

University for Business and Technology in Kosovo

UBT Knowledge Center

UBT International Conference

2023 UBT International Conference

Oct 28th, 8:00 AM - Oct 29th, 6:00 PM

Transformative Cities, challenges towards resilient and green city (Case study: Prishtina)

Binak Beqaj

University for Business and Technology, binak.beqaj@ubt-uni.net

Follow this and additional works at: <https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/conference>



Part of the [Architecture Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Beqaj, Binak, "Transformative Cities, challenges towards resilient and green city (Case study: Prishtina)" (2023). *UBT International Conference*. 14.

<https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/conference/IC/arch/14>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Publication and Journals at UBT Knowledge Center. It has been accepted for inclusion in UBT International Conference by an authorized administrator of UBT Knowledge Center. For more information, please contact knowledge.center@ubt-uni.net.

Transformative Cities, Challenges Towards Resilient and Green City (Case study: Prishtina)

Binak Beqaj¹,
bbeqaj@ubt-uni.net

Abstract. Transformative cities and the rapid development dynamics of countries in transition are interconnected components in terms of challenges! The concepts of rapid development of cities are related to the research question:

- What if modern city development is challenged by standards related to: dynamism, flexibility and ecology?
-

While the concept of the flexible and dynamic city relates to physical, economic and social elements; the other concept of the ecological city relates to resources, diversity and reconstruction.

The key issue of planning transformative cities remains the integration of these two main concepts within the development process through institutional, regulatory and financial approaches!

Keywords: city, components, diversity, transformation, integration.

INTRODUCTION

The urban/ spatial and functional relationship in the development process of the “Transformative Cities” in the context of development trends, is based on the well- known definitions and concepts such are: S.M.A.R.T, sustainability and continuity, efficiency and ecology, reconstruction and regeneration, contemporary trends and identity!

Among the actual development trends and specifically settlements development trend, (small town, big town, metropolitan city) more and more are actualized the issues of evaluating their relationship, based on their functional flexibility ecological performance!

The fact that urbanization/ re- urbanization are happening parallelly during last two decades of rapid urban growth of Prishtina as transformative city, there are evident gaps between urban flexibility parameters and ecological standards! As result of that, there are present development differences and differences on quality of life for community and society structures there.

Considering urban and peri- urban environments as one of the most profound implications of the urban development, this brings to the actual consequences causing some main conflicts and divergences between development systems and environmental issues:

- Green spaces vs. constructions land use;
- Modernization factors vs. survival factors;
- Planning vs. non-planning development.

METHODOLOGY

For evaluation of the situation for Prishtina as transformative City, the research was developed during the period (March 2023- September 2023). During the research was used a comparative methodology, comparing different data and information's from different sources, with the aim to present existing situation and identifying challenges; and in the same time exploring possibilities and finding answer in relation with research question:

- What if modern city development is challenged by standards related to: dynamism, flexibility and ecology?

Through this will be possible searching, analyzing, evaluating and proposing solutions in line within the concept of "Flexible and dynamic city" which relates to physical, economic and social elements; and on the other hand, within the concept of the "Ecological and healthy city" which relates on resources, diversity and reconstruction!

The key issue of planning transformative cities still remains the integration of these two main concepts within the development process

through institutional, regulatory and financial approaches in line with developing process of transformative city!

RESEARCH

In development Countries, cities are facing transformative processes. Meeting the needs of their urban transformation, cities are facing three main concepts:

- The concept based on needs for more sustainable urban planning and public services
- The concept based on needs for more sustainable and inclusive cities and communities
- The concept based on needs for ecological and SMART-er city!

To understand modern city development, firstly should be understood urban development standards; their interrelation, as presented in the Fig.X, all those determining its dynamism, flexibility and ecology!

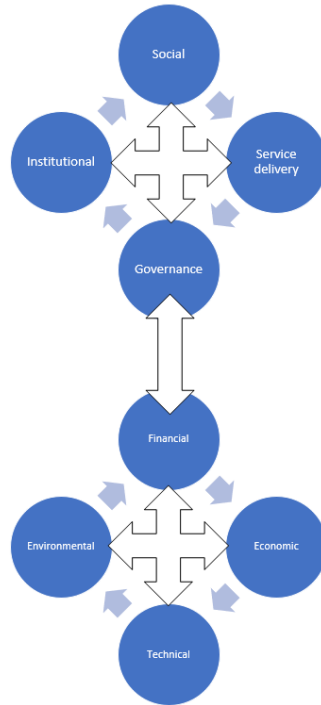


Fig.1. Interrelation between development urban standards

Social standards are related mainly on those parameters: ensuring social inclusion, reinforcement between social and territorial cohesion, ensuring equity and transparency. As can be seen from the Fig 1, the development trend of this standard is characterized with low level of progress on social inclusion, decreased level of social and territorial cohesion and very low level of improvement about the equity and transparency!

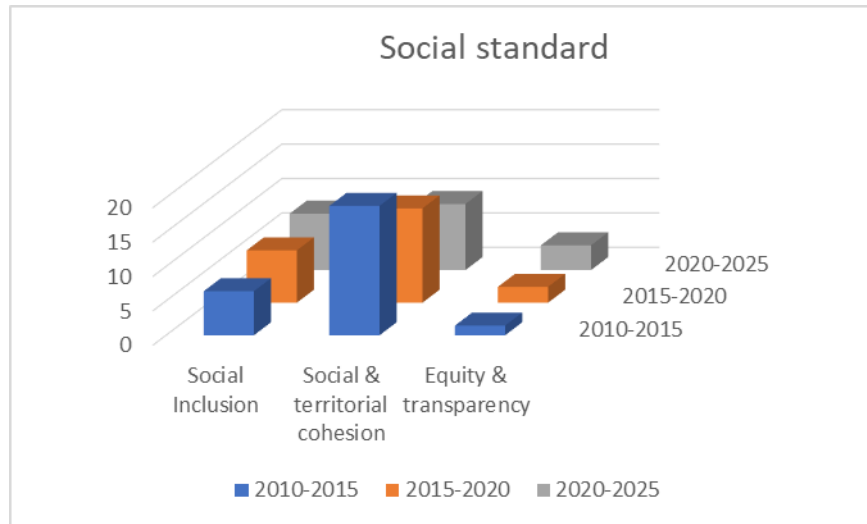


Fig.2. Analyses of the social standard

Institutional standard is related mainly on the issues like: how ensuring inter- institutional coordination, securing qualified staff for the positions, doing adequate development policy options. Based on issues raised above as can be seen on Fig.2, first issue has still not consistent improvement, second one as results of lack of strategy is still pending a problematic issue, while third one is characterized with some improvements but still under the level of needs and dynamics.

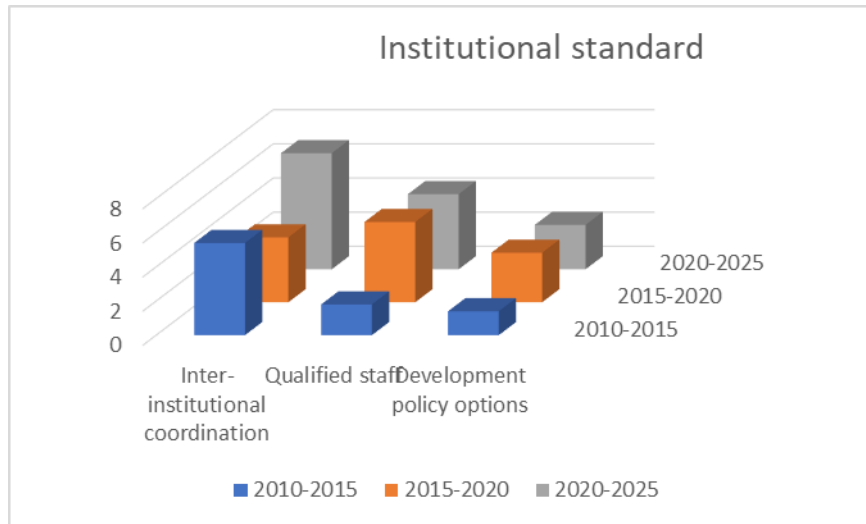


Fig.3. Analyses of the institutional standard

Governance standard conceptually is based on developing cooperation and partnerships, establishing adequate governance structure and public policies and adopting decision- making based on: equity, transparency, responsibility and inclusiveness. As presented in the Fig.3, partnerships are still far away from desired, governance structure is changing not always on positive direction and decision- making not enough democratized! As presented on Fig.X3, partnership development is still at low level, in the other hand governance and decision- making are not cohesive in line with development dynamics!

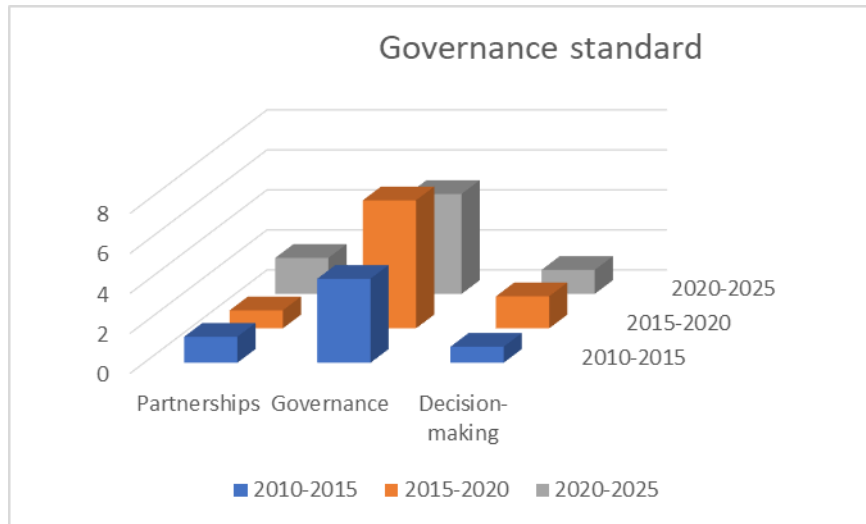


Fig.4. Analyses of the governance standard

Service delivery standard is considered as framework of: increased demand for energy and water supply, increased potentials for water and waste recycling, ensuring construction of comfortable city facilities and buildings. As presented on Fig.4, increased demand for energy and water supply remains still a problematic issue because of rapid developments, increased needs for recycling are at the beginning phase and finally third issue is still at low level because of lack of standards and adequate mechanisms!

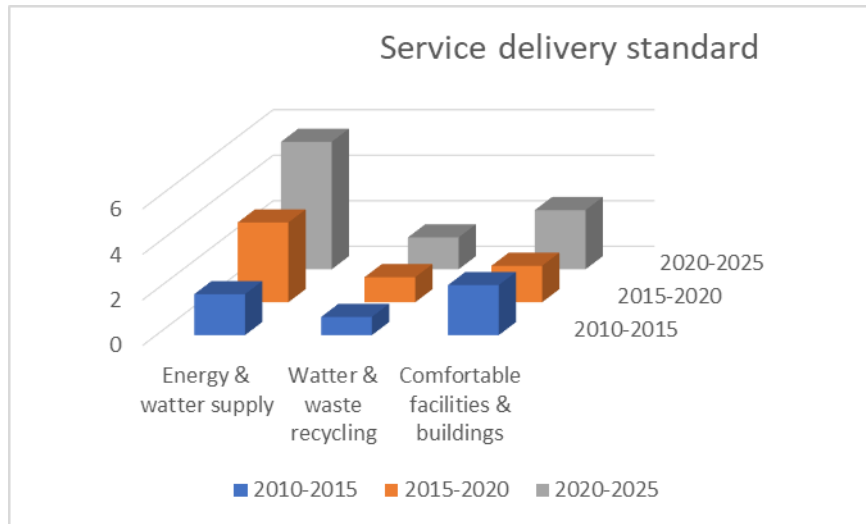


Fig.5. Analyses of the service delivery standard

Financial standard as one of the key standards, conceptually is based on financing, investments and operation costs. As can be seen in the Fig.5, financing is still not proper with needs, lack of investments is another problematic issue, while reducing operational costs is in a good way!

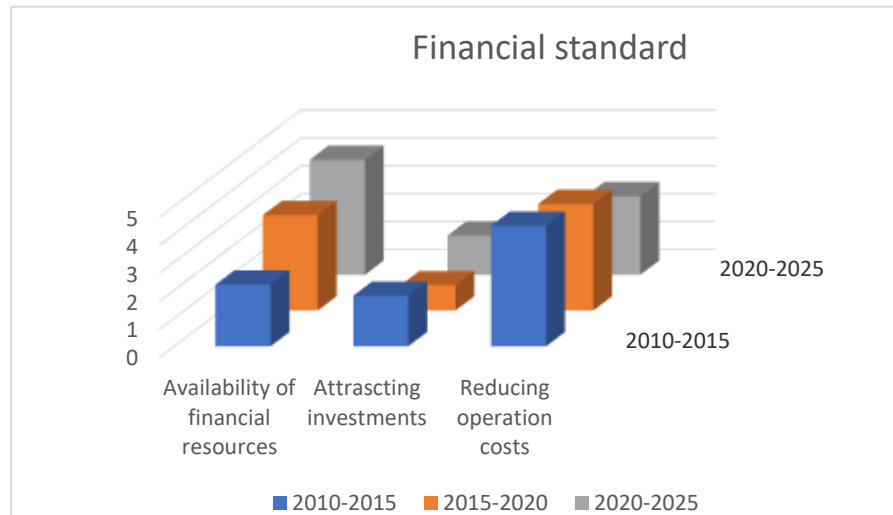


Fig.6. Analyses of the financial standard

Economic as very important standard is based on: budget and budget costs, funding SMART concepts, and diversity of economic activities! Comparing those variables as can be seen on Fig.6, there are still problematic issues related to the adequate budget amount and budget use, second issue is about SMART concepts which has a very slow improvement, and improvement of diversity of economic activities is not in a progress.

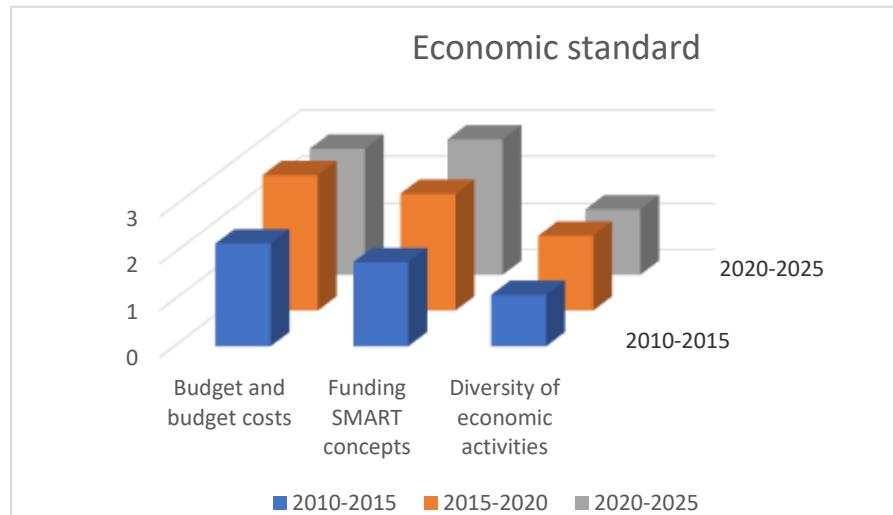


Fig.7. Analyses of the economic standard

Technical standard is considered as framework of: Integrated infrastructure, adopting off interoperability standards, optimized use of resources.

As presented on Fig. 7, integrated infrastructure is far away from desired, in other hand adopting off interoperability standards, and optimized use of resources are in the beginning of the development!

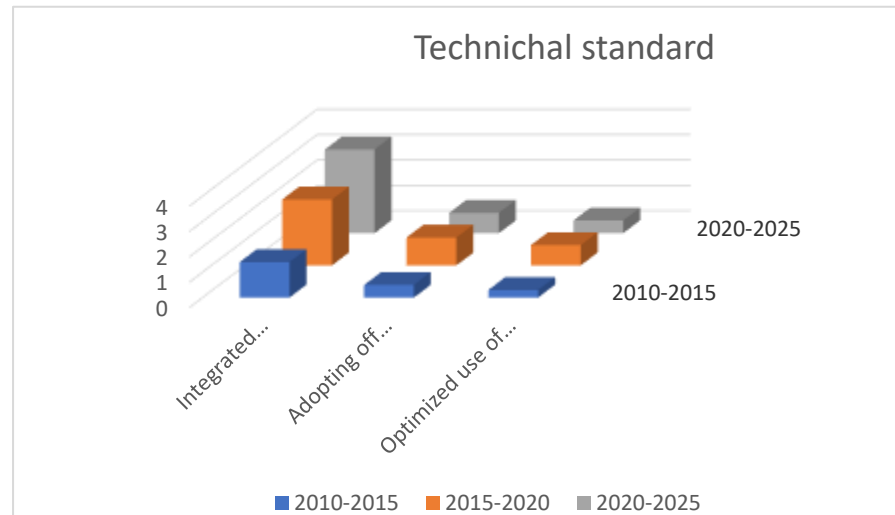


Fig.8. Analyses of the technical standard

Environmental standard is related mainly on the issues like: how protecting natural resources, reducing energy consumption and emissions and how adopting green practices on urbanization. Based on issues raised above as can be seen on Fig.8, protecting natural resources is still a concern because not well-planned constructions! While reducing energy consumption is reflecting widely nowadays. Applying green practices on urbanization is improving but slowly! first issue has still not consistent improvement, second one as results of lack of strategy is still pending a problematic issue, while third one is characterized with some improvements but still under the level of needs and dynamics.

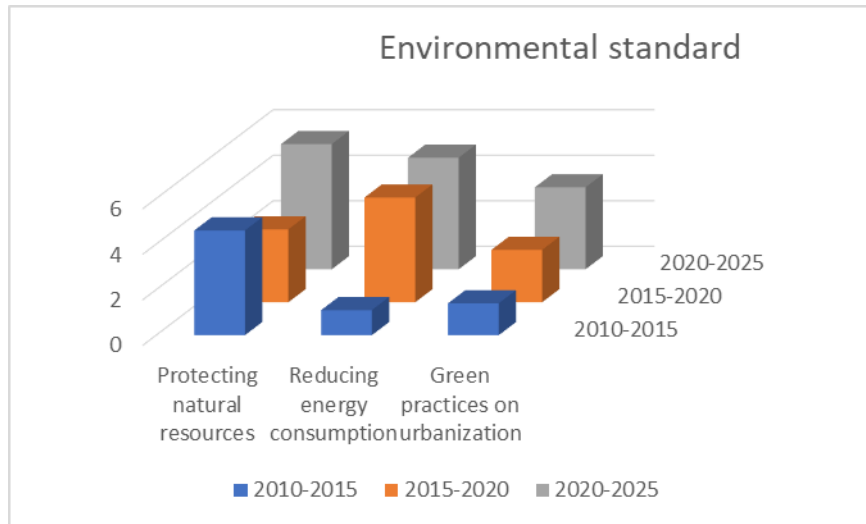


Fig.9. Analyses of the environmental standards

The framework of environmental standards, as presented on Fig. 9, is based on integrated approach of protecting natural resources, reducing energy consumption and developing green practices of urbanization!

CONCLUSION

Post war period of Prishtina was characterized with huge migration of population from rural to urban Prishtina, and from small urban areas to Prishtina as a biggest urban area. As result from this, there are urban overloads, urban planning and construction problems, urban social problems, functional public services problems, urban degradation and pollutions! As needed, there are some research possible platforms

figures which should derivate some findings on urban transformative issues like:

- Integrating planning concepts from different planning levels;
- Improving urban traffic and transport infrastructure;
- Developing and integrating peripheral urban areas;
- Increasing quality standards in line with public interest, for public spaces and public services;
- Preventing urban degradation and pollution
- Harmonizing density and increasing buildings quality;
- Possibility for developing polycentric concept as basics for equal investments in whole territory and inclusiveness.

This transformative development concept will secure positive effects on planning and development, buildings and constructions, density and infrastructure, policy and investments, governance and decentralization, environment protection, social values and wellbeing for citizens of transformative city.

REFERENCES

- Kevin Lynch, (2005) "Rural urban interaction in the developing world", Routledge; 90- 164,
- Beqaj Binak, (2019) "From modern urban planning, towards integrated spatial planning", UBT; 74
- CEMR, (2013) "Urban- rural partnership; CEMR survey on integrated territorial development", CEMR; 6
- Beqaj, Binak, (2015) "Urban development, planning and design", UBT; 38- 96
- Peter John, (2012) "Analyzing public policy", Routledge; 12
- Jan Gehl, (2010) "Cities for people", Island Press; 6- 47
- Charles Montgomery, (2013) "Transforming our lives through urban design", Doubleday; 36- 50
- Frederick Steiner, Kent Butler (2006) „Planning and Urban Design Standards “, Willey Graphic Standards; 423- 428

James A. LaGro, Jr. (2013) "Site Analysis: Informing Context-Sensitive and Sustainable Site Planning and Design", John Wiley and sons INC; 216- 222

Reimer Mario, (2014) "Spatial Planning Systems and Practices in Europe: A Comparative Perspective", Routledge 224- 248

Michael Norquist, (2010) "Seeking Spatial Justice", Minnesota Press; 103- 119

Ministry of Environment and spatial planning, (2013) "Spatial Planning Law of Kosova" 04/L- 174

Urban development plan of Prishtina 2012- 2022

URL <https://kk.rks-gov.net/prishtine/>