

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Project title	Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing in selected countries with economies in transition
Project DA code	2985 ROA-285-9
Executing entity	UNECE
Reporting period covered	January – December 2016
Financial Implementation rate	55,5
Important issues	-

1. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

In 2016, Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan further developed of the National Action Plans for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development (NAPs) with support of UNECE and UN-Habitat. The project also developed guidelines for drafting the National Action Plan for the implementation of recommendations of UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management in transition economies on the basis of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. These guidelines will be used for all countries of the ECE region. The guidelines are aimed to assist the governments to organize the work of the institutions, which are supposed to ensure the implementation of the National Action Plan in balanced and sustainable way; to identify and use reserves to improve the efficiency of the implementation of activities in the sphere of housing and land management; to organize interaction between all major stakeholders, including government, businesses, local self-governing authorities, international organizations and foreign donors.

More specifically, the draft NAPs of Republic of Moldova and Serbia were developed based on the guidelines and draft NAPs of Armenia and Tajikistan are being finalized according to the guidelines in 2016. The NAPs will be presented by the countries-participants at the regional workshop in Belgrade, Serbia on 31 January-2 February 2017.

One national validation workshop (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 26 April 2016) presented and discussed proposals for the NAP by the government. The proposals were based on the policy recommendations of the country profile and other relevant projects and studies, such as Safer Cities Program of the UN-Habitat, Mountain Societies Development Support Program of the Aga Khan Foundation and local activities of the Caritas Switzerland. Representatives of the UNECE shared information on international studies, guidance documents which could be useful for the preparation and later for the implementation of the NAPs. 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. As a result of the workshop, the National Action Plan was reviewed and it was agreed to include measures on modernization of the housing stock and infrastructure, monitoring energy efficiency in the buildings, development of architectural design standards and preparation of the Urban Development Strategy and several other activities as per Workshop Resolution available at <http://www.unece.org/housing-and-land-management/projects/housingunda/tajikistan.html>.

Planning of 2017 activities was completed and dates of 2017 workshops have been agreed.

2. REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ACTIVITIES

Table 1. Review of Performance Indicators

Expected Accomplishment	Indicator of achievement (T0)	Indicator of achievement (T1)	Comments
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	<p>Guidelines for drafting the National Action Plan for the implementation of recommendations of UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management in transition economies on the basis of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing were developed.</p> <p>The draft NAP for Serbia and Moldova have been developed and will be launched in 2017.</p> <p>NAPs for Armenia, and Tajikistan are planned to be completed and launched in 2017.</p>	<p>UNECE in cooperation with UN-Habitat developed Guidelines for drafting the National Action Plan after consultations with all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>For all the four countries, the NAPs are being developed based on guidelines, the comprehensive analysis and policy recommendations of Country Profiles on Housing and Urban Development and the challenges identified by the governments after the preparation of the Country Profiles.</p> <p>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)¹ was prepared in 2006 and updated in 2014². Country Profile for Tajikistan³ was completed in 2011, Republic of Moldova⁴ – in 2015; Country Profile for Armenia is to be published at the beginning of 2017.</p>
EA2: Strengthened national capacity of beneficiary countries to implement policies for sustainable housing through inter-ministerial	IA2: Number of National Action Plans launched in beneficiary countries	<p>Planned for 2017</p> <p>The drafts of the NAPs were developed in Serbia, Tajikistan, Moldova. The NAP of Armenia is currently being prepared. The NAPs will be presented at the</p>	Planned for 2017

¹ Serbia (and Montenegro), <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36292>

² Orna Rosenfeld

³ Tajikistan, <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=27165>

⁴ Republic of Moldova, <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41823>

coordination		regional workshop on 31 January-2 February 2017 in Belgrade, Serbia.	
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	The links to references will be requested from the member states after the launch of NAPs and channelled through the 78 th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management	Planned for 2017

Table 2 – Review of Completed Activities

Activities	Activity status	Comment
A1.1. Four joint ECE/UN-Habitat national workshops to provide training on sustainable housing.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> --- <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<p>Three workshops were organised in 2014 (reported in 2014: Yerevan, Armenia, 13-14 October, 2014, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 28-29 October, 2014, 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, http://www.unece.org/housing/unda.html.</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</p>

		which could be useful for the preparation and later for the implementation of the NAPs.
A1.2. Four advisory missions by UNECE to advise on the establishment Steering Committees in the four beneficiary countries	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> --- <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	Completed in 2014 (Four advisory missions were held in Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan)
A1.3. Development of National Action Plans for sustainability measures in the residential sector	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> --- <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i>	<p>The first draft of 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. In 2016 the NAP was under revision to be redrafted according to the guidelines.</p> <p>The draft brief National Action Plan for Tajikistan was prepared and the full-text version was in the preparation during 2016. 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 multi-apartment buildings, especially on the issues of energy efficiency (developing financial mechanisms to promote energy efficiency in multi-apartment 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. It was agreed with the</p>

		<p>government that the NAP will be adopted by the Ministry of Regional development and Construction at the beginning of 2017 and later on by the Government Decision.</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><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i></p> <p>---</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i></p> <p>Completed</p>	<p>Three national validation workshops were organised in 2015: 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 organized in Dushanbe on 26 April 2016 due to the requests of the government to postpone it.</p> <p>Detailed information on the workshops organized (meetings' agendas, presentations and reports) are available at the project website at under countries' pages, http://www.unece.org/housing/unda.html.</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</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i></p> <p>---</p>	<p>Planned for 2017</p>

implementation.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i> <i>Completed</i>	
A3.1 Develop a policy paper on analysis of best practices and lessons learned and guidelines on the preparation and implementation of National Action Plans for Sustainable Housing.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> --- <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i> <i>Completed</i>	The policy paper will be drafted by the UN-Habitat consultant in 2017. First draft will be developed by the end of April. Finalized version will be presented at the regional meeting in November (see below).
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.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> --- <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i> <i>Completed</i>	Planned for 2017 back-to back to the 78th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management in November 2017.

3. CHALLENGES/PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED SO FAR

Table 3 – Challenges and actions

Description of challenge	Action(s) taken to solve the issue, if any
<p>Government restructuring and rotations of the senior officials in the key stakeholder organizations and therefore possible changes in the policy priorities of the countries are one of the main challenges in the project.</p> <p>There was a replacement of the Chairman of the Committee on Architecture and Construction of the Republic of Tajikistan 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>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</p>	<p>In Tajikistan, 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. The bilateral meetings with the Chairman were organized in the aftermath of the workshop in 2016 to ensure the Committee's commitment to its tasks in the project.</p> <p>In Moldova, to ensure that the NAP will be adopted disregarding the current changes in the structure of</p>

<p>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>Ministry of the Regional Development and Construction in Moldova is under restructuring in 2016-2017. There is a risk of decrease of the commitment if the ministry will be merged with another authority and the policy priorities will be redefined.</p>	<p>the Ministry, it was agreed with the project stakeholders that the NAP will be adopted by the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction and Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre of the Republic of Moldova at the beginning of 2017 and later on in 2017 by the Government Decision.</p>
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4.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 and urban development for the workshop in Armenia		Covered travel expenses of an expert from UK
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

5. 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.

6. WORK PLAN FOR REMAINING ACTIVITIES

Table 5 – Remaining activities

Remaining Activities	Start date	Date of completion
Finalization of national action plans	January 2017	April 2017
Four national workshops to launch National Action Plans	January 2017	April 2017
Develop a policy paper and guidelines on the preparation and implementation of National Action Plans for Sustainable Housing	January 2017	June 2017
Organize a concluding regional meeting as a follow-up of National Action Plans preparation	November 2017	December 2017

XII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

XIII.FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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	-	-	8,355
604	Consultants and Expert Groups	160,800	-	-	95,087.86
608	Travel of staff	101,500	-	-	58,502.44
612	Contractual services	42,000	-	-	24,835.37
616	Operating expenses	8,000	-	-	3,338.38
618	Supplies, Materials etc.	0	-	-	720
621	Fellowships, grants and contributions	213,200	-	-	105,015.41
	Total	533,000	-		295,854.46
Implementation rate (%)			55,5		