The 115 delegates attending this workshop represented the war-torn Croatian regions of Vukovar, Petrinja, Lipik, Pakrac, Karlovac, Split, Zadar, Osijek and Dubrovnik. Also represented were ministries, national and international organisations from Europe and the USA (The World Bank, UNDP, UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS, US-ICOMOS, UNHCR, ISRC, IRC, The British Ambassador to Croatia, British Council, and the Council of Europe). The aim of the workshop was to review the progress made over the last two years in rebuilding settlements in Croatia and resettling refugees and displaced people.

Participants concluded that progress has been achieved and sound planning has been done. However, the following observations were made:

- Thinking of and planning for reconstruction should take into consideration the realities of the current situation:
  - The fact that Croatia is living a situation of no peace/no war, prolongs instability, and discourages long-term investments.
  - The serious lack of resources and finance needed to initiate reconstruction.
  - In addition to reconstruction after war, Croatia is experiencing the challenges of the rebirth of a State and a phase of socio-economic transformation.

- **Incremental Reconstruction.** War-torn communities are taking their own initiatives in rebuilding their homes. In some cases returnees are self-selecting the areas to be reconstructed and developed first. Professionals need to ‘participate’ in this process as enablers making use of the communities’ energy and resources, in order to ensure the quality and safety of the built environment. This requires communication skills (consultation, producing manuals, technical training workshops, etc). In addition, there is a need to encourage, inform, and train small local contractors.

- People need to be enabled to make best use of their existing skills and resources. Expert advice should be concentrated on supplying skills which are missing such as marketing, management, co-ordination, conflict resolution and development of enterprise.

- Development plans need to be flexible to take into account changing circumstances. The planning framework needs to establish a development strategy within which action plans can be implemented. These plans need to be continuously evaluated, improved and updated. The Ministry of Building and Environmental Protection has taken considerable steps in establishing a theoretical framework for a national reconstruction policy that needs to be tested in the field.

- Installing strong regional organisations and institutions would help to spread the

**continued overleaf**
Participants

Co-chairpersons – Marija Kojakovic (SCRD) and Sultan Barakat (PRDU)

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