

The role of UNECE and the Key Performance Indicators for Smart and Sustainable Cities in improving smart and sustainable urban development

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Structure of the guidelines



- About UNECE and the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management
- The role of UNECE in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG11 and relevant activities
- The Key Performance Indicators for Smart and Sustainable Cities (KPI4SSC)
- The UNECE approaches to the KPI evaluation including project examples
- Summary and conclusions.

About UNECE



- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – one of five regional commissions of the UN
 - A multilateral platform dedicated to fostering economic integration and cooperation and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region
 - Associates governments from 56 countries.
- The UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management
 - Established in 1947 focusing on affordable housing, land and urban development.



The role of UNECE in the context of SDG11



- To improve the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda, especially with regard to
 - production, management and use of data for policy and decision-making
 - improving policy coherence across all levels
 - Improving inter-sectoral, horizontal and vertical cooperation.
- One of priority tasks under the 2030 Agenda is to develop better standards for the production, management and use of data and evidence in the policy process.
- SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Example of activities

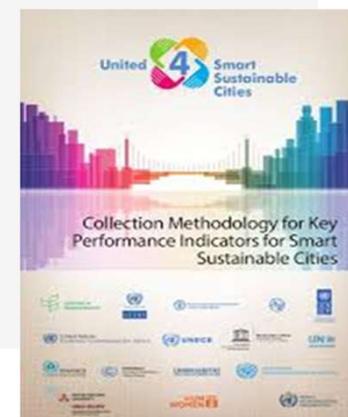


- Providing technical assistance to governments and municipalities, especially to countries with economies in transition (e.g. urban development and housing policies and projects)
- Organize peer learning activities (e.g. the CUDHLM annual sessions, SDG11 Day, the Day of Cities, the Forum of Mayors, 7 October 2020)
- Developing thematic publications (e.g. country profiles, city profiles)
- Developing methodologies, **standards**, guidelines (e.g. **the Key Performance Indicators for Smart and Sustainable Cities**; guidelines to evidence-based policies).

The Key Performance Indicators for Smart and Sustainable Cities (KPI4SSC)



- Developed jointly by UNECE and ITU in the context of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative associating 16 UN agencies
- A baseline analysis that allows assessing “smartness” and “sustainability” of cities and tracking progress towards SDGs
- 91 indicators divided in 3 areas: “Economy”, “Environment”, “Society” and Culture”/cross-cutting theme “ICTs”
- Available free of charge; used by over 100 cities worldwide
- KPIs review planned for 2020.



Technical assistance project 1



- UNDA 10th tranche project : “Improving evidence-based policies on housing and urban development in countries with economies in transition” (Ukraine, Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Bulgaria)
- Primary end users: ministries
- Approach to the KPI4SSC: a background for a discussion on improving measuring progress towards SDGs at all levels, improving policy design, improving coordination and collaboration between data producers, analysts and users at all levels, data handling/management reforms
- Activities e.g.: capacity building workshops bringing together ministries National Statistical Offices, and city governments, on improving evidence-based policy-making; the production of guidelines to evidence-based policies.

Technical assistance project 2



- UNDA 12th tranche project: “Smart Sustainable Cities for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda in the UNECE Region: (Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Serbia)”.
- End users: cities
- Approach to the KPI4SSC: the evaluation of “smartness” and “sustainability” of cities supplemented with a set of recommendations on improving policy-making and developing sustainable infrastructure projects
- Activities e.g.: development of Smart Sustainable City profiles, capacity-building workshops on (i) measuring progress towards SDGs using the KPI4SSC; (ii) innovative financing mechanisms bringing together municipalities, ministries, businesses and others.

UNECE approach to KPI4SSC



- UNECE implements the KPI4SSC in a “holistic”, comprehensive manner, in technical assistance projects that aim to improve the capacities of countries and cities to deliver the 2030 Agenda and to better measure SDG.
- It builds on already existing processes to accelerate progress towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- When implementing the KPI4SSC, we swear by to
 - Be transparent about the limits of sustainability assessment frameworks
 - Respect and capture the diversity of ongoing efforts in countries and cities
 - Feed into key ongoing and planned activities
 - Be neutral and bring ALL relevant stakeholders to the table
 - Build on local knowledge and expertise; and cross-sectoral networks and relationships to scale-up development efforts.

Conclusions



- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires attributing new roles to cities in a multilateral context (where the national governments have long been seen as the key actors).
 - UNECE works more and more at the global/national/local interface!
- Standardization and the development of Information and Telecommunication Technologies are the driving forces for smart and sustainable urban development.
 - They play important role in guiding progress towards realization of the 2030 Agenda. However, for them to be impactful, they need to be adequately contextualized!
- Only contextualisation of standards allows generating comprehensive policy responses that are able to successfully accelerate progress towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you!

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