned entity, the waste company (Ekoregjioni) operates in Dragash/Dragaš municipality, with its main operations base in Prizren. The company serves 2694 clients of different categories (private households, institutions, facilities, apartments, villages). On average only 59% of the bills are paid. This leaves an average annual shortfall in revenue of approximately 70,000€ according to figures from 2008.
- The collection of waste from households, shops and institutions takes place without primary separation of waste, (organic waste, metal, glass, paper, or hazardous waste like batteries, medicines etc.)
- Waste transportation does not undergo any preliminary treatment, so the collected volume goes straight to landfill. The only official landfill site in Dragash/Dragaš municipality is near Brezne/Brezna village, 12 km from Dragash/Dragaš town on the way to Prizren, in a place called “Trokon”. The monthly capacity of this landfill site is 20 tonnes.

Challenges inherent in the existing situation of solid waste management

Waste collection services do not cover the whole municipality. The improper disposal of waste into the landscape, especially into the rivers, damages the environment.

- How can an effective waste collection system be established in the whole municipality?
- What needs to be done to raise awareness of the proper disposal of waste in consideration of the natural environment?
- How existing informal landfills should be treated?

Recycling and re-use of waste as a resource is not generally practiced, and, combined with low environmental awareness, the results are informal landfills.

- How can recycling systems for waste be developed in order to create economic benefits, to save natural resources and to reduce the amount of waste?

Infrastructure and Utilities

Water Supply

Only two settlements in Dragash/Dragaš/Dragaš Municipality are currently supplied by a central water supply system operated by the local supplier Hidroregjioni Jugor: Dragash/Dragaš with 1098 inhabitants and Pllavë/Plava with 1000 inhabitants. In both cases surface water is used for supply.

- Village surveys conducted by UNDP show a high level of satisfaction with drinking water and general water supply among inhabitants. The majority of these settlements are supplied by private systems depending on wells, sources or surface water.
- As with other services and utilities, non-payment of bills and illegal tapping is a significant factor in access to regular water supply. Old and poorly maintained pipe systems also account for water losses and potential contamination.
- The quality of drinking water is not supervised. Surface water and groundwater from the sources to the settlements come under Category I in terms of cleanliness, but pollution is present (Category 2) in water courses through Dragash/Dragaš town and downstream to the municipal borders and do not meet appropriate standards for safe drinking water as it is contaminated by fecal matter.
- Dragash/Dragaš municipality invested around 500,000€ in improving water supply across the territory between 2007 and 2011. This accounts for around 11% of total municipal investment for this period.

Sewage and Waste Water Management

Directly connected to drinking water supply of high quality is sewage and waste water management:

- 14 (39%) of Dragash/Dragaš municipality's villages are installed with sewage system, with another 14 not being connected, and 8 with only partial connection. This affects over one third of the municipality without sewage connection.
- 31 of the villages (86%), irrespective of whether they have full, partial or no sewage connection, report problems.
- Between 2007 and 2011, the municipality invested approximately 280,000€ in upgrading the sewage and waste water systems across the territory. This accounts for approximately 6% of total municipal investment for this period.
- Waste Water Management is almost absent in Dragash/Dragaš Municipality which is having severe impacts on several of the water courses. Domestic waste water is discharged to surface water or groundwater without treatment, which is causing environmental degradation.
- Currently a waste water treatment plant is being constructed at Kapre River, downstream the village of Kapre/Kapra. The villages of Kuk/Kukovce and Kosavë/Kosavce will be connected to this facility, which will serve two out of 36 villages, with a total of 2563 (2011) inhabitants or approximately 7,5% of the population of the municipality.

Electricity network

Electricity arrived in Dragash/Dragaš in 1957, when the Dikanca hydropower station started to operate.

- This plant has not functioned since 2000 because the turbines require replacement, although the facility (with an area of 300m²) is well maintained. The installed generation capacity, in both generators, is 1900 kW (i.e. 2x950=1900 kW). This power plant is owned by the Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK), but was concessioned to the Frigo Food company in 2009. Rehabilitation of the hydropower facilities is finished, which has replaced equipment and increase productive capacity to 2600 KW.
- Households in Dragash/Dragaš account for 78.51% of energy consumption, with 21.35% used by public and commercial facilities, and a smaller proportion (0.14%) used for public lighting.
- The Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš has installed around 230 lighting bodies in Dragash/Dragaš town and 9 villages.
- According to surveys conducted for the "Energy Baseline for Dragash/Dragaš Municipality", 72% of respondents felt that street lighting has direct impact to the increasing of security, while 28% felt it was a commodity.
- The municipality is responsible for the installation, maintenance and the payment of the electricity consumption for street lights. The street lights in 9 villages have been funded by contributions by the local residents.
- About 12% of buildings are thermally insulated across the municipality, in public, commercial and residential buildings. Thermal insulation reduces energy loss from the fabric of buildings, thus retaining heat and reducing energy demands. This in turn reduces cost for the inhabitants, as well as reducing the emission of carbon dioxide in the production of energy, and other gases and particulates which may be harmful. Reducing energy consumption from firewood would also have a beneficial impact on the protection of natural forests.
- Peaks of energy consumption are observed in the colder months of November and December when heating is at its highest, but also in the summer (July, August and September). This may be due to an increased summer population with families returning for holidays abroad for some months, accompanied by weddings and festivals for large crowds.
- While all settlements are connected to the electrical network, there appear to be significant problems with the electricity supply, with 31 of the 36 villages recording problems. 18 of the villages indicate specific problems with low voltage. The ample water resources of Dragash/Dragaš provide a huge potential for generation of hydro power.
- Rehabilitation of the Dikanca hydropower station with capacity of 2.6MW
- Zhur/Žur Hydropower Scheme with a total installed capacity of 305MW. The two plants will be located outside Dragash/Dragaš Municipality near the village of Zhur/Žur.
- Along the Brod and Restelica/Restelicë Rivers the construction of six SHPPs is planned by an international consortium. Neither the exact locations of outtakes and intakes, nor exact data on the planned amount of abstraction, were available at this time.

Telecommunication networks

PTK (Post & Telecommunications of Kosovo) has a working unit in Dragash/Dragaš providing landline telephone (to 5 villages) and postal services (to 27 villages).

All settlements have mobile phone reception although the quality of this varies greatly across the municipality.

All settlements are connected to the internet, with 56% (20) of the villages having an internet café equally spread in villages across the municipality.

Challenges inherent in the existing situation of technical infrastructure

Public services (water, sewage, power supply, telecommunications, etc.) do not cover entire territory of the municipality; existing service infrastructure is partially old and not functioning well.

- How can these services be improved?
- How can a good working water system be installed which will ensure a high quality of drinking water and reduction in water losses?
- How can waste water management be developed in 36 dispersed settlements?

Energy supply and consumption differs through the year because of voltage drops and temporarily inhabited houses.

- How can a stable power supply be ensured?
- What kind of renewable energy can be produced/used in Dragash/Dragaš?

Postal and phone networks are fragmented, but every settlement is connected to the internet.

- How can modern media help to overcome the obstacle of 36 dispersed settlements in Dragash/Dragaš?

3. SWOT ANALYSIS

In the field of urban planning, the SWOT analysis is a frequently used tool to describe characteristics of the municipality. In case of the MDP for Dragash/Dragaš, the following definitions are used:

- Strengths: characteristics of the municipality that contribute to the development of livelihoods and possibly give it an advantage over others
- Weaknesses (or Limitations): characteristics that constrain livelihoods and place the municipality at a disadvantage, relative to others
- Opportunities: chances to improve the municipal situation in the future
- Threats: elements that could cause problems for the future development of the municipality

Analysing the current situation of Dragash/Dragaš, there are areas in which the municipality is strong or very strong. There are, however, also some essential weaknesses to be tackled.

	Weakness			Strength	
Settlements					
Land Use					
Education					
Health					
Economy, Employment					
Agriculture, Forestry					
Biodiversity					
Tourism					
Culture					
Road Network, Transport					
Technical Infrastructure					

Analysing the current situation, there are some trends which appear to create the highest risks for the municipality. On the other hand, there are also some very great opportunities.

Main Threats for Dragash / Dragaš
Abandonment of agriculture
If agricultural activities remain a field with low economic results for hard work, young people would be particularly keen to abandon agriculture and seek jobs in other economic sectors. A decline of land use would in the long term dramatically change the physical characteristics of the landscape and the character of the municipality.
Depopulation as a result of weak economy
If the macro-economic situation of Kosovo as a whole and the local economy of Dragash/Dragaš remain weak for a long time and offer no jobs, no income and no perspectives (particularly for the young generation), it must be suspected that the process of emigration will continue in future. This might lead to depopulation especially of remote villages and constrain the development of the municipality.
Degradation of biodiversity
If awareness about the environment, the situation of technical infrastructure and appreciation for environmental matters in infrastructural planning remain weak, actual trends could cause severe degradation to the biodiversity of the municipality. Such trends include uncontrolled discharge of waste, lack of waste water treatment, and uncontrolled expansion of settlements, as well as future impacts by projects for roads, hydropower plants, etc.,. This could destroy the treasure of Dragash/Dragaš: its rich natural resources.
Main Opportunities for Dragash / Dragaš
Protection of biodiversity
The rich natural resources include a great diversity of plants and animals and must be regarded as the greatest strength of the Municipality. Thus, sustainable land use and protection of biodiversity - mainly the extension of the Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park - offer the chance to preserve this treasure for the future, which will be a great value both for humans and nature.
Development of Tourism
The beauty of nature and the rich cultural heritage offer the chance to develop nature-based tourism that can provide income and jobs and thus strengthen the local economy. The great number of people from the diaspora spending the summer time in Dragash/Dragaš is one positive factor in this; the extension of the Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park offers another great chance for promoting Dragash/Dragaš as an area for tourism.
Adjustment of agriculture and development of local economy
Improvement of agricultural production, cooperation and marketing offer the potential to lead to an increase in quantity and quality of products and improve value creation. This may stabilise agriculture and land use as the basis for the economic development of Dragash/Dragaš. Additional development of the secondary and especially of the tertiary economic sector (e.g. by improvement of professional education) may offer jobs and income, strengthening the local economy. The inflow of money from international funding and from the diaspora offer chances to achieve this. Therefore this money needs to be spent on strategic projects of common interest.

4. VISION

The aim of the Vision is to formulate an image of the future and a model for Dragash/Dragaš to achieve in the coming years. This image encompasses the main issues and goals for development, uncoupled from external factors.

Dragash presents and preserves traditions.

The southern gate of Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park with rich biodiversity, state-of-the-art infrastructure with the right scale, sustainable economy, ecological usable resources and high quality bio-products is a place where everyone wishes to come and rest in the beautiful and clean nature. Rich cultural heritage and a population ready to welcome guests with hospitality and homemade food attract local and international visitors.

The Vision addresses nature and rich biodiversity, cultural heritage and traditions, the people of Dragash/Dragaš, and the sectors to be developed: tourism, sustainable local products, the National Park, and indirectly the necessary infrastructure. Those aspects that can be regarded as the greatest strengths serve as the basis for this Vision.

5. SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The spatial development framework expresses the desired prediction for spatial development in the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš. It formulates the spatial structure and organisation for future development.

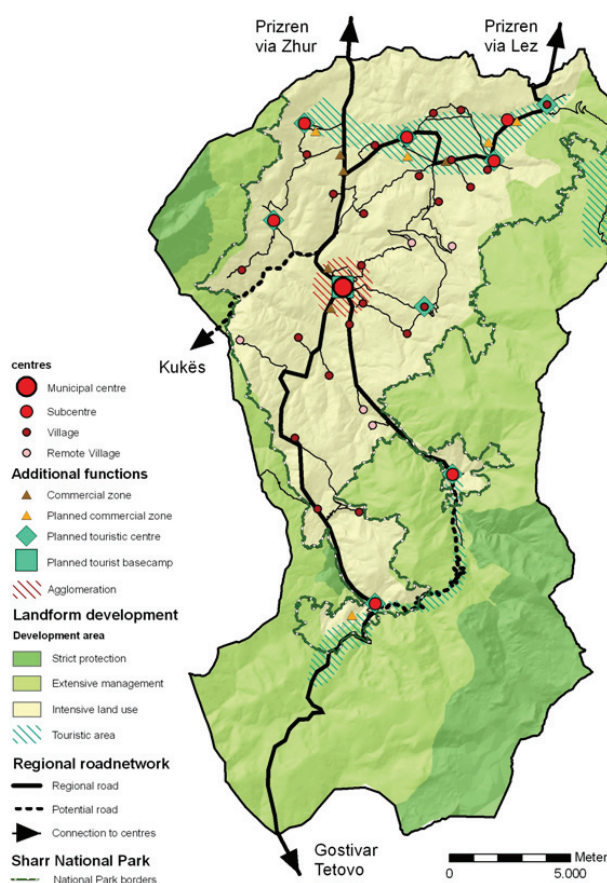


Figure 6: Development Framework Map

Principles for functional development of settlements

Dragash/Dragaš's structure of urban development has historically grown upon different cultural, economic and natural conditions. Because of its specific geographical and topographical situation, the Municipality contains 36 villages, which differ in location and altitude, size and demographic development, employment market and infrastructural facilities. As a consequence of the natural preconditions the settlements fulfil different functions within the social, cultural and economic network.

Further development should ensure good livelihoods across the whole municipality and in every subspace. Good and equal living and working conditions in every part of the municipality should be achieved and maintained. To attain and maintain efficiency in Dragash/Dragaš's subspaces and ensure sustainable development, the activation and promotion of existing endogenous potential is essential.

Therefore effective spatial management is needed for observing and increasing the reliability of different structured spaces.

The general principle sustains the existing spatial distribution of settlement functions following the Central Places Theory by Walter Christaller.

The Central Places Theory, formulated in the 1930s, is still relevant and often used for spatial planning in Europe. The concept is to build a structure of central places of different hierarchical levels. Depending on their hierarchical level, central places carry different types of public utility supply. Bigger agglomerations contain more installations than places of lower hierarchy.

A hierarchical system of settlement functions should guarantee good and equal living and working conditions in every part of the municipality. According to density of population, sort and structure of job markets, infrastructural equipment and natural preconditions the future development and structure differs between the villages of Dragash/Dragaš. Through balanced and targeted improvements, the limited financial resources of the municipality can increase living conditions and economic development.

The general principle is similar to the national concept of spatial development, which characterises large and small centres, areas of economic development and areas of special interest. At the level of the municipality the Municipal Centre is Dragash/Dragaš town, which becomes an urban agglomeration acting as economic, touristic, cultural, educational and healthcare “base camp”, supporting the whole Municipality. In addition sub-centres distributed across the municipality act as smaller centres, which offer supra-local services - often the required public utilities to meet increased demand. Areas of economic (commercial) development in Dragash/Dragaš are located in Dragash/Dragaš town and the sub-centres. Areas of special interest are related to tourism as a main factor in Dragash/Dragaš's development and to the endemic environment. A proper environment, protected and treasured by the citizens, is the primary base of Dragash/Dragaš endemic value and further development. This environment will be protected and promoted by the Sharr/Šar National Park and create added value for the Municipality, Kosovo and Europe.

Dragash as the municipal centre should provide services and supply for the whole municipality at the best level available

Dragash/Dragaš town as the Municipal centre should act as pacesetter, capable business location, centre of education and welfare as well as being a pleasant living area. Besides strengthening the central function of Dragash/Dragaš town, spatial development of other subspaces in the municipality is also important. Urban agglomeration of Dragash/Dragaš town and the surrounding rural areas should complement one another and contribute their specific spatial properties towards sustainable development. Benefit and expense should be balanced in the spatial development of the municipality.

Therefore sub-centres should be established, which act as impulse generators for rural areas and offer some autonomy and comparable living and working conditions.

Functions of the Municipal Centre:

- Administrative centre
- Provide improved high school education and vocational training for men and women
- Provide Central Family Medical Centre offering the highest medical care in the municipality
- Specialised stores (e.g. clothes, hardware, electro-technics) satisfying “periodic demand”, should be located in Dragash/Dragaš town
- New industrial enterprises should be located in the commercial zone of Dragash/Dragaš town
- Urban expansion of housing and commercial settlements
- The urban infill and sprawl of Dragash/Dragaš town will see the settlements Shajne/Šajnovce and Ljubovište/Lubovishtë forming suburbs
- Improvement of infrastructure (water, sewage, waste, ...) at a higher level
- Improvement of public transport to Prizren and to sub-centres

Sub-centres should offer good living conditions and supply to the surrounding villages

The selection of villages to act as sub-centres has to be based on the existing settlement structure and natural preconditions. Indicators for the selection of sub-centres are the population and number of households (HH) - namely, an increase in population and number of HH since 1981, as well as a good social and technical infrastructure. Sub-centres are equipped with Central schools, Family Medical Centres and good road access, and are already an economic sub-centre or have more than 50 businesses.

Another important aspect for selection of sub-centres following the principle of spatial balance (spatially inclusive and comprehensive public utility supply within reasonable distance) is their location in Dragash/Dragaš. These general principles identify the following settlements as subcentres: Blač/Bljač, Bellobrad/Belobrad, Bresanë/Brodosavce, Brezne/Brezna, Brod, Rapča/Rapçë and Restelica/Restelicë.

Functions of the Sub-centres:

- Provide education for grades 1-9, (central schools)
- Family medical centre offers basic medical care and some specialists
- Stores offer convenience goods (foods, newspapers) satisfying “daily demand”
- Enterprises are located in new commercial zones in the sub-centres
- Controlled expansion, especially for housing, to be prepared
- Improvement of technical infrastructure (water, sewage, waste, ...)
- Good connection to the main road network
- Public transport to Dragash/Dragaš town

Villages should offer good living conditions, supplied by the Municipal Centre and Sub-centres Most settlements are classified as villages (22 out of 36). The villages shall develop in an organical manner, preserve their traditional character while adapting to the needs of life today. This includes an improvement of technical infrastructure. Regarding social infrastructure (e.g. in the field of health services) but also in terms of commercial development, they benefit from good access to the next subcentre and to Dragash/Dragaš town as the Municipal Centre.

Functions of the villages:

- Provide education for grades 1-5
- Provide basic medical care
- Economic development mainly through agriculture
- Improvement of technical infrastructure (water, sewage, waste, ...)
- Some expansion of the residential area

Remote Villages: the focus is on supporting the people, not the location

Some villages in Dragash/Dragaš are characterised by a small population and small number of HH, dramatic decreasing tendencies since 1981, as well as a low number of pupils and few businesses. The main reason for this situation has been the remote geographical position of these villages and traditionally poor road access. Even if an improvement in road access has since occurred, or will happen soon, the position of these villages high up in the mountains and at a distance from main roads and prospering areas will probably force further population and HH decrease. Due to limited financial resources, the Municipality will not be able to stop this process or to initiate significant upturn. The Municipality should guarantee good living conditions to the inhabitants of Remote Villages by sustaining public utility supply as far as possible in the village itself, or by arranging safe transport to public utility installation in other villages if necessary. These general principles identify the following as Remote Villages: Bačka/Baçkë, Dikance/Dikanc, Orçuša/Orçushë, Pllajnik/Plajnik and Xërxe/Zrze.

Functions of remote the villages:

- Provide education for grades 1-5 in the village or in neighbouring villages (including safe transport)
- Provide basic medical care in neighbouring villages or by mobile ambulance
- Economic development only in the field of agriculture
- Improvement of basic infrastructure, implementation of infrastructural projects with lower priority
- Little expansion of residential area

Additional settlement functions:

Economic function

Besides land use management, Dragash/Dragaš Municipality should develop and enhance other economic sectors, e.g. construction, manufacturing, trade, accommodation and the energy sector. These activities should take place in the Intensive Management Area and partly occur in the Extensive Management Areas. Construction should occur with regard to the existing urban area and settlement expansion. Commercial zones exist near Dragash/Dragaš town, Pllavë/Plava, Buçe/Buçe and Buzez. New commercial zones should be developed in the subcentres Blaç/Bljaç, Bellobrad/Belobrad, Bresanë/Brodosavce, Brezne/Brezna and Restelica/Restelicë. As a result there will be commercial areas near Dragash/Dragaš town, in the Opojë/Opolje valley with good access to Prizren and near Restelica/Restelicë with good access to FYROM.

Touristic function

Nature-based tourism shall be developed in Opojë/Opolje and Gora/Gorë region. Touristic centres are settlements related to hiking trails, skiing areas, picnic places, extraordinary landscapes and cultural heritage. They shall offer accommodation and tourist information. The settlements designated to become touristic centres are Bellobrad/Belobrad, Bresanë/Brodosavce, Brezne/Brezna, Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje, Brod, Rapča/Rapçë, Radeša/Radeshë, Restelica/Restelicë, with Dragash/Dragaš town as the touristic “base camp”. Touristic areas evolve through connection to these touristic centres.

Framework of the road network

Further improvement of the road network and of public transport is a necessary to overcome the geographical remoteness of Dragash/Dragaš as a whole and of its villages. It will improve livelihoods, support the local economy by offering better access to markets and promote tourism.

Most important is the improvement of the regional and cross-border road network, especially to Prizren as the regional centre, and to Albania and FYROM according to traditional and cultural (historical) relations. The most important regional and cross-border roads are included in the map of general principles. Proposals for new roads, which would potentially be of great significance but require further studies, are marked with a dashed line.

Development framework of land use

Beyond the hierarchical settlement network, the general principles are also concerned with the development of Dragash/Dragaš's landform. According to the high value of Dragash/Dragaš's environment, biodiversity protection is one of the main principles of the Municipal Development Plan.

Land use management should be enhanced with regard to environmental considerations. Protection of the environment at certain levels, with concern for the natural assets, ensures sustainable and efficient development. There shall be a Zone of Strict Protection at the top of Mount Koritnik in the northwest and in the mountains in the southeast of

Dragash/Dragaš, where extraordinary natural characteristics shall be devoid of human influences. The mountainous region subsequent to this Zone contains special biotopes contingent on specific human influences. Extensive pasture management is not in contradiction with purpose of protection, but preserves biodiversity. Forestry in this Extensive Management Area should be in accordance with Forest Stewardship Council. In the Opojë/Opolje valley and in the valleys of Gorë/Gora suitable soils mean that intensive pastures and special cultures as well as productive forestry should be possible. An enhancement of agricultural and forestry production should be followed in this Intensive Management Area while environmental aspects are considered (such as installing buffer zones to rivers).

Zone of Strict Protection: devoid of human influences

- Environmental protection is the primary objective
- No access except for research
- No forestry
- No agriculture

Extensive Management Area: maintenance by human management

- Environmental protection is the main primary objective
- Access for economic or touristic reasons is possible, as far as the environment is respected
- Forestry in accordance with Forest Stewardship Council
- Extensive pasture management in line with environmental considerations

Intensive Land Use Area: productive land use side by side with environmental protection

- Environmental protection is an primary objective besides land use production, settlement, commercial and touristic development
- Main living and working area
- Productive Forestry with respect to environmental aspects
- Intensive pasture management and special cultures in line with environmental aspects

Additional function in the landscape: tourism

Dragash/Dragaš's great touristic and cultural assets, its natural environment, the cultural diversity of its population, and tangible and intangible heritage, offer several opportunities for touristic and economic development. The Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park in Dragash/Dragaš provides the unique chance to promote tourism in the municipality by offering environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities. The main touristic areas will be Opojë/Opoja valley (especially cycling, walking, road trips) and Gorë/Gora Mountains near Brod and Restelica/Restelicë (especially hiking, skiing, visiting the National Park). Another touristic area can be developed near Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje, where skiing is possible. Detailed planning of touristic development in Dragash/Dragaš is needed and will be concretised in the tourism strategy.

Socio-economic and Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed framework

The whole MDP and especially the spatial development framework are developed for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land use management. The aim of the proposed framework is therefore to reduce negative impacts on the environment, economy and society. Nevertheless, the Law on Spatial Planning and the Guidelines on Spatial Planning as well as the Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) designate the drafting of an impact assessment of all plans and programmes, which are likely to have significant environmental effects.

The results of the conducted SEA are that the environmental impacts of the spatial development framework can be expected from the extension of the road network and development of touristic areas for skiing. The dimension of environmental impacts cannot be assessed at this level, but should be minimised by routing and positioning. Further impacts on the environment by land-use development are not expected because environmental aspects have been considered in location and scope. In addition, the MDP framework will have a positive effect upon and improve environmental and socio-economic issues in the municipality.

6. STRATEGIES

Nature conservation and biodiversity

General goals
Protect, conserve and rehabilitate the rich floristic and faunistic biodiversity of the municipality according to the Law of Nature Conservation and the requirements of a sustainable environmental, social and economic development of the municipality.
Objectives
<p>Establish a sound governance of the nature conservation and protection system for the municipality, through facilitating multi-level networks at government level (among the municipal departments of economy, agriculture, education etc.), at local civil society level (through associations, and between civil society and public institutions), at inter-municipal level (among neighbouring municipalities), at vertical level (coordination with the National Government and its institutions). This includes in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of water bodies, forest, grassland and rock formations with special biodiversity values in their ecological functions and services according to the Law of Nature Protection (i.e. strict nature reserve, special areas – SPAs and SAC, nature monuments and protected landscapes). • Cooperation with the Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park Directorate and the Kosovo Forest Agency in planning, implementing and enforcing a National Park Management with the aim to conserve the biodiversity and the ecosystem services (including the forest functions for water balance, avalanche, erosion and landslide risk control) of the protected areas. • Prevent air, water, soil and landscape pollution through effective measures combined with monitoring, control and effective enforcement. • Assure and develop the cross border cooperation with FYROM and Albania with regards to joint efforts of biodiversity protection, research and eco-tourism.
Actions (Adapted from Dragash/Dragaš Municipality (2010): Local plan of action on biodiversity in Dragash/Dragaš Municipality 2011-2015)
<p>A) Establish nature conservation in municipal development</p> <p>A1) Develop a guide for nature conservation in the Municipality for each main field (biodiversity, forestry, agriculture, animal husbandry, water management, waste management, infrastructure measures such as traffic and transport)</p> <p>A2) Develop and install financing mechanisms to maintain the Municipality's engagement in biodiversity protection and development</p> <p>A3) Organise and sustain awareness campaigns for the landscape and high variety of biodiversity wealth of the Municipality in villages, schools and fairs to promote nature and environmental protection.</p> <p>B) Establish the Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park</p> <p>B1) Support the sustainable management of the National Park (National Park Management and Spatial Plan) through the National Park Directorate</p> <p>B2) The municipality should cooperate with the National Park Directorate to optimise revenue generation and to optimally use them, i.e. to balance added values for nature</p> <p>B3) Establishment of a Biodiversity Centre in Dragash/Dragaš (one field office in Opojë/Opolje and one in the Gora/Gorë region)</p> <p>B4) Facilitate and initiate the establishment of partnerships with cross-border municipalities to facilitate and promote cross-border tourism of the Balkan Mountain National Park (Sharr/Šar, Korab, Deshat/Dešat)</p> <p>C) Other protected areas and management plans</p> <p>C1) Actively support the competent authorities in establishing detailed inventories of the biodiversity hotspots inside the National Park (flora, vegetation, insects, reptiles and amphibians)</p> <p>C2) Actively promote and inform the public about the adequate status of protection according to legal requirements and respective behaviour</p> <p>C3) Actively support and promote the preparation of management plans for the National Park and all the protected areas (i.e. strict nature reserve, special areas – SPAs and SAC, nature monuments and protected landscapes) outside the National Park. The municipality will actively pursue compatibility of the management plans with traditional land-uses and landscape management requirements.</p> <p>C4) Including the protected areas into a hiking concept</p> <p>D) Development of the sustainable tourism – Rural tourism</p> <p>D1) Strengthen a department for tourism in the Municipal administration</p> <p>D2) Prepare an Eco-tourism action plan that includes</p> <p>i. Marking and regulation of the biking and hiking paths - renovation and construction of mountain huts</p>

- ii. Initiation of private activities which are compatible with the aims and requirements of the protected areas and the NP; licensing will be limited to such activities that are compatible
- iii. Support the development of information material for tourists and the local population – e.g. school programmes
- iv. Develop mountain biking opportunities with a concept that shall not harm biodiversity and have a negative impact on environmental assets
- v. Develop hunting and fishing tourism for the areas outside the National Park

D3) Initiate the recognition of Dragash/Dragaš as an official UNESCO “Biosphere Reserve” (UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme, 2012) in cooperation with the National Government

D4) Develop a “Brand Name” for the Dragash/Dragaš region and the environment, and promote its use for local products

E) Special species programmes: hunting, fishing and others

E1) Increase fish populations with different native species without harming the freshwater ecosystems

E2) Develop hunting and fishing tourism in cooperation with the Hunters’ Association for the areas outside the National Park. This includes:

- i. Deciding on plans for the hunting of wild animals
- ii. Hunters’ education on the proper level
- iii. Regulating and giving clear responsibilities and procedures in case of complaints and observations :
 - a. Illegal logging
 - b. Transgression of fishing or hunting codes and rules

F) Plans, measures and enforcement of regulations for Non-Wood Forest Products (mushroom and herb collection)

F1) Support the competent authorities in announce areas where collection of Non Wood Forest Products (NWFP) is allowed for the local population

F2) Support the competent authorities in establishing rules and regulations for professional collection of NWFP (codes of conduct, permitted quantities, protection periods etc.)

F3) Support the competent authorities in establishing and implementing required control and supervision mechanisms

G) Support and facilitate measures for forest protection (see also Municipal Forest Strategy):

G1) Fire early warning and control

G2) Forest preservation and restoration

G3) Afforestation measures, including facilitation of nursery material

H) Pollution prevention and control

H1) Prevention of illegal waste dumping (land pollution) – household and construction waste

H2) Prevention of or decrease in pollution that contributes to climate change

H3) Enforcement of waste cleaning in rivers

H4) Replacement of mercury electric bulbs with sodium bulbs

Other environmentally relevant activities are contained within the separate strategies for: 8.2 Settlement, 8.7 Tourism and Cultural Heritage, 8.8 Agriculture, 8.9 Forestry, 8.10 Energy, 8.11 Water and Sanitation, 8.12 Solid Waste

Further Planning

• Develop a guide for nature conservation in the Municipality for each main field (biodiversity, forestry, agriculture, animal husbandry, water management, waste management, infrastructure measures such as traffic and transport) and obtain strong agreement from civil society and community representatives.

• Directly involved are the following directorates of the Municipality:

a. Directorate of Urban Planning, Cadastre and Environmental Protection is responsible for drafting development, spatial, urban and rural plans; drafting criteria for construction permits; keeping a database related to property; protection of the environment; and management of sewage and solid waste.

b. Directorate of Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Rural Development and Inspection is responsible for policies in the field of sustainable development of agriculture; preparation of draft regulations and administrative orders related to farming, infrastructure, tourism development and inspection services.

• Indirectly involved are the following directorates of the Municipality:

a. Directorate of Education is responsible for planning the development of local education, training of teaching staff, and infrastructural issues related to education facilities. b. Directorate of Defence, Rescue and Public Services is responsible for the emergency

services, planning and implementation of protective measures and defence plans.

• Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park Directorate is responsible for governing all of the resources of the National Park

• MESP - the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is responsible for developing policies, implementing laws, and supervising activities for environmental protection of water resources, air, and land.

• KEPA - Kosovo Agency for Environment Protection is responsible for environmental and nature monitoring, the establishment and management of databases and environmental information systems, as well as providing expertise on the management of protected areas.

• The Kosovo Forest Agency in is responsible for managing forests (i.e., public forests), and supervising private forest land.

General goals
<p>Further development of settlements should take place in a well-regulated way. In contrast with the uncontrolled individual activities in the past, a stronger influence from the Municipal administration will ensure that common interests are regarded, natural resources are protected and sustainable development is advocated. The process of urban planning and applying for construction permits will respect the laws. Thus the villages will have opportunities for sensitive growth which preserves their individual characters and beauty as well as that of the surrounding landscape. Qualitative improvement in design and functionality of public space and the maintenance of traditional architecture and cultural heritage should contribute to strengthen the identity of the villages.</p>
Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of private settlement activities shall lead to sustainable development of the villages. It will allow for the proper planning and building up of technical infrastructure, and the construction of buildings in areas where connection to technical infrastructure is possible. • Construction areas for the further development of housing, for economic settlement and other purposes shall be prepared at suitable places and at a sufficient scale, depending on the size, the number of inhabitants, and the classification of the settlements according to the general principles of planning. • All villages shall have areas for sensitive growth of residential settlements. The size and position of settlement areas in the villages shall be determined with regard to the settlement structure, the expected demand and the environmental possibilities. In the guidance map proposals for all 36 villages are elaborated. • Areas for large-scale commercial constructions shall be concentrated in Dragash/Dragaš town as the Municipal Centre and in the sub-centres. The guidance map includes proposals for an industrial zone in Dragash/Dragaš and commercial zones in Blač/Bljač, Bellobrad/Belobrad, Bresanë/Brodosavce, Brezne/Brezna and Restelica/Restelicë at locations with good access to traffic and on flat ground, maintaining a distance from residential areas to protect from noise and emissions. Commercial settlement areas shall create opportunities for the establishment of various kind of business and thus promote the local economy and the creation of jobs. • The individual character and the identity of the villages shall be protected; sites of cultural heritage should be preserved and restored. • The design of public space in the villages shall be enhanced. Public squares and main roads in the centres of the villages shall become attractive places, appropriate for multifunctional uses. • Inhabitants shall be protected from natural hazards such as avalanches, rock fall and floods by avoiding dangerous places for settlement. Therefore steep slopes, riverbanks and other dangerous areas should be restricted for settlement activities. Where necessary, measures to minimise existing risks need to be taken (for example: avalanche risk reduction project for Restelica/Restelicë) • The environment shall be protected from impacts by settlement; thus the selection of suitable areas must consider the “spatial resistance” given by natural factors. Green space with functions as “green belts” shall be kept devoid of construction.
Actions
<p>A) Proceed with urban planning:</p> <p>A1) Draft urban development plans [UDP] and urban regulatory plans [URP] for Dragash/Dragaš town and the sub-centres of Blač/Bljač, Bellobrad/Belobrad, Bresanë/Brodosavce, Brezne/Brezna, Brod / Brod, Rapča / Rapçë and Restelica/Restelicë</p> <p>A2) Draft urban regulatory plans for large construction zones such as the industrial zone in Dragash/Dragaš town.</p> <p>A3) Draft urban development plans [UDP] and urban regulatory plans [URP] for Dragash/Dragaš, Plajnik / Plajnik and Vranište / Vranisht in order to clarify the status as informal settlements. If necessary all relevant steps according to the “Guideline for spatial planning of informal settlement” (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning) must be done.</p> <p>B) Establish responsibilities and procedures for application of construction permits according to existing laws:</p> <p>B1) Consider certain issues through urban planning: well-regulated urban density and open space, vulnerability to risks and disasters (avalanches, erosion, floods), macro-microclimate (sunlight, wind, freezing sites), data on development area and cadastral parcel, rules for accessing the building (road infrastructure and other installations), security and public order, as well as historic and cultural value.</p> <p>B2) Control, supervise and inspect construction conditions (Buildings are allowed only in areas designated by MDP/UDP/URP and in accordance with regulations set by the URP).</p> <p>B3) Provide physical and social infrastructure within the urban area.</p> <p>C) Development of areas for commercial / industrial settlement:</p> <p>C1) Dragash/Dragaš town and Shajne/Šajnovce: Realise the development of an Industrial Zone in the north of Dragash/Dragaš town (Decision of the Municipal Assembly from 2008: the area is currently under construction).</p> <p>C2) Dragash/Dragaš town: Widening of the existing commercial area in the south of Dragash/Dragaš town; prevent the construction of private housing.</p> <p>C3) Verify the need for commercial settlements in the sub-centres of Blač/Bljač, Bellobrad/Belobrad, Bresanë/Brodosavce, Brezne/Brezna and Restelica/Restelicë; prepare infrastructural conditions for potential private construction activities.</p> <p>D) Development of residential areas:</p>

D1) Verify the need for residential settlements in the villages as proposed in the guidance maps; prepare infrastructural conditions for potential private construction activities.

E) Enhancement of the village centres:

E1) Improve amenity value and urban design of central public space in the villages as attractive places, using elements such as pavement with natural stone, trees, benches, fountains etc.

F) Cultural Heritage

F1) Collect systematic data about traditional buildings and architecture as well as of sites and elements of cultural and religious life (such as cemeteries, etc.)

F2) Promote the value of traditional buildings as part of cultural heritage by implementing pilot projects, e.g. finding new uses for old buildings as cultural centres

F3) Support private owners in the preservation and restoration of traditional buildings by providing technical expertise and funds.

G) Preserve green space; improve greenery in the villages

G1) Issue a statute to protect large trees in the settlements from being felled

G2) Promote pilot projects of open space design (e.g. Green market or square at the Municipal Assembly in Dragash/ Dragaš town)

G3) Raising awareness about the environment and the green belt system (marking green belts to keep them devoid of construction)

H) Risk reduction programme for dangerous housing areas

H1) Conduct a geological risk analysis survey combined with a technical risk reduction plan for Restelica/Restelicë.

H2) Carry out a risk reduction programme including: reforestation in the relevant area surrounding Restelica/Restelicë, construction of technical avalanche protection systems, if necessary undertake active measures to reduce rock-fall risk by eliminating danger zones, establishment of an avalanche risk monitoring system

Further Planning

Draft urban development plans for Dragash/Dragaš town and the sub-centres of Blač/Bljač, Bellobrad/Belobrad, Bresanë/Brodosavce, Brezne/Brezna, Brod / Brod, Rapča / Rapçë and Restelica/Restelicë

Draft urban regulatory plans for large construction zones such as the industrial zone in Dragash/Dragaš.

Conduct a detailed geological risk analysis and draft a technical risk reduction plan for Restelica/Restelicë.

Responsibility / Institutional Framework

According to the Law on Spatial Planning and to the Law on Construction, the Municipality is responsible for urban planning and to allow applications for construction permits.

The Municipality provides building permits for all buildings, except those specified in Article 35 of the Law on Construction. Construction outside defined construction areas is prohibited except for buildings named in article 17.3 of the Law on Spatial Planning. For these constructions the construction permit granted by MESP.

Maintenance of public space falls under the responsibility of the Municipality, as long as the ground is public property. Local communities could support Municipal activities in this field.

All construction on private properties remains under private responsibility.

General goals
Improve the economic performance of the municipal system, mainly in terms of employment and income for the population, through the valorisation of the local resources, their organisation into value chains, and upgrade capacities competitiveness whilst maintaining a long term sustainable environment, social and gender equity.
Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish solid links between producers and municipality, among the municipal departments (economy, agriculture, education etc.), and between Dragash and neighbor municipalities, and possible cooperation with the national government. • Improve the economic performance and competitiveness of endogenous products, with specific reference to the ones with high impact potential on long term development, such as bees, milk, meat, herbs, forest products, forest fruits and mushrooms, and the cultural and tourist system. • Establish a mechanism for providing services to entrepreneurs, producers, population, civil society organizations, and public institutions, for assuring a sustainable long term socio-economic development • Realise design, implementation, and fund raising for priority infrastructure projects • Realise and implement an effective territorial marketing either for promoting the territorial image at national and international level, and for attracting external resources to be used coherently with shared strategic guidelines. • Improve capacities in economic development planning
Actions
<p>A) Establish links for the economic system</p> <p>A1) Support existing associations of producers and promote new associations in the economic sectors (beekeepers, breeders, dairies, etc.))</p> <p>A2) Promote Forums of value chains participated by the Associations of producers and traders with the main functions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continuously evolving the strategic guidelines, • maintaining cohesion and coherence among the producers in the implementation of the strategic plan, <p>A3) Establish a MUNICIPAL FORUM for economic development and planning, including municipality, representatives of the Value Chain Forums, experts, with the task of sharing priorities for the annual and multi-annual strategies and plans regarding economic development, and monitoring the implementation.</p> <p>A4) Establish inter-municipal cooperation agreements with neighbor municipalities.</p> <p>B) Improve economic performance and competitiveness</p> <p>B1) Improving the performance of the Bees, Forest, Herbs, Meat, Milk value chains through: i. improving their productivity, also through introduction of innovations and new production techniques,</p>
<p>ii. exploiting all the local economic potential, through introducing new businesses for diversifying the products. iii. Improving marketing strategies for increasing sales at local, national, and at least regional (Balkans) level.</p> <p>B2) For the Textile and Clothes value chain: i. stimulate creation of enterprises for valorizing the current know how and its competitive potential, also through reinforcing and disseminating capacities, and ii. Elaborating the detailed strategic guidelines.</p> <p>B3) Improve the economic and social impact of the tourist resources of Dragash through the institution of a Local Tourist System, based on the valorization of main attractors, such as environment, bio-diversity, hospitality, services, local productions, and culture</p> <p>C) Establish a mechanism for providing services for Local Economic Development</p> <p>C1) Establish a mechanism for the delivery of comprehensive services for economic development, with priority to economic animation (stimulation of local actors towards the valorization of the local resources, stimulation and support of local networks and associations, provision of information; access to finance (for capitalizing the local businesses, without penalty for the local people); technical assistance (assistance to the preparation of business plans for accessing to bank and finance, for improving productivity and competitiveness, commercialization, animal sanitation, quality control), vocational training, project Development; Support to innovation (improving capacities for identifying and supporting the transfer of technologies, as well as innovative practices available in Kosovo or internationally and favoring transfer/adaptation).</p> <p>C2) This mechanism shall be self-sustainable, and include existing as well as necessary new services. It shall also include a partnership management board (with representatives of local partners), and a skilled technical structure. C3) Assure a sustainable start-up period for the system, through financing the first two years' operations, and the elaboration of the five year financial plan.</p> <p>C4) Establish a financial mechanism, as a Guarantee Fund, for facilitating access to finance for entrepreneurs, population, and producers with difficulty of being covered by bank credits.</p> <p>C5) Improve capacities of the management board and technical structure</p> <p>D) Realise the design, implementation, and fund raising for priority infrastructure projects The following projects have priority:</p> <p>D1) Fair and special events space</p> <p>D2) Waste management</p> <p>D3) Laboratories for quality control</p> <p>D4) Tourist information centre</p> <p>D5) Capacity building or forming skills needed for value chain development</p>

- E) Realise and implement an effective territorial marketing
- E1) Define the municipal socio-economic personality, through identifying and synthesising the main characteristics as far as the tangible and intangible territorial parts, i.e. geographic position and morphological character, social and relational capital level, productive sector and market characteristics, intensity of economic and cultural external exchanges, cultural heritage, spirit of the place, social and civic values system, services system, infrastructure, and level of knowledge for social and economic development
- E2) Define the image that local actors want to provide within and outside the territory, possibly in collaboration with neighbouring municipalities, and establish corresponding icon-logos
- E3) Define the communication instruments for better disseminating the profile and the image of the territory, either for promoting the territory, marketing its product-resources, attracting external resources, starting from the Balkan region and Europe.
- E4) Improve skills in communication and information technology, through an university agreement for an educational program on the issue.
- F) Improve capacities on economic development planning
- F1) Realise a university diplomat or specialized 180 hours course on Local Economic Development Strategies and Planning, with the aim of disseminating capacities of civil servants and civil society. The first course is for training trainers at university and governmental level, with the participation of representatives of the civil society, with the aim of experimenting a course, that could be replicated. It will have modules, articulated as it follows:
- Module 1: Territorial Economic Development (TED) and Globalization (10 hours)
 - Module 2: Territorial development strategies: tools for analysis, mapping, and strategic framework (45 hours)
 - Module 3: Governance for Territorial Economic Development (25 hours)
 - Module 4: Local economic development planning (30 hours days)
 - Module 5: Services for economic development (40 hours)
 - Module 6. Territorial Marketing (30 hours).

Further Planning

- Governance: Through the established MUNICIPAL FORUM, and establishment of the evaluation and monitoring system
- Competitiveness: - Plan the implementation of the Strategic Guidelines (by value chain), - Plan the action-research required to continuously update the Survey of Resources and consequently update the Strategic Guidelines of I and further levels (integrated strategies) - Provide Quality (ISO), Food safety (HACCP), Organic and Halal certification
- Services: Strengthen support to territorial international trade and innovation
- Territorial Marketing: Establish a territorial brand, and international positioning at least at regional and potentially at European level.

Responsibility / Institutional Framework

- i) The Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš has the institutional task and responsibility of endorsing and coordinating the plan, in harmony with the institutions which constitute the Forum and National Government. The municipality should also facilitate the establishment of a comprehensive system of support services, possibly in collaboration with neighbouring municipalities.
- ii) The Dragash/Dragaš Economic Development Forum (DEDeF), constituted by the Municipality and representatives of the productive sector and civil society, will be charged with the task of identifying the objectives and priorities for development, and for their monitoring.
- iii) The value chains Forums, will be charged with the task of facilitating common actions among the participating actors, and representing them in the DEDeF
- iv) The National Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, as well as Ministry of Economy and Finance), is responsible for coordinating actions with the municipalities
- v) The private sector, as major driving force of the economy, shall be represented through the sectoral associations

General goals
<p>Further improvement of the road network and of public transport is key to overcoming the geographical remoteness of Dragash/Dragaš as a whole and of its villages. It will improve livelihood opportunities, support the local economy by offering better access to markets, and promote tourism.</p> <p>Improved maintenance of roads will ensure that investments will be long lasting. With regards to the environment and the National Park in Dragash/Dragaš, some road projects that would have a large environmental impact shall not be realised.</p>
Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The improved local road network shall offer fast, safe and reliable access to all villages. • Road network and public transport towards Prizren as the regional centre shall be strengthened. • The borderlines to Albania and FYROM shall allow controlled legal traffic of humans and goods; new cross-border connections shall connect Dragash/Dragaš to the road network of both countries. • Public transportation shall provide regular, comfortable and affordable connections between Dragash/Dragaš town, the municipal sub-centres and Prizren. • Improved maintenance of roads shall ensure that investments are long-lasting and sustainable. • The planning and decision making process for road projects shall include environmental impact analyses and compliance with the National Park.
Actions
<p>Initiate consultations with both national and local authorities from Kosovo, Albania and FYROM regarding options for improvement of the cross-border road network.</p> <p>Coordinate planning processes for the road network, in consideration of general development plans in all municipalities. Conduct transnational feasibility studies for such projects.</p> <p>A) Local Road Network:</p> <p>A1) Pave the road connecting the villages of Leštane/Leshtan and Radeša/Radeshë</p> <p>A2) Pave the road connecting the village Ljubovište/Lubovishtë to the Dragash/Dragaš – Brod regional road</p> <p>A3) Construct a new local road connecting Brod and Restelica/Restelicë; elaborate the planning for a new road between Brod and Zlipotok; renovate the road from Zlipotok to the Dragash/Dragaš – Restelica/Restelicë regional road</p> <p>A4) Construct a bypass road for Brrut/Brut and Zgatar</p> <p>B) Regional road Network:</p> <p>B 1) Widen the existing regional road (Dragash/Dragaš – Prizren via Zhur); improve the speed and safety of travelling by partial widening to three lanes and partial improvement in alignment</p> <p>B 2) Widen the existing Dragash/Dragaš – Brod regional road to two lanes</p> <p>B 3) Construct a second road access between Dragash/Dragaš and Prizren via Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje and Lez by upgrading and paving the existing gravel road.</p> <p>B 4) Elaborate the planning for and construct a bypass road for Restelica/Restelicë</p> <p>B 5) Construct a new road connecting Brod and Restelica/Restelicë: elaborate the planning for a new road in the south of Brod to Restelica/Restelicë along traditional paths.</p> <p>C) Cross – Border connections:</p> <p>C 1) Create a cross-border connection near Orčuša/Orçushë by paving the existing road to Orčuša/Orçushë and by construct the missing road connection to the existing border station at the Albanian border.</p> <p>C 2) Pave the existing road from Kruševo/Krushevë to the existing border station at the Albanian border.</p> <p>C 3) Pave the existing gravel road from Restelica/Restelicë to the border with FYROM.</p> <p>C 4) Assess the feasibility of a cross-border connection from the Dragash/Dragaš – Prizren regional road along the Plava River to the Albanian border, using the low altitude of only 800 – 900m above sea level (potentially important regional connection to the international motorway).</p> <p>D) Agricultural road network:</p> <p>D 1) Expand local roads / paths to arable land to make agriculture and land use more efficient</p> <p>E) Maintenance:</p> <p>E 1) Create a unit in the Municipal administration that will be responsible for the maintenance of roads, and ensuring that it has a budget and technical expertise to fulfil this task carefully.</p> <p>E 2) Monitor the situation of roads regularly; undertake repair work as soon as necessary to avoid increasing damage.</p> <p>F) Public Transport</p> <p>F 1) Improve the frequency and the schedule of public buses by coordination through the Municipality.</p> <p>F 2) Improve the connection to public transport especially in the Gora/Gorë region, support existing lift-sharing by creating an internet-aided reservation system of lift-sharing between Dragash/Dragaš - Restelica/Restelicë and Dragash/Dragaš – Brod. (This may also be used by tourists)</p> <p>F 3) Construct bus stations and shelters at important stops (in Dragash/Dragaš, at the crossroads Dragash/Dragaš - Prizren / Dragash/Dragaš – Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje, ...)</p>

G) Road projects that should not be realised: (see reasons below)

G1) Road project for a cross-border connection from Brod to FYROM, passing Lake Shutman

G2) Road project for a cross-border connection from Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje towards the border of FYROM (at the Skarpë/Skarpa Mountain at an altitude of 2474m)

G3) Project for a border-to-border road from the Albanian border near Kruševo/Krushevë (existing border station) to the border with FYROM south of Restelica/Restelicë (new alignment without using existing roads, passing to the west of Restelica/Restelicë at a higher altitude)

Further Planning

vi) Planning for regional roads needs coordination with national authorities. The Municipal Development Plan may only express the ambitions of the municipality, but the responsibility lies with the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

- Planning of cross-border roads needs consultation with both national and local authorities from Kosovo, Albania and FYROM. Coordinate planning processes for the road network, considering general development plans in all municipalities. Conduct transnational feasibility studies for such projects.
- Creation of new roads needs detailed planning, starting with feasibility studies.
- Draft plans for an efficient transport system with coordination of destinations, routes, and timetables of buses.

Responsibility

Improvement of the road network and public transportation will need cooperation at the national and municipal level, as well as public-private partnership.

vii) The local road network is under the responsibility of the Municipality.

viii) The regional road network is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

ix) Legal provisions regarding cross-border traffic must be adopted at the national level.

x) Public transportation is run by private companies, but the Municipality shall play a major role in coordination.

General goals
<p>The graded system of health care units (Main Family Medical Centre in Dragash/Dragaš, Family Medical Centres in sub-centres and Health Clinics in certain villages) shall be optimised to provide an efficient medical supply. The medical staff, technical equipment and physical equipment of the healthcare units should match national standards in all facilities. Continuous professional training for medical staff, upgrading of technical instruments, etc. shall guarantee a high standard of healthcare in Dragash/Dragaš. The Municipality supports invalids as far as possible. A mobile medical service is proposed to act as an additional health facility and to cover the distance between remote villages and mobile medical services. Health education activities will take place at village level. The citizens will have access to information concerning health topics (awareness on different diseases and useful tips for better health) through an internet webpage. Health and livelihood opportunities will also be enhanced by well-organised civil protection.</p>
Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish additional Family Medical Centres in those sub-centres that are situated at a greater distance from Dragash/Dragaš or the next Family Medical Centre. • The national standard for the number of healthcare units and medical staff (especially specialists) per inhabitant shall be attained in every medical centre and health clinic. Due to the dispersed settlement structure, this requires a higher number of staff than the national budget offer. Therefore fundraising for additional financial means is necessary. • Medical staff shall be well-skilled and motivated to ensure high quality of health care. • Technical and physical equipment shall be regularly improved to be up-to-date • A mobile medical service, equipped with a doctor, a nurse and basic facilities, shall visit immobile patients / remote villages at least twice a month. • There shall be a safe emergency patient transport to the Main Family Medical Centre in Dragash/Dragaš. • There shall be a well-organised regular patient transport to Prizren. • Pharmacies shall be located in every sub-centre. • Hygiene and health topics shall be part of curriculum and adult information projects. • A well-maintained, bilingual website will inform citizens about current diseases and healthcare.
Actions
<p>A) Adjust spatial distribution of healthcare units</p> <p>A1) Upgrade Health Clinic in Restelica/Restelicë to Family Medical Centre; ensure adequate infrastructure.</p> <p>A2) Open up pharmacies in the sub-centres of Blač/Bljač, Brod and Restelica/Restelicë.</p> <p>B) Increase number of staff</p> <p>B1) Ensure the existence of a minimum of 1 doctor, 1 nurse, 1 midwife and 1 dental technician in every Family Medical Centre (additional staff may be according to number of inhabitants in catchment area)</p> <p>B2) Employment of additional gynaecologists (preferably women).</p> <p>C) Improve medical staff performance</p> <p>C1) Regular professional refresher training for staff.</p> <p>C2) Increase staff motivation.</p> <p>D) Improvement of infrastructure</p> <p>D1) General improvement of physical and technical equipment to attain modern standards.</p> <p>D2) Improvement of energy efficiency and hot water supply through use of solar water heaters.</p> <p>E) Additional health services</p> <p>E1) Install a mobile medical service, equipped with a doctor and a nurse as well as basic facilities, to visit remote villages at least twice a month</p> <p>E2) Organisation of safe emergency patient transport to the Main Family Medical Centre in Dragash/Dragaš</p> <p>E3) Organisation of regular transport of patients with special diseases from home to Prizren</p> <p>E4) Introduce hygiene and health topics into school-based curriculum (especially at primary school level)</p> <p>E5) Organise adult information projects about current diseases, sanitation and hygiene, and food education.</p> <p>E6) Digitalisation of Health Information System.</p> <p>E7) Install a maintained bilingual website about current diseases and healthcare.</p> <p>E8) Increase funding for health and support process of decision-making based on evidence.</p>

General goals
<p>Education is the most important factor for a better life. It contributes to social progress in values such as tolerance and international understanding, and serves to improve individual opportunities for a successful life. The level of education in Dragash/Dragaš shall continue to improve. Therefore, the educational system needs to be adapted to changing demands. As Dragash/Dragaš is part of the territory of Kosovo, every school and all teachers and pupils should be integrated into the Kosovar school system, even if offering education in the Serbian language. There shall be an efficient and diversified school system in Dragash/Dragaš based upon the principle of “Education at the nearest point”. The secondary level and the pre-school level of education shall be extended, while in some remote villages an existing oversupply with teachers can be reduced. The spatial distribution of primary and secondary schools and/or transport to school shall enable every child in the municipality easy access to school. Girls attending secondary school and continuing education shall be a matter of course for everybody. Further education (at university or vocational school) increases the educational level and further development in the municipality. The job market in the municipality shall be based upon well-skilled youth and skilled adults. Job training, especially for women and the unemployed, in the main economic development fields (agriculture, forestry, herbs collection, food processing, cultural heritage and tourism) will widen Dragash/Dragaš’s opportunities and strengthen its position in the Sharr/Šar/Šar region.</p>
Objectives
<p>In the long term, the Kosovo school system should become the only school system in Dragash/Dragaš. Teachers and the teaching content of the Serbian system should be integrated into the Kosovo system while fully respecting the cultural background of the Gorani communities and the requirement to be taught in the Serbian language. To reach this objective a dialogue with relevant participants both at a national and municipal level should be initiated. Facilities for secondary education shall be expanded. The majority of Dragash/Dragaš’s youth shall graduate from secondary education. There will be no genderrelated difference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a good system of central and satellite schools and a well-functioning transport system to schools in Dragash/Dragaš. • To increase vocational opportunities for adults, including men, women, the unemployed and low-skilled persons, and for the further development of the municipality, there shall be adult education programmes (lifelong learning). • Endogenous productive dynamics shall be a main part of Dragash/Dragaš’s economic sector. • By 2015 there will be no school with less than 10 students, as the maintenance of school buildings for less than 10 students is uneconomic and exceeds the financial capabilities of the Municipality. • Parent-teacher-student communication shall be increased and active engagement of parents in the education process facilitated. • Every boy and girl in Dragash/Dragaš should obtain the highest level of education according to his/her personal possibilities and not dependent on his/her financial, social or ethnic background or special needs. • Installation of Preschool institutions will relieve parents and prepare children for school education. • Education shall contain current issues (health, cultural heritage, energy, environmental pollution).
Actions
<p>A) Parallel (Serbian) school system</p> <p>A1) Integrate teachers of Serbian system into the Kosovo system.</p> <p>A2) Motivate a discussion within civil society about the integration of the parallel (Serbian) system into the Kosovar system; Negotiate especially with parents of children who attend Serbian schools.</p> <p>A3) Motivate exchange activities among both communities.</p> <p>A4) Extend the Kosovo school system into the Gora/Gorë region (especially in Restelica/Restelicë)</p> <p>B) Secondary Education</p> <p>B1) Open the new secondary/vocational school in Dragash/Dragaš town.</p> <p>B2) Increase number of students in secondary school and university (boys and girls) and ensure that records of school attendance are disaggregated according to gender.</p> <p>B3) Establish satellite secondary school classes in the Gora/Gorë region (Restelica/Restelicë, Brod).</p> <p>C) Lifelong learning</p> <p>C1) Open the new secondary/vocational school in Dragash/Dragaš town as an adult education centre for youth over 15 years of age.</p> <p>C2) Realise adult education programmes for men, women, the unemployed and low-skilled adults; attract additional financial means and organise specialists to hold courses for adult education.</p> <p>C3) Realise job trainings in the main economic development fields (agriculture, forestry, herbs collection, food processing, culture and tourism).</p> <p>C4) Provide opportunities for local communities to act and participate in economic strategies, through training in business planning, management, hospitality and service-provision, accounting and marketing.</p> <p>C5) Enable equal opportunities for women to access these opportunities, with targeted training.</p> <p>Projects should focus on building the skills and social capital of women to participate actively in traditional activities of food preparation, providing accommodation, agriculture and the processing of agricultural products, and the making of clothes and textiles, in relation to tourism as well as other income-generating opportunities.</p>

D) Optimise Primary Education

D1) Re order for teachers, not needed in class (because of small pupil number).

D2) If transport to other primary schools is arranged, close primary schools with less than 10 pupils.

E) Education process

E1) Commit teachers to regular professional refresher training.

E2) Establish parent-teacher conferences; enable active engagement of parents in the education process (days of action for the environment, for safeguarding traditions/cultural heritage, etc.).

E3) Exchange of experiences and knowledge with other schools in Kosovo and abroad.

E4) Integrate children with special needs into mainstream education.

F) Improve Infrastructure and further conditions

F1) Improvement of school infrastructure (buildings, sports fields, laboratories, technology, learning materials, etc.).

F2) Arrange school transport to secondary school, and to Primary school where necessary.

F3) Financial support (scholarship, transport, books).

G) Develop new fields

G1) Establish a preschool institution (kindergarten, pre-primary classes, community based centres).

IG2) Include current issues into school-based curriculum (about health, cultural heritage, energy, the environment and waste collection).

G3) Integrate modern technology (computers, internet) into school life (also to manage the problem of dispersed villages).

Further Planning

- A long-term process to only one school system has to be planned.

- In anticipation of the Law on obligatory secondary school, demand for secondary classes has to be assessed and covered within the Municipality.

Responsibility

- The municipal and national responsibilities with regards to education are laid out in the Law on Education in the Municipalities No.03/L-068 and the Law on Pre-University Education No.04/L-032. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has (amongst others) the responsibility to develop policies for education, to supervise educational administration and to facilitate the development of the education system. Within the legal framework the Municipalities have full and exclusive powers in the provision of public pre-primary, primary and secondary education, including licensing of educational institutions, recruitment, payment of salaries and training of education instructors and administrators.

- A law on obligatory secondary school is expected to be adopted. Decisions on the future of the Parallel System are not under the Municipal responsibility but require negotiations at the national level.

General goals
<p>Dragash/Dragaš's great touristic and cultural assets, its natural environment, the cultural diversity of the population, and tangible and intangible heritage, offer several opportunities for touristic and economic development. The Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park in Dragash/Dragaš provides the unique chance to promote tourism in the Municipality by offering environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities. Dragash/Dragaš as a part of Europe and western Balkan culture attaches high importance to conduct and maintain an inventory of cultural heritage assets, and takes active measures to protect, safeguard, preserve and rehabilitate heritage. Through cooperation between environmental protection, maintenance of cultural heritage and touristic issues, the Municipality shall retain its natural assets and "place-based authenticity" while raising internal and external awareness of its beauty (and unique competitiveness), from which economic success will develop. Strategic investments in tourism infrastructure (human and physical) shall raise the standards, meet the expectations of visitors, and deliver great value for money. Dragash/Dragaš shall develop a sustainable tourism economy through inter-municipal partnerships as well as a partnership of the public sector, private sector, and civil society to protect the environment, expand employment and entrepreneurial opportunity, provide social benefits, and generate industry profits and municipal revenue. The spatial distribution of touristic centres will guarantee an equal benefit from tourism across the whole municipality, and pay equal heed to natural and cultural heritage in every part of Dragash/Dragaš. The existence of the National Park and its Management shall serve as a motor for sustainable touristic infrastructure.</p>
Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism development shall be supported by implementing human and physical tourism infrastructure. • Dragash/Dragaš's tourism development shall be developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM), communities within Dragash/Dragaš, and neighbouring countries. • Tourism development shall include existing features (e.g. hiking trails, festivals) and the exploration of new fields (e.g. skiing, ethnological museum ...). • Dragash/Dragaš town shall act as a "touristic base camp" – the first point of arrival and the source of basic information about the Municipality and what it offers. • Villages with outstanding cultural assets, useful location and with a good connection to Dragash/Dragaš's main touristic assets shall act as "touristic centres" – the point from which to start for certain touristic activities. • Tourism development shall help to protect the environment, maintain cultural heritage and improve infrastructure (road network, waste management, energy and water supply). • The National Park Management Plan shall include elements of touristic infrastructure and support its realisation. • Awareness for cultural and natural heritage shall be raised among Dragash/Dragaš's population. • Maintenance activities of tangible and intangible cultural heritage shall be undertaken based on professional research and international best practice. • Adequate utilisation concepts for heritage buildings shall protect currently vacant buildings from degradation. • Professional research about Dragash/Dragaš's archaeological, monumental, natural and intangible heritage shall explore the historic value of Municipality and touristic opportunities. • Cataloguing of cultural and natural heritage assets shall be a priority of the Directorate of Culture in collaboration with the regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Prizren, local communities and village working groups. • Local communities shall be actively engaged in drafting and implementing local cultural and natural tourism strategies.
Actions
<p>A) Support Tourism Development / Stimulate potential tourism</p> <p>A1) Develop an Action Plan to implement the Nature Based Tourism Strategy and incorporate cultural tourism.</p> <p>A2) Use the establishment of the National Park to create a Visitor Centre and possibly other facilities for touristic interest.</p> <p>A3) Develop and raise the standard of technical infrastructure (water, sewage, waste management)</p> <p>A4) Establish a special officer for tourism within the municipal administration (e.g. within the Directorate of Finance, Economy and Development)</p> <p>A5) Removal of Prizren Waste Site at the entrance to Dragash/Dragaš and other (illegal) waste sites</p> <p>A6) Undertake awareness raising programmes on the benefits of a clean environment aiming to minimise littering of roads or rivers</p> <p>A7) Establish inter-municipal partnerships and benefit from precedent, lessons learnt and experiences from other projects and municipalities in Kosovo</p> <p>A8) Hospitality, service and quality training as well as hiking guide training for citizens of Dragash/Dragaš</p> <p>A9) Encourage Private-Public Partnerships to increase investment in the tourism sector</p> <p>A10) Marketing of Dragash/Dragaš in regional, national and international tourism (e.g. with postcards, booklets, books about Dragash/Dragaš and on the internet)</p> <p>A11) Establish a Tourism Website that allows visitors to plan their trip before they arrive and eventually make reservations with Bed and Breakfast accommodation</p> <p>A12) Increase road network considering that some roads around heritage buildings / vernacular ensembles should retain the traditional form of construction / materials</p>

- B) Explore several (new) fields of tourism
- B1) Secure Environmental Impact Assessments for skiing infrastructure, e.g. on top of the mountain near Brod or Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje
- B2) Conduct a feasibility study for skiing tourism on the hills near Plajnik/Plajnik
- B3) Assess opportunities for fishing, canoeing and other water-based activities; as well as mountain biking, rock climbing and other outdoor activities.
- B4) Incorporate cultural tourism into Nature Based Tourism Strategy and explore traditional festivals etc. for tourism
- B5) Hunting tourism development in cooperation with the Hunters' Association for the areas outside the National Park
- i. Decision on plans for the hunting of wild animals
 - ii. Hunters' education on the proper level
 - iii. Regulate and give clear responsibilities and procedures in case of complaints and observations of
 - a. Illegal logging
 - b. Fishing or hunting code and rules are transgressed
-) Develop touristic centres in Dragash/Dragaš
- C1) Establish Dragash/Dragaš town as the "touristic base camp" including tourism office/tourist information point to provide practical information to visitors and to help organise accommodation, transport and guides; accommodation (hotel)
- C2) Establish Bellobrad/Belobrad as "touristic centre" including as a starting point for walks, cycling, road trips etc. in Opojë/Opolje valley
- C3) Establish Bresanë/Brodosavce as a "touristic centre" including as a starting point for walks, cycling, road trips etc. in Opojë/Opolje valley
- C4) Establish Brezne/Brezna as a "touristic centre" including as a starting point for walks, picnic, etc. at Lake Brezne/Brezna; accommodation (hotel, holiday houses)
- C5) Establish Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje as a "touristic centre" including as a starting point for walks, cycling, road trips etc. in Opojë/Opolje valley; for hikes, picnic, etc. in Sharr/Šar mountains; international connection point for hiking abroad; skiing area; accommodation (hotel, holiday houses)
- C6) Establish Brod as a "touristic centre" including as a starting point for hikes, picnics, etc. in the Gora/ Gorë mountains; accommodation (hotel 'Arxhena', holiday houses, possibly camp ground); skiing area; international connection point for hiking abroad
- C7) Establish Rapča/Rapçë as a "touristic centre" including as a starting point for hikes at Mount Koritnik; international connection point for hiking abroad
- C8) Establish Radeša/Radeshë as a "touristic centre" including as a starting point for hikes in Gora/Gorë mountains and into Opojë/Opolje valley; accommodation (hotel, holiday houses)
- C9) Establish Restelica/Restelicë as a "touristic centre" including as a starting point for hikes; international connection point for hiking abroad; possibly as a location for a "National Park visitor centre"
- D) Increase hiking trail system
- D1) Identification and signposting of walks/hikes
 - D2) Maintenance of tracks
 - D3) Creation of maps, marketing strategies
 - D4) Develop a hierarchy of routes, catering to a broad spectrum of visitor (such as families with children, less-abled persons, expert hikers and climbers, cultural tourists). Looped walks are preferable. These may also link clusters of villages, and may pass by sites of cultural and natural interest, and/or follow traditional trails.
 - D5) Amenities and other tourist infrastructure such as toilets/wash facilities, refreshment points, signposts, fixed maps, picnic tables, litter bins, information signs, fences etc. may be required to ensure comfort and security along nature paths as well as to ensure protection of the environment and way-finding.
- E) Cooperation between tourism and cultural/natural heritage
- E1) Establish an ethnological museum in Dragash/Dragaš
 - E2) Concentrate efforts in establishing the National Park
 - E3) Establish projects which focus on "place-based authenticity" tourism, building the skills and social capital especially of women to participate actively in activities relating to tourism (e.g. traditional activities of food preparation, providing of accommodation, agriculture and processing of agricultural products, and making clothes and textiles)
- E4) Renovate existing ensembles of traditional vernacular buildings into visitor accommodation. Establish them as 'visitor hubs' at various points in the municipality from which other cultural and natural assets can be explored, tapping into the history of movement across the municipality
- E5) Convert the mills into useful tourism facilities (e.g. exhibition points for the history of the village, hosting amenities), and maintain them as cultural landscapes (i.e. including surrounding river/forest protection measures)
- E6) Examine a concept of establishing an outdoor museum in Zlipotok
- F) Awareness raising for cultural heritage
- F1) Awareness raising programmes within communities and with citizens about proper treatment of cultural heritage (e.g. what to do if archaeological finds are discovered, what 'heritage' is etc.) to guarantee respect and protection
 - F2) Formation of working groups for cultural / natural heritage and tourism comprising Gorani and Albanians, including women and youth.
 - F3) Include the topic of cultural heritage / traditions into the teaching curriculum and organise exchange activities between Gorani and Albanian communities

F4) Training of municipal staff from a variety of sectors concerning cultural and natural heritage assets, the values, the issues they face in protection, and methodologies to ensure their safeguarding

G) Maintain cultural heritage

G1) Emergency conservation works of all sites under National Protection or Temporary National Protection, pending further research that will help to define a conservation strategy.

G2) Signage for tombs, mills, religious sites and monuments as an asset of cultural heritage

G3) Establishment of vocational training in heritage construction techniques, traditional craftsmanship, artisan and handicrafts, and other intangible heritage processes.

G4) Use of heritage buildings as setting and backdrop for celebrations, festivals and other community events and/or conversion into new uses in line with professional heritage/conservation advice and input.

H) Execute research of national heritage

H1) Compiling the inventory of cultural heritage in Dragash/Dragaš: verification of facts, conducting of new research, completion of sections on cultural landscapes, movable heritage and intangible heritage.

H2) Enable professional research in archaeological areas (and in any other sites of “former settlements” that may be subsequently uncovered) and professional research and community involvement to compile a proper database of archaeological artefacts

H3) Enable research by professionals in collaboration with local and national institutions for a final classification of Architectural Conservation Areas

H4) Enable research through participatory methods on recording and safeguarding of intangible heritage

H5) Gathering of more complete information about ‘cultural narratives’, for example, relating to Dragash/Dragaš’s abundant water resources, historic trade routes and international connections, landscapes associated with legends and stories, and the development and fabrication of traditional clothing.

Further Planning

- Develop an Action Plan to implement the Nature Based Tourism Strategy and incorporate cultural tourism
- Include the aspect of touristic infrastructure into the Management Plan for the National Park,
- Creation of a strategy for archaeological sites: planning for future research and measures for immediate protection.
- Devise a strategy for the protection and maintenance of religious sites, mills, tombs, ensembles of vernacular buildings, agricultural buildings and çardak buildings. Emergency conservation works may be deemed necessary.

Responsibility / Institutional Framework

The role of the public sector in tourism development is to set the appropriate conditions for product development, infrastructure, tourist information and promotion of Dragash/Dragaš’s image as a tourism destination. The public sector’s main responsibility is to provide appropriate and convenient conditions for tourism development and the operation of private enterprises, supporting areas such as overall infrastructure, promotion and marketing, and public services. The Municipality should also consider the plans of central government when planning its tourism strategy. By aligning the natural assets of the municipality with the current pillars of the Kosovo Tourism Strategy, Dragash/Dragaš will make it easier for the Ministry of Trade and Industry to market and package the touristic offers in Dragash/Dragaš.

- The role of the private sector is to convert Dragash/Dragaš’s tourism assets into marketable products. It should be noted that the private sector is the major driving force of the tourism sector, generating over 90% of the related revenues and contributing to investments in the municipality, promotion and human resource development.
- Local communities should be actively engaged in the drafting and implementing of local cultural and natural tourism strategies
- Cataloguing of cultural and natural assets as well as their maintenance is under the responsibility of the Directorate of Culture in collaboration with the regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Prizren.
- The Ministry of Trade and Industry formulated the main pillars of Kosovo’s Tourism Product in the Tourism Strategy Kosovo 2011-2020
- The Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) helps coordinate touristic development in the Southern Region; it formulated the priority areas for development in the AKM Policy Statement on Tourism. A masterplan including a marketing concept and action plan is planned to be undertaken as soon as possible.

General goals
<p>Improve the performance of the agriculture and livestock systems of the Municipality, mainly in terms of employment and income for the population, through the improvement and environmentally compatible use of the local resources, their organisation into value chains, and the upgrading of capacities of competitiveness whilst maintaining a sustainable environment, and social and gender equity in the long term. (see also Local Economic Development strategy, MDP: for integration in a Dragash/Dragaš Economic Development Forum (DEDeF) and activities)</p>
Objectives
<p>Establish a sound governance of the agriculture and livestock systems as the responsibility of the Municipality, through facilitating multi-level networks at government level (among the municipal departments of economy, agriculture, education etc.), at local civil society level (through associations and networking of civil society and public institutions), at inter-municipal level (among neighbouring municipalities), at vertical level (coordination with the national government).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the economic performance and competitiveness of the value chains with high impact potential on long term development, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o small livestock meat, o wool and skins, o milk and milk products, o potatoes, o fruits and berries, o special cultivations (herbs, medicinal plants, nurseries), o bees and products, • Improved processing and marketing of agricultural products, through increased efficiency and competitiveness; • Support the improvement of product quality by facility provision and training opportunities to a level of certification; • Create additional income for farmers and rural dwellers, particularly for women, leading to improved living standards and working conditions in rural areas using non wood forest products, local farmers markets, tourism;
Actions
<p>A) Improve the economic performance and competitiveness of value chains with a focus on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat (focus on small local cattle breeds, sheep and goats) • milk and milk products • potatoes (especially seed potatoes), • fruits and berries and special cultivations (herbs) through <p>A1) improving the productive block A2) vocational training in modern production techniques, marketing and quality control/certification level A3) Improving marketing strategies for increasing sales at local, national, and at least regional (Balkans) level (see also B3). B) Develop jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) and the National Park Directorate/MESP the following: B1) Facilitate the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) (for instance with the “Programme on the Direct Support to the Agriculture 2012”) B2) Pasture management system to improve yield and preserve mountain ecosystems B3) Establish facilities for certification process acc. to international standards B4) Developing a “Brand Name” for the Dragash/Dragaš region and its environment, and promote its use for local products C) Elaborate upper level strategies in order to increase and improve the integration of local products C1) For: FVC (Fruit, Vegetables and Cereals) in the productive system of Dragash/Dragaš C2) Support the National Government in initiating a process to acknowledge Dragash/Dragaš as an official UNESCO “Biosphere Reserve” (UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme, 2012)</p>
Further Planning
<p>Strengthening of the Municipal Department of Agriculture in their technical skills and their management competencies to support and lead changes in strategies for agricultural production, quality and market access. A strong and mutual effort is required to bring the agricultural field to a unique business area that uses all its natural resources in a wise and non-destructive manner. Therefore further planning consists of developing a Municipal Action Plan – together with livestock keepers and farmers - including key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can farmers/farmers'associations do to improve their economic performance and competitiveness? • What support do they need? • What support and assistance can the municipality provide?
Responsibility / Institutional Framework
<p>Directly involved: The Directorate of Agriculture, Tourism, Rural Development and Inspection is responsible for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drafting plans for the analysis of information and programmes, which then serve as the basis for determining policy in the field of agriculture, 2. Performing all work which contributes to overall progress for the sustainable development of agriculture and farming,

3. Preparation of draft regulations, administrative orders and decisions in order to regulate issues in farming, as well in the socially owned and private sector,

4. Keeping records on all real estate land and of livestock,

5. Conducting analysis of the situation in agriculture and livestock,

6. Awarding permits for registration of agricultural mechanisms,

7. Drafting plans and programmes for tourism development, especially for the villages,

8. Drafting plans and programmes for infrastructure and rural development in the municipality,

9. Working on the development of infrastructure in rural villages. and The Directorate of Finance, Economy and Development is responsible for:

1. Drafting municipal regulations for financial issues,

2. Providing professional advice regarding the municipal budget to the municipal bodies,

3. Designing concrete plans for sustainable development of the municipality,

4. Designing concrete plans for development of the handicraft industry,

5. Drafting plans for the use of economic resources within the municipality,

6. Creating conditions for the sustainable development of small and medium enterprises. Indirectly involved:

The Directorate of Urban Planning, Cadastre and Environmental Protection is responsible for:

1. Drafting the Development Plan of the Municipality in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning,

2. Drafting of Spatial Development Plan, Urban and Rural Plan of the Municipality, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning,

3. Conducting assessments of property as per the required criteria and standards set by legislation,

4. Keeping a register of real estate property and the municipal land registry; performing an update of the property register on the basis of verifiable documents, Protects property from usurpation of various municipal,

5. Responsible for the preservation and maintenance of the environment, and for the treatment of sewage and solid waste.

At the National Level:

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) is responsible for the development of policies, the legal infrastructure, inspection and human development capacities in matters relating to agriculture, forestry and rural development at the central level.

- Different Agencies and Associations (see “References”) responsible for food and veterinary services, livestock breeding, dairy product processing matters, agriculture and rural development.

General goals
<p>Maintain and extend the existing forest area and improve their management to increase the production and supply of firewood, particularly through more productive and more sustainable use of existing coppice forest resources. The support and facilitation of improved forest management skills can help to increase productive output and maintain the outstanding biodiversity of the forest areas.</p> <p>Support and facilitate the management of technical wood forests according to FSC Standards and Forest Management Certification in Kosovo.</p> <p>In the medium term, afforestation is a realistic option to increase the forest area with native broadleaved trees (conifers cannot be used for firewood because of resin content, with the current heating techniques). There is a considerable potential for afforestation of suitable abandoned land with low agricultural productivity.</p> <p>New forests in steeper areas would contribute to protection against avalanches, erosion and landslides.</p> <p>In general, newly established forests will expand the productive resources for non-wood forest products like mushrooms.</p> <p>The risk from burning the forests has to be taken seriously and there is a need to improve the early warning, fire control and fire fighting procedures and measures. Bad management practices of burning pasture areas and the remains of harvests on farm land increases the risk of wild fires especially in drier periods of the year.</p>
Objectives
<p>Establish a sound governance of the forest related system among the responsibilities of the Municipality, through facilitating multi-level networks at government level (among the municipal departments of economy, agriculture, education etc.), at local civil society level (through associations, and networking of civil society and public institutions), at inter-municipal level (among neighbour municipalities), at vertical level (coordination with the national government).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of coppice forest structure through silviculture treatments (thinning, spacing and cleaning, appropriate cutting intervals, tree planting). • Facilitate the certification of public forests according to FSC standards to enable the joining of the international market, increase value of timber and, at the same time, ensure sustainable management of forest resources. • Increase forest area with native broadleaved species on abandoned land and in steep areas not suitable for agricultural production. • Afforestation with native, coniferous trees in areas not suited for broadleaved trees for erosion and avalanche control and technical wood harvesting in the future. • Increase sustainable legal harvesting of both firewood and technical wood which helps the improvement of the current forest structure and increases income generation for the municipality budget. • Increase of legal firewood and industrial wood logging will help in the improvement of the actual structure of forests and will increase the income generation for the municipality (with the approval of the Spatial Plan of the Park, there will be determined the economic actions of the forest management according to the zones. Phytosanitary logging, pre-trading and trading thinning of forest, permitted activities affect the improvement of forest structure • Prevent illegal harvesting of public forests. • Increase awareness of risk from fires if pasture area and remains of agriculture land are burned in an uncontrolled manner.
Actions
<p>A) Improve forest structure</p> <p>A1) Apply and increase the thinning of coppice forest dominated by beech forest and other broadleaved species at a wider scale, applying appropriate cutting intervals and plant new trees where required.</p> <p>A2) Provide communities with the possibility to harvest firewood under control of the Kosovo Forest Agency and forestry sector of municipality, through forest guards who shall be responsible for a particular area of the forest and where each forest district in the municipality has its own guard. This could help to maintain the forest and provide the resources to the community.</p> <p>A3) Prepare an afforestation plan for the municipality in close cooperation with the villages, the KFA and the National Park Directorate.</p> <p>A4) Support the establishment of local nurseries for the reproduction of local high quality populations for replanting and afforestation.</p> <p>A5) Plant native species in areas which are left unused due to low productivity in elevation less than 1500m and with a focus on disaster-prone areas (erosion, avalanches and landslides)</p> <p>A6) Start and/or support the certification process of high productivity forests acc. to Kosovo FSC standards. Ensure management of old forests in harmony with FSC standards.</p> <p>A7) Increase harvesting in high forests if good forest management practices can be assured. This can improve the forests and their future productivity, and produce technical wood to increase income for the municipality budget</p> <p>A8) Establish effective fire early warning mechanisms.</p> <p>A9) Improve the qualifications and the control skills of the forest guards.</p>

B) Improve administrative structures

B1) Strengthen the role of the forest officer in the “Municipal Directorate of Agriculture, Tourism, Rural Development and Inspection”.

B2) Support the close cooperation of the Municipal Forest officer, the officer for Nature Conservation and the Tourist Sector (officer for tourism development).

C) Improve awareness

C1) Prepare awareness campaigns highlighting the negative impacts and risks to forest and biodiversity from forest fires.

C2) Discuss annual plans with community, to incorporate their needs and integrate them in the planning process.

C3) Explore options to use conifer wood for new heating technologies (pellets etc.).

D) Training programmes

D1) Training and emergency exercises for fire early warning and fighting of forest fires.

D2) Training of forest guards.

D3) Management practices for private forest owners (especially coppice forest management).

Further Planning

- Prepare an afforestation plan for the municipality in close cooperation with the villages, the KFA and the National Park Directorate

- Elaboration of a joint strategy for forest management improvement, protection and National Park Forest Management with the Ministry of Agriculture: Department of Forestry, the KFA and the National Park Directorate and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

Responsibility / Institutional Framework

- The municipal and national responsibilities with regards to forest management are laid out in the Laws No. 2003/3 on Forests in Kosovo and Amendments to the Law No. 2003/3 on the Forests of Kosovo (March 2010): Year V / No. 67/29
- xi) One officer in the “Municipal Directorate of Agriculture, Tourism, Rural Development and Inspection” is responsible for forest protection and supervising 7 forest guards (officially employed through the municipality budget)
- xii) The officer works closely and coordinates with the Regional Forest Agency (Prizren) – Kosovo Forest Agency (KFA)
- xiii) Municipalities are responsible for forest protection and ensuring the correct tendering procedures for forest harvesting. The Municipality is responsible for forest protection from illegal harvesting and other risks. Additionally its responsibility is to assure the correct evaluation process of tenders for harvesting: The Municipality has a number of limitations regarding forest policy and management. Representatives of MAFRD should participate in the evaluation commission,. Tendering is initiated based on annual plans prepared by MAFRD-Kosovo Forest Agency and are opened for public discussion before they are approved and executed. Current practices of public discussion have not shown to be effective and there are no technical capacities in planning as well using management plans (developing 10 year plans, which provide figures on forest production capacities) in the Municipality.. Due to this, KFA receives no comments and plans are always approved without taking into consideration community needs and the maximisation in use of the forests on a sustainable basis.

General goals
<p>Electrical power supply, thermal energy use and measures for improvement of energy efficiency in both the public and private sector of the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš shall follow a medium term Energy Strategy of the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš (ESMD). The Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš will use its potential for electricity generation (nominal generation capacity below 10 MW per energy generation plant), based on Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) to increase local energy supply, support the local economy and avoid negative impacts on the environment, including causing harm to river habitats and biodiversity. Municipal support of private investments in RET will increase social and economic development, generate jobs and income for the local population, while guaranteeing sustainable and environmentally sound energy supply. Municipal Energy Development will encourage local and international companies to include local resources and the local workforce into their business plans in order to support municipal development.</p>
Objectives
<p>Municipal energy planning is in line with the national governmental policy of providing extra energy generation capacities at the end of long distribution lines, based on Renewable Energy Technologies [RET], and improvement of Energy Efficiency (EE) in the private and public sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Energy Strategy of the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš (ESMD) aims to ensure the support and promotion of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure, reliable, environmentally sound and high quality electricity supply to all users in the Municipality, based on internationally recognised technical standards, at affordable tariffs, to be agreed upon with the National Power Operator (KEK) - Inclusion of RET into the energy mix of the Municipality - Efficient use of electricity and thermal energy in the public and private sector and in households - Replacement of unsustainable use of biomass (firewood) for space heating by improving Energy Efficiency (EE) of stoves and residues of forest industry - Replacement of electric boilers by Solar Water Heater Systems - Initiatives of international or local entrepreneurs and companies or consortia investing in energy related power generation capacities - EE interventions in private households (energy saving lights and energy efficient electric appliances), Energy auditing and EE interventions in public buildings • The ESMD will be developed in close cooperation with residents of Dragash/Dragaš Municipality through the Municipality Working Group and Village Working Groups as well Dragash/Dragaš's Municipal Assembly and the Municipal Administration, and the national Ministries • Implementation of the Energy Strategy will be undertaken in close cooperation with the private sector of the Municipality, strengthening energy related capacities of local enterprises including job creation and attracting labour with relevant education and skills rather than tolerating the emigration of the local workforce. • The Municipality Energy Strategy will encourage local and international companies to include local resources and the local workforce into their business plans in order to support municipal development
Actions
<p>A) Integrate the Municipality into the Energy Strategy of Kosovo</p> <p>A1) Install the Municipal Energy Office (MEO) – responsible for energy development planning, supervision of technical and service control, etc.</p> <p>A2) Develop the Energy Strategy of the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš (ESMD), Municipal Energy Action Plan (MEAP) and Municipal Energy Efficiency Plan (MEEP)</p> <p>A3) Engage the residents of Dragash/Dragaš Municipality through Municipality Working Groups and Village Working Groups</p> <p>A4) Implement the Energy Strategy in close cooperation with the private sector</p> <p>A5) Cooperation between MEO with International Donor Agencies in all energy related interventions</p> <p>B) Support Electricity Generation below 20 MW (hydropower and wind) in Cooperation with Energy Regulatory Office</p> <p>B1) Offer power plants with a nominal generation capacity below 20 MW to private companies or consortia for investment, installation and operation</p> <p>B2) Provide incentives for private investments in promising Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) - Small Hydropower Plants (SHPP), Wind Energy Converters (WEC) as well as use of biomass (e.g. Gasification) - which follow respective directives of the European Union/European Commission and avoid negative impacts on the environment, including causing harm to river habitats and biodiversity.</p> <p>B3) Commit private investors and companies/consortia to observation of international quality and environmental standards during construction and operation of such power plants in close cooperation with the Energy Regulatory Office (ERO).</p> <p>C) Demand/Supply Analysis of Additional Generation Capacity for Dragash/Dragaš Municipality</p> <p>C1) Update existing data to assess future demand and supply of electricity</p> <p>C2) Assess further electricity generation capacity within the borders of the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš based on studies for the potentials of hydropower, solar radiation, wind power, biomass resources and geothermal potential</p> <p>C3) Special studies on wind potential and solar radiation including possible site assessment for RET based power plants within the boundaries of Dragash/Dragaš shall be conducted in cooperation with MED and funded for example by donor agencies, and form the database for proposals of additional installations for power generation in the Municipality.</p>

D) Municipal Plan for Solar Thermal Applications

D1) Conduct a potential analysis for Solar Thermal Systems (STS) for the public and private sector (hospitals, pharmacies, schools, mosques, police stations; Small and Medium Enterprises and private households)

D2) Initiate awareness seminars for potential private and commercial users about cost-benefit of STS, their operation and maintenance

D3) Initiate capacity development and training for local entrepreneurs such as plumbers, installators of central heating systems

D4) Explore the possibilities of financing schemes for private investment in STS including options for soft loans in cooperation with the MED

E) Municipal Energy Efficiency Plan and Strategy for Demand Side Management

E1) Introduce Energy Efficiency (EE) appliances in the public sector, commercial sector and households

E2) Demand side management with respect to avoiding electricity peak loads by scheduling use of electricity such that peak loads are minimised

E3) Improve thermal energy efficiency by insulation of walls, roofs, and introduction of window glazing with minimised heat losses

E4) Improve the Energy Efficiency in the street lights of the municipality and install additional lighting with EE technologies only in all villages.

E5) Incentives and awareness raising of the user groups including public sector decision makers, local commercial users (shop owners, restaurants, cafes, etc), local staff of SMEs (electricians, plumbers, pipe layers and connectors, etc.) as well as citizens including students of public schools

E6) Initiate capacity building and vocational training for local users including public sector decision makers, local commercial users, local staff of SMEs as well as citizens, including students of public schools

Further Planning

- Develop the Energy Strategy of the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš (ESMD), Municipal Energy Action Plan (MEAP) and Municipal Energy Efficiency Plan (MEEP)
- Conduct an assessment of future demand and supply of electricity as well as further electricity generation capacity within the borders of the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš, which will be based upon studies for the potentials of hydropower, solar radiation, wind energy, biomass resources and geothermal potential. This is to be conducted by international, governmental and local experienced and acknowledged institutions.
- Analysis for Solar Thermal Systems (STS) for the public and private sector

Responsibility

- Activities under the ESMD will be regulated by the Energy Regulator Office (ERO) or the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Agency [KEEA] respectively under the political framework set by the Government of Kosovo / Ministry of Economic Development (MED) - Energy Department of the Republic of Kosovo.
- Such ESMD forms part of the municipality development documents as per Law on Energy of the Republic of Kosovo (No 03/L – 184), Chapter II “Energy Strategy, Implementation Programs and Energy Balance”, Article 6 “Role of Local Government”, 2010
- The Municipality has a decisive role in energy related issues because it has to decide on “...right of access to lands for the placement of energy equipment and energy facilities” (Law on Energy, Chapter II, Article 6, paragraph 2) as well as by implementing an EE Action Plan (Law on Energy Efficiency of the Republic of Kosovo, Article 9, No 04/L – 016, 2011)
- A Municipal Energy Office (MEO) should be established to:
 - take responsibility within the Municipality Administration for implementation of the ESMD in cooperation with all national authorities in the Kosovo energy sector, and report to the Mayor of the Municipality.
 - be the addressee and counterpart of MED, ERO and KEEA for energy related issues falling under the national energy strategy and the national energy legislation. It will also be the focal point for the Municipal Assembly and Municipal Working Group and the municipal village working groups for initiating and reporting about energy related development of the Municipality and proposition of the MEAP. International Donor Agencies have to cooperate with the Energy Office of the Municipality in all energy related interventions.

General goals
<p>The drinking water and wastewater sector in the Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš will take EU environmental standards into consideration. Protection of water sources will be assured; the losses in the drinking water distribution systems will be reduced and adequate water and sewerage services will be provided for the citizens of the Municipality at accessible tariffs. 100% connection to piped water supply systems in compliance with the Drinking Water Directive will be achieved within the next 10 years. All houses, even those which are temporarily not inhabited, will be connected to water and waste water systems.</p> <p>The services for water and waste water collection and treatment, whether free or paid, are governed by the same principle: The Beneficiary of the Services has to be satisfied.</p> <p>In relation to this principle, the aims is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the availability of the water in adequate quality and quantity at the tap 2. the collection and the adequate treatment of generated waste water. <p>The strategy to apply when deciding and prioritising water and wastewater projects derives directly from the above: The order of implementation of identified measures has to follow the opposite direction of the flow of the water, starting from the lowest consumer or user and ending with the water source.</p>
Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve a sustainable rehabilitation of existing infrastructure facilities. • Establish sound operation of the systems based on preventive maintenance; • Achieve acceptance of the water and waste water services based on economic principles as the only sustainable solution; • Suggest solutions to improve the economic performance of the existing water and sanitation service provider and establishment of additional units for the zones where these were identified as missing; • Observe and implement environmental protection and conservation principles; • Provide a comprehensive plan for implementing new projects and assuring sustainable, long-term infrastructure for socio-economic development; • Coordinate interfaces of proposed measures and projects currently under implementation or approved for implementation; • Achieve and implement an effective model for promoting the territorial image at national and international level, and for attracting external resources to be used coherently with shared strategic guidelines; • Improve municipal capacities on economic urban/rural infrastructure development planning
Actions
<p>A) Improvement of water and waste water system</p> <p>A1) Enhancement of Water and waste water planning (Masterplan) in detail to rehabilitate existing infrastructure facilities</p> <p>A2) Expansion of existing and operative systems into all villages</p> <p>A3) Undertaking measures for appropriate water treatment according to size of the villages and number of beneficiaries (piped water supply and waste water treatment; sewerage network and biological treatment, etc.)</p> <p>A4) Install permanent service units for preventive maintenance and repairs in every village</p> <p>B) Information and training</p> <p>B1) Implementation of an awareness campaign for convincing the population about the necessity of implementing a professional operation, maintenance and management of their water supply and waste water services: that water is an inherited asset and should not be wasted, unused.</p> <p>B2) Awareness raising programmes about environmental and health risks as a consequence of not treating waste water</p> <p>B3) Initiate projects to achieve acceptance of tariffs</p> <p>B4) Initiate capacity development and training for local entrepreneurs such as plumbers, sanitation pipe layers and pipe fitters</p> <p>C) Improve planning</p> <p>C1) Affiliation of the service units to Hidroregjioni Jugor (HRJ) concomitantly with the endorsement of the Masterplan by the Municipality and MESP.</p> <p>C2) Improve municipal capacities in planning</p> <p>C3) Establish a system for providing a comprehensive plan for implementing new projects</p> <p>C4) Fundraising for refurbishment and rehabilitation as well as upgrading e.g. by donor agencies</p> <p>C5) Implementation of an institutional mechanism to secure financing</p>

Further Planning

- Affiliation of the service units to Hidroregjioni Jugor (HRJ) concomitantly with the endorsement of the Master Plan by Municipality and MESP.
- Enhancement of Water and waste water planning (Masterplan) in detail to rehabilitate existing infrastructure facilities

Responsibility

- Activities under the ESMD will be regulated by the Energy Regulator Office (ERO) or the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Agency [KEEA] respectively under the political framework set by the Government of Kosovo / Ministry of Economic Development (MED) - Energy Department of the Republic of Kosovo.
- Such ESMD forms part of the municipality development documents as per Law on Energy of the Republic of Kosovo (No 03/L – 184), Chapter II “Energy Strategy, Implementation Programs and Energy Balance”, Article 6 “Role of Local Government”, 2010
- The Municipality has a decisive role in energy related issues because it has to decide on “...right of access to lands for the placement of energy equipment and energy facilities” (Law on Energy, Chapter II, Article 6, paragraph 2) as well as by implementing an EE Action Plan (Law on Energy Efficiency of the Republic of Kosovo, Article 9, No 04/L – 016, 2011)
- A Municipal Energy Office (MEO) should be established to:
 - take responsibility within the Municipality Administration for implementation of the ESMD in cooperation with all national authorities in the Kosovo energy sector, and report to the Mayor of the Municipality.
 - be the addressee and counterpart of MED, ERO and KEEA for energy related issues falling under the national energy strategy and the national energy legislation. It will also be the focal point for the Municipal Assembly and Municipal Working Group and the municipal village working groups for initiating and reporting about energy related development of the Municipality and proposition of the MEAP. International Donor Agencies have to cooperate with the Energy Office of the Municipality in all energy related interventions.

General goals
<p>Improve the performance of the waste management system in Dragash insuring that solid waste removal services are rendered efficiently to 100 % of the Population (residential and business) within a period of 3 years, ensuring Municipality fulfils its responsibilities as established by law on waste management:</p>
Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through RWC “Eco Regjioni” or local private company municipality will extend the services of waste collection in the remaining 13 villages in Gora region.1.2 The Municipality will establish a funding mechanism and collection procedure to insure funds are available and proper collections are made. • The Municipality will pursue a course to include recycling, or other efficiency measures, as the economic conditions warrant, as a mechanism to enable reduction of waste reaching the waste dump site and to promote micro businesses based on recyclables. • The Municipality will institute a citizen’s awareness program to ensure maximum understanding of the goals and objectives and mechanisms are shared with local citizens. This implies also that municipality will be able to receive the complaints and concerns of the community in relation to the well-functioning of the waste collection system. • Municipality in cooperation with RWC “Eco Regjioni”, or any other contracted private company with financial support of GoK, will take action to enable landfill and cleaning of the existing illegal dump sites.
Actions
<p>A) Extend Services in 13 villages in Gora Region</p> <p>A1) Funding source for capital expenses will come from the revenues collection for the services provided.</p> <p>A2) The Municipality through RWC “Eco Regjioni” or local private company will acquire and provide the necessary vehicles and containers as described in the Financial Analysis. A schedule for the distribution of containers over 2013 will be proposed by the RWC “Eco Regjioni” and approved by the municipal urban planning and public service department.</p> <p>A3) RWC “Eco Regjioni” will develop and annually review a route structure, to be made part of the plan, and a schedule for collection adjusting as need be for population growth and/or shifts, which needs to be approved by the municipal urban planning and public service department.</p> <p>A4) In addition to the regular scheduling noted in 1.1.3 above, RWC “Eco Regjioni” shall also set forth a schedule for irregular trash collection (for oversized materials, and hazardous waste) and promulgate that to all collection households and businesses. Municipality in cooperation with community needs to determinate the place in the village to be used as disposal area to accommodate such waste.</p> <p>A5) The municipal assembly shall approve the regulation for prohibiting the collection and transfer of solid waste materials by other than liscensed entities and provide a approval system for special removal for items such as construction debris, with licensed contractors.</p> <p>B) Municipal awareness program for increasing collection fees</p> <p>B1) Based on the Waste Law, the Municipality determines fees and manner for collection of funds for municipality services.</p> <p>B2) The Municipal Assembly will establish a mechanism for the collection of fees for Solid Waste Collection so as to assure complete collection, as defined by the overall goal to be implemented not later than June 2013.</p> <p>B3) The Municipality shall modify its tax and fee collection system so as to prevent annual car registration or property tax, unless proof of payment of the Solid Waste Management fee can be provided.</p> <p>C) Create municipal mechanism to enable reduction of waste</p> <p>C1) The Mayor will annually appoint a committee that will investigate the latest recycling progress in the Republic of Kosovo and make a report to the Municipal Assembly on the viability and desirability of engaging in such activity.</p> <p>C2) The recycling review committee will report before the submission of the budget for the upcoming year, what action the municipality should undertake toward upgraded treatment of solid waste, insuring that it is in the best environmental interests as well as fiscally sound for the municipal budget</p> <p>C3) In order to promote efficiency the Mayor shall annually appoint an individual or committee, to investigate the fiscal and operational potential for Inter-Municipal Cooperation in Solid Waste Collection, Treatment or Disposal.</p> <p>D) Organise Awareness raise campaign on Solid waste</p> <p>D1) The Municipality, under the support of the municipal directorates of Public Services, Education and Public Relations Office and in close cooperation with RWC “Eco Regjioni”, shall develop and implement a citizen’s awareness program to maximize the pupils and other citizen’s understanding of the Solid Waste Management improvements to be implemented at least two months in advance of the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>D2) Municipality will monitor and review and report regularly on the effectiveness of the solid waste management program and offer suggestions for improvement.</p> <p>D3) As part of the Citizen’s awareness program the municipality will take and encourage measures to reduce the amount of plastics, PET, packaging in biodegradable waste and packaging materials from municipality waste. Municipality in cooperation with RWC “Eco Regjioni” should intensify the community for composting the kitchen and degradable waste.</p> <p>D) Abolish illegal dump sites</p> <p>D1) Municipality will identify the location of the existing illegal dump sites in the villages where the waste system is to be introduced</p> <p>D2) Municipality shall contract public company or a private company to clean the existing dump site.</p> <p>D3) Municipality will ensure the funds for cleaning of the dump sites from municipality budget, GoK budget or donor support.</p>

Further Planning

Develop a guide for the waste management in Dragash Municipality and get a strong agreement with the civil society and community representatives.

Develop recycling strategies in close cooperation with business development.

Responsibility / Institutional Framework

The Law on Publicly Owned Enterprises (Law No. 03/L-087, of 13.06.2008) provides a legal framework for the ownership of Publicly Owned Enterprises and for their corporate governance in accordance with internationally recognized principles of corporate governance for publicly owned enterprises.

Based on the Article 3, each enterprise identified in Schedule 1 attached to the present law shall be a Central POE.

Schedule 1 includes 6 Regional Water Companies.

On the basis of the Law on Local Self-Government in Kosovo (Law No. 03/L-040 of 20. 02. 2008),

Article 17, position 17.1, municipalities are competent for provision and maintenance of public services and utilities, including water supply, sewers and drains, sewage treatment, waste management etc.

The Law on Local Self-Government is not consistent with the principles of corporate governance as laid out in the Law on POEs, thus harmonization of these laws is necessary.

Advantages of the new Waste Law are that the municipalities obtained power and responsibilities on waste management in their territory.

In the following, from the new Waste Law are extracted the responsibilities of bodies that deal with waste management:

Based on the new Waste Law, (article 13) the competent authorities for waste management are:

MESP and relevant institutions; and Municipalities.

MESP, among other duties, is obliged to issue license for Waste Management, and monitor the waste management.

According to Article 15, Responsibilities and duties of municipalities to implement the provisions of this law are:

1. Responsibilities and duties of municipalities to implement the provisions of this law are:

- establishment of waste management system under the principle of waste management hierarchies for their territory, the development of local plans for waste management under

Article 10 of this Law and the creation of conditions and care for its implementation;

- municipal plan for waste management should be harmonized with national plan;

- municipalities shall be responsible for implementation of municipal plan;

- drafting annual report on waste management. Annual report shall be submitted to the Ministry, till 31 march of the following year;

- regulates the responsibilities and obligations to perform services for waste management, implement them and organize the waste management in their territory;

- maintenance and custody on the public information system and reporting on works performed as prescribed by this law, as well as other legal acts on waste management;

- application of procurement procedures, are followed on selection of licensed persons for collection, gathering, storage and transportation of solid waste, municipal, voluminous wastes, from construction and demolition of buildings and commercial buildings within their territory;

- municipality determines fees and manner for collection of funds for municipality services;

- identification of contaminated sites on their territory and develop projects for their rehabilitation, which includes notes about the location, spatial geometric features, type of pollution and waste quantity, the deadlines for improving the situation and other important data for the implementation of projects.

2. Two or more municipalities, where is their interest, they may make agreements on waste management. 3. Municipality exercises supervision and control measures and waste management activities in its territory, through the municipal inspectors on environment.

4. At the request of the Ministry, provide the required information and recommendations regarding for waste management.

5. The municipality is obliged to provide care and remove wastes that are dumped in public spaces or in waste dumps outside its territory.

6. If the responsible person for waste management in accordance with legal responsibility does not care for thrown wastes by unknown person, the responsibility for those wastes will take the municipality.

7. To implement the provisions of this Law, the municipalities issue the sub acts which regulate the functioning of the municipal competent authority and standards for waste management services.

8. Without prejudice to paragraph 1. to 7. of this Article, the performance of public services and the provision of public infrastructure in the field of municipal waste management within the exclusive competence of municipalities in accordance with the Law on Local Self-Government.

7. IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS

Provisions for implementation present conditions to be met for the application and implementation of the Municipal Development Plan of Dragash/Dragaš. A high degree of social governance should be achieved; future development should follow well-thought-out regulations.

- The MDP is based on the Spatial Plan of Kosovo and ought to be in accordance with its proposals. Decisions and specifications of the Spatial Plan are settled at the national level and should be respected.
- The MDP agrees to establish the “Sharr/Šari Mountains” National Park in Dragash/Dragaš Municipality.
- The MDP is the basis for designing the Urban Development Plans (UDP) and Urban Regulatory Plans (URP). These plans should follow the recommendations of the MDP, especially with respect to the settlement strategy.
- The MDP serves as a guide for all other sectors in the municipality.
- Any proposal or decision regarding the URP that is in conflict with the provisions of the MDP should pass through the public review process (as foreseen by the provisions of the Law on Spatial Planning) and receive Assembly approval. Detailed specifications of implementation provisions are shown in the long version of the MDP.

8. MID-TERM ACTION PLAN 2013-2016 (PHASE I)

No	Priorities	ACTION	TYPE OF ACTION	INSTITUTION, PERSON IN CHARGE	OTHER SUBJECTS INVOLVED	Financing	TIMEFRAME
Education							
1	High	Opening of the professional school	Lobbying and organization	Municipality, Ministry of Education	Private sector, businesses, donors	Ministry of Education, Municipality	2013-2014
2	High	Integration of the pupils and teachers from the parallel system into the Kosovo system	Support to integration	Government, Ministry of Education, Municipality	Communities, Different organizations	Municipality, Ministry	2013
3	High	Establishment of a mechanism for scholarships	Organization, administration	Municipality, Education Directorate	Primary and secondary schools	Municipality, Private sector, Universities	2013-2014
4	High	Organization of interactive activities among cultural, educational and sports communities	Coordination, organization	Municipality, Education Directorate and Directorate for Culture, Youth and Sports	NGOs, primary and secondary schools	Municipality, respective ministries, donations	2014-2016
5	Medium	Improvement of physical infrastructure in the school premises	Preparation of projects	Municipality, Education Directorate	Ministry of Education	Municipality, Ministry, Donations	2013-2016
6	High	Development of women's professional activities	Identification of appropriate courses, implementation	Municipality, Employment office	Ministry of Social Welfare, NGOs	Donations	2013-2016
7	High	Integration of the children with special needs in the adequate education	Coordination, implementation	Education Directorate	Different organizations	Municipality, Donations	2013-2016

Agriculture and Forestry							
1	High	Lobbying/consultation	Lobbying and organization	Municipality/associations/LAG	Ministry of Agriculture/donors	Ministry, Municipality, Donors	2013-2016
2	High	Establishment of an Advisory body for applying for funds	Support to integration	Municipality, associations, LAG	Ministries, donors	Ministry, Municipality, Donors	2013-2016
3	High	Setting up of standards for specific products	Organization, administration	Municipality, Forum of Value Chain	Ministries, Veterinary and Food Agency, Standards Agency	Ministry, Certification Agency, Municipality	2013-2016
4	High	Support for establishment of Value Chain Forum	Coordination, organization	Municipality, Value Chain Forum, LAG	Ministries, local and international organizations	Private businesses, Municipality	2013-2016
5	High	Draft Regulation for avoiding overharvesting	Preparation of projects	Municipality, associations	Ministries, consultation organizations	Ministry, donors	2013-2013

Local Economy							
1	High	Establishment of the Business/Producers Association	Lobbying and organization	Municipality	Businesses, Farmers, Artisans	Municipality, donations	2013-2014
2	High	Integration of the value chains into the Business Association	Lobbying	Municipality	Representatives of the Value chains	Municipality	2014-2015
3	High	Installation of guaranteeing fund	Preparation of a concept or idea, consultation with UNDP	Municipality, Business Association	RDA, the Bank	International donations	2014-2016
4	High	Creation of an economic profile	Drafting, designing, publication, dissemination	Municipality, associations	Business sector, community, etc.	Municipality, private sector	2014

Water and waste water							
1	High	Master Plan and the project for at least 4 villages	Draft of the engineering design	Municipality	HRJ and other donors	Municipal budget, doors	2013-2014
2	Medium	Annually iteration of the awareness campaign	Awareness campaign	Municipality, HRJ, NGO	Education Directorate	Municipal budget, doors	2014-2016
3	High	Respective service units with HRJ together with approval of the Master Plan by the Municipality and MESP	Planning and investments	Public Services Directorate	HRJ, donors	Municipality, Ministry, doors	2014-2016
4	High	Master Plan approval (harmonizing the Master Plan with municipal projects)	Internal discussion between the Municipality and HRJ	Public Services Directorate	HRJ	Municipality, Municipal Assembly	2013-2014
5	High	Continuation of existing operative systems in all villages	Incorporation into the system	Public Services Directorate	HRJ	Municipality, donors	2013-2016

Waste							
1	High	Inclusion of 13 Gorani villages into waste management system	Realization of the awareness campaign	Municipality/ public services directorate	UNDP, NGOs	Municipality, Donors/UNDP	2013
2	High	Regulation approval for the solid waste and fee collection	Administration	Municipality, Municipal Assembly	Local Action Groups	Not available	2013
3	Medium	Approval of a regulation that conditions the vehicle registration with the waste fee payment	Administration	Municipality, Municipal Assembly	NGO sector, Ecoregioni	Not available	2014
4	High	Cleaning of illegal dumpsites	Realization	Municipality	UNDP	Municipality, UNDP, Donors	2013

Health and social welfare							
1	Medium	Transformation of the FMA into a FMC	Internal organization	Health Directorate	Ministry of Health	Budget	2015
2	Medium	Employment of a woman gynaecologist	Internal organization	Health Directorate	Ministry of Health	Ministry of Health and Finance	2014
3	Long term	Patients transportation	From home to the MFMC	Health Directorate	Ministry of Health	Municipality, donors	2017
4	Long term	Employment of the health workers in FMC and FMA	Improvement of the quality in health services	Ministry of Health	Law on Health	Ministry of Health and Finance	2017

Road Infrastructure and transportation							
1	High	Paving and widening of the road PZDragash (via Zhur)	Development of the project	Urbanism Directorate	Ministry of Transport	External	2017-2020
2	Medium	Paving (Dragash-PZZapluxe)	Finishing of the road	Urbanism Directorate	Ministry of Transport	Municipal, external	2015-2016
3	High	Widening – paving (Krushevo-Shishtavec) Albania-Kosovo	Finishing of the road	Urbanism Directorate	Ministry of LGA and Ministry of Transport of Albania	EC CBC	2013-2014
4	High	Paving and widening of the road Restelica to the border with Macedonia	Development of the project	Urbanism Directorate	Ministry of Transport	Municipal, external	2016
5	High	Establishment of a working unit for local roads maintenance	Lobbying	Public Services Directorate	Regional road sector	Municipal	2015
6	High	Paving and widening, Orcusa-Cisti, Brut-Zgatar, Backa- Brod road	Finalization	Public Services Directorate	Municipality	Under construction	2013-2015
7	Medium	Widening, paving and construction of defending walls and embankments (Brod 12km road)	Development of the project, lobbying	Urbanism Directorate	Ministry of Transport	External	2016
8	Medium	Bypass: Brod-Zlipotok-Rstelica	Development of the project	Urbanism Directorate	Ministry of Transport	Municipal, external	2015-2016
9	Medium	Connection: Rabecke livadje - Orgosta-Kukes	Development of the project	Urbanism Directorate	Ministry of Transport	Municipal, external	2017-2020
10	Long term	Connection: Brezne, Buce, Plava, Rapca	Development of the project	Urbanism Directorate	Ministry of Transport	Municipal, external	2016
11	Mid term	Paving the road Radesa-Lestane	Finalization of the project	Urbanism Directorate	Municipality	Municipal	2015-2016

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation							
1	High	Drafting the regulation on protection of environment	Administration	Municipality/municipal legal office/urbanism directorate	Ministry of Environment /NP Directorate, NGO, REC etc.	Municipal budget	2015
2	High	Signing the agreement with the NP Sharri Directorate, KFA, for realization of the NP management	Planning	Municipality/ municipal legal office/urbanism directorate/ Municipal Assembly	Ministry of Environment /NP Directorate, KFA	Municipal budget	2013
3	High	Public information on the status of the protected zones	Awareness campaign	Municipality/ Urbanism Directorate	NP Directorate, Ministry of Environment /NGO	Municipal budget/donors	2013-2016
4	High	Coordination of respective subjects for the prevention and protection from fire	Administration	Municipality/ public services directorate	Police, KFA, community/ Ministry of Interior/ Emergency Agency	Municipality	2013-2020
5	Medium	Establishment of the partnership with bordering municipalities	Planning	Municipality/ economy	Bordering municipalities, respective ministries from both countries	Municipality/ Ministry/ donors	2013-2015
6	Medium	Promotion of ECO tourism for income generation	Awareness campaign	Municipality/ agric ulture directorate/ tourism sector	NP Directory, Ministry of Agriculture/ Ministry of Economy	Municipality/ donors	2014-2016
7	Medium	Drafting a plan for ecological tourism	Planning	Municipality/ agric ulture directorate/ tourism sector	NP Directory, Ministry of Agriculture/ Ministry of Economy	Municipality/ donors	2014-2015
8	Medium	Drafting a regulation for the use of the non-wood products	Administration	Municipality/ agric ulture directorate/ tourism sector	Private sector/NGO	Municipality/ donors	2014-2015

Settlements							
1	High	Drafting of urban and regulating plans	Planning	Dragash Municipality/ Urbanism Directorate	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	Municipality/ donors	2014-2016
2	High	Drafting the plans for natural hazard risk reduction	Planning	Dragash Municipality/ Urbanism Directorate/ public services	Ministry	Municipality/ donors	2014
3	High	Drafting the regulation plan for the industrial zone and economic zones	Planning	Dragash Municipality/ Urbanism Directorate/ public services / Economy Directorate	Ministry/ private sector	Municipality/ donors/private sector	2014-2016
4	High	Drafting the projects for protection of monuments of the cultural heritage	Planning	Dragash Municipality/ Urbanism Directorate/ Culture Directorate	Ministry of Culture	Municipality/ donors/ Ministry	2014-2017
5	High	Drafting of documentation for construction permit procedures and for construction conditions	Planning	Dragash Municipality/ Urbanism Directorate/ Inspection	Ministry of Environment	Municipality/ Ministry	2014

Culture and Tourism							
1	High	Incitement of tourism general development (winter, summer, cultural, health)	Development of the action plan for the tourism development in the municipality	Municipality/ Culture, Youth and Sport Directorate	Ministry of trade and industry – Dept. for tourism	Existing municipal budget	2014-2020
2	High	To be employed one officer for tourism	To find an expert from the field of tourism, information office	Municipality	Individual expert	Municipality/ international donors, UNDP	2014
3	Medium	Development of the technical infrastructure	Opening of new roads to the touristic sites, electricity, water, ski centers.	Municipality	Private sector, Government of Kosovo	Municipality, Government, private sector	2013-2020
4	Medium	To support the establishment and the functioning of the National Park “Sharri”	To introduce the inhabitants with advantages of NP and benefits for the inhabitants and the municipality	Municipality Urbanism and Spatial Planning Directorate	Management of NP, Ministry of Spatial Planning, NGO sector	Municipality/ Ministry	2013-2016
5	Medium	Inventory of the material and cultural heritage	Development of the database and different catalogues	Culture, Youth and Sport Directorate	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and local historians	Municipality/ donor	2014-2016
6	Medium	Education of inhabitants about benefits from the tourism and cultural heritage	Meetings in the villages which have a basis for tourism development	Tourism officer	NGO sector, schools, Government of Kosovo	Municipality/ donor	2013-2016
7	High	Listing the games of wrestling, Sharri dogs exhibition, horse race in traditional activities and manifestation	To organize promotion on central and regional level	Municipality/ Culture, Youth and Sport Directorate	Government of Kosovo, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport	Municipal budget	2013-2020
8	Medium	Promotion of non-material cultural heritage	Folklore, stories, songs, wedding traditions	Municipality/ Culture, Youth and Sport Directorate	NGO, Women’s Association	Municipal	2013-2020
9	Low	Ethnological museum	To find an old building that would be used as a museum or to construct a special building and furnish it with old requisitions from our area	Municipality/ Culture, Youth and Sport Directorate	Donors, NVO	Municipal/ donor	2015

Municipal Team for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation (MTIME)

In order to implement the MDP in accordance with the priorities established and support the implementation process of the Municipal Development Plan as well as monitoring and evaluation of the Plan, Municipal Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Team should be established (hereinafter : the Team) as the coordinating body for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation which functions within the municipal government and reports to the Board, the Mayor and Municipal Assembly. The composition of the Team (MTIME) shall consist of the chairman, deputy chairman and three or five members from the rank of key municipal departments. The Team should be leaded and chaired by the chairman, and in his absence, by the Deputy Chairman. The Team composition should reflect gender equality and equal opportunities for all communities. Team composition can be expanded as needed with other professional experts, but the number of regular members must remain as provided in this guide (5 or 7). TOR, administrative –technical job descriptions of the MTIME will specify its mandate.

Final provisions(MTIME)

Entry into force: This plan enters into force after approval by the Municipal Assembly and after 8 days of publication in the Official Gazette of Kosovo
Validity: This plan will be valid until the year 2023. The plan must be reviewed / revised every 5 years.

Assessment and plan amendments; Assessment and amendment of the plan: The professional review of the MDP implies amendments or additions that must be made in the defined manner and procedure for their initial approval (Law on Spatial Planning, 2003/14, Article 20). Any proposed change, amendment or repeal (abolition) of the plan has to pass through the public review process which takes at least 15 days and not more than 30 days (Administrative Instruction for implementation of Law on Spatial Planning on the public review procedure for spatial and urban plans 54/2005, Article 5.4).

10. LIST OF MAPS

The long version of the MDP contains several thematic maps:

11 Baseline-Maps contain all required basic information. 20 Assessment-Maps illustrate zones of development deficits and potentials, including problem zones (pollution, degradation), resource potential zones or zones with highly sensitive resources. 49 Guidelines-Maps – including detailed maps for every settlement – indicate the most appropriate development objectives. Of all these maps the summary version of the MDP contains:

B1.1 Overview of the municipality of Dragash / Dragaš

B8 Biosphere resources – vegetation

B9 Biosphere resources – fauna

A6 Assessment of solid waste

A3.1 Assessment of water resources – resources and their quality

A10.1 Assessment of economy, infrastructure, and energy – roads and transportation

A10.2 Assessment of economy, infrastructure, and energy – energy

A10.3 Assessment of economy, infrastructure, and energy – businesses

G1-1 Nature conservation

G1-2 Zoning of the suggested National Park

G2-1 Forest

G2-2 Agriculture

G3 Water and sanitation

G4 Settlement development

G5 Roads and traffic

G6 Education

G7 Health

G8 Tourism

IG2 Functional structure

