

Report by the Chair of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management



Doris Andoni, Chair
UNECE EXCOM Meeting
13 January 2023

83rd session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM)



The Committee served as a platform for UNECE member States to share experience, best practices and set long-term, evidence-based visions.

- The 83rd session was held in two parts:
 - Part I, the Second Forum of Mayors, took place on 3-5 April 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland and was organized in hybrid format, back-to-back with the ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) as mandated by EXCOM (ECE/EX/2020/L.16).
 - Part II took place on 3-6 October 2022 in San Marino. The meeting was organized in person as per the advice of the Bureau of the Committee.
 - The report of the session is contained in document ECE/HBP/213.



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2022



Key topics addressed during the Second Forum of Mayors



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FORUM OF MAYORS 2022

- **44 city leaders** shared experiences and best practices on
 - Sustainable urban transport, shared mobility and safer roads
 - Vibrant public spaces, green cities and nature-based solutions
 - Resilient, healthy and climate-neutral buildings and affordable and adequate housing
 - Sustainable urban planning, the 15-minute city and smart urban development solutions
- **Networked for joint action: More than 500 participants** from UNECE region and beyond.
- The outcomes fed into **Part II of CUDHLM 83rd session**

Key topics addressed by member States in San Marino



Despite wide regional differences and broad development disparities across ECE member States, **Ministers shared the following recurring themes and common issues**

- Using urban planning as a tool for ensuring climate-neutral and circular homes and cities
- Emerging needs of the ECE region in the areas of housing, real estate and urban development in light of the Ukraine refugee crisis
- Overcoming the lingering effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and building urban economic resilience
- Accelerating digitalization in land administration
- Localizing the SDGs
- Transitioning to smart, sustainable cities

Several countries highlighted the need for

- Increased awareness among local and national governments about best practices and approaches for strengthening vertical and horizontal coordination and engaging citizens in decisions on sustainable urban policies.
- Ensuring that digital transformation in land administration addresses the three dimensions of sustainability and leaves no-one behind.
- Additional resources for financing urban development.

Adoption of the San Marino Declaration



San Marino Declaration on Principles for Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Design and Architecture in Support of Sustainable, Safe, Healthy, Socially-inclusive, Climate-neutral and Circular Homes, Urban Infrastructure and Cities

- Addresses the need for a multifaceted approach for addressing the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability
- First-of-its kind indivisible, action-oriented Principles for Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Design and Architecture.
- Aimed at strengthening the roles of city mayors, architects, engineers, urban planners, designers, surveyors, building and city managers, developers and infrastructure operators in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Endorsement of the revised guidelines for the development of Voluntary Local Reviews



In 2021, CUDHLM endorsed the ECE Guidelines for the development of VLRs, which provide an evidence-based framework for tracking progress in achieving the SDGs using the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities (SSC), developed jointly with ITU. Member States also requested the secretariat to update them based on the results of pilot testing in ECE cities and feedback from stakeholders and United Nations agencies

The revised Guidelines were prepared by the secretariat based on experience gained from the Smart Sustainable City Profiles; insights gained from supporting cooperation among ECE cities within the context of the Forum of Mayors; and the views of UN-Habitat, the UN DESA, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The revised Guidelines contain:

- A coherent approach for anchoring the cities evaluation against the KPIs for SSC and other indicators in a whole-of-government perspective that is linked to the three pillars of sustainability.
- A step-by-step process for preparing the VLRs.
- A recommended outline for structuring the Voluntary Local Reviews



Smart Sustainable Cities and Post-COVID 19 recovery



The United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative is a global platform dedicated to helping cities harness information communication technologies for achieving the SDGs. The initiative involves developing strategic guidelines and measurement tools for use by cities

The Committee secretariat continued to implement the following activities to promote smart sustainable cities in collaboration with other UN organizations and development partners:

- U4SSC thematic group on Innovative Financing : The “Compendium of Practices on Innovative Financing” was finalized for publication
- UNDA 12th tranche project “Smart Sustainable Cities for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda in the UNECE Region”
- UNDA 12th tranche project “Inter-regional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda”
- “Strengthening capacity for the implementation of urban-related SDGs in San Marino through the development of the City Profile on Smart Sustainable Urban Development” project



Cities/countries evaluated against the KPIs for SCC in 2022



Conclusions & recommendations are based on KPI date provided by the city/state

112 KPIs: (a) **Economy** – 55 indicators; (b) **Environment** – 28 indicators (c) **Society and culture** – 29 indicators

Completed in 2022

- Republic of San Marino
- Tbilisi, Georgia

Ongoing

- Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Podgorica, Montenegro



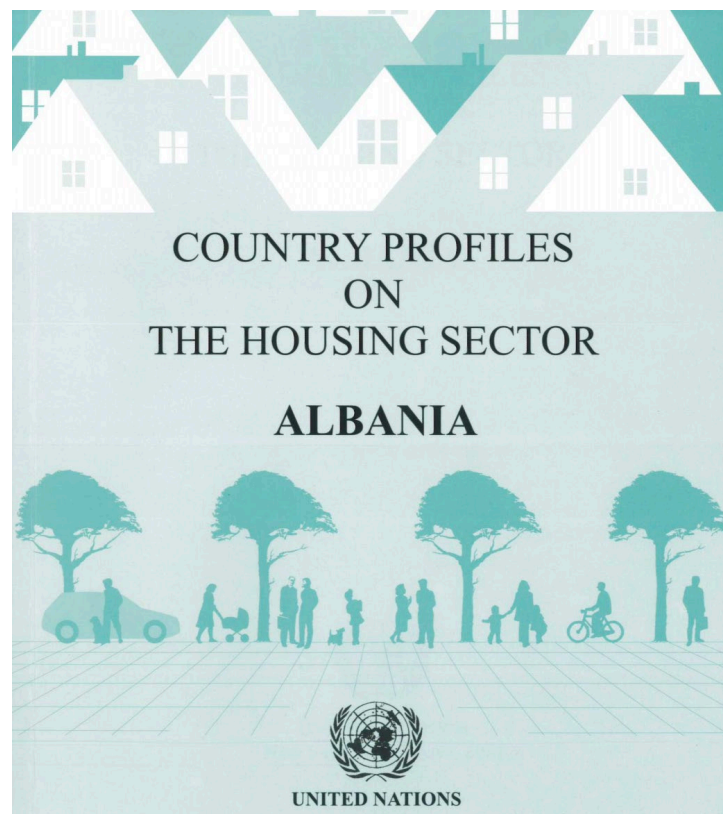
Country Profiles – Albania and Montenegro



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Following requests from the governments of Albania and Montenegro, preparations are underway to raise the required extrabudgetary funds to conduct country profiles on housing, urban development & land management.

The country profile for Montenegro will integrate results of the ECE assessment on the country's housing system, and will be launched subject to fund preparations.



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

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

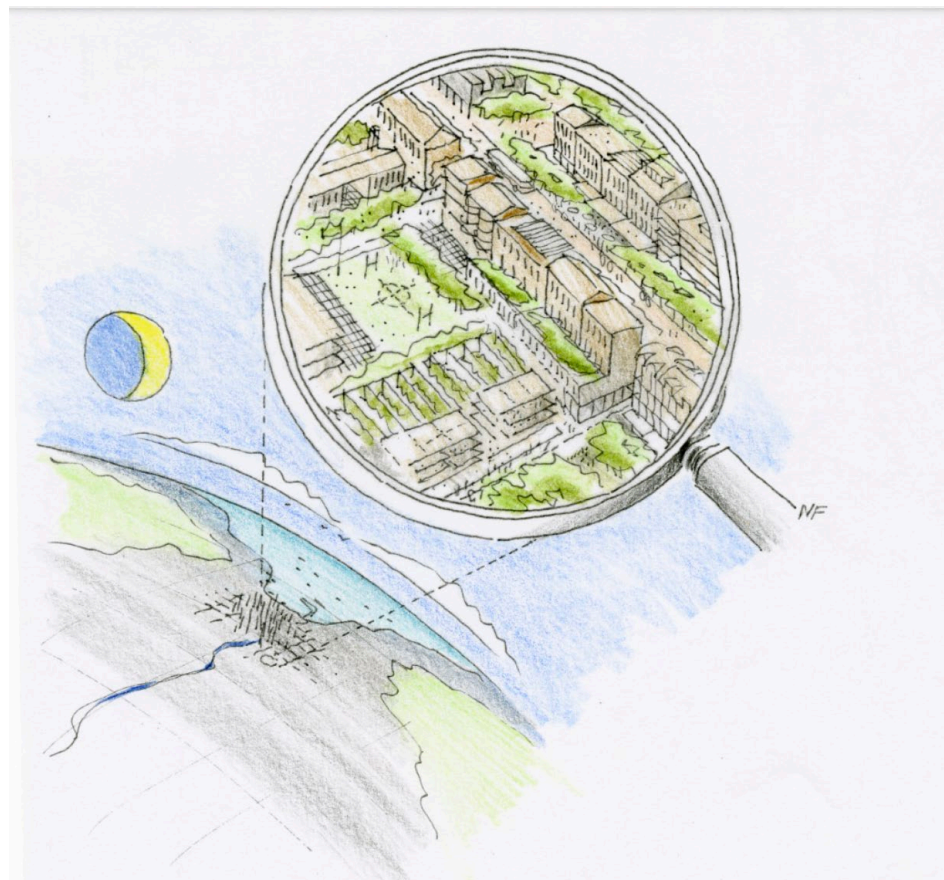
Further work

- Research
- Future cooperation with UNECE

Regional Action Plan 2030 - Place and life in the UNECE region



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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 neighborhoods & local living environments

Policy Area B: Sustainable Housing and Homes

Goal B1. Governance

Goal B2. Land Policy

Goal B3. Finance & Funding

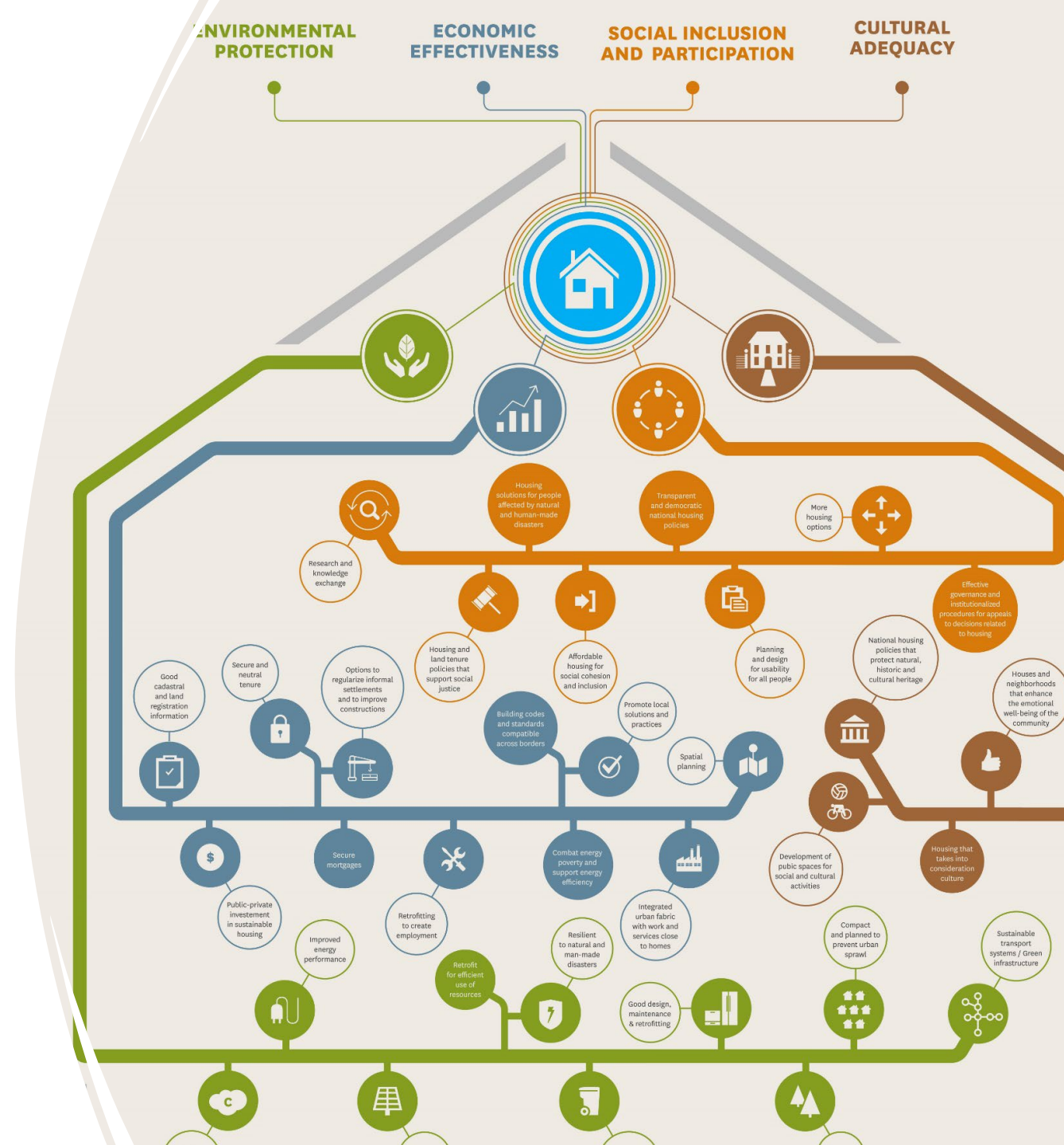
Goal B4. Climate neutral housing

San Marino 83rd Committee Session: “Update on the implementation of the Place and Life in the ECE –A Regional Action Plan 2030 and activities of the #Housing2030 initiative”

<https://unece.org/housing/regional-action-plan-2030>

Support to Committee activities through activities of the Geneva UN Charter Centers of Excellence

- **Tirana, Albania**
Housing policies, informal settlements
- **Tallinn, Estonia**
Housing management in countries with economies in transition
- **Glasgow, UK**
Affordable & social housing
- **York University, Toronto, Canada**
Addressing youth homelessness
- **Geneva, Switzerland**
Evidence based policies
- **Madrid, Spain (Foster Foundation)**
Urban planning and design
- **LIUC University, Cattaneo, Italy**
Innovative financing
- **Columbia Global Centers | Paris (NEW)**
City diplomacy



UN4Kharkiv and UN4Mykolaiv

- At the request of the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, two pilot projects are currently being implemented to support national and local governments in Ukraine to plan and prepare for rebuilding and reconstruction.
- UNECE is currently working with representatives of 16 UN agencies within the context of the UN4Kharkiv and the UN4Mykolaiv Task Forces. UNECE also organizes thematic workshops bringing together key international and local experts on priority topics identified for the masterplan.
- A new Master Plan is being developed for the city of Kharkiv, under the patronage of and with substantial expert contributions from the Norman Foster Foundation and its international experts.
- Similarly, a new Master Plan is also being developed for Mykolaiv, led by global design and architectural company One Works. Both institutions are [UNECE Centres of Excellence](#).



Decisions relating to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management



At its 112th meeting, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (ECE/EX/2020/L.16) decided that:

- a. The evaluation of the Forum of Mayors will take place in 2022 and results will be considered by the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) at its 83rd session and EXCOM during 2022;
- b. Based on the results of the evaluation, EXCOM will agree on whether to extend the Forum of Mayors beyond 2022 as well as on the objectives, format and frequency of the Forum.

The Committee at its 83rd session considered the results of the evaluation as well as related recommendations and made a series of recommendations for the consideration of EXCOM (see para 30 in document ECE/HBP/213).

Decisions relating to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management



Draft Decision

Recalling decision ECE/EX/2020/L.16 of the 112th session of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) deciding to undertake an evaluation of the Forum of Mayors in 2022 the results of which were to be considered by the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) at its 83rd session and EXCOM during 2022, and based on the recommendations of the CUDHLM 83rd session on the same subject, the EXCOM of ECE:

1. Decides to continue the Forum of Mayors beyond 2022.
2. Further decides that the Forum of Mayors:
 - a) is established as a subsidiary body of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) in the form of a Team of Specialists (provisions contained in document ECE/EX/2/Rev.1, namely the *Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE apply*).
 - b) will be convened annually in Geneva immediately prior to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM)'s session.
3. Approves the mandate and Terms of Reference of the Forum of Mayors, as well as other elements, as contained in the annex below for the period 2023-2024. In line with the procedure contained in ECE/EX/2/Rev.1, a review will be undertaken before recommending extension.

Decisions relating to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management



As part of its deliberations, the Committee adopted the programme of work of the Housing and Land Management Component of Housing, Land Management and Population Subprogramme for 2023, as contained in document ECE/HBP/2022/9.

Further, the Committee updated the title of the Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group to “Advisory Group on climate-neutral, energy-efficient and sustainable buildings and cities”, and recommended the extension of the Advisory Group for 2023-2024. It also approved the revised Terms of Reference Advisory Group for 2023-2024, as contained in document ECE/HBP/2022/7, and programme of work for the said period, as contained in document ECE/HBP/2022/8, and recommended EXCOM to approve both documents.

Draft Decision

The Executive Committee hereby approves:

- a) The programme of work of the Housing and Land Management Component of Housing, Land Management and Population Subprogramme for 2023, as contained in document ECE/HBP/2022/9.
- b) The extension of the REM Advisory Group on climate-neutral, energy-efficient and sustainable buildings and cities for 2023-2024.
- c) The revised Terms of Reference of REM Advisory Group for 2023-2024, as contained in document ECE/HBP/2022/7.
- d) The programme of work of REM Advisory Group on climate-neutral, energy-efficient and sustainable buildings and cities for the period 2023-2024, as contained in document ECE/HBP/2022/8.

Thank you!



<https://www.instagram.com/unechlms>

