

Workshop on Smart Sustainable Cities - opening

Polis University, Tirana, Albania
26-30 September 2022

Gulnara Roll
Regional Adviser, Forests, Land and
Housing Division, UNECE



- Intergovernmental process: Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM)
- Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA)
- Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM)
- Centers of Excellence (CoEs)

Guidance and Guidelines

- Geneva UN Charter for Sustainable Housing
- Action plans: COVID-19 recovery, Housing
- Capacity building projects
- Communication activities



Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

Four Principles



- Active dissemination of information on the Charter and its principles through publications, mass media, and national and local events
- Foster partnerships between international, national and non-government organizations and academic institutions
- Exchange of experience and best practices, and promotion of cooperation and knowledge-sharing
- Capacity-building at international, national and local levels
- Research on topics which will contribute to the better implementation of the Charter
- Collection and exchange of information on best practice on Charter implementation

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Minimization of environmental impact and promotion of environmental sustainability

ECONOMIC EFFECTIVENESS

Public and private investments and national policies and programmes



CULTURAL ADEQUACY

Cultural identity, value and emotional wellbeing of people

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION

Civil involvement, social inclusiveness, public health and transparency

Network of Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence



- **Albania, Tirana** Co-PLAN Institute for Habitat Development, Polis University
Centre of Excellence on Sustainable and Resilient Settlements
- **Canada, Toronto** York University, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, A Way Home Canada
Toronto Center of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention
- **Estonia, Tallinn** Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations
Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Housing in Tallinn
- **Norway, Trondheim**
Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development Goals City Transition
- **Switzerland, Geneva** UNIGE
Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Urban Development
- **UK, Glasgow** Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow Urban Laboratory
Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities
- **Spain, Madrid** Norman Foster Foundation
Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Housing
- **Italy, Castellanza** LIUC – Cattaneo University
Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Finance for Infrastructure and Smart Cities

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SDG MAPPING

Examples of Activities

SDG 13

'Architecture and Technology: Future of Cities'
Publication - Seminal handbook on technology,
architecture, urbanism and urban mobility

Publication: VLR for Trondheim
Kommune

SDG 11

Life & Place in the ECE – A Regional Action
Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19
pandemic, climate and housing emergencies

Review of the National Housing Strategy
in Albania

Series of podcasts on sustainable housing
"EKÜL Taskutarkus"

'Future Cities' Conversations Series
led by Norman Foster

Guideline for the preparation of Local Housing Plans
and preparation of Local Housing Plans
in Albania

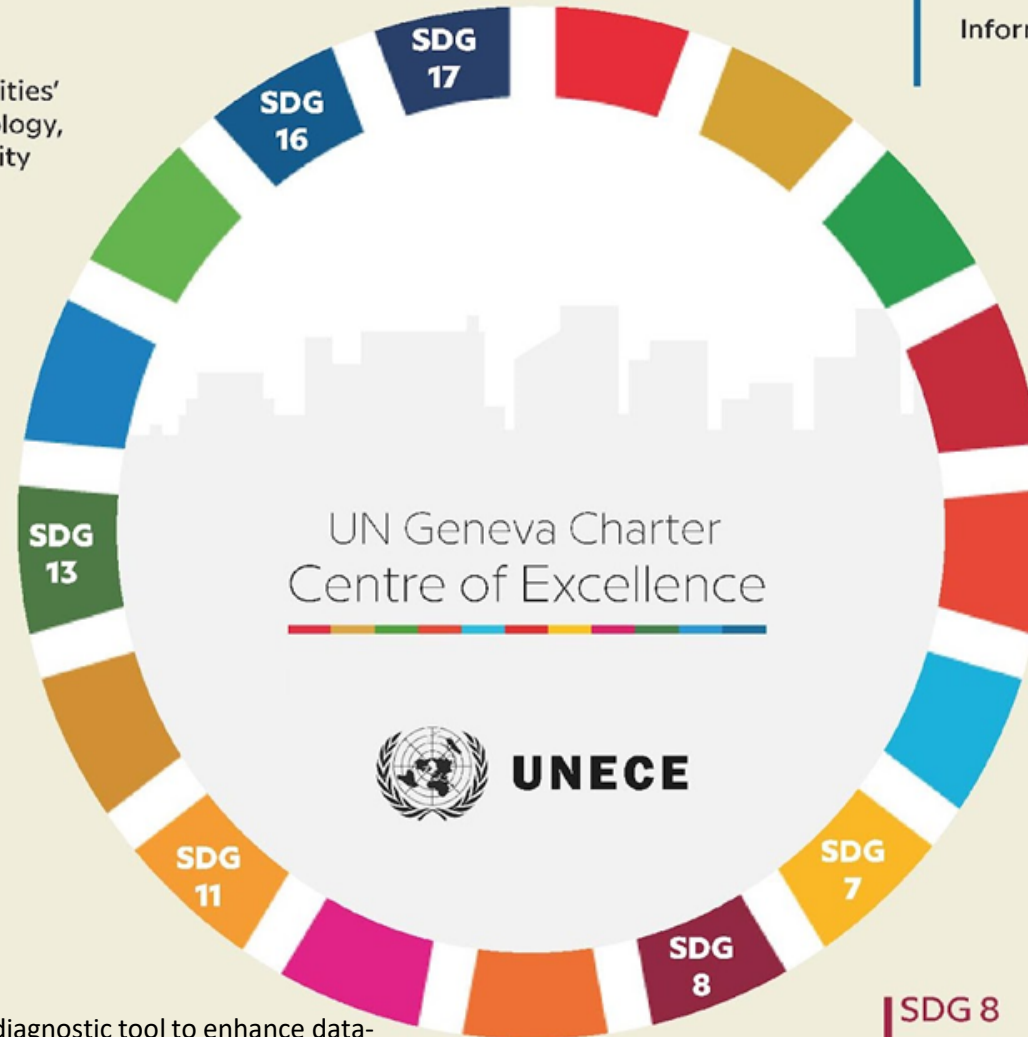
Launch of the Norwegian UN Geneva Charter
on Sustainable Housing

15th Summer Academy of Apartment
Associations in Estonia

Training program for housing managers
in Bulgaria

Design of diagnostic tool to enhance data-
driven decision making in housing
institutions in Geneva

Launch of E-learning Platform on City
Resilience in Geneva



SDG 16

Sustainable Leadership Development Programme
for cities in Norway and beyond

Informative video on the preparation of Local
Housing Plans in Albania

SDG 17

International Forum
exploring housing as a Human Right
for youth experiencing or at-risk of
homelessness

Annual Forum of Apartment
Associations in South-Estonia

11th Baltic Housing Conference

SDG 7

Training for Energy Supporters and
Mentors in Estonia – for housing
cooperations and for municipalities

SDG 8

Seminars and workshops about the role
of sustainable finance for smart cities
and infrastructure

First Forum of Mayors, 6 October 2020

- 36 mayors from 34 countries shared their experiences – 7 mayors attending in-person, despite all constraints.
- Many city leaders from around the world were present, including leaders from Prague, Athens, Budapest, Dublin, Glasgow, Barcelona, Dublin, Bratislava, Tbilisi, Vienna etc.
- Total participants: more than 1,000



Find out more at:

<https://unece.org/housing/publications/geneva-declaration-mayors-2020>



FORUM OF MAYORS 2022



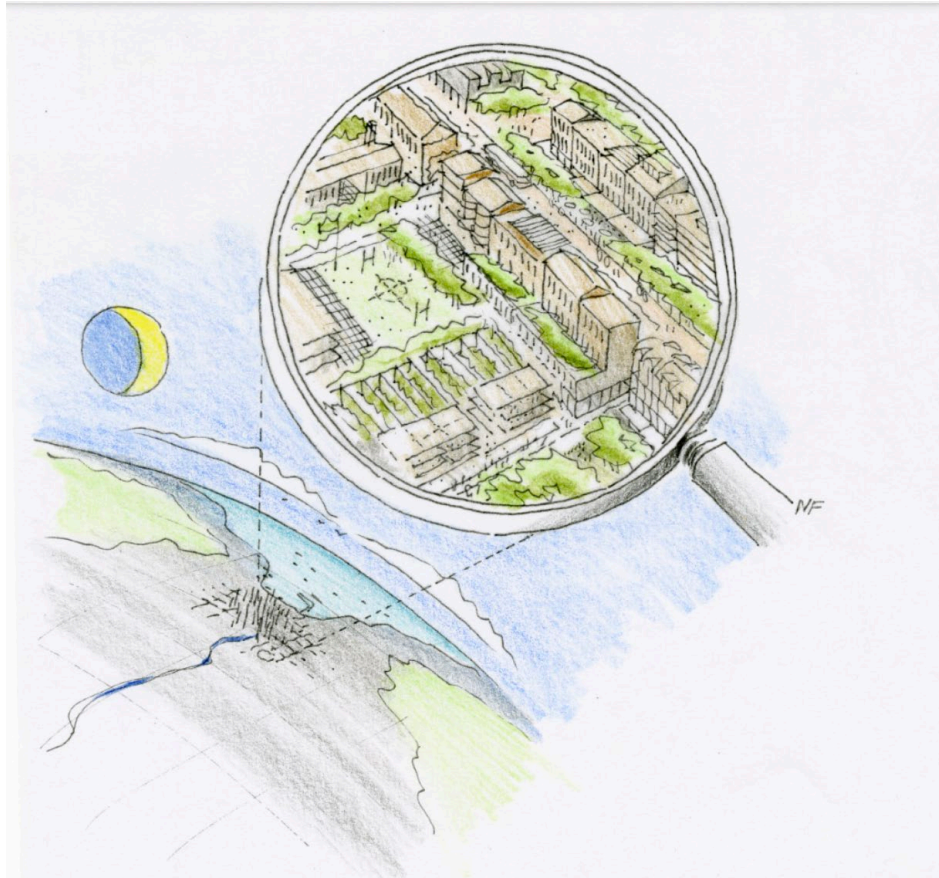
Palais des Nations, Geneva,
Switzerland

4-5 April 2022, Geneva

Find out more at:

<https://forumofmayors.unece.org/>





Policy Area A: Cities, Neighbourhoods, Homes & Rural Life

Goal A1. Coordinated national, sub-national and local action through multi-level governance and strategic plans frameworks

Goal A2. City-wide and integrated action

Goal A3. Sustainable neighbourhoods and local living environments

Policy Area B: Sustainable Housing and Homes

Goal B1. Governance

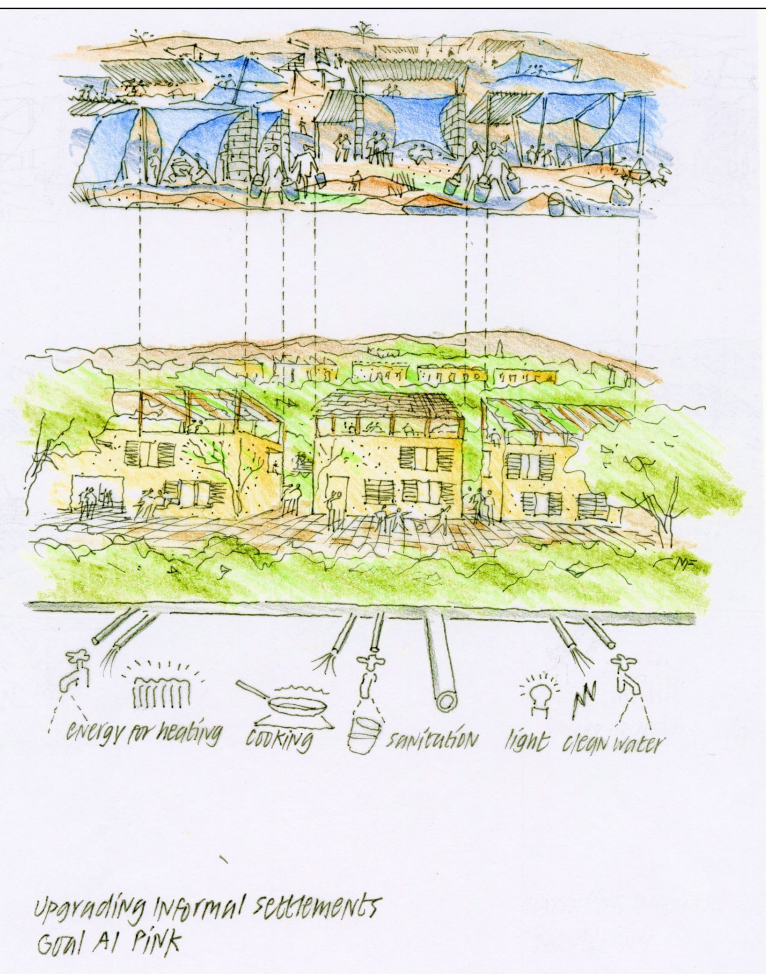
Goal B2. Land Policy

Goal B3. Finance & Funding

Goal B4. Climate neutral housing

Find out more at: <https://unece.org/housing/regional-action-plan-2030>

COVID-19 Recovery Plan for Informal Settlements



Policy area 1: Geospatial, land rights, tenure, resource allocation and justice

Policy area 2: Involvement of local communities and local action

Policy area 3: Basic data needs, telecommunication and information technology

Policy area 4: Physical infrastructure, water, sanitation and energy services

Policy area 5: Social and infrastructure services

Policy area 6: Stay at home recommendations, culture and vulnerable groups

Policy area 7: Food, basic consumption & distribution

Find out more at: <https://unece.org/hlm/documents/2021/04/session-documents/covid-19-recovery-action-plan-informal-settlements-ece>

Tirana, Albania

Assessment

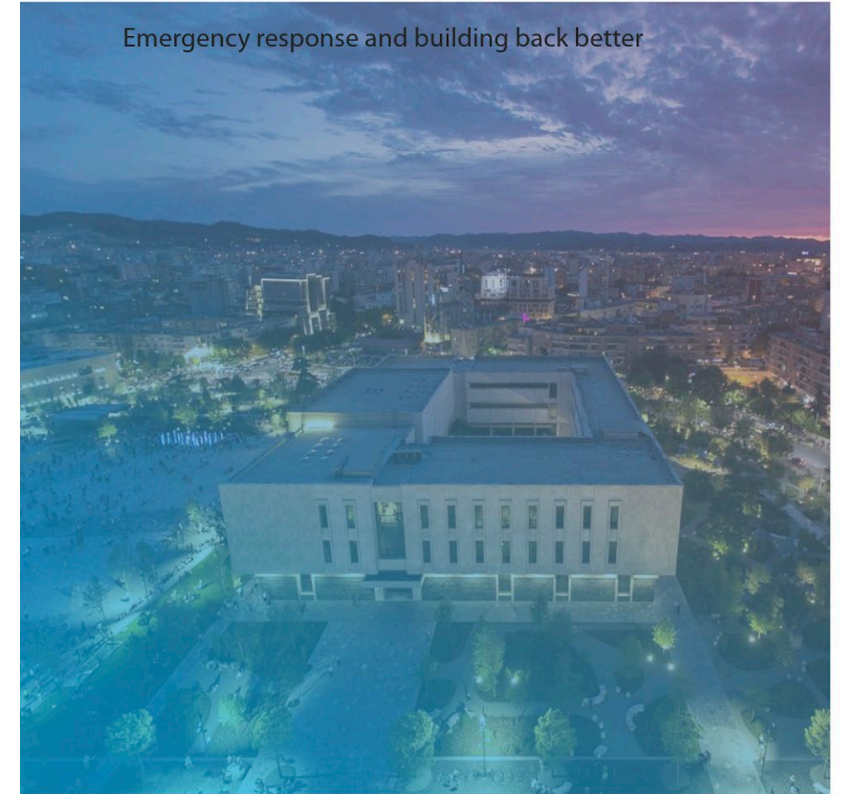
- 2015: Albania has 286 informal settlements
- Tirana's population has quadrupled in 20 years, from around 200,000 in 1992 to 800,000 today
- Such severe urbanization resulted in serious problems such as shortages in infrastructure, particularly housing. This period was accompanied by high residential development.
- 2012: informal areas in the urban area of Tirana comprised approximately 900 ha and a population of 75,000 inhabitants

Response

- The most significant intervention from the Municipality of Tirana is the adoption of a supportive fiscal package from March until August 2020

Post COVID-19 Recovery for Informal Settlements in the UNECE region

Emergency response and building back better



Country Profiles on the Housing Sector: Albania (2002)

Key conclusions and recommendations

Framework for the housing sector transition

- Social housing, housing policy, housing market

Institutional framework

- Central government institutions, national housing agency

Legal framework

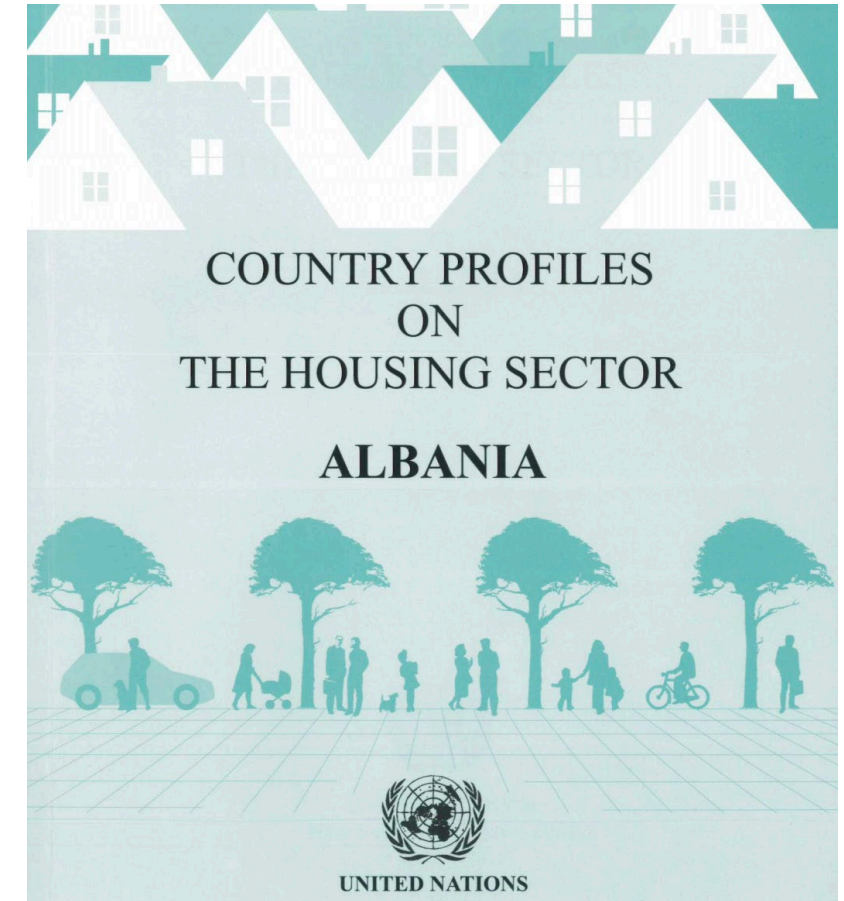
- Rental housing, condominiums

Financial framework

- Housing financing

Further work

- Research
- Future cooperation with UNECE

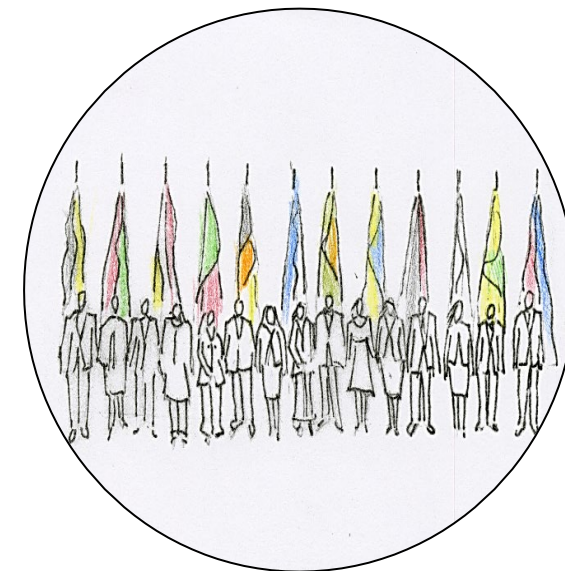


<https://unece.org/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/cp.albania.en.pdf>

83rd Session of the UNECE CUDHLM

Find out more on our website

<https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/364158>



- **When:** 3-7 October 2022
- **Where:** San Marino, San Marino
- **What:** the 83rd Session will support regional exchange of experiences and good practices promoting affordable, adequate and climate-neutral housing; and inclusive, circular, smart and sustainable cities as part of countries' response to and recovery plans for the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Outcome:** San Marino Declaration

