Key elements for sustainable urban policy in the UNECE region

Gulnara Roll, Chief, Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE
JRC, Ispra, Italy, 28 May 2015
The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

56 member States in Europe, Central Asia and North America

One of the five ECOSOC Regional Commissions

8 thematic subprogrammes addressing:
- Economic cooperation
- Environment
- Forestry
- Housing and land management
- Statistics
- Sustainable Energy
- Trade
- Transport

Intergovernmental platform for policy dialogue and best practices dissemination
Regional thematic studies
Committee on Housing and Land Management

Established in 1947
Mandate: to improve housing, urban and land governance in the UNECE Region
Housing and Real Estate Markets
- Affordable social housing
- Energy efficient housing

Urban Development
- Smart cities
- Urban planning

Land Administration
- Capacity building
- Studies
- Cooperation FAO, JRC, WB

Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management
- Studies
- Monitoring implementation

UNECE Strategy on Sustainable Housing and Land Management 2014 – 2020

Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing (endorsed on 16 April 2015)
Key challenges in housing and urban development

- Inefficient use of energy in housing
- Deteriorated housing stock due to lack of maintenance
- Limited access to affordable, quality and healthy housing in the market
- Decreased housing affordability as result of the economic crisis
- Reduced access to credit for households due to the financial crisis
- Lack of easy access for disabled and aged persons due to architectural barriers
- Low political attention to housing and urban development issues
- Reduced financing for housing from the state and local government budget
- Risks to residential buildings from natural and human-generated disasters
- Inability of local governments to manage urban growth
Governance in housing and urban development
(an outcome of a UNECE study)

Housing and urban planning are highly decentralized

• The competencies of the national governments are limited to formulating policies and legislation, establishing norms and standards

• National governments have shared responsibilities with regional and local governments as well as with the private sector for providing social or affordable housing, offering loans for housing purposes, setting urban regulations, and investing in urban infrastructure.

• Private sector has also a dominant role in providing loans for housing and management services for condominiums
Social Housing in the UNECE Region

Models, Trends and Challenges

Million people

Using housing

more than 10% disposable income on
Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

Main purpose: to ensure the access to decent, affordable and healthy housing in the ECE region

Scope: to improve the sustainability of housing in the ECE region through effective policies and actions at all levels, supported by international cooperation
Main milestones of the negotiations on the Charter

- December 2009, CHLM Bureau proposed to develop a possible framework convention
- September 2010, 71th CHLM session established a Working Group on the possible convention
- October 2010, EXCOM approved Working Group TOR.
- April 2011, First meeting of the Working Group on a possible framework convention
- July 2011, Second meeting of the Working Group on a possible framework convention
- October 2011, 72nd CHLM session
- April 2012, Third Meeting of the Working Group on a possible framework convention
- October 2013, Ministerial Meeting on Housing and Land Management
- October 2013, 73th CHLM session discussed the possible Charter
- February 2014, 66th meeting of EXCOM gave green light to the development of the Charter
- May 2014, CHLM informal meeting elaborated draft Charter
- October 2014, CHLM informal negotiating session elaborated the draft Charter
- October 2014, 75th CHLM session agreed on the text of the Charter
- November 2014, EXCOM endorsed the Charter
- April 2015, ECE Commission endorsed the Charter and transmitted to HABITAT III (October 2016)
Smart cities – inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable and “connected”

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Development of a set of indicators for evaluating smart and sustainable cities

2. Preparation of smart city profiles with recommendations

3. Creation of a multi-stakeholder platform and content hub for smart city initiatives
Smart City Indicators – the process

• The Committee on Housing and Land Management decided at its 75th session in October 2014 to add the smart city project to its Programme of Work.
• A draft list of indicators was developed by a consortium a member of which is Environment Agency Austria. The set was tested in Austria. Pilot project in Goris, Armenia.
• The work on the indicators will build on the experiences of other UNECE divisions.

Milestones for the adoption of the list of indicators
• Expert consultation, 11 May 2015
• Workshop and Committee Bureau meeting, 4 and 5 June 2015, Rakvere, Estonia
• A draft will be send to the Committee’s focal points for comments
• The Committee will be invited to adopt the indicators at its session on 14-15 December 2015
Land administration

Studies
• Challenges of Fraud to Land Administration Institutions (2011)
• Benchmarking of land administration systems (2014)
• Informal settlements (2015)

Cooperation
The World Bank, FAO, the European Commission, ELRA, FIG, Eurogeographics

Workshops: e-governance, institutions
2015: Vienna; Baku; Washington, DC; Moscow
Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management

- On request of countries
- Using mostly XB resources
- Prepared by international experts in cooperation with the Government and national UNDP offices
- Include analysis and policy recommendations


In work: Uzbekistan and Republic of Armenia

Pipeline: the Russian Federation, Croatia
National Action Plans for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development

- Based on country profiles’ policy recommendations
- Implementation overseen by a high-level interministerial steering committees
- Implementation by national experts in cooperation with the UNECE and international experts
- Donor coordination mechanism
- Supported by capacity building activities
UNECE coordinates the preparation of a regional report for ECE region and supports the implementation of a regional roadmap for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - HABITAT III (Quito, Ecuador, 17-21 October 2015).

HABITAT III Regional Roadmap milestones:
- First Expert Group Meeting on Regional Report, 29 May 2015, Milano, Italy
- Second Expert Group Meeting on Regional Report, September 2015, Geneva
- 76th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management, 14-15 December 2015, Rome
- European Regional Meeting for Habitat III, 18-20 March 2016, Prague
- HABITAT III Third PrepCom, 25-27 July 2016, Jakarta
- 77th session of the Committee, 12 – 15 September 2016, Geneva
- HABITAT III Conference 17 – 20 October 2016
NEW URBAN AGENDA (to be adopted by HABITAT III)
Will promote among others

- An integrated approach to the development of cities and human settlements
- Green, inclusive, healthy, compact and resilient cities
HABITAT III Regional Report Structure/ data needs

1. Executive summary
2. Overview of housing and urban development in the UNECE region
3. Urban trends: urbanization and development
4. Urban mobility challenges
5. Urbanisation and economy
6. Urbanisation and social equity
7. Urbanisation and environment
8. Urbanisation and governance
9. Conclusions, recommendations and guidelines
Quick Statistics for Key Indicators

- Maps and Charts  Choose an indicator
- Country Profiles  (10Mb PDF file)  Choose country

Countries have started to provide data according to the 2008 System of National Accounts. This will temporarily affect data comparability and the length of time series in the UNECE Statistical Database. For instance, some countries have provided their annual national accounts data according to 2008 SNA, whereas quarterly data may still be provided according to 1993 SNA.

Country Overviews

- UNECE Member Countries in Figures

Economy

- Overview Tables  National Accounts  Labour Force & Wages  Price Indices  Industrial Production  External Economic Relations  Globalization Indicators

Forestry (FOREST EUROPE/UNCE/FAO)

- Overview Tables  Forest Resources  Forest Health and Vitality  Productive Functions  Biological Diversity  Protective Functions  Socio-Economic Functions

Population and Gender


Transport

- Road Traffic Accidents  Road Traffic  Road Vehicle Fleet  Railway Traffic  Railway Vehicles  Inland Waterway Traffic  Inland Waterway Vessels  Oil Pipeline Transport  Transport Infrastructure  Railway Employment

Millennium Development Goals

- Poverty, employment and hunger (MDG 1)  Education Enrolment, Completion & Literacy (MDG 2)  Gender in Education, Employment & Politics (MDG 3)  Child Survival (MDG 4)  Maternal Health (MDG 5)  Access to Primary and Secondary Education (MDG 6)  Access to Primary Health Care (MDG 7)  Environmental sustainability (MDG 8)  Development Partnerships (MDG 9)
HABITAT III Regional Report – organisation of work

Organisation:
• Coordination and funding by the HABITAT III Secretariat
• Everyday coordination – UNECE, cooperation partner – UN Habitat Brussels and Moscow
• Invitation for contributions from key relevant partner organisations

Timeline:
• Finalisation of the structure and organisation – May 2015, Milano
• Invitation of contributions – June 2015
• Drafting the report – July – November 2015
• Adoption of the draft – December 2015, Committee session
• Input into the Global Urban Agenda
Key priorities 2015 - 2016

- Implementation of SDGs the Geneva UN Charter
- HABITAT III Regional Report and Roadmap
- Support to the implementation of New Urban Agenda
- FAO voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenancy of land
- Smart cities indicators and smart city profiles
- Partnerships with other organisations and UNECE subprogrammes
Thank you for your attention!
http://www.unece.org/housing.html