



Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of the Republic of Moldova



**REPORT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**“STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT”**

8-9 September, 2015, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Organization and attendance

1. The International Conference on the Strengthening National Capacities for Housing and Urban Development was carried out within the framework of the “Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing in selected countries with economies in transition” project, which is implemented from 2014 until 2017.
2. The workshop took place in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova on 8-9 September 2015, which was organized by the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of the Republic of Moldova, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Human Settlements Program, with participation of the United Nations Development Programs.
3. The working languages of the workshop were Romanian, English and Russian.
4. The workshop was attended by 166 representatives from executive, regional, and local government bodies, international organizations, and different organizations operating in the urban planning and housing sectors, representatives of scientific institutions, UNECE secretariat, as well as local and international experts.
5. The Conference has been widely covered by the media (press and TV) within the country.

Objective

The objective of the workshop was to review proposals for the content of the chapters of the UNECE Country Profile on Housing and Land Management and the National Action Plan to be developed based on the Country Profile recommendations.

Workshop Proceeding

The workshop was opened by **Mr. Vasile BITCA**, Minister of Regional Development and Construction of the Republic of Moldova, who welcomed participants and thanked the Housing and Land Management Committee of UNECE, UN-Habitat and UN Development Program Moldova for their efforts in organizing the Conference and presented the actual situation in housing sector of the country. Mr. Minister mentioned about the importance of the elaborated Country Profile on Housing and Land Management for the Republic of Moldova.

At the opening session **Ms. Dafina**, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Moldova as well welcomed participants and propose to the central and local public authorities to involve in elaboration of Plan of actions in order to perform de situation in the housing sector of the country and urban development.

Mr. Marco Keiner, Acting Director, Forests, Land and Housing Division UNECE, thanked the Government of the Republic of Moldova, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, UNDP Moldova for continuous cooperation including the organization of this event and expressed his gratitude to representatives of international organizations, representatives of different ministries and governmental bodies, and to all the other participants at the event. Mr. Keiner mentioned about the challenges faced by the countries from UNECE region, especially those with economies in transition. UNECE assists governments in developing policies to cope the mentioned problems. The next step of the country will be the development of a National Action Plan. Mr. Keiner highlighted that the conference will be also part of the preparations of the Republic of Moldova for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III, that will take place in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

Speaking about the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Mr. Keiner stressed the importance of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, which is a non-legally binding document, which aims to support member states as they seek to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all. The Charter was endorsed by the Economic Commission for Europe in April and was transferred to the HABITAT III.

Mr. Andrei GROZA, First vice-rector of the Academy of Public Administration, as a host of the conference, as well welcomed all participants and mentioned about the situation of the existing multistory blocks of apartments in the country and necessity to change the attitude of the owners in maintaining of the housing stock.

Ms. Svetlana Andries, Head of international relations and investments Division from the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of the Republic of Moldova chaired the Opening Session.

At the opening session **Ms. Gulnara Roll**, Head of Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE informed the Conference about UNECE work on sustainable urban development, sustainable housing and real estate markets, land administration and management and on elaboration of the Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management in the UNECE regions, about the main purpose and objectives of Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, Energy efficiency in buildings and also on Key priorities for 2015-2016.

Mr. Pietro ELISEI, representative of ISOCARP, informed the Conference on EU and policies for urban development, reported about several relevant urban issues in Moldova, mentioned about proper set of tools to management the many issues related to housing.

Ms. Gulnara Roll, Head of Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE presented characteristics of the housing sector in Moldova, housing affordability and housing finance and further recommendations on improvement of the existing situation.

Ms. Louisa J.M. JANSEN, representative of Climate, Energy and Tenure Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) informed on Land administration and management, real estate markets and land policy and as well the recommendations to improve the situation in this domain.

The Conference was organized for 2 days in a form of eight substantive sessions, besides an opening session. The topics of the sessions for the first day were as follows:

Session 1. Sustainable human settlements development and housing

At the first session, which has been chaired by **Mr. Serghei Munteanu**, Head of Division architecture, design, urbanism and territorial planning from Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of the Republic of Moldova (MRDC) representatives of Agency of Land Relations and Cadastre, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Culture and MDRC presented national legislation framework in urban and territorial planning, evolution and development of national infrastructure of spatial data, administration of the green zones in the settlements of the Republic of Moldova, Protection of monuments - the protection of national consciousness and legal framework on energy performance in buildings.

Session 2. Capacity-building and institutional development

At the second session, which has been chaired by **Mr. Valerian Binzaru**, Director of General Directorate for regional development (MRDC) representatives of Energy Efficiency Agency, Ministry of Economy, State Chancellery, MDRC and Municipality of Chisinau discussed about sustainable energy use in housing, sustainable development: eradication of poverty and inequalities, ensuring access to public utilities and adequate living conditions, decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks, factors of growth in regional development and metropolitan planning and management.

Representative of the MOREEFF (Moldovan Residential Energy Efficiency Financing Facility) project in Moldova presented some results of the implementing of this project in Moldova.

Session 3. Civil engagement in human settlement development

At the third session, which has been chaired by **Mr. Serghei Munteanu**, Head of Division architecture, design, urbanism and territorial planning from MRDC, representatives of National Statistic Bureau, MDRC, Design Institute RURALPROIECT, Institute of Ecology and Geography of Academy of Sciences, Faculty of Urbanism and Architecture, Technical University of Moldova focused on population and territorial differentiation in demographic processes, equal access of persons with disabilities in social and cultural infrastructure, lodgement typology, considerations on the development of environmental quality in urban ecosystem Chisinau and on the importance of specialists in territory development and urbanism.

Session 4. The habitat landscape

At the fourth session, chaired by **Mr. Alexandru MORCOV**, Deputy General Director of Agency of Land Relations and Cadastre, representatives from USAID project on Local Government Support LGSP, National Institute of Research and Design in spatial planning, urban planning and architecture, "URBANPROIECT", Vulcanesti raion (TAU Gagaguz-Eri) and National Agency of Tourism presented their visions on the role of spatial data for national capacity strengthening for sustainable housing and urban development; urban strategies; social and economic infrastructure, as a factor of stability in housing construction; practical aspects of urban planning and management and on sustainable urban tourism.

Representatives from LPA intervene and discussed about the sustainable urban and rural territorial development and sustainable rural tourism development.

Wrap-up for the 1 day of the Conference

Mr. Marco Keiner summarized the importance of topics, which has been discussed and focused on urban development, capacity building for regional, urban and rural development, importance of the role of spatial data within the country and role on the central and local public authorities in achieving of goals in these domains of activities.

The topics of the sessions for the second day were as follows:

Session 5. Sustainable Housing as a key element of urban and economic growth

At the fifth session, chaired by **Ms. Elena Bejenaru**, Director of General Directorate for architecture, construction and housing from MRDC, representatives of MDRC, Project Implementation Unit, Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family and experts on housing issues discussed on a new legal framework in the housing sector, social housing, draft of Law on condominium, construction of social housing for vulnerable groups of population, architecture as an influence element in urban housing policy and on lack of housing, which is a considerable obstacle in family perspective.

Representatives from NGOs launched a discussion of a draft of condominium law and its principals.

Session 6. Housing Affordability and Maintenance

At the sixth session, chaired by **Mr. Petru Pripa**, General Director of the Chisinau Municipal Mortgage Agency, representatives of Mortgage Agency, Republican Union of Associations of Co-owners in Condominium "Gestionarul", Professional Association of Public Services, Housing Division within the General directorate for housing and communal services of mun. Chisinau, Department for quality assurance, control and regulation from Apa-Canal Chisinau" S.A., Division of production and supply of thermal energy from Ministry of Economy and Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Division from Ministry of Environment presented the strategies and visions on situation at the housing market, providing of mortgage loans and subsidized loan programs for housing, urban utilities and housing, maintenance for housing sector, public services for housing sector, receiving, transportation and wastewater treatment, centralized provision with thermal energy: current situation and perspectives, strategically view on waste management domain.

Session 7. Informal settlements and informal construction

At the seventh session, chaired by **Veaceslav POTOP**, Deputy Head of State Inspection in Construction, representatives from USAID Business Regulatory, Investment, and Trade Environment (BRITE) Program, State Inspection in Construction, NGO „MOTIVAȚIE” disputes on creation of the new efficient model of authorization of the building works, national response to the phenomena of informal construction and lack of access for people with disabilities to social infrastructure.

Local public authorities intervene with a proposal to organize a local workshop on legal frame work for authorization of building works and organization of one stop shop for this activity.

Session 8. Housing accessibility and affordability after disasters

At the eight session, chaired by **Mr. Alexei Bosneaga**, Head of Division for construction, construction materials and modern technologies from MRDC, representatives of the National Institute of Research and Design in spatial planning, urban planning and architecture, "URBANPROIECT", State Service for verification and expertise of projects and constructions, Agency „Apele Moldovei”, State Service of civil protections and exceptional situation discussed on planning for risk and natural hazards, practical issues in housing regarding risks of natural

hazards, settlement protection against floods, ensuring housing safety in case of an emergency and in terms of urbanization challenges of localities.

A special presentation has been done by Mr. **Luca ROSSI**, Program Officer from UNISDR for Europe on disaster risks and priorities for disaster risks reduction.

Wrap-up for the 2 day of the Conference

Mr. Marco Keiner, Mr. Alexandru Morcov and Ms. Elena Bejenaru summarized the topics, which has been discussed within the second day of Conference work and concluding the necessity of formulation of priorities which should be included in Plan of actions that should be developed to the end of 2015.