


Challenges of Urban Development for Roma Integration in Serbia

Best Practices for Roma Integration, ZAGREB 12.9.2012.
SVETLANA RISTIĆ, Ministry of Construction and Urban
Development of the Republic of Serbia

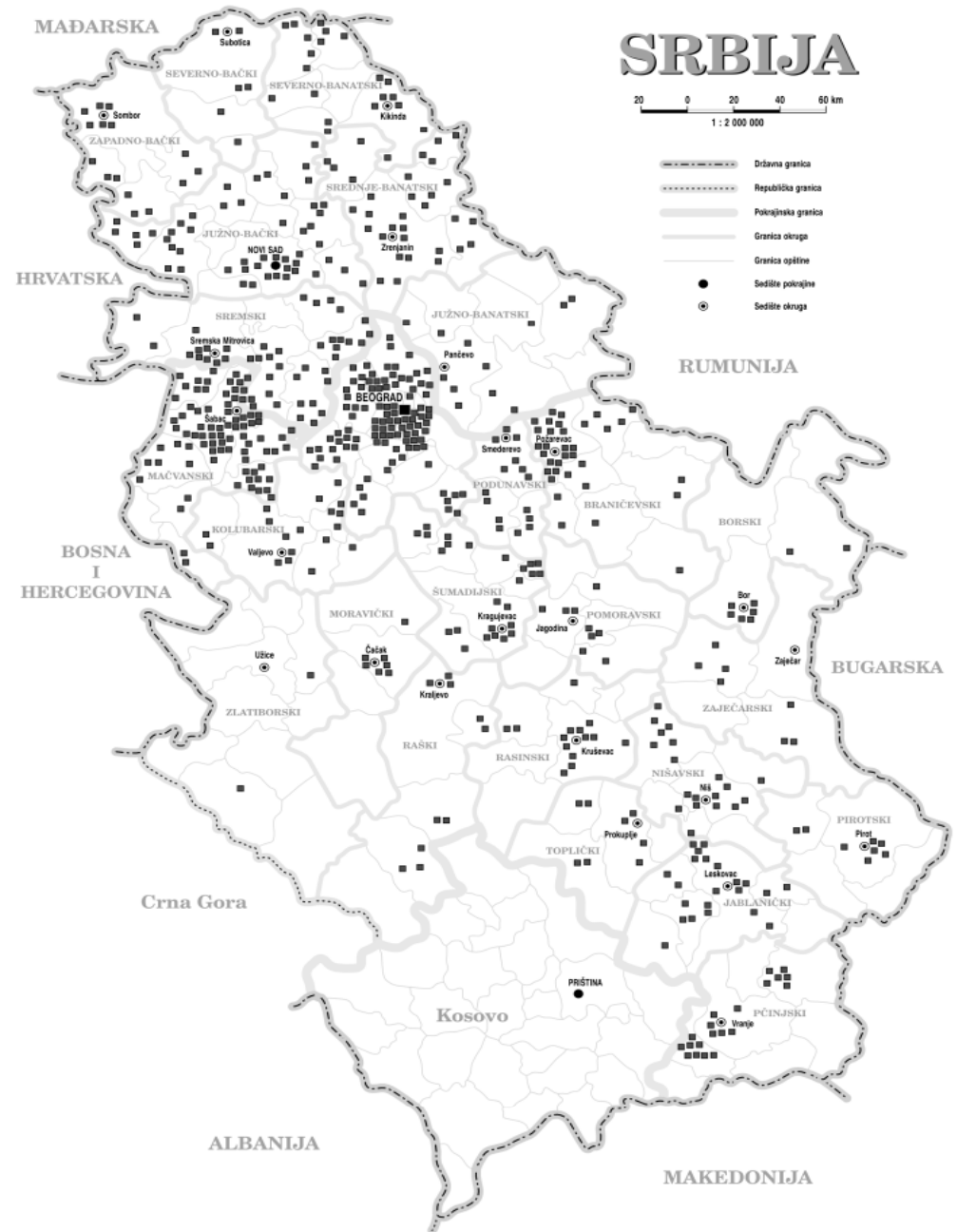


Statistics on Roma Settlements in Serbia

Roma Settlements in Serbia

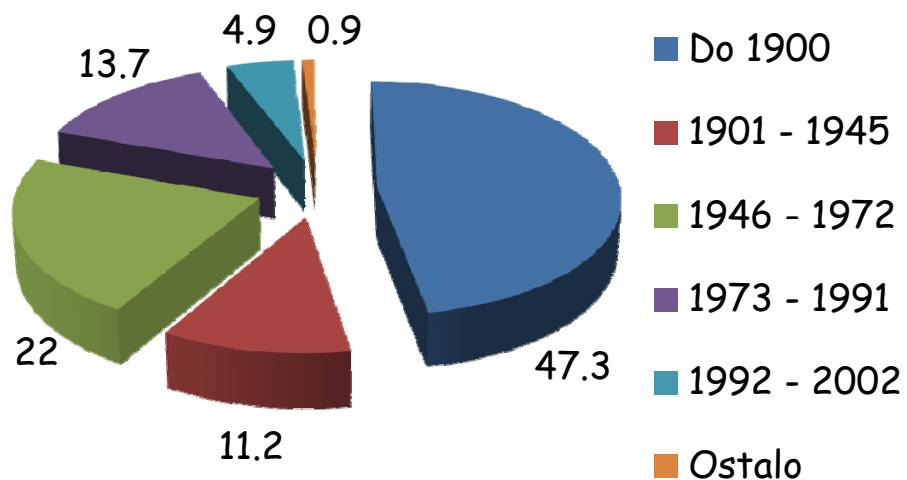
- ❖ Targeted research: Roma settlements, living conditions and possibilities for Integration of Roma in Serbia, 2002, B. Jakšić G. Bašić
- ❖ **593 settlements (>15 houses):**
- ❖ with **247,591** inhabitants (including **46,238** or around **19%** IDPs Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians from Kosovo and Metohija; long-term displacement, poverty, homelessness)
- ❖ including **84.7%** substandard settlements (43.5% "unhygienic" and 41.2% partially equipped)
- ❖ with **62.2%** substandard houses (19.5% completely unfit for living 42.7% uncomfortable)

Geographic distribution of Roma settlements in Serbia

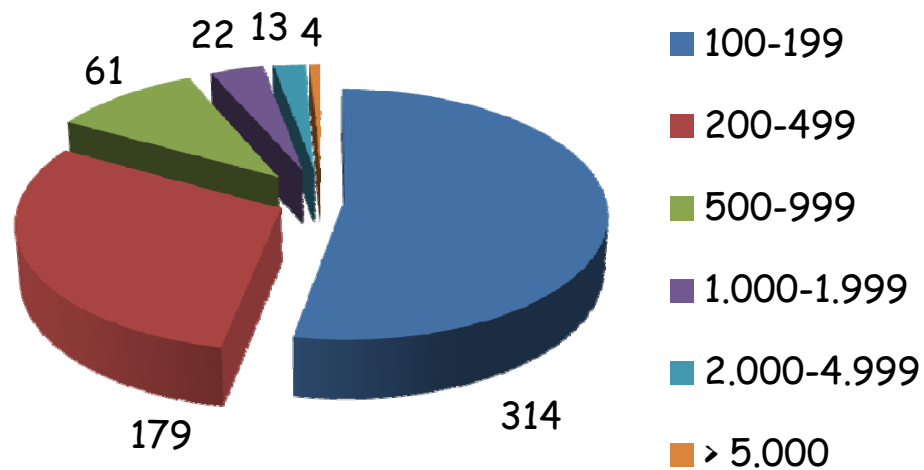


Time of establishment and size

NASELJA PREMA VREMENU NASTANKA

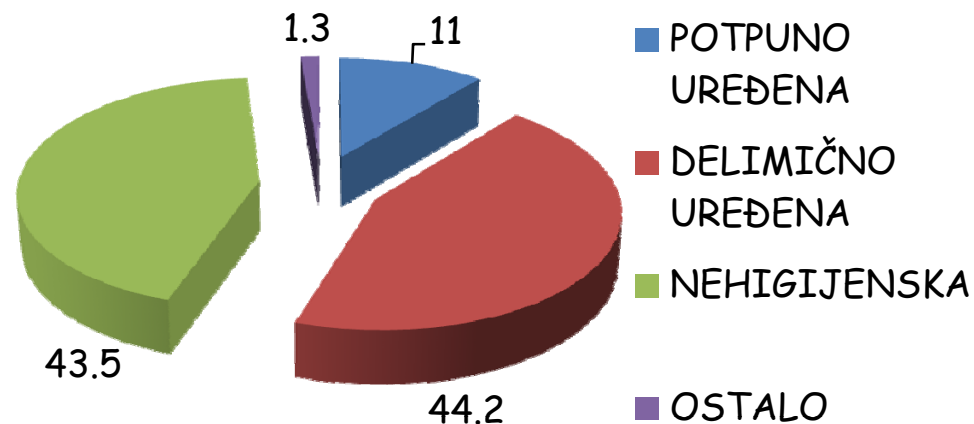


NASELJA PREMA VELIČINI

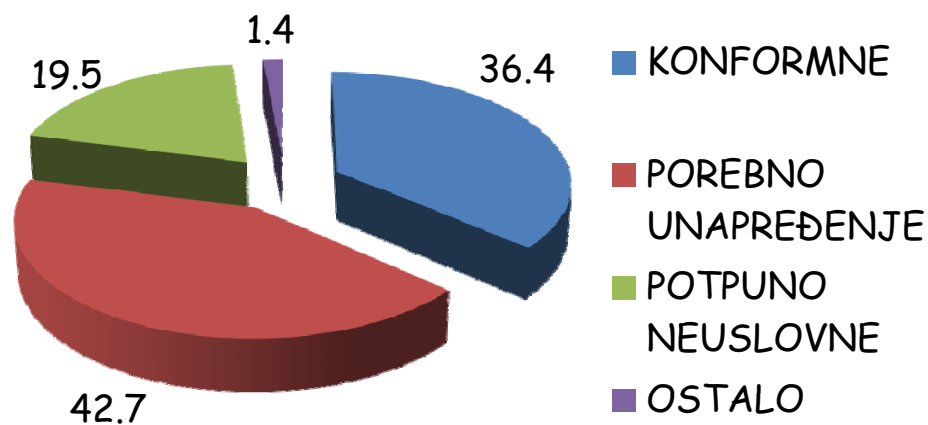


Urban infrastructure and quality of housing

NASELJA PREMA URBANOJ UREĐENOSTI



KUĆE PREMA USLOVIMA STANOVANJA

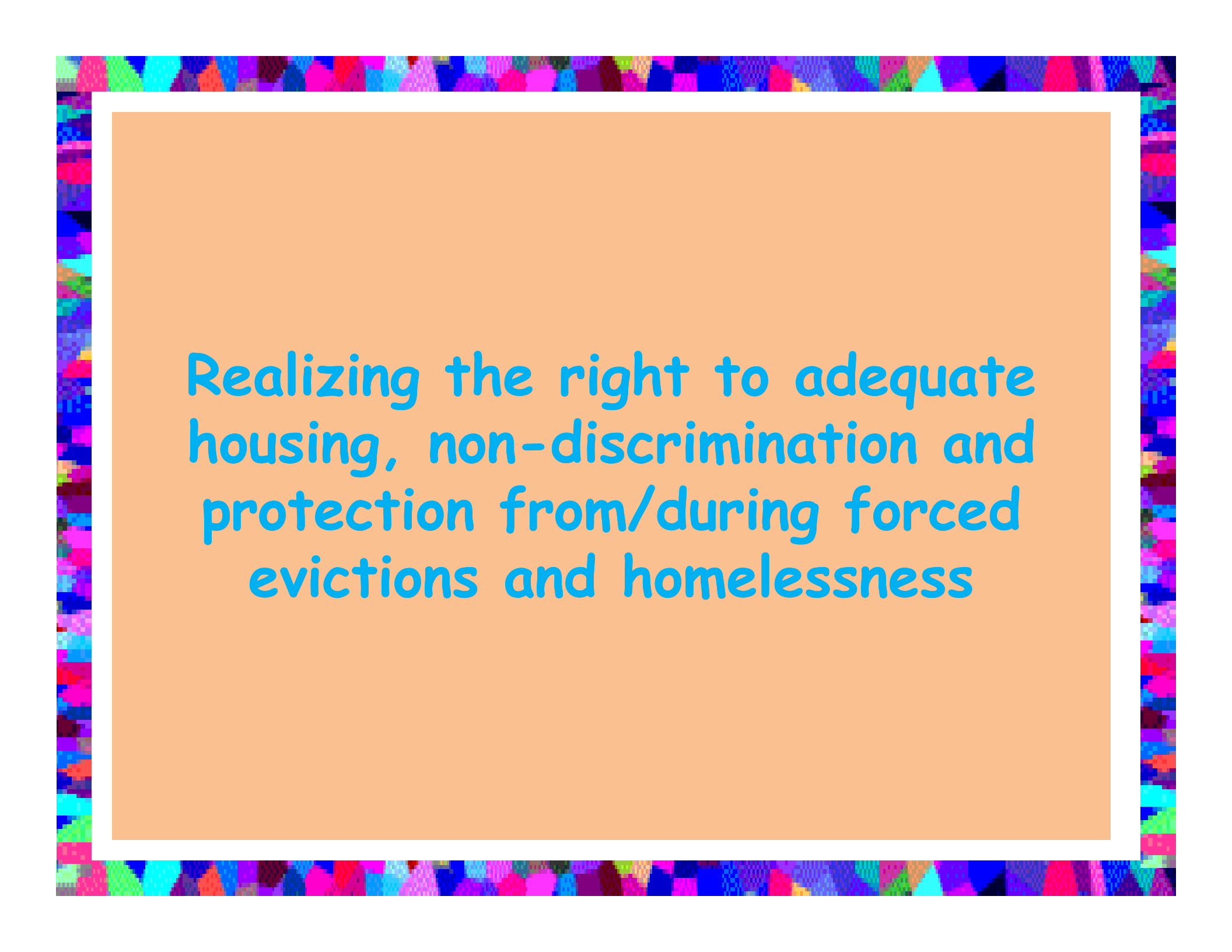


The slide features a vibrant, multi-colored border composed of small, irregular shapes in shades of red, blue, green, and purple. In the center, there is a large, solid orange rectangle. Inside this rectangle, the text "Starting point: right to a home as a human right" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, arranged in two lines.

Starting point: right to a
home as a human right

Right to housing


- ❖ Constitution of Serbia does not address the right to housing or State obligations in that regard
- ❖ The starting point is found in international conventions on human rights and interpretations of the Committee for economic, social and cultural rights
- ❖ Universal Human Rights Declaration, Art. 25
- ❖ International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Art. 11
- ❖ General Comments 3, on the nature of State commitments in the realization of housing rights
- ❖ General Comments 4, on the right to adequate housing
- ❖ General Comments 7, on the protection from forced evictions

The slide features a vibrant, multi-colored border composed of small, irregular shapes in shades of red, blue, green, and purple. In the center, there is a large, solid orange rectangle. Inside this rectangle, the text is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The text is centered and reads: "Realizing the right to adequate housing, non-discrimination and protection from/during forced evictions and homelessness".

Realizing the right to adequate housing, non-discrimination and protection from/during forced evictions and homelessness

Adequate housing

- ❖ Legal security of tenure
- ❖ Availability of service, materials, facilities and infrastructure
- ❖ Affordability
- ❖ Habitability
- ❖ Accessibility
- ❖ Location
- ❖ Cultural adequacy




**Strategic, normative/legal
and financial measures for
improving living conditions of
Roma in Serbia**

Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-15

- 2005. First Action Plan on Housing of Roma
- 2007. Plan of Detailed Regulation for Grdička Kosa II
- 2007. Instructions for legalization and improvement of Roma settlements
- From 2007. funding from the State budget for local self-governments to develop urban plans for regulating Roma settlements;
- 2007/09 contracts signed with 9 local self-governments, for financing plans of detailed regulation for Roma settlements
- 2009. Government adopted the Strategy for Improving the Position of Roma in Serbia, including Action Plans in 12 areas (housing is one of them)

Strategy objectives

1. Development of the National housing policy and improving the Law on housing, urban development etc.
2. Reconstruction and legalization of Roma settlements
3. Sanitation and re-settlement of slums
4. Solving the Roma IDPs' housing needs
5. Solving housing needs by purchasing village houses
6. Forming community self-governments in mahalas
7. Integration of the inhabitants of Roma settlements into society



Results of the Strategy
implementation in the field
of housing - our experience
and next steps

Housing policy and laws

- ❖ Law on Social Housing, Art. 10 - Roma are priorities in allocation of social housing;
- ❖ Law on Planning and Construction, Art. 27, about the type of plans for informal settlements
- ❖ Directive on subletting land using sub-market prices (i.e. for social housing)
- ❖ National strategy for social housing (Improvement of sub-standard housing; increasing affordability of apartments; preventing and decreasing homelessness)
- ❖ Draft Directive on Standards and Norms for Social Housing

Legalization of settlements

- ❖ Financing the development of 10 plans of detailed regulation in 8 local self-governments; the Republic budget secured around 22 million RSD/250,000 euros); 4 plans adopted (Srbobran, Knjaževac, Opovo, Niš); 3 are being revised (Mladenovac, Apatin); 3 are under development (Prokuplje, Sokobanja)
- ❖ With OSCE support in 2010 a Guide for legalization of informal Roma settlements was published
- ❖ Continued funding for development of technical documentation (division of land into plots, infrastructural projects, etc.), in municipalities that adopted action plans

Legalization problems

- ❖ Lack of understanding of the importance of urban definition through plans - above all, among policy makers but also among final beneficiaries
- ❖ Insufficient capacities of smaller local self-governments for development of urban plans
- ❖ Frequent changes in the law, incoherent and unfinished legal framework
- ❖ Unresolved property and legal land issues
- ❖ Complicated procedure for plans of detailed regulation and lack of adequate instruments for land management

Benefits of legalization

- ❖ Municipalities that adopted urban plans, created conditions for attracting additional funds for infrastructure projects
- ❖ The legalization process creates the basic conditions for providing housing support to individual households/families
- ❖ The legalization process also encourages households to work more actively on their housing situation (increases the feeling of ownership over this project)
- ❖ Legalization decreases sources of conflict and the social relationships become more stable
- ❖ Legalization enables the development of long-lasting and sustainable solutions

Legalization (continued)

- ❖ There is growing interest among other municipalities: Bor, Bela Palanka, Beočin, Lajkovac, Kruševac, Kikinda, Kragujevac, Pančevo, Topola, Odžaci, Čačak...
- ❖ Activities are also becoming more diverse: housing action plans but also adaptation, construction etc.
- ❖ Increasing activity of non-profit housing associations which are developing in Serbia over the last decade.
- ❖ SIDA (through OSCE co-ordination) will financially support these activities (approx. 250,000 euros)
- ❖ The Ministry secured funding for technical documentation (approx. 70,000 euros).

Legalization (continued)

- ❖ Other donors are also showing interest
- ❖ Continuation of activities through IPA 2012: developing a spatial database about Roma settlements, continued funding for urban plans and technical documentation as a pre-condition for legalization, training and awareness raising about the importance of legalization.
- ❖ Priority is given to housing projects that include self-help construction
- ❖ Where legalization is not possible, re-settlement and construction / adaptation of apartments will be implemented (in a systematic way and not using the ad hoc approach to re-settlement which currently dominates).

Resettlement of slums

- ❖ Starting in 1996 the need for solving the problem of "unhygienic settlements" was identified
- ❖ Re-settlement of unhygienic settlements under the Gazela bridge and next to Belvil
- ❖ Gazela: solving the problems of 53 families with registered residence outside of Belgrade cost approx. 270,000 euros - with the same resources we could develop 10 plans of detailed regulation for around 300 families
- ❖ Currently preparing for construction of durable housing solutions for resettled families. However, there is a lack of adequate urban plans and free & equipped land for this construction

Resettlement of slums

- ❖ It is necessary to:
 - ❖ Follow and support further integration of resettled population outside of Belgrade
 - ❖ Encourage more active participation of resettled population in the resolution of their housing situation
 - ❖ Strengthening the employment component which is key for sustainable housing solutions (currently the City of Belgrade covers all costs which is not economically sustainable and prevents support to other vulnerable households)

Systemic solutions

- ❖ Activities for implementation of the National Social Housing Strategy:
- ❖ Result 7 - Improved housing conditions for inhabitants of sub-standard settlements, through urban development and adoption of legal acts for defining procedures in case of re-settlement (following gen. instructions 4 & 7)
- ❖ Result 3 - Increasing the financial accessibility of apartments - housing allowance for poor households
- ❖ Result 6 - Preventing, decreasing homelessness
- ❖ Adopting a new Action Plan for Housing of Roma, which is aligned with the National Strategy for Social Housing



Thank you for your
attention