



Matters arising from the eighty-second and eighty-third sessions of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management



Thirteenth Session of the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration,

Geneva, 4 and 5 April 2023

UN Economic Commission for Europe



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Intergovernmental process:

- Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM)
- **Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA)**
- **Forum of Mayors**
- **Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM)**

- *Action plans (COVID-19 recovery, RAP)*
- *Guidance and Guidelines*
- *Capacity building projects*
- *Communication activities*
- *Centers of Excellence (CoEs)*



Forum of Mayors as an UN platform for cities



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- To further support SDG localization, UNECE convened the First Forum of Mayors in 2020, which brought together over 40 mayors from the UNECE region.
- The [Second Forum of Mayors](#) took place from 4-5 April 2022. It served as a platform for the exchange of experiences on the localization of the SDGs. The Forum also included a side event on VLRs, which was organized back-to-back with the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.
- On 13 January 2023, UNECE member States (the EXCOM) decided to establish the Forum of Mayors as a subsidiary body of the CUDHLM. The [third Forum of Mayors](#) will be held in Geneva, from 2-3 October 2023. The forum will help foster connections between local and national actors, strengthening VLR - VNR interlinkages.

Regional Action Plan 2030

Place and life in the UNECE region

(endorsed at 82nd session of the CUDHLM)



Find out more at:

<https://unece.org/housing/regional-action-plan-2030>

Policy Area A: Cities, Neighbourhoods, Homes and Rural Life

Goal A1. Coordinated national, sub-national and local action through multi-level governance and strategic plans frameworks;

Goal A2. City-wide and integrated action; and

Goal A3. Sustainable neighbourhoods and local living environments.

Policy Area B: Sustainable Housing and Homes

Goal B1. Governance;

Goal B2. Land Policy;

Goal B3. Finance & Funding; and

Goal B4. Climate neutral housing.

#Housing2030: Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region



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A joint initiative of UNECE, Housing Europe and UN-Habitat - Report launched in October 2021

Focuses on solutions to the housing affordability crisis in the UNECE region, highlighting the need for strategic and coordinated policy reform to shape more effective housing systems.

Addresses four topics:

- (1) Housing governance and regulation
- (2) Access to finance and funding
- (3) Access and availability of land for housing construction
- (4) Climate-neutral housing construction and renovation

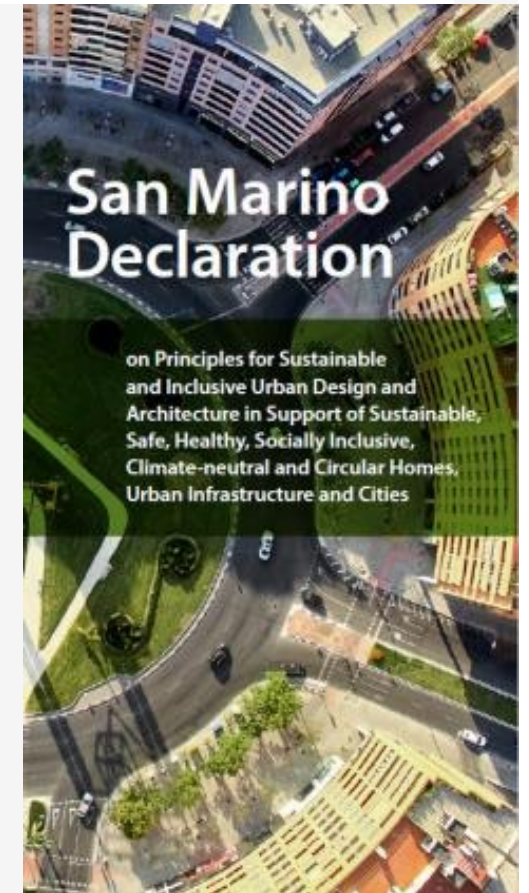


San Marino Declaration on principles for sustainable and inclusive urban design and architecture in support of sustainable, safe, healthy, socially inclusive, climate-neutral and circular homes, urban infrastructure and cities



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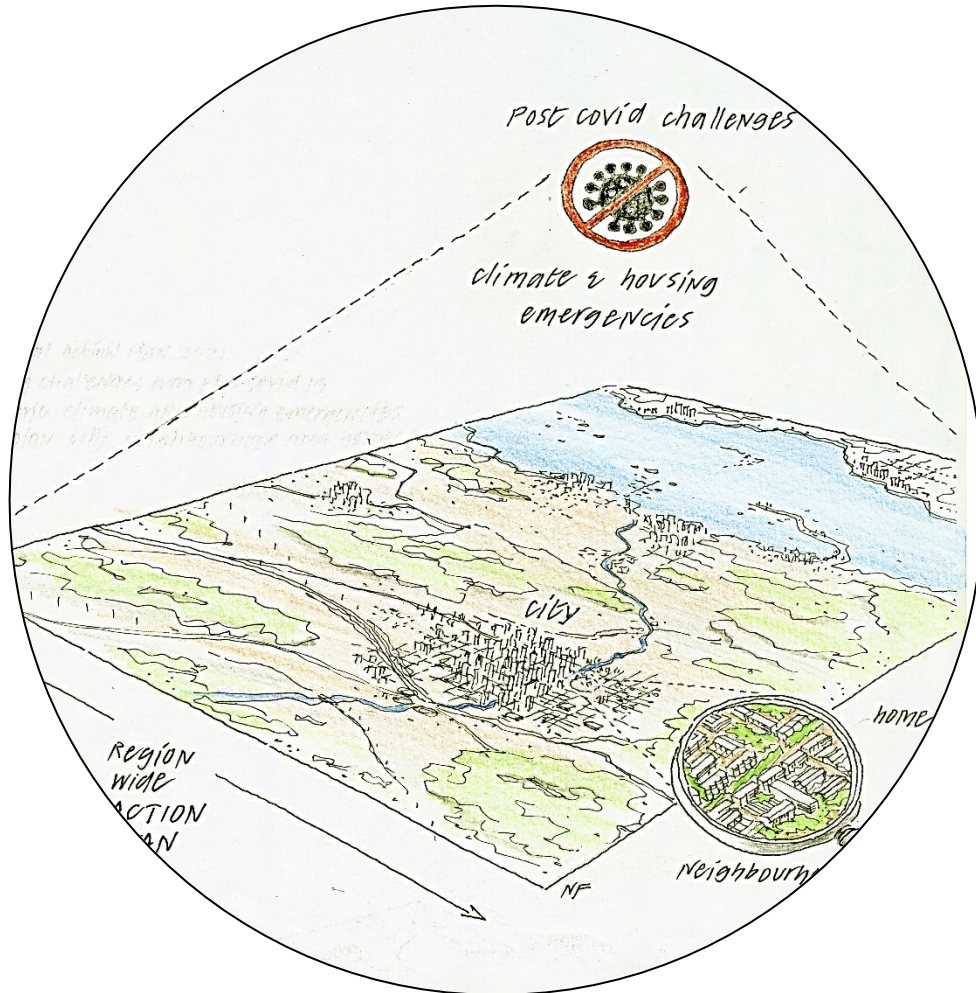
- The San Marino Declaration provides a first-of-its-kind indivisible, action-oriented Principles for bolstering the roles of city mayors, architects and other stakeholders in ensuring sustainable, safe, healthy, socially inclusive, climate-neutral and encouraging circularity in homes, urban infrastructure and cities.
- The Declaration was adopted during the eighty-third session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM), which took place in San Marino from 3 to 6 October 2022.



Rapid Response Project. Urban Economic Resilience



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Find out more at:

<https://urbaneconomicresilience.org>

The project focuses on strengthening the capacities of local governments to design, implement and monitor sustainable, resilient and inclusive COVID-19 economic and financial responses, recovery and rebuilding plans. Pilot projects in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; and Tirana, Albania.

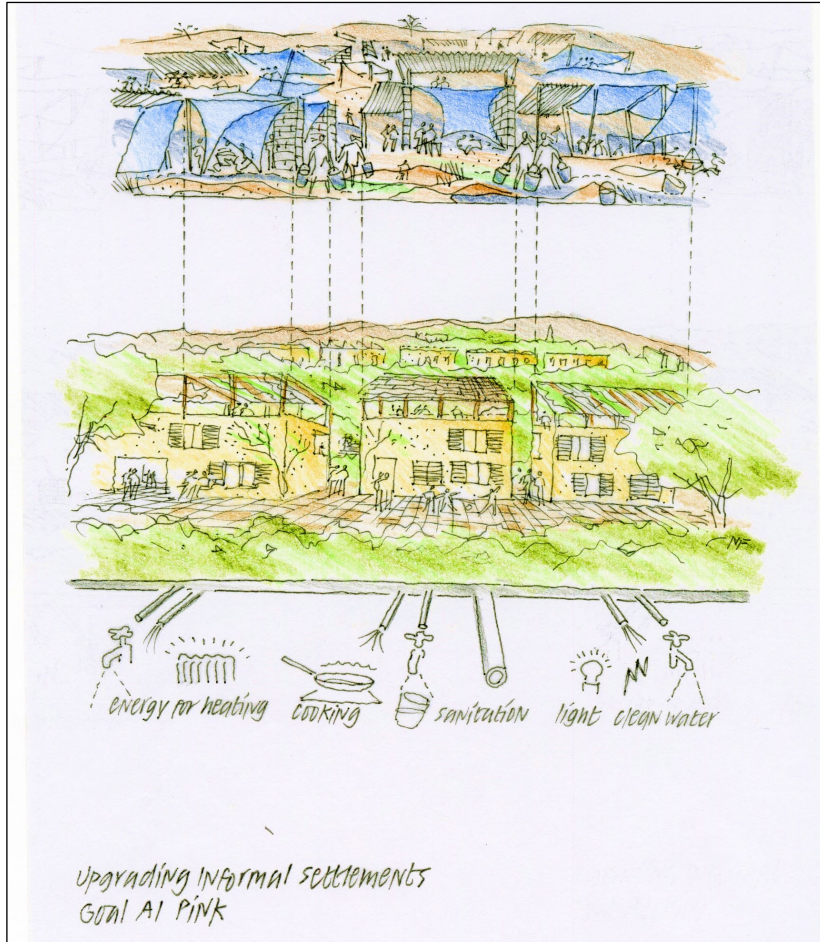
Regional Policy Brief in the UNECE region. Policy recommendations are in the following four thematic areas: **1: Urban governance; 2: Socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; 3: Nature-based solutions and climate neutrality; and 4: Urban planning and transportation.**

COVID-19 Recovery Plan for Informal Settlements

75



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Find out more at:

<https://unece.org/hlm/documents/2021/04/session-documents/covid-19-recovery-action-plan-informal-settlements-ec>

Policy area 1: Geospatial, land rights, tenure, resource allocation and justice;

Policy area 2: Involvement of local communities and local action;

Policy area 3: Basic data needs, telecommunication and information technology;

Policy area 4: Physical infrastructure, water, sanitation and energy services;

Policy area 5: Social and infrastructure services;

Policy area 6: Stay at home recommendations, culture and vulnerable groups;

Policy area 7: Food, basic consumption & distribution.

Trees in Cities Challenge



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TiCC – over 70 cities joined



Find out more at:

<https://treesincities.unece.org/#:~:text=The%20Trees%20in%20Cities%20Challenge,more%20resilient%2C%20healthy%20and%20livable.>



Benefits of trees & forest in urban environments:

- Increased resilience of critical infrastructure;
- Reduced risks of damages to houses and businesses;
- Reduced heat islands and thus reduce energy for cooling buildings, with cost and emissions savings;
- Spaces for vibrant community that are accessible to all.

Sustainable Urban Forestry is an approach to:

- Maximize benefits of urban trees and forests, recognizing that to do so they should be managed as a sustainable ecosystem;
- Strengthen integrated, long-term management to preserve & enhance benefits for generations to come.

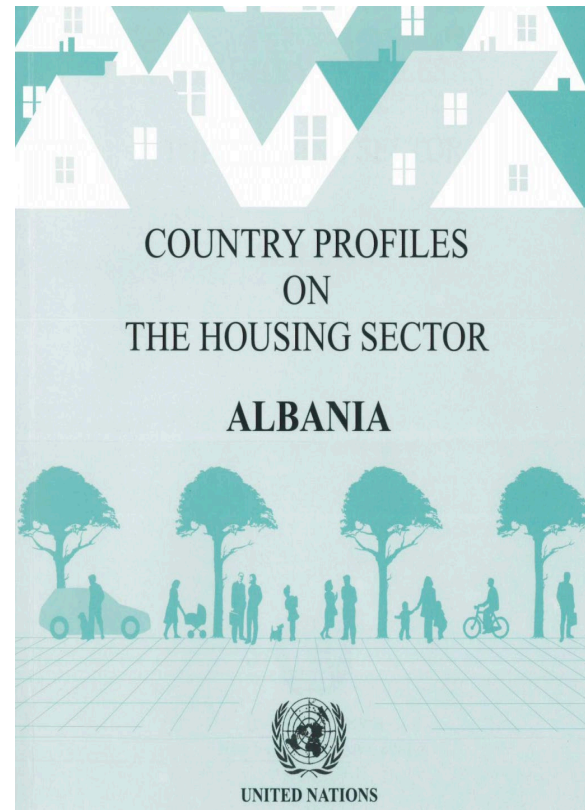
Country Profiles — Albania and Montenegro



Work on the Albania CP is ongoing. Preparations are underway to raise additional extrabudgetary funds. To complete in October 2023.

For Montenegro CP, the Government secured funding. To conduct negotiations on the funding and organization. Work will start after summer 2023.

The Country Profile for Montenegro will integrate results of the ECE assessment on the country's housing system conducted in 2022.



<https://unece.org/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/cp.albania.en.pdf>

Country Profiles on the Housing Sector: Albania (2002)

Key conclusions and recommendations

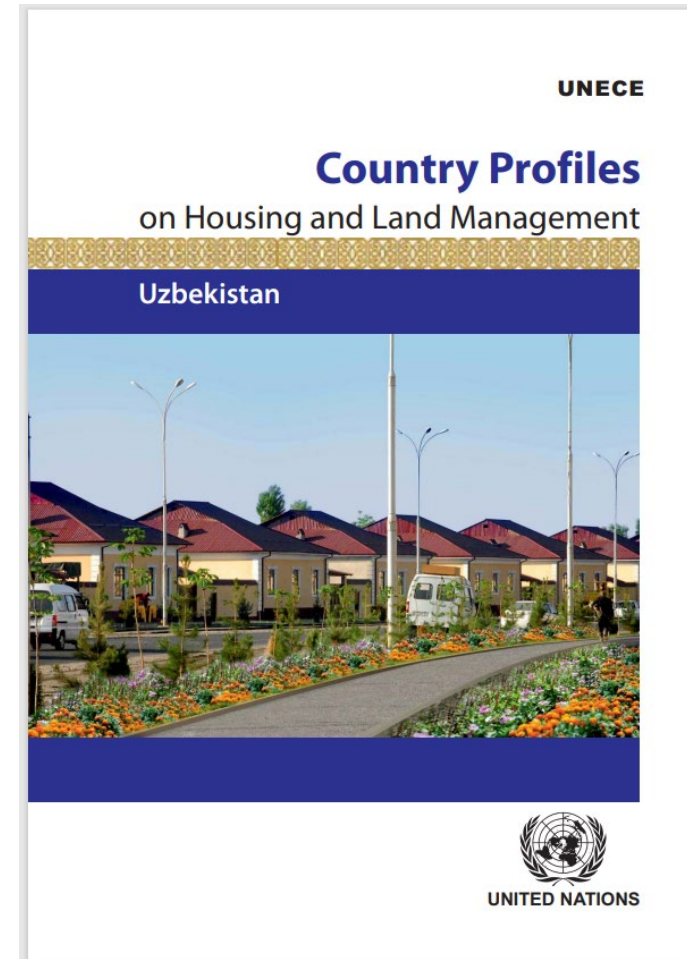
Framework for the housing sector transition	• Social housing, housing policy, housing market
Institutional framework	• Central government institutions, national housing agency
Legal framework	• Rental housing, condominiums
Financial framework	• Housing financing
Further work	• Research • Future cooperation with UNECE

Proposals for new country profiles



At the 83rd session, the Committee considered the requests from Latvia and Uzbekistan to develop a Country Profile on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management.

For Uzbekistan, it would be second profile following the first one developed in 2015. Work on the profile will require fundraising.



UNECE smart sustainable cities profiles



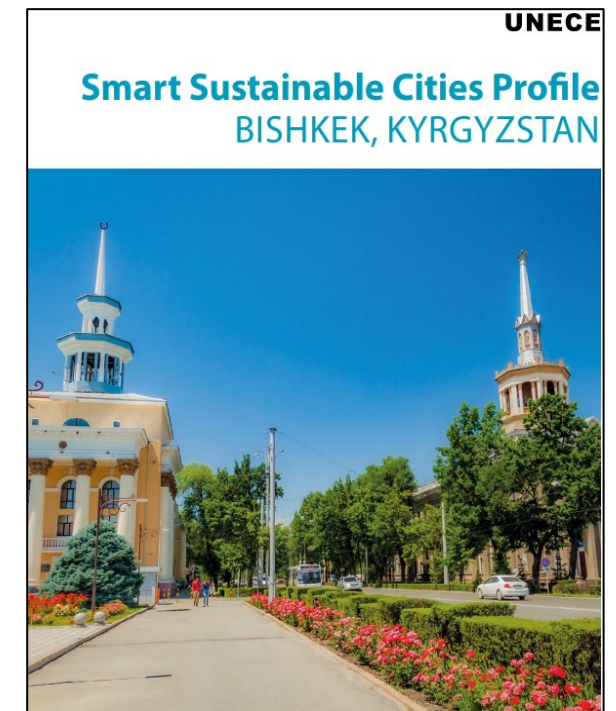
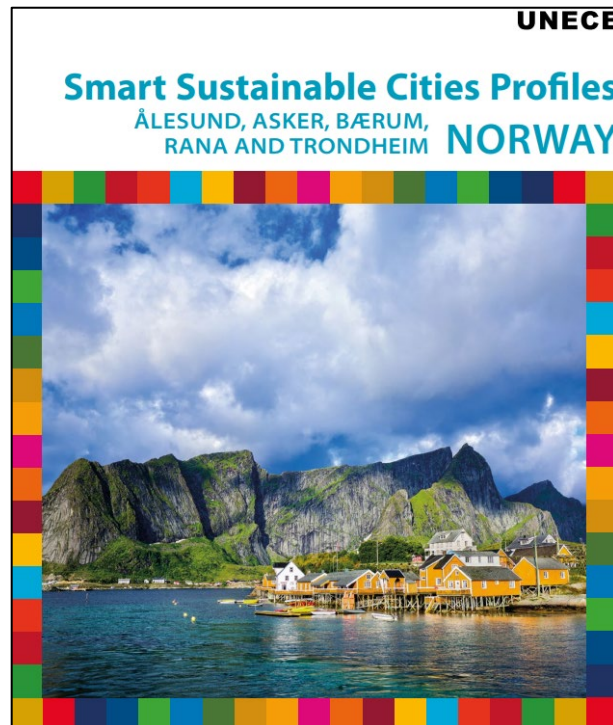
- Since 2015, the HLMU supports SDG localization in countries with economies in transition through Smart Sustainable Cities profiles based on Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities.
- **How it is done:**
- Based on official data provided by national and/or municipal designated government sources
- In accordance with the KPI methodology developed by UNECE, ITU and 14 other UN agencies
- Conducted by an UNECE Independent Expert in cooperation with the local government
- The whole process is fully open; results are publicly available
- Engage local communities through surveys, events, media
- Develop recommendations -> proposals for projects ->
- Support with the development of possible financing mechanisms and developing partnerships
- **Building capacity for longer term urban resilience and sustainability.**

UNECE smart sustainable cities profiles



Conclusions & recommendations, produced by UNECE based on the data (KPIs) provided by the city/state (1) **Economy** – 45 indicators; (2) **Environment** – 17 indicators (3) **Society and culture** – 29 indicators

- **Almaty, Kazakhstan – in work**
- **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**
- **Astana (Nur Sultan), Kazakhstan**
- **Podgorica, Montenegro - in work**
- **Tbilisi, Georgia - to be published**
- **San Marino – to be published**
- **Voznesensk, Ukraine**
- **Goris, Armenia**
- **17 cities in Norway**



Regional Guidelines for the Development of VLRs



Based on the experience of the SSC profiles and to support governments in their use of KPIs, the Committee requested the development of the first Regional Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews, at its 81st session in October 2020.

The draft Guidelines were endorsed by the Committee at its 82nd session. They provide cities with a **standardized approach to localizing the SDGs** and reviewing implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The secretariat revised the draft Guidelines with development partners.

The revised Guidelines were endorsed by the Committee at its 83rd session in 2022.

The Guidelines will be central in defining the VLR methodology to support cities and the other implementing partners' guidelines and methodologies.

An online training course on VLRs, has also been established

<https://www.cityresiliencetraining.com/course/>



SDG Voluntary Local Reviews



Activities within UNDA 14 tranche joint project with UN-Habitat "*Voluntary local reviews: evidence for greener, resilient and sustainable urban recovery in Eastern European and Central Asian countries in transition*":

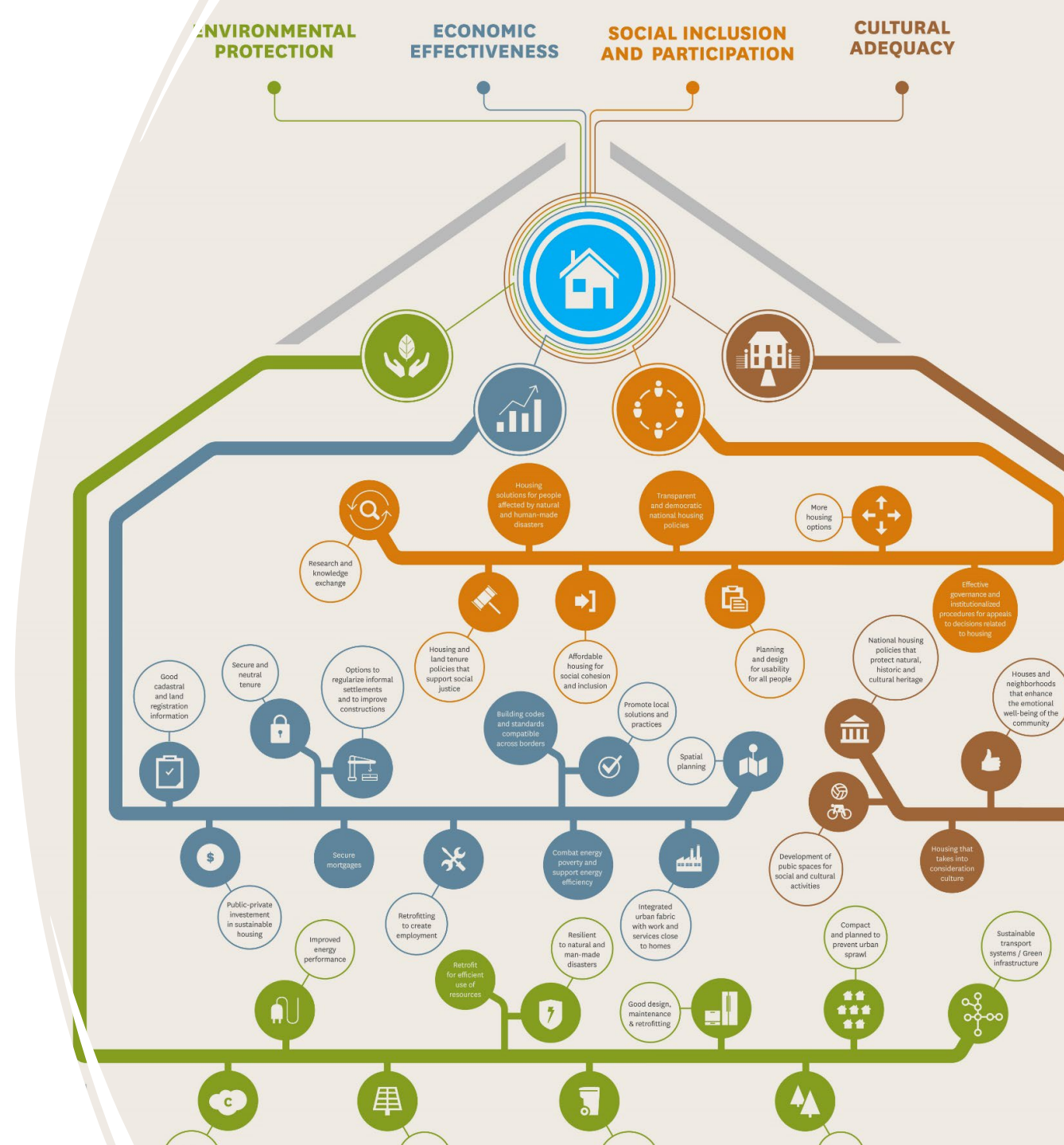
- Tbilisi, Georgia;
- Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan;
- Nis, Serbia.

Finalize online e-learning programme and disseminate



Support to Committee activities through activities of the Geneva UN Charter Centers of Excellence

- **Tirana, Albania**
Housing policies, informal settlements
- **Tallinn, Estonia**
Housing management in countries with economies in transition
- **Glasgow, UK**
Affordable & social housing
- **York University, Toronto, Canada**
Addressing youth homelessness
- **Geneva, Switzerland**
Evidence based policies
- **Madrid, Spain (Foster Foundation)**
Urban planning and design
- **LIUC University, Cattaneo, Italy**
Innovative financing
- **Columbia Global Centers | Paris (NEW)**
City diplomacy



Consolidated calendar – key events



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- **18-19 April 2023 – ECE Commission session, Geneva**
- **7-9 June 2023 – Social Housing Festival in Barcelona.**
- **10-19 July 2023 – High-level Political Forum 2023. VLR-VNR labs**
- **19-20 September 2023 – The 2023 SDG Summit. Side event on VLRs project**
- **30 November - 12 December 2023 – UNFCCC COP28 – The Global Climate Summit in UAE, Dubai.**



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2023

Urban Resilience Week

2 - 6 OCTOBER 2023 | GENEVA



84th UNECE
CUDHLM meeting

October 2023

MONDAY/TUESDAY

2-3

10:00-18.00

Third Forum of Mayors (in person only)



WEDNESDAY-
FRIDAY

4-6

10:00-18.00

**84th session of the UNECE
Committee on Urban Development,
Housing and Land Management** (in
person only)



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