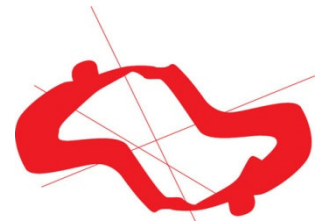


Workshop “Kotor City Squares”

Kotor, 29 August – 4 September 2011



Revival of City Squares in Balkan Cities



The workshop “Kotor City Squares” is being organized within the project “Revival of City Squares in Balkan Cities”.

The project “Revival of City Squares in Balkan Cities” aims to contribute to the revival of city squares as viable public places that foster cultural identity and promote diversity through enforcement of public policies and active community participation. It is conducted in partnership of the organizations Co-PLAN and U-Polis from Albania, the Coalition for Sustainable Development from Macedonia and EXPEDITIO, Montenegro. The project is funded by the **Swiss Cultural Programme in the Western Balkans (SCP)** under the Regional Cooperation Projects programme line.

Foundation Open Society Macedonia (FOSM) through the **East East: Partnership beyond Borders Program** is co-supporting the implementation of the project “Revival of City Squares in Balkan Cities” in 2011, and the workshop in Kotor.

Project partners:



The project is funded by the:



Workshop “Kotor City Squares”

Kotor, 29 August – 4 September 2011

Place: Kotor, Old City

Period: 29 August – 4 September 2011

Organizer: EXPEDITIO, within the project “Revival of City Squares in Balkan Cities”

Workshop moderator: Dr Ružica Božović Stamenović

Participants: 30 participants, students and young professionals, from Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro

Coordinators:

- EXPEDITIO: Tatjana Rajić, Biljana Gligorić, Aleksandra Kapetanović + collaborators Martina Đeković and Sandra Lalić
- Co-PLAN and U-Polis: Stefano Romano, Ledian Bregasi and Albana Koçollari
- Coalition for Sustainable Development: Sonja Damčevska

Partners:

- Kotor Art

Description of the workshop:

The workshop “Kotor City Squares” is one of the three regional workshops organized within the project “Revival of City Squares in Balkan Cities”.

The aim of the workshops is to stimulate regional exchange of ideas regarding the discourse on city squares and their potentials to be transformed into vibrant community places that meet community cultural, social and economic needs. The workshops participants are students and young professionals including architects, spatial planners, artists, etc. Young people are our future. Yet, practice shows that many of them feel that they have little or no influence in decisions about their cities. Young people, especially future professionals, must be fully involved in place making and policy-making if they are going to value, respect and take ownership of the spaces and places around them. The objective of the regional workshops is to stimulate young people to voice their ideas, aspirations and solutions for open public spaces and city squares and to inspire them to take an active role in future development of urban and cultural policies, both locally and on a wider regional level.

In Montenegro, the city of **Kotor** has been selected as a pilot city. Kotor has an urban matrix preserved from the Middle Ages. Although this matrix was defined as early as in the 13th-14th century, it contains the layers of all the following epochs interwoven into it. The urban core of Kotor is an intricate network of narrow streets and squares of irregular shapes. It is precisely this complexity and irregularity of the urban matrix that represents one of the main characteristics of Kotor.

About 15 identified squares in Kotor are named after the main buildings standing on them, after the functions they used to have or the products that used to be sold on them. One of the squares, adjoining the main city gate, is regarded as the main city square. However, in a city like Kotor, all squares participate equally in forming the structure, character and life of the city. That is why all the squares of the old city, i.e. their network have been treated through the project.

The existing plan defining the management and usage of squares has not been updated and the procedures for their use, which would contribute to the quality of life and offer of the city, have not been clearly defined. The squares are facing the same problems when it comes to their usage and they are threatened by commercial facilities.

Because of that, we hope that the focus on a network of squares and dealing with squares related issues during the project will offer some concrete inputs/guidelines for their planning, usage and management. These will form basis for the guidelines (to be formulated at the end of the project) intended for local authorities, planners and possible users of Kotor city squares.

After acquainting the participants with the location and the survey results, and based on their personal impressions, key topics to be dealt with during the workshop will be defined. Some of the possible topics may be: arts in public spaces, inclusive – multi-generation spaces, interactive spaces, identification, stigma, appropriation, readability, orientation in space, mental mapping, sensory incentives in public spaces, etc.

The workshop results will be presented at the **final presentation** to which representatives of the local community and the local institutions and organizations will be invited.

Expected results of the workshop:

- Inputs/guidelines for the planning, usage and management of city squares in Kotor. These will form basis for the guidelines (to be formulated at the end of the project) intended for local authorities, planners and possible users of Kotor city squares
- Concrete proposals for the activation and usage of Kotor squares
- Possible concrete interventions in the city squares