

Reflecting on progress towards 'Guidelines to evidence-based policies for sustainable urban development with a focus on housing'



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Project ‘Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition’

Aim of the project: to strengthen national capacities for development of evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development, and to assist national governments, by:

- elaborating a **policy paper and guidelines**,
- providing technical advice on development of evidence-based policies,
- promoting intersectoral cooperation and building capacity on sustainable housing through the provision of advisory services, training materials, organization of workshops and online trainings.



Project ‘Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition’

Relevance to SDGs: improving capacities to achieve SDG 11 ‘Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’, especially the target 11.1 ‘by 2030, to provide access for all to adequate safe and affordable housing’.

Executing entity: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Co-operating Agencies within the UN system: United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Project timeline: June 2016 – December 2019.

‘Guidelines to evidence-based policies for sustainable urban development with a focus on housing’

Aim: to support national evidence-based policy-making in the ECE region (including the EU MS) by mapping variety of approaches to collection and management of data for policy,

Focus: frameworks, tools, methodologies for collection, management and use of data for sustainable urban development policies with a housing on housing,

Underlying premise: policy and decision-makers shall use reliable data/information/evidence to inform development decisions; data and information can help to prioritise actions,

Guidelines completion: first quarter of 2019,

Follow up: Technical workshops and Training 2019.



Structure of the guidelines

Chapter 1. KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVIDENCE-BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY WITH A FOCUS ON HOUSING AND DECISION-MAKING

Chapter 2. GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY MONITORING FRAMEWORKS FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH A FOCUS ON HOUSING

Chapter 3. PRODUCING DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES WITH A FOCUS ON HOUSING AND DECISION-MAKING

Chapter 4. FROM DATA COLLECTION TO DECISION-MAKING ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES WITH A FOCUS ON HOUSING

Summary and conclusions

Key recommendations

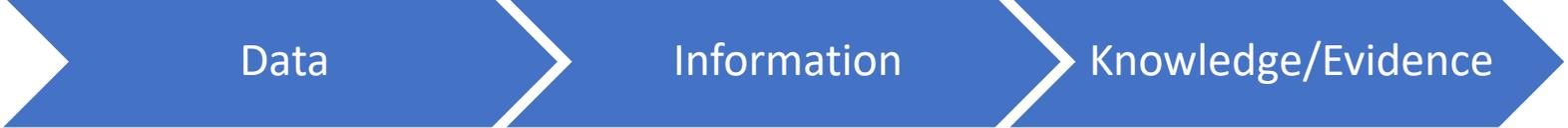
Mapping approaches to production and use of data for policy

Exploring variety of policy frameworks, methodologies and tools for production and use of data for sustainable urban development policies with a focus on housing **allow decision-makers** to better understand ...

- (i) Complexity of housing problems and the impacts of housing interventions.
- (ii) Types and sources of data for crafting sustainable urban development policies with focus on housing.
- (iii) Opportunities for better tracking and reporting on policy implementation.

POLICY MONITORING FRAMEWORKS, METHODOLOGIES AND TOOLS FOR COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DATA

Embracing complexity of the subject

- From data to evidence 

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graph LR; A[Data] --> B[Information]; B --> C[Knowledge/Evidence]
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- Housing and sustainable urban development as multidisciplinary domains (e.g. Interconnections between SDG)
- Parallel international dynamics
 - Proliferation of policy frameworks for sustainable housing and urban development at international, regional, national and local levels (e.g. the SDGs, the urban agendas, MS policy frameworks, regional, local),
 - Growing international interest in a better data and a better policy-making (e.g. OECD Framework for Regulatory Policy Evaluation, 2014; EU Smart and Better Regulation agendas 2010/2013/2015)

POLICY MONITORING FRAMEWORKS, METHODOLOGIES AND TOOLS FOR COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DATA

Why learning lessons from the EU

- EU as an important part of the ECE region
- Role of the EU in setting ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ standards
- Lack of direct competencies in the area of housing, input via other policy areas and funding streams,
 - Promotes ‘better regulation’ and ‘better knowledge’ in the EU,
- Additional source of information for decision-makers
 - Cross-country comparison where one stands in relation to a problem,
 - Anticipate trends and set new demands for data to be collected at country level.

REGIONAL POLICY MONITORING FRAMEWORKS, METHODOLOGIES AND TOOLS FOR COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DATA

Selected observations (I)

- Main roles: EUROSTAT, JRC; but also DGs, COR, EESC..
 - Collecting data from/at/about the local level (e.g. DG Regio and COR reports, Urban Audit, City Statistics),
- Main types of housing statistics: (i) types of dwelling; (ii) tenure status, (iii) housing quality (material/housing conditions); (iv) housing affordability,
 - Disaggregation of data?
- The Quality of Life Survey's focus on relationship between housing quality and the quality of life in the light of growing social inequalities,
- Variety of the EU policy monitoring frameworks allow economic/ social/ environmental 'framing' of housing problem (e.g. the Social Scoreboard; the EU Semester & the MIP),
 - Reflection on a particular type of housing data being produced.

REGIONAL POLICY MONITORING FRAMEWORKS, METHODOLOGIES AND TOOLS FOR COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DATA

Selected observations (II)

- Commitment of the EU to the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda and the EU SDG indicator set
 - Alignment of the indicator set with the EU policy priorities and scoreboards)
 - Rigorous approach to data production (principles of design of the EU SDG)
 - Uncertain place of housing within the framework?
 - Substitution of 'housing cost overburden rate' with the 'in work at-risk of-poverty rate' which signifies 'the percentage of persons in the total population who declared to be at work (employed or self-employed) who are at-risk-of-poverty (i.e. with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers)'

Conclusions

- A robust follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a solid framework of indicators and statistical data to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders;
- The value of data – data is where the evidence-based policy cycle starts;
- Policy monitoring frameworks of the EU create demand for data at the MS level and vice versa?
- Variety of policy frameworks, tools, methodologies supports competition between and/or cohesion of sustainable housing objectives at the EU level? (the policy coherence and cohesion challenge);
- The global SDG agenda and regional policy harmonization – question of the MS reporting.



Thank you !

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