



# UNECE Country Profile on Housing and Land Management - Armenia



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## About Country Profiles:

**Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management** is one of the 4 main areas of work of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

A **Country Profile** is an important tool to analyse countries' policies, strategies, and legal, institutional and financial frameworks in the areas of housing, urban development, and land administration and management.

A **Country Profile** provides recommendations for improving policies and practices in the areas just mentioned. Based on the recommendations, a National Actional Plan is developed and implemented by the country.

A **Country Profile** is conducted on the request of UNECE member States, coordinated by the secretariat, and drafted by independent international experts, in cooperation with the government and national UNDP offices.

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# Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management

**19**  
Country Profiles

2018 Kazakhstan

- 2017 • Armenia (2nd)
- 2015 • Republic of Moldova (2nd), Uzbekistan
- 2013 • Ukraine
- 2011 • Tajikistan
- 2010 • Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan
- 2008 • Belarus
- 2007 • Georgia
- 2006 • Serbia and Montenegro
- 2004 • Armenia, Russian Federation
- 2002 • Albania, Republic of Moldova
- 2001 • Romania
- 2000 • Lithuania
- 1999 • Slovakia
- 1998 • Poland
- 1997 • Bulgaria

**4.**  
Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Country Profile on Housing and Land Management of Armenia

2013 September – letter sent by the Ministry of Urban Development requesting for a Country Profile

2013 October - preparation approved by the Committee at its 74<sup>th</sup> session subject to availability of funds (a Country Profile exercise is enabled by extrabudgetary fund)

2014 October – preliminary mission by the secretariat

2015 April – research mission by the international experts and the secretariat.

2017 January– after a series of consultation with the Government on the draft Country Profile, the Country Profile was published.

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Country Profile on Housing and Land Management of Armenia: the funding

Extrabudgetary fund – provided by the Russian Federation

Government of Armenia – made national experts available for the study

United Kingdom and Russian Federation – provided in-kind contribution by financing their own experts

OECD – in-kind contribution by financing one expert

UNDP Armenia – contribution in part to other expenses

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## Chapter - Urban development

- Rapid urbanization (63% population in urban areas and more than half of this in Yerevan). Several challenges from rapid urbanization, including governance at all levels and need for policy instruments to address them.
- Uneven economic development; dominance of Yerevan in the national economy (accounted for over 60% of country's GDP)
- Principle of supporting sustainable urban development recognized in Government policy. Strategic documents:
  - a) National spatial planning document - General Settlement Plan (2003) – sets out strategic direction of national urban development policy; main provisions taken into account in preparation of plans at other spatial levels (regional, local) and in designing other social, economic and territorial development programmes in urban and rural areas.

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## Chapter - Urban development

- b) Armenia Development Strategy 2014-2025 highlights role of cities in addressing regional disparities and in promoting growth outside of Yerevan). Several challenges to be addressed highlighted, among them:
- Deepening regional disparities
  - The need for reforms in regional administration, particularly expansion of intercommunity cooperation and consolidation of rural communities to form bigger administrative units
  - The need to improve quality, accessibility and effectiveness of infrastructure, and delivery of local and public services in regions

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## Chapter - Urban development

### Main recommendations:

- **Improve urban development policies**
  - complement the already existing collaboration of different government agencies and different levels of government by 1) adopting a more comprehensive approach to help align different spatial and sectoral policies, and 2) having more explicit dimension on sectoral policies to improve their alignment with spatial planning policies and thus ensure a more coherent approach to urban development
  - Provide more powers and resources to local government to implement Master Plans and Land Use Zoning Plans – further capacity building needed

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## Chapter - Urban development

### Main recommendations:

- **Develop better regional development policies**

Policies should focus on economic competitiveness, social cohesion and environmental sustainability to achieve balanced urban and regional development

- **Further improve the Master Plan implementation**

- It might be more efficient and cost-effective to prepare common spatial development documents for group of communities rather than individually
- Involve local communities and interested stakeholders more in the planning process, from design to implementation (not only during initial design stage and final approval of Plan)

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## Chapter - Urban development

### Main recommendations:

- **Develop further measures to mitigate consequences of natural hazards and adapt to climate change**
  - Addressing seismic risk: develop practical measures to identify areas most at risk and developing mitigation strategies to tackle seismic hazards
  - Improving environmental performance of towns and cities, and enabling them to adapt to climate change; actions across the board needed – buildings need to consume less energy, transport systems need to promote more efficient means of travel and urban land use planning needs to create

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### Chapter - Urban development

#### Main recommendations:

places that would not require unnecessary journeys and where green space mitigates climate change impact

- **Improve the five-year Community Development Programmet better integrate it with Master Plans and Zoning Plans**
- **Apply the compact city concept with focus on sustainability**
- **Improve environmental protection policies**
- **Improve architectural and cultural heritage conservation**

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For more information on:

**Country Profiles -**

<http://www.unece.org/housing/countryprofiles.html>

**Country Profile of Armenia -**

<http://www.unece.org/housing/publications.html>

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# Thank you for your attention!

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