



# The Urban Transformation Project Sarajevo

The Urban Transformation Project Sarajevo will contribute to modernizing the system of integral urban planning in the Canton of Sarajevo and creating better conditions for a sustainable and climate-resilient socio-economic development. It will support the drafting and further elaboration of the cantonal General Urban Plan through a participative process that will include the Canton, the City, municipalities, the University of Sarajevo, urban professionals as well as the citizens. A multi-faceted four-year intervention will promote good urban planning practices as well as the coordination among all stakeholders of urban planning in Sarajevo. The capacities of the stakeholders will be further strengthened, benefiting also from the cooperation with the City of Zurich and the transfer of the state-of-the-art knowledge on urban planning.

## Objectives and Activities of the Project

With the support of the project, Sarajevo will improve its urban planning and management capacities and practices based on reliable data, good quality analysis and multi-stakeholder engagement. The project is structured along three main pillars:

1. Institutionalization: The project will enable the authorities to make informed choices on urban planning and development by strengthening their institutional capacity.
2. Urban planning practices: The urban planning approaches will be improved with the provision of Swiss expertise and state-of-the-art know-how joining BiH expertise.
3. Urban Transformation: The urban planning and designing will be made visible and participatory planning approaches will be applied with the urban transformation of selected areas.

The project consists of the following five main deliverables:

- Bringing together the main stakeholders of urban planning (at political and expert level) and build necessary capacities.
- Implement, test and further elaborate the General Urban Plan including a visualization of the urban planning
- The GUP Digital Tool Sarajevo, which is based on the ENERPOL software, will be used for evidence-based scenario simulations.
- Peer Learning and knowledge exchange with the City of Zurich
- Implementation of small-scale interventions for local population and design of urban prototypes

---

### Country/region

Bosnia-  
Herzegovina,  
Sarajevo

---

### Donor

Swiss State  
Secretary of  
Economic Affairs  
(SECO) represented  
in Sarajevo by the  
Swiss Embassy

---

### Duration

2020-2024

---

### Main Implementing Partners:

- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ) in cooperation with University of Sarajevo (UNSA)
- Consultancy Team (international and local; to be hired with an open tender)
- City of Zurich

# Urban Transformation Project Sarajevo – Objectives System

## Modernized urban planning

Impact

Transparent and inclusive urban planning approaches are established in Sarajevo contributing to economic growth enabled by a climate resilient and sustainable urban plan.

### Institutionalization

### Urban planning practices

### Urban transformation

Outcomes

A well-capacitated and participatory integral urban planning system ensures conditions for sustainable, inclusive and transparent urban planning in Sarajevo.

Knowledge for innovative urban planning approaches is built, practices based on state-of-the-art know-how are established and urban planning is visualized enabling prosperous socio-economic development in Sarajevo.

Urban transformation of selected areas serve as a model for a new urban planning approach and accelerator of participatory practices of urban planning in Sarajevo.

Lead

Consultant

ETHZ

ETHZ

Consultant

Outputs

Legislation and guidelines developed.

General Urban plan elaborated, tested, monitored and improved with feedback.

Urban prototype designed.

Integrated urban planning system is functional.

Urban planning visualized

Small-scale interventions implemented.

Capacities of government actors improved.

Knowledge is built and Best Practices are shared to inform policy makers and urban experts

Participatory urban planning mechanisms established.

Academic Training improved

Activities

#### Consultant:

- Policy dialogue
- Dev. / improvement of legislation & guidelines
- Urban Network established
- Development of integral urban planning system
- Trainings and workshops
- On the job training and coaching
- (Support on certification of Curricula)

- (Support to ETHZ for public consultations and involvement of General Urban Plan)

- Small-scale interventions selected with local population
- Design and implementation of small-scale interventions
- (Support for fundraising for prototypes)

#### ETHZ:

- Academic courses
- Curriculum established
- Exhibitions and academic exchange

- General Urban Plan established in cooperation between ETHZ and Canton
- CityLab for technical exchange established
- Academic Research, exchange of good practices

- Identification of urban prototypes
- Design for urban prototypes prepared
- (support for small scale interventions)

#### City of Zurich:

- Knowledge exchange
- On the job training

- Experience shared on General Urban Plan and Visualization
- On the job training

- (support for small scale interventions)

# Main Project Partners

## **SECO**

The Economic Cooperation and Development division is part of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). It contributes to achieving the strategic objectives of Switzerland's foreign economic policy. SECO has been active in urban areas for a long time, traditionally by working in cities on infrastructure financing for economic infrastructure services. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, SECO is represented by the Swiss Embassy. The main sectors of the SECO's engagement in BiH have been economic support and infrastructure for water supply and sanitation services. This focus will be maintained in the future with addition of the sector of urban planning and development and a shift towards ensuring good legal, regulatory and institutional framework conditions for the sustainability of municipal infrastructure and provision of services. The support is being provided through technical support, capacity building and infrastructure investments, financed through grants in cooperation with international development partners, such as KfW, GIZ, IFC and the World Bank.

## **ETHZ**

ETH Zurich is one of the world's leading universities in science and technology. It was established in 1855 as the Swiss Federal Polytechnic School. The university counts 21 Nobel laureates, 2 Fields Medallists, 2 Pritzker Prize winners, and 1 Turing Award winner. Architecture Department is one of the founding departments at the ETHZ. The ETHZ team consist of team members from the following main institutions:

- The Chair of Architecture an Urban Design (headed by Prof. Klumpner), who has the lead over the project from the side of the ETHZ
- The Laboratory for Energy conversion (headed by Prof. Abhari), which developed the ENERPOL software
- Swiss AI AG, an ETHZ spin off company established in April 2020, which owns the proprietary licence for the ENERPOL software

ETHZ has been engaged in Sarajevo since late 2014, through a series of conferences, exhibitions, and applied research initiatives. In 2016, SECO supported ETHZ's invitation to the Venice Biennale of Architecture with the first ever country pavilion of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Within the framework of SECO's economic development cooperation, from November 2018 until July 2019 ETHZ undertook a Scoping Study in close collaboration with IPDCS and UNSA for the preparation of the Urban Transformation Project. During the Scoping Study a series of teaching, research and conference activities and events were organised between Sarajevo and Zurich.

## **City of Zurich**

A cooperation agreement between the City of Sarajevo and the Office for Urban Development at the City of Zurich was signed in form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the end of 2017. The MoU was unanimously accepted by the Sarajevo City Council. The agreement foresees future collaboration centered on knowledge transfer and capacity building (in particular, the sharing of best practices derived from successful projects in Zürich).

## **Consultancy Team**

A consultancy team consisting of both local and international experts will be procured by SECO. This team will have expertise for the institutionalization pillar and will complement the work done by the City of Zurich and ETHZ. The consultancy team will be in charge of the overall coordination of the project.