



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Terms of Reference

Evaluation of the role of the UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management and related follow-up activities in the development of national housing and urban development legislation and programmes from 1996 to 2014

I. Purpose

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management (“Country Profiles”) for the development and implementation of national legislation, policies and programmes on housing and urban development.

The review will include an assessment of the activities in follow-up to the recommendations of Country Profiles, including National Action Plans for Sustainable Housing (National Action Plans), in supporting the implementation of the policies and programmes, promoting inter-ministerial cooperation and encouraging investments developed by UNECE. The results of the evaluation will be used to (1) improve the content of future Country Profiles; (2) better coordinate the work on the Country Profiles with other areas of work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management; and (2) formulate possible future activities related to the implementation of the Country Profiles’ recommendations.

II. Scope

The evaluation will include:

1) Country Profiles published from 1996-2013:

- Bulgaria (1996)
- Poland (1998)
- Slovakia (1999)
- Lithuania (2000)
- Romania (2001)
- Republic of Moldova (2002, including the second forthcoming publication in 2015)
- Albania (2002)
- Armenia (2004)
- Russian Federation (2004)
- Serbia and Montenegro (2006)
- Georgia (2007)
- Belarus (2008)
- Kyrgyzstan (2010)
- Azerbaijan (2010)
- Tajikistan (2011)
- Ukraine (2013)

2) National Action Plans, the evaluation will include Tajikistan (2013-2015)

III. Background

“Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management” is one of the four areas of work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM). Country Profiles are analytical studies drafted by international experts and conducted at the request of a country. The objective of the study is to review housing policies, the condition of the existing housing stock, practices of spatial planning, and the construction and utilities sector, as well as the socio-economic, institutional, legal and financial framework of the housing, urban development and land management sectors in the countries concerned. As an integral part of the study, policy recommendations on how to improve housing, urban planning and land management strategies and policies are extended to the host government. Country Profiles also aim to provide information to potential investors.



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

National Action Plans draw on conclusions and recommendations of the Country Profiles. They contain detailed plan of actions on further reforms of the countries' housing sector and help in building capacity on sustainable housing through the provision of advisory services and organization of workshops.

This evaluation was proposed in order to develop the most efficient and effective way to respond to the requests of member States to develop Country Profiles. As Country Profiles are mostly an extra-budgetary activity, there is a need to use both financial and human resources as efficiently as possible while making the greatest impact on policies in the countries.

IV. Issues

The evaluation will answer the following questions:

1. Do Governments refer to the recommendations of the Country Profiles in improving their legislation, policies and programmes on housing, urban planning and land management? (*relevance*)
2. What are the strategies, policies or plans that have been developed so far based on recommendations of the Country Profiles? (*effectiveness and relevance*)
3. Are there any issues or topics that are not currently being addressed by the Country Profiles/but it would be useful to address? (please specify) (*relevance*)
4. Is there any topic currently included which you think is not useful? (please specify) (*relevance*)
5. Do Governments rate the National Action Plans as effective in promoting inter-ministerial cooperation? (please provide details) (*effectiveness*)
6. Do Governments rate the National Action Plans as effective in generating investments and projects funding? (if Yes, please provide more details) (*effectiveness*)
7. Do Governments consider the Country Profiles and National Action Plans as a good investment compared with the resources dedicated? (*efficiency*)

V. Methodology

An independent consultant will be engaged to conduct the evaluation. The evaluator will be managed by the Housing and Land Management Unit, which will provide the consultant all the necessary background documents and information on the Country Profiles and on the National Action Plans. The consultant will be responsible for identifying a suitable framework and methodology for the evaluation through an inception report.

A desk review of all relevant documents will be conducted in the first instance.

To obtain the information on questions 1, 2 and 7 2 identified in Section IV, a survey of member States where Country Profiles have already been prepared (these countries are listed in Section II) will be conducted. For questions 3 and 4, the questions should be sent to all member States. For questions 5 and 6, the questions should be sent to Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan.

The Consultant will conduct telephone interviews with relevant member States and stakeholders to be identified by UNECE.



VI. Evaluation Schedule

- A. Preliminary research – August 2015
- B. Preparation of questionnaire, collection of replies and telephone interviews – August – September 2015
- C. Analysis of collected information – September 2015
- D. Draft report – October 2015
- E. Final report – October 2015

VII. Resources

An independent consultant will be engaged for a period of 40 days to conduct the evaluation, within a budget of USD\$10,000. Ms. Gulnara Roll, Head of the Unit, will manage the evaluation in consultation with the Division Director Ms. Paola Deda. All members of HLM will be asked for inputs. The report will be presented to the Bureau of CHLM for comment.

VIII. Intended Use/Next Steps

The Unit will review the results of the evaluation and report the results to the CHLM. The results will be used in determining if re-assessment of the contents of the Country Profiles is necessary. If so, the results of the self-evaluation will be considered in re-structuring the contents of the Country Profiles. The results will also be used to re-evaluate the project on the National Action Plans, if necessary.

Annex. List of initial relevant documents for the consultant available from the CHLM Secretariat

1. Decision of the CHLM in including the Country Profiles activity in its programme of work (HBP/R.335)
2. Review of the implementation of recommendations of the Country Profiles (Report of the 62nd session, ECE/HBP/122 para IV B)
3. Guidelines on the preparation of Country Profiles (ECE/HBP/2013/8)
4. Note for the National Focal Point
5. Country Profile of: Ukraine, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan