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Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Albania: the Contribution of SDG Indicators to Evidence-based Policy-making for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development at National and Local Levels.



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Objectives of the presentation

- To outline key premises, objectives and structure of the ‘Guidelines to evidence-based policies for sustainable urban development with a focus on housing’,
- To explore selected approaches to production, management and use of data in evidence-based policy cycle,
 - To demonstrate how to apply them,
- To discuss opportunities for improving evidence-based policy-making for sustainable housing and urban development in Albania.



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‘Guidelines to evidence-based policies and decision-making for sustainable housing and urban development’





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

Objective of the project is to strengthen national capacities for development of evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development 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.



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Structure of the guidelines

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1. GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING FRAMEWORKS

Chapter 2. PRODUCING DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES WITH A FOCUS ON HOUSING AND DECISION-MAKING

Chapter 3. CRAFTING EVIDENCE FOR POLICY-MAKING ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH A FOCUS ON HOUSING

Chapter 4. INFORMING HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING

Summary and conclusions

Key recommendations



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INTRODUCTION

(Context, approach, structure)

- Diverse and ever-growing urban development challenges,
- Housing increasingly more pressing issue – access to decent quality, affordable housing (slums, gated communities, low quality of housing, urban sprawl, fuel poverty, homelessness and empty homes),
- Importance of producing policy responses based on best available evidence and in a timely manner,
 - A new, more rigorous approach to evidence-based policy-making in the context of the 2030 Agenda.



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Chapter 1. GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS AND MONITORING FRAMEWORKS FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

(...at global and regional levels, incl. City Prosperity and U4SSC)

- Reiterates global requirements for review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda,
 - Equips decision-makers with knowledge about the SDG policy goals at global, regional, national and local levels,
- Recalls monitoring frameworks and indicator sets, which can serve as a reference point for crafting evidence-based policies for sustainable urban development with a focus on housing at all levels (**Session V**).



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Chapter 2. PRODUCING DATA FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING

(meaning of 'data', data producers, data sources, data types, opportunities and challenges)

- Indicates practical ways to source data (using various 'means'; from various organisations),
- Stresses the importance of going beyond 'mainstream' data sources (censuses and surveys)
- Reflects on opportunities and challenges of using 'new' sources of data ('big data', 'geospatial information' and 'citizen generated data').
 - Roles of private sector organizations, international and intersectoral partnerships for a better data production and management.



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Chapter 3. CRAFTING EVIDENCE FOR POLICY-MAKING ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH A FOCUS ON HOUSING

(how 'data' becomes 'evidence'; disaggregation of data; leaving no-one behind; role of cities; quality of data and evidence)

- Outlines means of ensuring that crafting evidence corresponds to values of the 2030 Agenda and housing and urban challenges 'on the ground'
 - disaggregation of data as per gender, age, ethnicity, income, disability, migratory status; and at the city level,
- Demonstrates ways of assuring high quality of evidence with regard to data sourcing, crafting indicators and indicator sets).



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Chapter 4. INFORMING HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING

(policy evaluation and foresight incl. RIA; ‘universal’ character of housing; collective approach & policy transfer)

- Stresses the importance of tying data collection & evidence crafting together with decision-making; and a timely decision-making,
- Highlights potential of tools for in-advance data analysis and forecasting,
- Reflect on key premises for policy-making in contemporary democracies,
 - Comprehensive and collaborative approach to housing policy & policy transfer.



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Selected approaches to evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development





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‘Common’ practices in evidence-based policy-making

Evidence generation is driven primarily by a need to inform policy objectives and takes place after/during policy implementation (using ‘interim’/‘ex-post’ approaches).

Opportunities to improve evidence-based policy-making

1. Assessing long-term ‘impacts’ of policy interventions,
2. Combining various ‘types’ of housing data,
3. Overcoming ‘tunnel view’ on housing in data collection and analysis,
4. Complementing ‘ex-post’ appraisal with an ‘ex-ante’ appraisal,
5. ... A ‘regulatory’ shift.



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1. Assessing long-term ‘impacts’ of policies

In evidence-based policy process, one should not only collect data/information about short-term, immediate ‘results’ of policies/programs (e.g. ‘increase in supply of affordable housing by X units’), but also data/information on long-term ‘impacts’ of policies.

‘Impact’ of policy is ...

- a medium- to long-term ‘effect’ of housing policy with regard to a strategic issue (e.g. health, quality of life, migration)
- usually prepared by universities and research centres.



Understanding the likely poverty impacts of the extension of Right to Buy to housing association tenants

by Anna Clarke, Michael Jones, Michael Oxley and Chihiro Udagawa

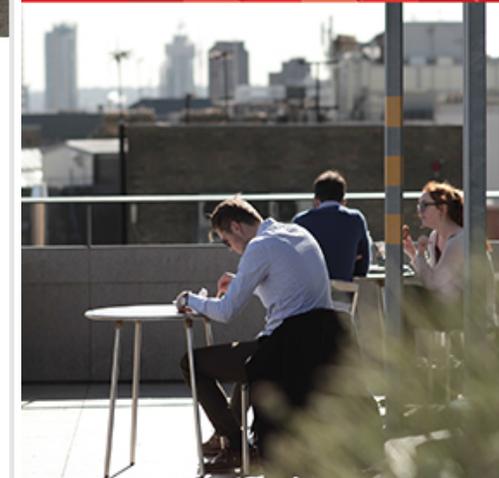
This report explores the impact of Right to Buy (RTB) on housing association tenants in need of low-cost rented homes. It also explores the likely impact on housing supply.

JRF JOSEPH ROUNTREE FOUNDATION

INSPIRING SOCIAL CHANGE

LSE Consulting

The Effect of Forthcoming Housing Policy Changes on Social-Tenant Employment and the London Economy





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2. Overcoming 'tunnel view' on housing in data collection and analysis

'Tunnel view' on housing (applying a 'singular' approach to housing) limits:

- the amount and the type of evidence that 'enter' policy process, and
- the number of viable solutions to housing problem(s).

Applying 'universal' approach to housing means that data is collected and analysed in a way that reflects multiple - social, economic, environmental and 'other' dimensions of housing at the same time

- improves understanding of housing problems and solutions to the problems.

E.g. Territorial Impact Assessment framework and methodologies allow combining spatial and 'other' dimensions of housing during data analysis and can be effectively used for better evidence crafting.

ESPON

Territorial Impact Assessment
of Policies and EU Directives

A practical guidance for policymakers and practitioners
based on contributions from ESPON projects and
the European Commission



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3. Combining various ‘types’ of housing data

Type of data	Useful to portray	Examples
Quantitative (numerical) data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scale and/or extent, • to generalize results from a sample population, • to quantify attitudes, opinions, behaviours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • population/household growth, • demand for new housing, • number of homeless persons, • density of persons per residential unit, • housing cost.
Qualitative (non-numerical) data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • context (e.g. social, cultural, institutional), • practices, realisation of processes, • reasons, opinions, motivations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • household residential satisfaction, • quality of neighbourhoods, • barriers in accessing housing finance, • type of public support for housing.



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4. Complementing 'ex-post' with an 'ex-ante' appraisal

Generation of evidence only through appraisal of the actual effects of policies (so called 'ex-post' appraisal) can limit opportunities for a timely response to policy problems.

Using frameworks, methodologies and tools oriented at predicting future effects of policies (so called 'ex-ante' approaches) allows:

- better risk management - using data about 'the past' to predict 'the future'; and
- prohibits 'losing' evidence in policy process.

E.g. LUISA (Land Use-based Integrated Sustainability Assessment) allows understanding future effects of policies (relationship between land and the provision of housing), based on various 'scenarios'

- is used in France, Ireland, the United Kingdom and at EU level.



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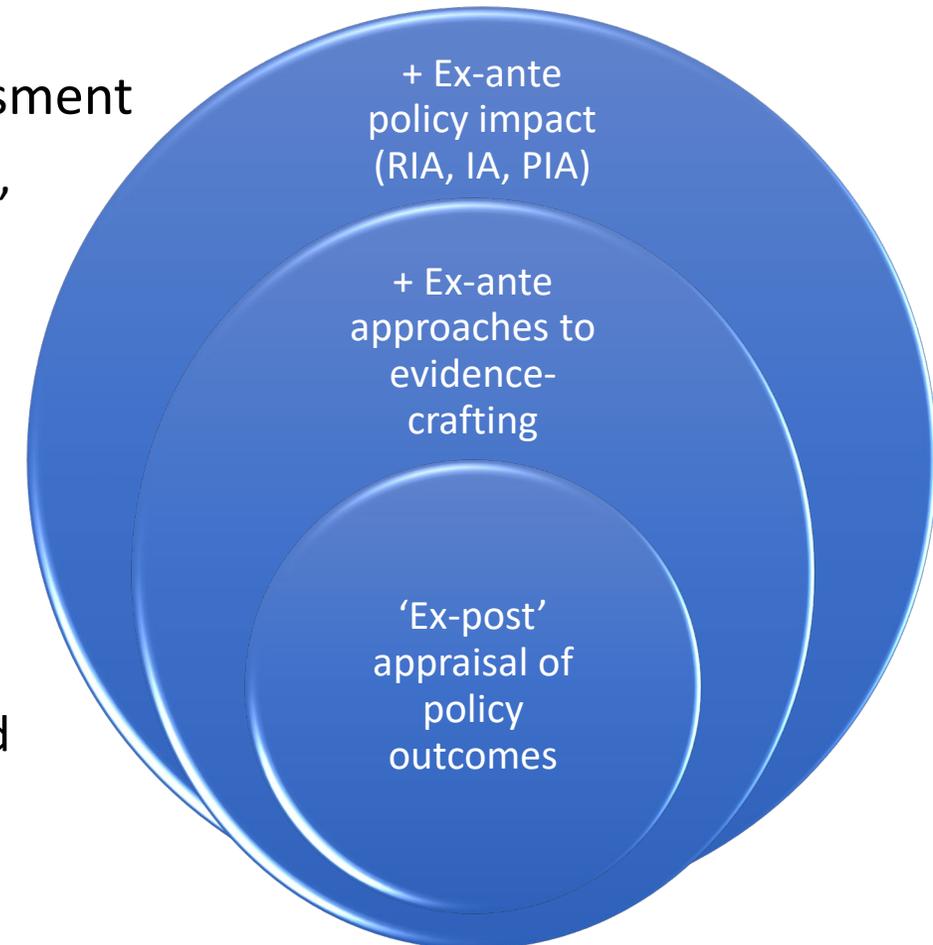
5. A regulatory shift

From the appraisal of actual policy outcomes (during/after policy implementation) to the ('ex-ante') Policy Impact Assessment

- appraisal of various policy 'options' with regard to their potential, future impact,
- evidence is crafted in advance to decisions-making about character and scope of policy interventions.

E.g. PIA is commonly used by the EC and the EU MS in policy development

- considered a 'better regulation' tool – facilitates improvement of the quality of policy proposals; promotes universal principles of policy- and law-development: accountability, transparency and institutional learning.





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Take-aways

1. Focusing on Identifying the long-term effects ('impacts') of policy interventions.
2. Quantitative and qualitative data provide equally important insights into housing problems.
3. Applying 'universal' approach to evidence-crafting (data collection/analysis) is associated with a greater quality and reliability of evidence.
4. 'Ex-ante' approaches support a better risk management.
5. Collection and management of data should support development of 'policy' options.



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Recommendations

1. Focusing on Identifying the long-term effects ('impacts') of policy interventions.
2. Quantitative and qualitative data provide equally important insights into housing problems and relevant solutions.
3. Applying 'universal' approach to evidence-crafting (data collection/analysis) is associated with a greater quality and reliability of evidence.
4. 'Ex-ante' approaches support a better risk management.
5. Collection and management of data should support development of 'policy' options.



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Summary and conclusions

Against the objectives of improving quality and reflectiveness of policy proposals, presented approaches can be used to generate high quality policy proposals in a timely manner.

Applying ‘holistic’ approach housing in data collection to decision-making is essential for improving the depth and the quality of evidence used in policy.

Change is a long-lasting processes. Understanding whether and to which extent policy interventions address and/or mitigate challenges in the field is of utmost importance as it allows generating ‘synergy’ effects in housing policy and supports a long-term investments in sustainable housing and urban development.



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Resources

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Thank you

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