



Ministerul Dezvoltării
Regionale și Construcțiilor



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Topic: **Regional meeting on national capacity building in the area of housing, urbanism and land management: drafting, implementation and monitoring of the national action plans**

Organizers: Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova
Agency for Land relations and Cadaster of the Republic of Moldova
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
United Nations Human Settlement Program (HABITAT)

Date and place: 05.10.2017, Palatul Republicii, #16 Maria Cibotari st., Chișinău

Organization and attendance

1. On 5 October 2017, the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova and the Agency for Land relations and Cadaster of the Republic of Moldova, with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Human Settlements Program (HABITAT), organized the “Wrap-up workshop on national capacity building in the area of housing, urbanism and land management: drafting, enforcement and monitoring of the national action plans”.
2. At the workshop, one presented the “Action plan on housing, urbanism and land management for 2017-2025”, the issues of sustainable development of human settlements, the housing being in the focus. The workshop was a discussion platform for identifying new ways and answers to the challenges of the urbanization of the human settlements, including those in the housing sector. At the same time, the workshop brought together inputs of various notorious persons, as well as those of the central and local public administration, non-governmental organizations and private sector in developing urbanism and the housing policy.
3. The event took place in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 5 October 2017
4. The event was in Romanian, English and Russian, with simultaneous interpretation.
5. The event was attended by the representatives of central and local public authorities at the level of administration of municipalities and districts (raions), international organizations and different private sector organizations active in urban housing planning, representatives of state institutions, UNECE secretary, as well as local and international experts.
6. At the conference there were also domestic media (press) representatives.

Objectives

Architects, constructors and land experts from all over the country convened in Chisinau at the workshop to discuss priority issues in the area of housing, town planning and land management. The event was organized by the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, together with the Agency for Land relations and Cadaster, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, UN-Habitat and aimed at building national capacities in sustainable development of housing and human settlements.

Description of the workshop

In the opening of the workshop, Mr. **Anatolie ZOLOTCOV**, Deputy minister of Economy and infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova, who welcomed the participants and thanked the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UN Habitat and the United Nations Human Settlements Program, for efforts undertaken to organize the conference, presented the state of the art in the area of housing in the country. At the same time, the official underlined the importance of the event in identifying new ways of urban development and of enhancing cooperation between the central and local public authorities, non-governmental organizations and private sector in realizing the housing policy.

In the opening session, Mr. **Ştefan CRIGAN**, Deputy director general of the Agency for Land relations and Cadaster of the Republic of Moldova, welcomed the participants and spoke of issues related to sustainable development of human settlements, emphasizing the need to efficiently manage land and real estate on it and the major role of the Agency in this regard.

In the opening session, Ms. **Regina KHANBEKOVA**, Consultant, Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE, briefed the Conference on the UNECE activity in sustainable human development, administration and management of land and development of national housing and land management plans in UNECE regions, on the main goal and objectives related to sustainable housing, energy efficiency of buildings and of the key priorities for 2017-2025.

The opening of the workshop was continued by Ms. **Andrea OYUALA**, regional planning expert, Regional and Urban Planning Department, UN-Habitat, who welcomed all participants and thanked the organizers. She also referred to the National Urban Policy and the centralized planning system and underlined territorial and urban planning.

The conference lasted for one day with four sessions, followed after the opening session. The topics of the sessions and presentations were the following:

Session 1. Presentations

The first presentation, was made by Mr. **Mihail LUPAŞCU**, Head of the division for Urbanism, Constructions and Housing, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova. He made a presentation of the Action plan in the area of housing, urbanism and land management for 2017-2025. As regards the responsibility for the implementation of the Action plan, he noted that the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure and the Agency for Land Relations and Cadaster are the leading authorities responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the action, even if the specific action admits the involvement of other authorities.

The second presentation, was made by Mr. **Serghei MUNTEANU**, Head of the division for architecture, design, urbanism and territory arrangements, specifying, therefore, some aspects related to sustainable development of housing and territory. In his speech, he presented the 9 targets of the New Urban Agenda, focusing, at the same time, on the universal needs on sustainable development of the localities which are in the policy papers developed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova. A document from this policy paper is the draft Code of Urbanism and Constructions. The key principle of this document is the harmonization of national norms with community principles and practices.

In the same session, **the third presentation** was made by Mr. **Lilian MINDOV**, Head of the Division for Cadaster of the Agency for Public Services. He spoke about enhancing efficiency of land management, about the competences of the Agency for Public Services, noting, thus, the need of rational use of land. In this connection, the rational land use is determined by the existence, within the mayor's office of organization and territory arrangement plans.

Session 2. Urban development and national urban policy: advanced practices

The second session was opened by the **first presentation** made by Mr. **Oleg GOLUBCIKOV**, senior lecturer, Cardiff Faculty of Planning and Geography, Cardiff University, UK. He presented the national urban policy and in particular focused on the international experience of Australia, India, Poland. At the same time, he referred to the core elements of the urban development policy of the Russian Federation till 2025.

The second presentation was made by Ms. **Irina ILYINA**, Director of the Institute for regional studies and urban planning, Russian Federation. In her speech, she presented and addressed urbanization and urban planning, the changes to the normative acts which are required for addressing the problems identified in urban development. She spoke of finance mechanisms and settlement, of problems related to the development of infrastructure in small towns.

The third presentation was made by Ms. **Andrea OYUALA**, expert in regional planning, Regional Planning Officer, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit, Urban Planning and Design Branch. It has been also emphasized that UN-Habitat currently supports 28 countries in their national policies' development, with a brief presentation of the town policy, international experience of Australia, India, Mexico, South Africa has been made.

The fourth presentation was made by Mr. **Doris ANDONI**, Coordinator of the National Agency for Legalization, Urbanization and Integration of Unauthorized Housing in Albania. In his presentation, he identified the best international practices related to social housing and the challenges of the new millennium. Social housing is part of the national urban policy.

Session 3.

The first presentation was made by Ms. **Svetlana RISTICI**, Head of the Department for housing and architecture policy, municipal economy and energy efficiency, Ministry of Constructions, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia. She presented the action plan on housing, urbanism and territory arrangement of Serbia, underlining the activities of the action plan as a continuous advancement process, aiming at monitoring changes and updating activities of the sustainable urban housing development policy. The action plan activities are mainly funded by the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

The second presentation was made by Mr. **Ulugbec UMAROV**, Director of the Unitary State Enterprise the "Institute for Research, Constructions and Architecture" Committee for Architecture and Constructions under the Government of Tajikistan. In his speech, he specified that thanks to national and international experts, the "National action plan for enforcing the recommendations of the national study on housing and use of land in the Republic of Tajikistan" has been drafted, aiming at looking into the housing sector of the Republic of Tajikistan. The study involved groups of international and national experts. The action plan in the area of housing, urbanism and territory arrangements of the Republic of Tajikistan refers to the objectives and activities in 5 areas, in particular: urban development policy; housing and utilities; constructions; housing policy; land and property relations.

The third presentation was made by Mr. **Arsen CARAPETEAN**, Executive director, director of the Foundation "Institute for development solutions", national expert, where he presented the Action plan for housing, urbanism and territory arrangements of Armenia, emphasizing the approval by the Armenian Government of the National Action Plan, which

identified deadlines and persons responsible for the implementation of the project, taking, thus, measures to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan.

Session 4 was continued by Ms. **Andrea OYUALA**, who spoke of the results of the poll and presented the draft report. She presented several policy papers developed in other countries, in particular: Regional development strategy; Laws; National housing strategies; National spatial strategies and others. She informed of the developments and results achieved within the framework of the draft report on housing, having the commitment that the parties are interested, demonstrating thus, as an important element in the drafting and implementation of national action plans. It is important to take into account the trends and dynamic of population when policies and action plans are drafted.

Workshop conclusions

The works of the workshop have been wrapped-up, one noted that national coordinators/consultants need to finalize the activities under way on the development, implementation and monitoring of the “National action plan”, including concerning financing, risks and cooperation with stakeholders for a successful implementation of the said Action plan.

The rapporteurs thanked all participants for their participation and made summaries of the topics addressed during the workshop; one appreciated the efficiency of the workshop, actuality of the issues addressed, efficiency of recommendations from the rapporteurs, in particular foreign experts. The fact that the most of municipalities and districts (raions) delegated their representatives proves the need to organize such workshops more often and the opportunity to involve local specialists in the dialogue on land management, housing management, etc. One appreciated the efficient combination of theoretic presentations, the need to organize such international conferences more often.

The agenda of the conference, as well as the participants’ list are presented in Annexes 1 and 2 to this Report.

Andrei Russu

10.10.2017