



Mini Economic Forum 2017

The Mini Economic Forum 2017 took place on the 7th of June 2017, again in the Kongresshaus in Zurich. This 7th forum of its kind aimed at discussing the topic of *Urban Development as catalyst for economic, social and environmental transformations*. Three large institutions were invited, namely the city of Sarajevo, the city of Zurich and ETH Zurich. Additionally, a widely-ranging guest list included the SECO, several university members, practitioners and a number of consuls and ambassadors. The aim of this year's Mini Economic Forum was to connect these three large institutions and provide a platform for discussion and thereby establish the possibility of future cooperation.

After a brief introduction by the forum's director, Prof. Dr. Jovicic of the University of Banja Luka talked on the importance of sustainable development. He addressed the question on where the priorities for Bosnia and Hercegovina should lie with regards to sustainable development strategy, thereby taking into account the current urban development status – considering the fields of possibilities and the different levels of threats.

Prof. Klumpner from ETH Zurich focussed his presentation on post crisis / war environments and their influence on the urban development of cities, focusing on executed projects by his institute. He stressed the importance of aligning and engaging citizens and city authorities in the long-term, meanwhile delivering day-to-day results. Sarajevo, a city in a country with a post war environment, has the ability to enter straight into technologic and innovative platforms without going through every step of urban development. It is now important to understand what keywords like smart city, sustainable city and innovative city mean for Sarajevo and how they can be potentially implemented. A comparison to Medellin reveals that bottom-up development plans could as well be applied to Sarajevo, where its citizens could be involved in urban development planning. Haris Piplas completed ETH's presentation by elaborating on research already conducted in Sarajevo as part of the *Reactivate Sarajevo Project* since 2012, a project in the ETH research platform *Smart and Creative Cities for knowledge-based societies in Central-Eastern Europe* in partnership with city of Sarajevo. These include the analysis of the city's topography, it's different architectural typologies, green areas as well as the identified potentials for urban reactivation.

Mister Golos, consultant for the mayor's office of the city of Sarajevo, talked on the challenges in Bosnia and Hercegovina, where the strongest economic sectors are urban development, real estate and energy. Understanding that, the main challenge from a regulatory point of view centers around the question on how to allow and enable these sectors to develop. While developers want to build as much as possible, regulations are not responding fast enough to developers' needs. Administrations have to support investments, meanwhile representing the city interests.

Contrary to Sarajevo, a city in need of urban development, Anne Schindler, Head of Urban Development of the city of Zurich, presented the challenges of an already developed city facing further growth. Zurich faces an expected additional 100,000 people by 2025, thereby raising challenges mainly related to housing. The city's urban development strategy currently aims at drafting a smart city plan for Zurich, involving six areas where the city can be smart: government, health, buildings, mobility, education, energy and environment.

How does the Mayor and the City authorities prioritize and leverage different interests and is there a plan? This was the question posed by Prof. Klumpner, around which the whole round-table discussion emerged. Sarajevo Mayor Skaka explained the challenges imposed by the current administrative situation with three levels of governance – city, cantonal and state. While the city of Sarajevo has the opportunity to head in several directions, the different administrative hierarchies are slowing down the process. Sectors of tourism and infrastructure are to be prioritized, while the influence of the academic community on policies has to be increased. By balancing capital and educated people who manage capital meaningfully, the academic community should no longer only exist very much independently from the political landscape, but rather help steer the city of Sarajevo in the right development direction.

The Mini Economic Forum 2017 was closed by singing the *Declaration of Zurich*, which represents a commitment from the City of Sarajevo, City of Zurich, ETH and Matica BiH to establish and formalize future project-based cooperation. The *Declaration of Zurich* was accepted unanimously by the city of Sarajevo City Council on 27th September 2017.

ETH Zurich: Prof. Hubert Klumpner, Prof. Alfredo Brillembourg, Haris Piplas

Sarajevo City Delegation: Abdulah Skaka (City Mayor), Sead Golos

City of Zürich: Anna Schindler (Head of Urban Development), Christina Wandler (City Development of Zurich)

Matica BiH: Hamdija Kocic (President), Aida Kalamujic (Vice-President), Berina Hadzidedic, Haris Skenderovic (Director ad interim, MEF), Arslanagic Nadina (MEF Team)

SECO: Sibylle Hägler (Program Manager Infrastructure Financing Department)

University of Banja Luka: Dr. Jugoslav Jovicic

Azra Popocic (Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bern), Dr. Rustem Simitovic (Honorary Consulate of Bosnia and Herzegovina Zurich), Dr. Lesley Simitovic Trumper, Nurcan Ipekci Asiye (Consul, Republic of Turkey), Francesco Genova, Zoran Jeremic (Consul, Republic of Serbia) and others.