

Tools supporting transition towards smart and sustainable cities

Gulnara Roll
Secretary to the UNECE Committee on
Urban Development, Housing and Land
Management, Gulnara.Roll@un.org



UNECE



Smart and Sustainable Urban Development is at the heart of:

The *“2030 Agenda for Sustainable Urban Development”* and its Sustainable Development Goals, the *“New Urban Agenda”* and other international agreements.



Areas of work of UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management:

1. *“Country Profiles on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management”*
 - i. National action plans and capacity-building projects (e.g. UNDA 10th tranche projects)
2. Sustainable Urban Development, smart sustainable cities
 - i. *“U4SSC”* (e.g. Nursultan, Goris); *“Smart Sustainable City Profiles”*, *“Smart Sustainable Cities Action Plans”*, urban planning
3. Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets
 - i. *“Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing”* and Charter Centres of Excellence, affordable and energy efficient housing

United for Smart Sustainable Cities



The “*United for Smart Sustainable Cities*” (U4SSC) is a UN initiative coordinated by ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat and supported by other 13 United Nations agencies and programmes to support policy-makers at all levels in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11: “*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*”.

A smart sustainable city is “*an innovative city that uses information and communication technology and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental as well as cultural aspects*”.

Smart and Sustainable Cities evaluation



Since 2017, the “*United for Smart Sustainable Cities*” (U4SSC) has been implemented using the Key Performance Indicators for Smart and Sustainable Cities (KPI4SSC).

The KPIs include 92 indicators (core and advanced) covering the 3 dimensions of sustainable development: economic, environmental, and socio-cultural. The KPIs encompass the following topics: ICTs, transport, productivity, infrastructure, spatial planning, innovation, air quality, water and sanitation, waste, public spaces, energy, education, health, culture, safety, housing, food and social inclusion.

Over 50 cities worldwide underwent the evaluation, for instance Singapore, Dubai, Montevideo, Moscow, Valencia, Goris and Voznesensk.

Tools for implementation of “U4SSC” in UNECE countries



Smart Sustainable City Profiles



The “*Smart Sustainable City Profile*” – a report from the evaluation, document summarizing outcomes of the evaluation, includes recommendations.

A comprehensive and accurate analysis of the city performances based on smart and sustainable city indicators; accounting on all relevant factors, including business & economy, social issues, strategic urban planning, governance etc,

It links evaluation with planning action at local level (e.g. decision-making about policy objectives, changes in data handling practices):

- Includes recommendations and identifies the areas where action is required most urgently.

Smart Sustainable City Profiles II



Objective of the “*Smart Sustainable City Profile of Goris*” (2017): to address the major development issues and implement the SDGs in the city of Goris, Armenia.

Impact of the evaluation of Goris:

- Promotion of knowledge and best practice regarding sustainable urban development and the use of the KPI4SSC
- Provision of support to national and local authorities to develop policies on sustainable urban development
- Strengthening partnerships and cooperation between stakeholders and identified and developed smart financing mechanisms
- Support in shaping strategic vision and planned action through collaborative effort and identification of the most efficient use of city resources.

Smart Sustainable Cities Action Plans



From “*Smart Sustainable City Profiles*” to “*Action Plans*” and their implementation



Phase 1:

Relevant stakeholders meet and discuss the needs of the city. KPIs are measured to evaluate the performances.

Result: Smart Sustainable Cities Profiles with recommendations

Phase 2:

Key recommendations are converted into an action plan with key targets, responsible people and timeline. Projects are included in the marketplace

Result: Action Plan and Marketplace inclusion

Phase 3:

The Action Plan is implemented and financial resources and investors are identified.

Result: Financial advisory services and implementation projects

All around the project phases, capacity building and training activities are performed

Smart Sustainable Cities Action Plans II



“Smart Sustainable City Action Plans”

- Are used to implement the recommendations of Smart Sustainable City Profiles
- Provides a full and strategic and practical scheme to implement the recommendations of city profiles
- Gives information on targets and goals for each recommendation and resources needed (e.g. financial, human),
 - Can be used by local authorities to prioritize and organize their work and identify the financial sources to implement the planned projects,
- Developed collaboratively with local and international experts (*“Guidelines for the Development of a Smart Sustainable City Action Plan”*, 2018).

Summary



There are various tools that support transition of UNECE countries towards smart and sustainable urban development.

Smart and sustainable city indicators play important roles in development, review and implementation of evidence-based urban policies, and:

- support achieving SDG11 “*Sustainable Cities and Communities*” and review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels,
- enable development, operationalisation and review of (local) policy objectives,
- have strong educational, capacity-building and a legitimating functions.

“*Smart Sustainable City Profiles*” and “*Smart Sustainable Cities Action Plans*” support implementation of “*U4SSC*”.

Conclusions



The “*Key Performance Indicators for United for Smart Sustainable Cities*” not only support cities worldwide in evaluating the role and contribution of ICTs in smart sustainable cities since 2017 but also make a significant contribution to evidence-based policy-making on sustainable urban development at all levels.

Tools such as the “*Smart Sustainable City Profiles and the Smart Sustainable Cities Action Plans*” allow linking KPI4SSC evaluation with policy-making processes and actions and effectively implementing “U4SSC” to induce changes “on the ground”.

80th session

**COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

**ENSURING ACCESS TO DECENT, ADEQUATE,
AFFORDABLE AND HEALTHY HOUSING FOR ALL**

2-4 OCTOBER 2019 | ROOM XII | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA



Thank you!

Contact:

Gulnara Roll

UNECE

Gulnara.Roll@un.org

<https://www.unece.org/housing.html>



UNECE

