

## ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

<b>I. Project title</b>	Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing in selected countries with economies in transition
<b>II. Project DA code</b>	2985 ROA-285-9
<b>III. Executing entity</b>	UNECE
<b>IV. Reporting period covered</b>	January – December 2015
<b>V. Financial Implementation rate</b> <i>(in % of the total</i>	39,1%

### VI. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

In 2015, the UNECE and the UN-Habitat assisted Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan in the development of National Action Plans for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development (NAPs). Each country established an interagency Steering Committee and a national group of experts to provide guidance and to contribute to the development of NAPs. The NAPs for four beneficiary countries have been developed based on the comprehensive analysis and policy recommendations of the UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Urban Development <sup>1</sup>. During the reporting period a draft NAP for Serbia was prepared. The Draft NAP formulated a comprehensive and coherent housing policy and consolidated the multiple activities in the area of housing policy. The NAP strengthened cooperation between different key stakeholders in the housing sector (national and local) and established synergies between diverse activities and projects on housing and urban development in Serbia. NAPs for Armenia, Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan are currently being developed and are planned to be completed in 2016.

Three national validation workshops to discuss NAPs were held in Yerevan, Armenia (9 April 2015), Chisinau, the Republic of Moldova (8-9 September 2015), and in Belgrade, Serbia (9-10 November 2015). In the Republic of Moldova the validation workshop was organized back-to-back with the training workshop on sustainable housing (the activity was initially planned for 2014 but was postponed for 2015)<sup>2</sup>. The validation workshops<sup>3</sup> brought together representatives of the national Steering Committees, national expert groups and stakeholders (including representatives of local governments, NGOs, academia, private sector and international organizations active in the countries). The validation workshops discussed the proposals for the NAPs based on earlier provided policy recommendations of the country profiles, other studies and available best practices. Following the request of the Government of Armenia, an additional workshop was organized in the town of Goris (9-13 February 2015). The workshop enhanced understanding of housing and urban development challenges at the municipal level.

The training workshop in Chisinau brought together representatives of local authorities from the Republic of Moldova as well as representatives of national authorities and international experts (total over 100 participants). The training developed capacity of local newly elected authorities (the workshop took place

<sup>1</sup> Country Profile for Serbia (and Montenegro), initially prepared in 2006, was updated in 2014. Country Profile for Tajikistan was completed in 2011, Republic of Moldova – in 2015; Country Profile for Armenia will be finalized in spring 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Support to the organization of this workshop was provided by the Asian Development Bank.

<sup>3</sup> The validation workshop in Tajikistan was postponed to 2016.

two months after the elections at the municipal level) and contributed to the development of the NAP for Republic of Moldova.

To evaluate the conducted workshops and to plan next steps, bilateral meetings with members of the project Steering Committees and relevant experts representing key national and international organizations were held after the workshops. Findings were documented in the mission reports and are used for planning of future project activities. Information on the project and its activities is disseminated through the UNECE website<sup>4</sup>.

## VII. REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ACTIVITIES

**Table 1. Review of Performance Indicators**

<b>Expected Accomplishment</b>	<b>Indicator of achievement (T0)</b>	<b>Indicator of achievement (T1)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
EA1: Strengthened national capacity of beneficiary countries to develop policies for sustainable housing	IA1: National Action Plans for sustainability measures in the housing sector are developed for beneficiary countries	The draft NAP for Serbia has been developed. NAPs for Armenia, Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan are planned to be completed in 2016.	<p>To develop NAPs, project Steering Committees and national expert groups for the preparation of the national action plans have been established in the four countries. UNECE in cooperation with UN-Habitat and focal points in respective countries prepared templates for the National Action Plans. These templates were discussed and agreed with the governments.</p> <p>UNECE in cooperation with UN-Habitat guided the preparation of the National Action Plans. The draft NAP for Serbia has been developed and presented at the workshop on 9-10 November 2015. The NAP for Serbia puts an emphasis on developing a new Housing Law which has been also discussed during the workshop. Currently the draft NAP is in editing and will be available on the website during 2016 after it is adopted by the Government.</p> <p>A first draft of the NAP for Tajikistan has been prepared in 2014. The National Plans for Armenia and Republic of Moldova are being developed.</p> <p>For all the four countries, the NAPs are being developed based on the</p>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.unece.org/housing/unda.html>

			comprehensive analysis and policy recommendations of Country Profiles on Housing and Urban Development. Country Profiles is a flagship activity of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management. The profiles are an effective tool for governments to analyze their housing and urban development policies, strategies, institutional and financial frameworks and to compare the progress made internationally. Country Profile for Serbia (and Montenegro) <sup>5</sup> was prepared in 2006 and updated in 2014 <sup>6</sup> . Country Profile for Tajikistan <sup>7</sup> was completed in 2011, Republic of Moldova <sup>8</sup> – in 2015; Country Profile for Armenia is to be finalized in spring 2016.
EA2: Strengthened national capacity of beneficiary countries to implement policies for sustainable housing through inter-ministerial coordination	IA2: Number of National Action Plans launched in beneficiary countries	Planned for 2016	Planned for 2016
EA3: Strengthened national capacity of other countries in the ECE region to develop policies for sustainable housing through application of the project's lessons learned	IA3: Number of references to identified best practices in official documentation or communication of other countries in the UNECE region		Planned for 2016-2017

**Table 2 – Review of Completed Activities**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Comment</b>
A1.1. Three joint ECE/UN-Habitat national workshops to provide training on sustainable	Three workshops were organised in 2014 (reported in 2014: Yerevan, Armenia, 13-14 October, 2014,; Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 28-29 October, 2014,

<sup>5</sup> Serbia (and Montenegro), <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36292>

<sup>6</sup> Orna Rosenfeld

<sup>7</sup> Tajikistan, <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=27165>

<sup>8</sup> Republic of Moldova, <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41823>

<p>housing.</p>	<p>Belgrade, Serbia, 12-13 November, 2014). A workshop in Republic of Moldova together with the validation workshop (Activity 1.4) was organised on 8-9 September 2015.</p> <p>Detailed information on the workshops (meetings' agendas, presentations and reports) are available at the project website at under countries' pages, <a href="http://www.unece.org/housing/unda.html">http://www.unece.org/housing/unda.html</a>.</p> <p>All workshops brought together for the first time members of the national Steering Committees, national groups of experts and stakeholders. The workshops were aimed to discuss the governments' and stakeholders' priorities in housing and urban development as well as to map ongoing projects and activities implemented currently in the countries. Representatives of the UNECE and UN-Habitat shared information on international studies, guidance documents which could be useful for the preparation and later for the implementation of the NAPs.</p>
<p>A1.2. Four advisory missions by UNECE to advise on the establishment Steering Committees in the four beneficiary countries</p>	<p>Completed in 2014 (Four advisory missions were held in Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan)</p>
<p>A1.3. Development of National Action Plans for sustainability measures in the residential sector</p>	<p>The NAP for Serbia was prepared and presented at the workshop in 2015. The NAP focused on establishing a comprehensive framework for the housing policy. The central tool for the future implementation of the NAP is a draft national law on housing which was developed under the NAP and was discussed at the workshop with the stakeholders. It is to be adopted by the Government in 2016.</p> <p>The draft National Action Plan for Tajikistan was drafted in 2014. The NAP was focused on promoting energy efficiency of residential buildings and technical control of new construction. Since 2014, Agency of Architecture and Construction was working jointly with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on energy efficiency in buildings.</p> <p>The priorities and main parts of the National Action Plan for Republic of Moldova were discussed at the workshop in 2015. The priorities of the NAP are on management of multiapartment buildings,</p>

	<p>especially on the issues of energy efficiency (developing financial mechanisms to promote energy efficiency in multiapartment buildings). In addition, the NAP is focusing on the implementation of the Government Decentralization Strategy aimed at giving more responsibilities and power to local authorities.</p> <p>The National Action Plan for Armenia is currently being developed based on the recommendation from the draft Country Profile prepared by UNECE and submitted to the Government of Armenia. As discussed with the Government, priorities of the NAP are on spatial planning, municipal management and smart cities.</p>
<p>A1.4 Four national validation workshops to review draft chapters of the respective National Action Plans with members of the inter-ministerial Steering Committees and relevant stakeholders and to discuss their implementation.</p>	<p>Three national validation workshops were organised: Armenia (Erevan, 9 April 2015), Republic of Moldova (Chisinau, 8-9 September 2015), and in Belgrade, Serbia (9-10 November 2015). The workshop in Tajikistan was postponed by the Government of Tajikistan for 2016.</p> <p>Detailed information on the workshops organised (meetings' agendas, presentations and reports) are available at the project website at under countries' pages, <a href="http://www.unece.org/housing/unda.html">http://www.unece.org/housing/unda.html</a>.</p> <p>At the validation workshops, proposals for the NAPs were presented by the governments; those were based on policy recommendations of the country profiles and other relevant projects and studies. Representatives of the UNECE and UN-Habitat shared information on international studies, guidance documents which could be useful for the preparation and later for the implementation of the NAPs. Then the proposals for the NAPs were discussed by the national and international experts who informed on existing experiences and practices which should be taken into account in the NAPs.</p>
<p>A2.1 Four national workshops in the beneficiary countries to launch National Action Plans on Sustainable Housing; discuss the implementation of the Action Plans and possible ways of monitoring of the Action Plans implementation.</p>	<p>Planned for 2016</p>
<p>A3.1 Develop a policy paper on analysis of best practices and lessons learned and guidelines on the</p>	<p>Planned for 2016-2017</p>

preparation and implementation of National Action Plans for Sustainable Housing.	
A3.2 Organize a regional meeting to share best practices and lessons learned on the preparation and follow-up of National Action Plans and the set-up of inter-ministerial Steering Committees between the beneficiary countries and other countries in the region.	Planned for 2017

## VIII. CHALLENGES/PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED SO FAR

**Table 3 – Challenges and actions**

Description of challenge	Action(s) taken to solve the issue, if any
<p>Twice in 2015 (in June and in October) the workshop in Dushanbe, Tajikistan was postponed on request of the Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of Tajikistan. The reasons of this postponing were not related to the project. In June 2015, the workshop was postponed due to other non-related to the project government activities which took place on the same dates as for the planned project workshop. The October workshop was postponed according to the Government due to security consideration at that moment in Tajikistan due to the military conflicts with the opposition.</p> <p>There was a replacement of the Chairman of the Committee on Architecture and Construction in May 2015. The new Chairman does not have yet much experience of international work. There is therefore a risk of a decrease of the commitment of the Government of Tajikistan to fulfil the activities specified by the project.</p>	<p>Drafting of the National Action Plan has been conducted according to the project timeframe regardless the cancellations of workshop.</p> <p>The preparation of the validation workshop was done in due course. Thus, all necessary preparatory measures are taken, and the organisation of the validation workshop in 2016 should not bring any disturbance into the timeframe of project activities.</p> <p>The UN-Habitat and the UNECE are currently working on establishing the relations with the new Chairman of the Committee. It is planned to organise a bilateral meeting with this new Chairman at the beginning of 2016 to ensure the Committee's commitment to its tasks in the project.</p>

## IX. SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING

**Table 4 – Financial Leveraging**

Donor	Purpose	Amount raised	
		Cash (USD)	In-Kind
Smart city laboratory, Moscow, Russia	Provided a speaker on innovative technologies for housing for the workshop in Armenia		Covered travel expenses of an expert from Russia
HM Land Registry, UK	Provided a speaker on land administration for sustainable housing		Covered travel expenses of an expert from UK

	and urban development for the workshop in Armenia		
Agency for Housing Mortgage Lending, Russian Federation	Provided a speaker on housing finance for the workshop in Armenia		Covered travel expenses of an expert from Russia
The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	Provided a speaker on Housing accessibility and affordability after disasters for the workshop in Republic of Moldova		Covered travel expenses of an expert from Belgium
United Nations Environment Programme - Vienna Office	Provided a speaker on the potential of energy efficiency and renewable energy for the workshop in Serbia		Covered travel expenses of an expert from Vienna
Asian Development Bank	Provided financial support to the organization of a workshop in Goris, Armenia, on the issues of municipal urban development		Covered conference room rent, interpretation, materials

## X. REVISIONS

No change to the budget occurred. No changes to the allotment have taken place.

A change in the planned activities in one country, Tajikistan, occurred due to the postponing a national workshop in Tajikistan to 2016.

## XI. WORK PLAN FOR REMAINING ACTIVITIES

**Table 5 – Remaining activities**

Remaining Activities	Start date	Date of completion
A national validation workshop in Tajikistan.	January 2016	June 2016
Finalization of national action plans	September 2015	September 2016
Four national workshops to launch National Action Plans	January 2016	December 2016
Develop a policy paper and guidelines on the preparation and implementation of National Action Plans for Sustainable Housing	January 2016	December 2017
Organize a concluding regional meeting as a follow-up of National Action Plans preparation	September 2017	December 2017

## XII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**XIII.FINANCIAL INFORMATION (provisional due to UMOJA implementation)**

Object Class	Description	A. Budget/Allotment (as per project document) (USD)	B. Revisions to allotments (if any) (USD)	C. Explanations of revisions to allotments (USD)	D. Total Expenditure (USD)
602	General Temporary Assistance	7,500	-		1,875
604	Consultants and Expert Groups	160,800	-		81969,16
608	Travel of staff	101,500	-		45,918.52
612	Contractual services	42,000	-		14,000
616	Operating expenses	8,000	-		1,689.55
618	Supplies, Materials etc.	-	-		-
621	Fellowships, grants and contributions	213,200	-		62,976.93
	<b>Total</b>	<b>533,000</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>208,429.16</b>

Implementation rate (%) 39.1	= Total expenditure (D)/Total budget (A)
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