



Evaluation of the UNDA project

“Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition” (January 2021)

Final Progress Report as at 31 December 2021

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date	Status of implementation
1	<p>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.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management</p>	<p>December 2021</p>	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2021.</p> <p>UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management endorsed in 2021 its Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews to support the implementation of the evidence approach. UNECE also supports the preparation of smart sustainable city profiles for the following 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”</p>

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		Management in October 2021.			
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	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>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".</p>	Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management	December 2021	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2021.</p> <p>Feedback is now requested systematically through interviews with the participants and online questionnaires, which also include space for qualitative comments.</p>
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.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>(1) Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management;</p> <p>(2) Chief, Programme Management Unit</p>	December 2021	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2021.</p> <p>1. A G5 programme assistant has been hired to support the implementation of the projects using XB resources.</p> <p>2. ECE continues to submit UNDA proposals to DESA. On 8 December 2021, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) shared the recommendation with DESA for their consideration when preparing the guidelines of the future UNDA projects tranches, stressing that a bigger flexibility in the percentage of GTA resources would be particularly useful for smaller divisions and would decrease reliance on consultancies.</p>

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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.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>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.</p>	Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management	December 2021	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2021.</p> <p>In its new projects, HLMU has striven to develop meaningful indicators and has applied relevant guidance and concepts for assessing achievements and monitoring performance . For instance, for the 12 tranche UNDA residual funds project on urban economic resilience a concept note and a planning document were created at the very beginning of the project and were regularly discussed, at least once a month, among the project partners. In addition, a Teams channel was created for the project where all the supporting documents which help the assessment of the project achievements and impacts was established and progress is being assessed regularly.</p>
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.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>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.</p>	Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management	December 2021	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2021.</p> <p>A dedicated web page was created at https://www.housing2030.org/ where 70 best practices have been shared.</p>
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.	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>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.</p>	Secretary to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management	December 2021	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2021.</p> <p>The gender and human rights dimensions are now part of project proposals planning and implementation methodologies. For instance, they were reflected, and their implementation is being monitored in the UNDA 12 Tranche residual funds project on urban economic resilience, among others through regular reports on how the gender and human rights dimensions are being applied. .</p>