

## PREFACE

This study on the Polish housing sector is the second pilot project carried out by the ECE Committee on Human Settlements to analyse housing sector reform in countries in transition. The first pilot project of this kind focused on Bulgaria and the results were published in 1996 (ECE/HBP/101).

These country-specific strategic analyses of the housing sector are intended to assist the Governments of countries in transition in improving the performance of the sector. They also aim to provide practical information to those with a special interest in the country, such as international lender and donor organizations, technical assistance agencies, or private sector investors, both within and outside the country. The objective is to identify positive trends and problem areas, so as to be able to assess the implementation of national policies and strategies, and the social and economic consequences of housing reform for the population and other major actors in the sector. The studies are the work of international teams of experts. They cooperate with all relevant governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and the private sector to mobilize available information sources in the country. This activity is linked to the Housing Indicators Programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) and the World Bank. The international team of experts also draws up recommendations for action to guide the housing sector reform towards sustainable patterns of housing development.

For the study in Poland, the international team of experts consisted of Mr. Stoicho Motev (Bulgaria), Ms. Iris Behr (Germany), Mr. Josef Hegedüs (Hungary), Mr. Alle Elbers (Netherlands), Mr. Gert A. Gundersen (Norway), and Mr. Guennadi Vinogradov (ECE secretariat). They cooperated with a national team of experts from Poland's former Ministry for Physical Planning and Construction, the Housing Research Institute, and other governmental and non-governmental bodies and organizations in Poland. The Governments of Germany, the Netherlands and Norway helped to finance the study.