

# 1. Institutional setting

- Unstable political climate
- Change of mayors
- No strategy on a city level for resilience matters
- One third of the total population of the country lives in Skopje, and there is also significant daily migration into the capital from the region and beyond. This causes problems for the city's sustainability as a system, since the new needs of the residents are difficult to satisfy and the city is faced with difficulties in its day-to-day functioning. Although the city of Skopje has been making great efforts to deal with the numerous problems, it is limited in its resources.



# 2. Starting point/Project goal

In developing the Resilient Skopje strategy:

- Potential targets have been established for reducing emissions in key areas for climate change mitigation, along with potential policies and measures that could help the process.
- The public, as active participants in the process of drafting the Strategy, have identified water and public health as priority sectors, and these have been reviewed in detail in order to establish climate change vulnerability and measures for climate change adaptation.



# 3. Approach based on:

- The competences of the City of Skopje and the municipalities on the territory of the City of Skopje;
- an assessment of the potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and
- an assessment of the vulnerability of various sectors, part of the jurisdiction of different departments in the City administration (Environment, Protection and rescue, Planning of infrastructure, Water management, Transportation etc.)
- an assessment of the numerous actions already undertaken in various areas, including energy efficiency, transport, air pollution, water, public health, utility services and public greenery

# 4. Outputs

The strategy reports on good examples, practices, and maps the way forward with recommended measures and actions to be taken over the next ten years to build capacity for urban resilience to cope with climate change.

A crucial output was the raised public awareness, which can be witnessed by many private citizen's activities, non-governmental actions and media programmes during the period after The Strategy was enforced



# 5. Lessons

- Implementing the proposed measures and coping successfully with climate change not only requires efforts on the part of local self-governments and the national government but also the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders and of each and every citizen.
- Sometimes it's better to think less "digital" and more "naturalistic" for solutions
- Invest in the local staff, involve them more in the strategy, make them feel like it's their personal mission at work
- Don't expect immediate results, when planning for the midterm results, or long term results, beware of the change of the political winds
- Use external experts for management of the project and project consultation, if they are foreign (not living in the city/country) that's a plus!
- Test the system yourself!

# 6. Follow up

- Innovative measures for protecting and expanding public greenery
- Carrying out annual open calls for strengthening urban resilience, inviting the public and businesses to propose and develop innovative solutions
- Introducing climate change and disaster risk reduction practices in the General Urban Plan and other sectoral strategies, programmes and plans
- Implementing targeted activities for raising public awareness among the general population and the persons with disabilities