UNECE Approaches to Data Collection and Analysis for Sustainable Urban Policies

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Role of the UNECE and other UN Regional Commissions after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development

**Focus of activities on**

- Integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into nationally owned sustainable development strategies
- Promoting policy coherence and coordination
- Enhancement of the data and statistical capacities of member States for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Areas of Work

- Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets
- Sustainable Urban Development
- Land Administration and Management
- Country Profiles on Housing, Urban Development and Land Management
Measuring and monitoring SDGs

- Country profiles on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management
- KPIs for Smart Sustainable Cities
- Smart Sustainable City profiles
- UNDA 10th tranche project ‘Guidelines to evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development’
Country profiles on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

- Country Profiles **flagship product** of the UNECE
- 20 Country Profiles for UNECE member States containing in one publication the latest verified national data on housing, urban development and land administration
- Latest: Country Profile of Kazakhstan
11.1. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

11.1.1. Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

11.2. By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

11.2.1. Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
11.3. By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

11.3.1. Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

11.3.2. Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

11.4. Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage

11.4.1. Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)
Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

Adopted by 56 member States with the objectives to:
- ensure decent affordable housing and urban infrastructure to all;
- support cities and human settlements adopting and implementing smart sustainable city concepts;
- integrated policies and plans to support: inclusion, including socially mixed communities;
- resource efficiency; and resilience to climate change and disasters.
UNECE/ITU KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR SMART AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES

- Developed by a consortium of organizations (2015-2017)
- International free standard
- Uniqueness: address smartness & sustainability of a city
- Support the localization of SDGs
- 50 cities around the world
U4SSC and USC

Stakeholders:
- United Nations
- UNECE
- Cities/Gov.
- Academia
- NGOs
- Private Sector

Programmes:
- United 4 Smart Sustainable Cities
- Policy framework

Activities:
- City KPI’s U4SSC
- Deliverables
- UN SSC Index
- City Profiles and Action Plans USC
- Industry Partnership USC
- Financing of city projects USC
- CITY Capacity Building USC

Implementation
Developing Smart Sustainable Cities in the UNECE Region

✓ KPIs

✓ Studies:
  • Guidelines on strategies for circular cities
  • Guidelines on tools and mechanisms for financing smart sustainable cities

✓ Smart Sustainable City Profiles
✓ United Smart City Lab, Vienna, Austria
✓ Marketplace
✓ Development of a KPIs dashboard

"A smart sustainable city is an innovative city that uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) 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 and environmental aspects as well as cultural."

(UNECE & ITU, 2015)
• Collection and analysis and use of data and information for sustainable housing and urban development policies (frameworks, tools, methodologies).

• Development of guidelines on evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in countries with economies in transition.

• Capacity building to support decision-makers use data to create change
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROMOTE EVIDENCE BASED POLICIES

Data collection approaches, tools and methodologies
Promote use of diverse data sources relevant to housing and urban development sector, including

• data sources at the national level (housing and population census, household surveys),

• at the local level (SDGs data for city-centric evidence-based policies, those obtained via City Prosperity and United For Smart Sustainable Cities Initiatives),

• big data,

• geospatial information and

• private sector statistics and

• partnerships for data gathering
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROMOTE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES

• Analyse and address risks and challenges associated with data gathering (high costs of data collection, qualification of data collectors etc.) and establish quality assurance in data production and data analysis.

• Address questions of interpretation and elimination of bias when it comes to big data, but also the challenges associated with data privacy, data quality and anonymity.

• Support collection of disaggregated data for quality of the analysis. Ensure inclusiveness of evidence-based policies by taking into consideration issues of gender, age, ethnicity, income, disability and migratory status. Analysing data across these respective categories will ensure that evidence-based policies meet the criteria of social justice, fairness and inclusivity; as well as avoid the dangers of generalization and stereotyping.

• To encourage policy makers to conduct pre and post-programme impact evaluation to support better development and implementation of evidence-based policies.
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS –
GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Promote coordination between national agencies responsible for the development and implementation policies and statistical offices; between local authorities and statistical offices. This will support also policy coherence and convergence.

Ensure inclusion of urban dwellers in the process of data analysis through participatory processes, application of tools (mobile applications, etc). This will ensure ownership of measures by the inhabitants and long-term sustainability of measures.

Capacities of national and local government agencies vary significantly from country to country. Raise information literacy and capacity for data of local governments. Strengthen capacity of national and local governments for data analysis, collection and application.
68th Commission Session

http://www.unece.org/housing/dayofcities.html
THANK YOU

HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT