




MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title:	Independent evaluation of the UNDA 10th tranche project “Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition”		
Period of Review:	June 2016 – December 2020		
Date of Evaluation Report:	20/01/2021		
Approved by	Programme Management Unit Nicolas Dath-Baron, O.i.C.	Date	Signature
		21/06/2021	
Cleared by:	Director of Forests, Land and Housing Division Ms. Paola Deda	15/06/2021	
Prepared by:	Manager of the evaluation Ms. Gulnara Roll, Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management	15/06/2021	

Recommendation 1:

UNECE to continue an intensive support to the UNECE region countries with economies in transition and regular dialogue with their national authorities, with pertinent sectoral responsibilities, to keep the momentum for maintaining their commitment to developing evidence-based policies in the sector.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

UNECE will continue to support governments of UNECE countries with economies in transition upon their requests in the development of evidence-based policies in housing and urban development at national and local level using the methodological approaches developed within the project and reflected in the “*Guidelines on evidence-based policies and decision-making for sustainable housing and urban development*”.

UNECE works with the Government of Albania to develop the Country Profile on Housing, Urban Development and Land Management of Albania which is expected to be completed in 2022.

UNECE supports the preparation of smart sustainable city profiles for the cities: Grodno (Belarus), Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Tbilisi (Georgia) and Podgorica (Montenegro) with the support of the UNDA 12 tranche project “Smart Sustainable Cities for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda in the UNECE Region”.

UNECE in cooperation with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and with support of the UNECE Centre of Excellence in

Norway on Smart Sustainable Cities, convened on 11 March 2021 a webinar “[Local Governments: The role of SDG Voluntary Local Reviews](#)”. Based on the discussions at the webinar, UNECE in cooperation with its Centre of Excellence in Norway will elaborate “*Guidelines for the use of the Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities in the preparation of the Volunteer Local Reviews*” to support local governments in building their capacities to the development of evidence-based approaches. The Guidelines are expected to be endorsed by the 82nd session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management in October 2021.

Responsible: Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

Recommendation 2:

In the future, systematically assess, monitor and document the usefulness and expected impact of the capacity development workshops by canvassing feedback from the participants through a well-tailored questionnaire, quiz approach application and internet-based tools as e.g. Survey Monkey. These assessments should include a space for qualitative comments and proposals by participants

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The questionnaire to document the usefulness and impact of the capacity development workshops will continue to be systematically to evaluate capacity building workshops, in future projects managed by the UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit. The questionnaires will follow the example developed in this project (available in Annex 1) and be administered through the online tool “Survey Monkey”.

Timeline: December 2021

Responsible: Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

Recommendation 3:

Reinforce the staffing capacity of the HLMU to ensure the long-term sustainability and efficiency of the UNECE assistance in the implementation of evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in the UNECE region by mobilizing additional extrabudgetary and UNDA resources. Increasing staff resources above 5% in UNDA project would also help to increase the efficiency and decrease the reliance on consultancies.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

1. HLMU will continue its efforts to raise XB resources to reinforce its staffing capacity, in line with the Resource Mobilization Action Plans for the period 2020-2022 presented to ECE EXCOM in January 2021.
2. ECE will continue to submit UNDA proposals to DESA. PMU will share with DESA the recommendation to consider increasing staff resources above 5% in UNDA projects to ensure sufficient support for project management and increase the efficiency of implementation of UNDA projects.

Timeline: (1) December 2022; (2) December 2021

[Management Response, Evaluation, PMU, UNECE](#)

Responsible: (1) Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management;
(2) Chief, Programme Management Unit

Recommendation 4:

In the future projects, introduce more comprehensive project performance monitoring tool facilitating the assessment of the ongoing impact of the activities vis-a-vis the achievements of the project's expected outcomes and its overall objective.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

HLMU takes note of this recommendation and will seek to develop more meaningful indicators, in line with UNDA guidance, in the context of the next UNDA project, in consultation with PMU, to better assess the achievements of the project's expected outcomes and its overall objective.

Timeline: December 2021

Responsible: Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

Recommendation 5:

Subject to availability of human and financial resources, create in UNECE a dedicated webpage for sharing the training materials, lessons learned, best practices examples in collection of data and developing evidence-based policies on housing, urban development and land management.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

A dedicated webpage for sharing best practices, examples in collection of data and developing evidence-based policies on housing and urban development will be created.

Timeline: December 2022

Responsible: Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

Recommendation 6:

Ensure that aspects related to gender, rights-based and vulnerable groups inclusion approaches are fully considered in the design of the future projects, as well as during their implementation activities.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The gender and right based approaches were not part of the project template in 2016 when the project proposal was developed as the SDG resolution was just released. As there is awareness and knowledge of these approaches exist now, they will be considered in the design of the future projects.

Timeline: December 2022

Responsible: Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

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