

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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Informal notice 1

ENGLISH ONLY

HOUSING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY NETWORK

**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT AND PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE
HOUSING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY NETWORK¹**

1. Introduction

HUMAN was founded by the Committee on Human Settlements in September 1997, as an Advisory Network to the Committee and the Bureau.

HUMAN's activities are in line with its Terms of Reference, passed by the Committee in September 2006. The actual version is enclosed.

The current list of members of HUMAN is enclosed for information.

2. Activities and Meetings since September 2009

22.09.2009 HUMAN meeting in Geneva (Peter Gurtner, Tzveta Naniova, Anna Badyina, Betsy Morris, Stephanie Bamford, Gert Gundersen).
Resignation of Gert Gundersen, Michael Doyle, Stephanie Bamford, Alle Elbers, Klaus Hachmann.

22.09.2009 Bureau meeting in Geneva

- Submitting a letter of resignation to the Bureau
- Presenting annual report and programme of work 2009/2010

23-24.09.2009 Committee Meeting of the Committee on Housing and Land Management

- Presentation of the annual report 2008/2009 and programme of work 2009/2010 by HUMAN
- resignation of the Chairwoman S. Bamford, G. Gundersen, M. Doyle, A. Elbers and K. Hachmann.
- Presentation of a revised project proposal about Multi-family Housing by HUMAN (H. Pfeiffer) based on the Slovak case study: Improving efficiency of housing management in Slovakia.

24.09.2009 HUMAN meeting (T. Naniova, E. Morris, A. Badyina, H. Pfeiffer)

¹ The Secretariat reproduces the document as received

Election of H. Pfeiffer as Interim Chair.

29.11.2009 Presentation of the chair of HUMAN in Warsaw, Poland, at a Housing Finance Conference, about Housing Finance in reforming economies.

21.12.2009 Meeting with the Secretariat in Prague to discuss further activities of HUMAN in 2010 (Ch. von Schweinichen, P. Deda, A. Zehnder, H. Pfeiffer)

19.04.2010 Bureau meeting in Geneva
Attended by the Chair of HUMAN. Submitting the Update of the Study: Housing Finance Systems for Countries in Transition for publishing

17.-19.05.2010 Joint Congress of UNECE and European Federation of Building Societies in Munich
Title: Housing Finance Beyond Subprime
In cooperation with UNECE and HUMAN

3. Progress Report 2009/2010. Programme of work 2010/2011

Update of the study Housing Finance Systems for Countries in Transition, Principles and Examples

In the view of the world financial crisis HUMAN initiated, organised and financed the update of the chapter dealing with the US Mortgage Bank Security Housing Finance Technique.

Joint Congress of UNECE and European Federation of Building Societies, Munich 17.-19.05.2010, Housing finance beyond Subprime

The congress in Munich made again clear that housing for the majority of the population in most countries without state help is not affordable. In many European Countries, Non for Profit Developers with regulated profit took care of affordable housing after World War II. This concept improved supply and demand for housing substantially also to the advantage of financial intermediaries. The presentation of UNECE to the congress made clear, that also housing finance institutions have to set initiatives to improve the framework conditions in a national economy to secure their future business.

Megatrend for the future is renovation and modernisation by taking care ecology, climate protection and energy efficiency.

Regulators have to install better standards to avoid usage of flats as speculative objects.

To manage the future of 10 bn people in 2030, a "Global Governance" needs to be developed to harmonize economy, ecology and social factors, was a concluding recommendation of the congress.

Development of a housing cluster

Housing in all its aspects is one of the most complex policy fields in national economies. For a better understanding for politicians and civil servants, dealing with

housing, and a better communication between stakeholders in housing, the development of a cluster structure of housing might be helpful.

A Housing Cluster should indicate and illustrate the horizontal and vertical network structure of all participants in the housing sector, in a transparent and clearly arranged way.

Stakeholders are present or future consumers as owners or tenants of flats or family houses, private (legal entities) and public or regulated profit developers and private individuals.

A third group of stakeholders are ministries and public authorities, which are responsible for and creating the framework conditions for planning, construction and the usage of apartments, but also these, which are responsible for execution, auditing and controlling of laws and amendments.

A fourth party of stakeholders are architects and engineers for planning and supervising of construction projects and construction companies.

Furthermore, housing managements firms, which are administrating, improving, maintaining and repairing the housing stock and of course financial institutions, which are financing the purchase of a plot, the planning process, the construction process as well as big renovation cases, are very important stakeholders.

Housing policy responsible stakeholders and state and community budgets, as the thriving force for affordable housing are another group.

HUMAN offers to develop such a cluster structure for the whole housing sector.

Multi-family housing workshop

A suggested workshop upon Multi-family housing stock management was considered for end of June 2010 in Bratislava, based on the results of the study "How to increase efficiency of housing management in Slovakia", initiated by the representative of Slovakia, Elena Szolgayová. This workshop has to be postponed to late 2010 or first half of 2011.

Affordable housing

HUMAN is prepared to support the working group on a possible legally binding instrument on affordable healthy and ecological housing in the UNECE region in conformity with the draft TOR (T. Naniova).

Regulated Profit Housing Industry

Promoting a new industry sector in reforming economies with regulated profit conditions.

HUMAN members will work on such a project in Slovakia in 2010 and 2011.

4. Comments and possible contributions of HUMAN to the Programme of work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management

Country profiles (CP)

- Each CP can include not only recommendations on different sectors of policies, but also a more coherent outline of the priority of the actions to be implemented by the countries – e.g. actions to be taken in the short-, medium- and longer term. There can also be a ‘hierarchy’ of the recommendations to reflect this outline.
- Another issue is the need for a better integration of chapters within the CP. For example, the chapters on planning should highlight the relationship between planning and housing and the benefit of using planning as an instrument specifically for the housing. Otherwise, the way how the chapters have been written could lead to the problem of fragmentation of understanding of the housing policy and does not help to ensure that the policy is done comprehensively.
- In each CP, the country’s specific successful practices can be explicitly highlighted (e.g. as a separate table), so that they can be advertised beyond the country per se and learned from if necessary.

Improvement of urban environmental performance and the workshop in Slovakia

As a follow up from the planned workshop on spatial planning in the Czech Republic in spring 2010, we could suggest a workshop to explore the role of the residential sector in social equality and cohesion. Raising concerns about those issues are particularly important in Eastern Europe, but also in other UNECE countries. The workshop could, for example, involve the following themes: residential segregation and separation, housing poverty and marginalisation, and policies for building more inclusive and balanced communities. This could also contribute to the overarching Strategy for Sustainable Quality of Life.

Housing modernization and management

Last October, A. Badyina visited Uzbekistan to study the impact of the financial crisis on the urban poor from a housing perspective with some UNDP experts. She conducted interviews with a group of experts in the field of housing management and it was a pleasant surprise to know about a good progress in establishing homeowners’ associations, conducting regular training for housing managers etc. Unfortunately, their experienced has not been widely known. She recognized, they have applied best practices from different countries including Slovakia. So, we could suggest that this group of experts should be invited to come and disseminate their experience at the workshop on multifamily housing stock management to be hosted by Slovakia in late 2010 or 2011.

5. Further steps to be done

During the course of the upcoming Committee Meeting in September, HUMAN is preparing a Strategy Meeting to identify and discuss future working fields

complementary to the programme of work of UNECE. As the network will be rebuilt after the big wave of resignation last year, stable procedures and the way, how to work together, have to be discussed.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY NETWORK

1. The Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management consists of experts from the private sector, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), professional associations, research institutions and local authorities dealing with housing, spatial planning and land administration. The Bureau of the Committee on Housing and Land Management invites experts to become members of the Advisory Network in their personal capacity. The Advisory Network works in close cooperation with the secretariat and the Committee's Bureau and participates in its meetings. The objectives of the Advisory Network are to:

(a) Advise the Committee and UNECE member States on practical arrangements for the implementation of policy recommendations and specific activities to achieve optimal results in member countries;

(b) Assist the Committee in capacity-building activities and in dissemination of information, good practices and know-how in UNECE member countries in those specific policy areas, which are the most important for practical activities and projects in individual countries;

(c) Expand the contacts for relevant activities through networking with global and regional financial institutions, lender and donor organizations, NGOs and the business community, with a view to making the activities and the Advisory Network's assistance to the UNECE member countries more efficient and practical; and

(d) Submit to the Committee annual progress reports.

2. The Advisory Network creates no additional financial implications for the United Nations

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

HUMAN MEMBERSHIP AND FIELDS OF EXPERIENCE

NAME	FIELDS OF PROFESIONAL EXPERIENCE
Peter Gurtner	Housing finance Housing policy Cooperative housing Housing management Floorownership Education in real estate and housing management
Herbert G. Pfeiffer	Housing finance Housing policy Cooperative housing Housing management Education in real estate and housing management Industrial policy Non-for-profit housing industry
Andreas Zehnder	Housing finance Housing policy Housing management
Tzveta Naniova	Housing policy Energy efficiency Climate change Framework convention
Elizabeth Morris	Housing policy Housing management
Anna Badyina	Housing policy Housing management

