Spatial and Urban Development Agency of Georgia

San-Marino, 2022.
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Agency Description

• Created in 2022 with the purpose to coordinate national spatial and urban policy
  • Less than 20% of the territory is covered by spatial plans

• Goals and Processes
  • Create National Spatial Plan
  • Help regional municipalities create land use master plans and/or more detailed plans
Smart and Sustainable Cities - Strategy

• Smart Cities are not necessarily:
  • High tech and futuristic
  • Expensive and without “soul”
  • For only developed countries

• Sustainability is the key
  • Promote using brown-field inner-city territories
  • Discourage increasing footprint of settlements
  • Encourage agglomeration to control large cities from overcrowding

Signagi, Georgia.
Smart and Sustainable Cities - Goals

• Smart Cities:
  • Better “user experience” of citizens and visitors
  • Efficient use of settlement’s resources
  • Technology as a means to an end

• Sustainability
  • Change mobility patterns
    • Promote mixed-use development
    • 15-minute cities
    • Shift focus from cars to pedestrians
  • Rethinking urban nature: it is a shield against natural catastrophes

Kutaisi, Georgia.
Smart and Sustainable Cities - Challenges

• Smart Cities
  • Poor Data: collection and quality
  • Lack of expertise
  • Very low awareness

• Sustainability
  • Old wrong adage: social problems first and only then sustainability
  • Show me the returns on investments!
    • Awareness is key
Cooperation with UNECE

• Spatial Planning
  • Knowledge share
  • Programs to integrate best practices
  • Assist agency to select key experts

• Urban Planning
  • Regional capacity build-up
    • Training is not the solution
    • Need to create system
    • Create educational/training programs
  • Promote benefits of planning
Thank you!

Any questions?