



VITAL SPACES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNECE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE WORKING PARTY ON LAND ADMINISTRATION

Dear reader,

This issue of Vital Spaces celebrates the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management. It also presents the ongoing and planned activities and meetings of the Committee. For more information on the areas of work under the Committee, please visit the website: <http://www.unece.org/housing> or write to housing.landmanagement@unece.org.

Message from the Director

Welcome to the special anniversary issue of the Vital Spaces Newsletter!

This issue celebrates the achievements of the Committee on Housing and Land Administration over the last 70 years with a special section on the history of the Committee in a piece entitled: A Short Walk through 70 Years of History. Information on the key developments, activities and publications produced over the years was painstakingly collected in the last several months especially for the 78th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management. Heartfelt congratulations to the member States, our partner organizations and all stakeholders who have cooperated so closely through the years and been actively involved with the work of the Committee in the production of high quality and effective outputs and products. We know that they are appreciated across the entire UNECE region.

We hope you enjoy this anniversary issue and you will be here at the Palais des Nations in Geneva to help us celebrate the Committee's 70th Anniversary from 8-10 November!

Ivonne Higuero
Director
Forests, Land and Housing Division
UNECE



A short walk through 70 years of history

UNECE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

From a Panel to a Committee



After World War II there was a mass shortage of housing across Europe. Because of the bombing and fighting, a great number of the homes on all sides had been destroyed or damaged. Further, stoppage of housing construction during the war, aggravated by the displacement of a considerable number of people, contributed to the shortage. Soon, the birth rate began to rise and families required new homes. There was a need to rebuild quickly and this required establishing common building standards and exchanging best practices in the construction of housing. Against this background, after the establishment of the Economic Commission for Europe as a UN body with an original mandate to assist the reconstruction and economic development of Europe, the **Panel on Housing Problems** was established in **July 1947**, which was tasked by member States to deal with housing issues.

The Panel specifically was requested to “study housing problems of common interest to European countries and advise the Commission on means, technical and economic, of assisting, and expediting housing problems of member countries” and “collect, analyse and disseminate statistical and other information”.¹

Meeting the housing demands of the population was extremely difficult, particularly in an environment where housing had to compete for its share in investments required to address post war needs. Thus, the Panel's first task was to draw the attention of governments and of the public to the seriousness of the problem in housing in the context of limited resources. In October 1947, the

¹ Resolution passed at the 2nd session of the UNECE. July 1947.

Panel held its first session in Geneva with a clear goal of dealing with the reconstruction of post-war Europe.

After its establishment, the Panel had to face the unstable political situation of a divided Europe. The Iron Curtain, which separated the East and the West during the Cold War, meant dealing with two radically different systems politically, economically and ideologically.

From a Panel to a Committee: In 1948, the Panel's scope of work included dealing with problems with construction materials and provision of a centralized statistical service for locating available materials. To give it a "better defined place within the Commission to carry on its important tasks"², the Panel was transformed into a **Housing Sub-committee** under the Committee on Industry and Materials.



A Committee session held in Geneva in 1967

The Housing Sub-committee eventually became a fully independent committee in **March 1951**, and was named the **Housing Committee**. The succeeding years saw the evolution of the Committee's name to **Housing, Building and Planning in 1963**, **Human Settlements in 1992**, and **Housing and Land Management in 2006**, to reflect the changing concerns of governments and the integration of social, environmental, and financial dimensions of housing, urban development, and land administration and management in its work.

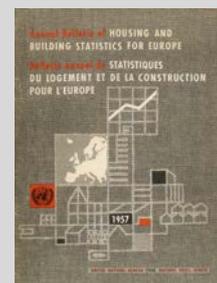
1953: The establishment of the **International Committee for Building Research (CIB³)** is considered an important event in 1953. The Committee helped in setting up this non-governmental organization whose main task was to stimulate and facilitate international collaboration and information exchange between governmental research institutes in the building and construction sector.

Recognizing the importance of statistics in the "evaluation of housing needs, development of construction programmes and in the assessment of European requirements for building materials, equipment and manpower", the Committee at its second session in 1949, resolved to publish housing statistics on a regular basis. A result of considerable work on housing statistics was the first issue of the **Quarterly Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe**, published in August 1953.

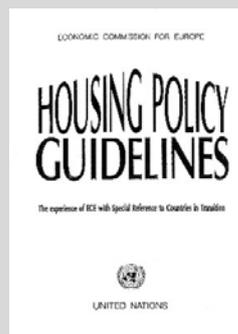
1956: The initial attempt by the Committee to assess the European housing situation after WWII was done in 1949. However, the analysis was based on pre-war statistics, as availability of post-war statistics during that time was limited. In 1954, the **European Housing Progress and Policies in 1953** was published using post-war

housing and population statistics. The publication provided a comparison of the level of house building with current housing demands. Upon the request of the Committee to have a fuller analysis of the housing situation (showing a quantitative and qualitative picture of each country's housing stock), and housing requirements and shortages, the secretariat published **The European Housing Situation in January 1956**.

1958: Whilst quarterly housing and building statistics were already being published by the Committee to show current developments in the field of house building, the **first Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe**, which covered statistics from 1948-1957, was published in 1958.



1965: The Committee, in 1963, started collecting vital housing data from the UNECE region in order to build information databases. At its twenty-fourth session in June 1963, the Committee requested the publication of an annual survey of the housing situation in European countries. In **May 1965**, the **Annual Survey of the Housing Situation in European Countries around 1960**, the first of the series, was published. It was based on the results of two housing and population censuses after WWII (1950 and 1960) and it was issued in three languages – English, French, and Russian. In 1986, another important publication presenting the housing situation in the region was published - **The Human Settlements Situation in the UNECE Region**.

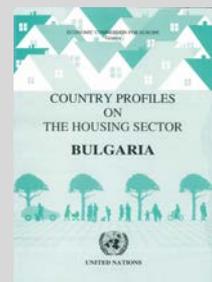


The work of the Committee continued progressively after the end of the Cold War and broadened its area of work focused on providing analysis, recommendations and guidelines on housing, urban development and land administration policies. A new programme of work was created in 1993 and the **Housing Policy Guidelines: the Experience of the ECE with Special Reference to Countries in Transition** was published.

1993: The new programme of work **Country Profiles on the Housing Sector** was created in **November 1993**. After 20 years, the programme was renamed **Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management** (Country Profiles) with the full inclusion of the land administration and management sector in the analysis. The Country Profiles are the only studies at country level that provide in-depth analysis of country-specific housing, urban development, and land administration and management policies, strategies, and institutional and financial frameworks. The study contains policy recommendations, the implementation of which are supported and monitored by the Committee.



1996: The first activity of the new programme of work, the **Country Profile on the Housing Sector of Bulgaria**, was published in 1996. Nineteen Country Profiles for seventeen countries have been compiled so far. The Republic of Moldova and Armenia have had two Profiles published.



² Resolution passed at the 3rd session of the UNECE. May 1948.

³ Abbreviated form in French – Conseil International du Bâtiment. In 1998, the name was changed to International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction but the abbreviation CIB has been kept.

The scope of work of the Committee was extended to include urban planning and land use. In **February 1996**, the **Meeting of Officials on Land Administration** (MOLA) was established to deal with these additional tasks. In recognition of its work in the promotion of land privatization and land registration in the UNECE region and the need for such work to continue, MOLA was granted a standing character by the Commission in **August 1999** and became the **Working Party on Land Administration** (Working Party).

Aside from the Country Profile, the Committee issued other publications in 1996 that provide analysis, recommendations and guidelines, such as the following:

- Land Administration Guidelines with Special Reference to Countries in Transition
- Towards Sustainable Human Settlements Development in the UNECE Region
- Strategies to Implement Human Settlements Policies on Urban Renewal and Housing Modernization
- UNECE Compendium of Model Provisions for Building Regulations
- Guidelines on Sustainable Human Settlements Planning and Management

1997: The Committee at its 58th session in **September 1997** established the **Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network** (HUMAN) to advise and support the Committee’s work. Its activities were in line with UNECE recommendations and the provisions of the Habitat Agenda on involving the business community, NGOs, and local authorities in human settlements policy formulation and implementation. It consisted of experts dealing with housing, planning and land administration issues, and local authorities.

The Committee in the 21st century

In 2000 and 2006, the 56 UNECE member States articulated and affirmed their vision of the role of the Committee and the scope of its activities. The 2000 Ministerial meeting on Human Settlements reviewed and appraised the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the ECE region as a contribution to the 2001 special session of the General Assembly, **Istanbul +5**. As an outcome, the Ministers and Heads of States adopted the **UNECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century**, which is based on the provisions of the Habitat Agenda and Agenda 21, with particular emphasis on issues of common interest and concern for all countries of the UNECE region.

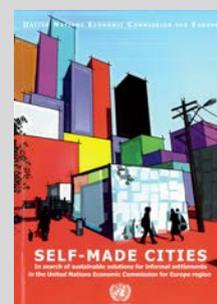
The strategy outlined the goal of the Committee “to promote the sustainable development of human settlements in the UNECE region while fostering economic and social prosperity and supporting democratic governance”. The **2006 Ministerial Declaration on Social and Economic Challenges in Distressed Urban Areas** validated the strategy’s goals and challenges. The adopted 2006 Ministerial Declaration, along with the 2000 Strategy, guided and supported the Committee’s work.

The **Real Estate Market Advisory Group** was established in **2007** and, in **2012**, it replaced HUMAN as the advisory group to the Committee and the Working Party.

The Committee has further broadened its activities to tackle better the emerging challenges in the region on which the housing, urban

and land sectors have an impact and vice versa, such as: environmental sustainability; real estate market stability; informal settlements; energy efficiency; urbanization; etc.

In **2009**, UNECE published **Green Homes**, which is the first publication to tackle energy efficiency in housing in the region, the housing sector being a major consumer of energy. In the same year, the study **Self-Made Cities: In search of sustainable solutions for informal settlements in the UNECE region**, was also published. The study tackles the phenomenon of informal settlements in the region and identifies policy responses. Both studies were so popular that they had to be reprinted.



The Committee has included in its programme of work the development of projects and policy documents promoting sustainable urban development, energy efficiency and adequate housing:

- In April 2014, the multi-stakeholder project **United Smart Cities** was launched. The project aims at addressing the major urban issues in medium-sized cities in countries with economies in transition in the UNECE region. After the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015, the project also supported achieving the SDGs at the local level. In December 2015, the UNECE/ITU United Smart Sustainable City indicators were endorsed by the Committee.



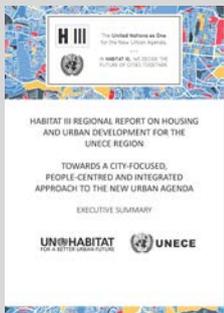
- In April 2015, the **Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing**, which supports countries in ensuring access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all, was officially endorsed by UNECE. The Charter is based on four principles: environmental protection, economic effectiveness, social inclusion and participation, and cultural adequacy.



- In May 2016, the UNECE and ITU launched the global smart sustainable city initiative **United for Smart Sustainable Cities** (U4SSC) in response to SDG 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.



- The Committee took the lead in preparing the report of the UNECE region to Habitat III (**Habitat III Regional Report**). The Report reflects on the trends influencing the cities of the UNECE region in the 20 years since Habitat II, and looks forward to the next two decades and the positive contribution that might be made to the 'essence of the city', and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.



The work of the Committee is based on key United Nations policy documents on housing and urban development, including the **Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing** and the **Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management 2014-2020**.

The potential contribution of the Committee in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, including achievement of the housing, urban and land-related Sustainable Development Goals, cannot be understated. The Committee aims to align its work with the Agendas in order to support countries in their efforts to meet their international commitments in the areas of sustainable housing, urban development and land administration and management.

This short history provides a snapshot of how the Panel on Housing Problems created in 1947 has evolved into the present day Committee on Housing and Land Management, with greater responsibilities and a wider scope of work—as required to address a more complex world of extended urbanization alongside unprecedented population growth and movement of people across borders. The Committee adapts to the priority concerns of its member States and continues to tackle housing problems, urban development and land administration and management with the view that every human being deserves affordable, sustainable and adequate housing and liveable cities.

NEWS

Smart Sustainable Cities offer solutions to address key urban development challenges



Cities are amongst the biggest consumers of energy in the world, representing almost two-thirds of global primary energy demand. Cities also account for 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector. Through innovative integrated approaches including spatial planning measures such as planning

green spaces or increasing green areas, and through the use of smart technologies, the environmental impact of cities can be drastically reduced and the quality of life of city-dwellers improved.

The multi-stakeholder project “United Smart Cities” and the UNECE/ITU joint initiative “United for Smart Sustainable Cities”, which is supported by 14 other UN Agencies and Programmes, help cities worldwide in addressing urban development challenges, supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local level, with a particular focus on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". The Smart Sustainable Cities concept therefore represents a strategic vision for improving the way cities function and the ways people live.

In the context of the recent Energy Ministerial and 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, UNECE, swissuniversities, the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences and the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, organized the event “Towards Smart Sustainable Cities – Integrated Approaches”, held on 14 June 2017. The event explored the use of technological innovation and the benefits of integrated approaches to urban planning and management in the promotion of smarter and more sustainable cities. In particular, it highlighted the key role of ensuring access to sustainable energy in response to increasing consumption in cities, helping to limit the environmental impact of urban areas and achieve a better quality of life for city populations.

Looking ahead as cities in the UNECE region and beyond seek to harness new technologies to support the implementation of SDG11, the concept of Smart Sustainable Cities must be seen as a combination of solution-oriented and integrated approaches based on technological innovation, enabling conditions from governments, broad stakeholder collaboration, innovative financing models and mechanisms, and active citizen participation.

In order to facilitate the transition to Smart Sustainable Cities, the use of key performance indicators and standards will be critical in analyzing the performance of urban areas and setting priorities and targets for change.

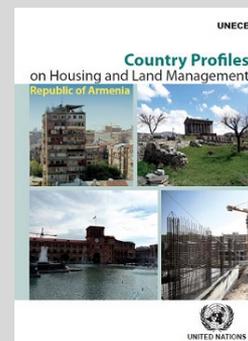
To learn more about UNECE’s work to promote sustainable urban development, please visit:
<http://www.unece.org/housing/urbandevelopment.html>

Armenia to build on progress in housing sector but faces persisting challenges including access to affordable and decent housing and mitigation of disaster risks

Armenia has made considerable progress in implementing sustainable housing and land management policies, but significant challenges remain in terms of access to decent housing and mitigation of disaster risks.

These are some of the findings of the Second UNECE Country Profile on Housing and Land Management of Armenia, launched at a national workshop in Yerevan on 11 September 2017.

The Country Profile identifies significant progress made since 2004 when the First Country Profile was prepared.



The Government has taken actions to improve its legal and regulatory framework for energy efficiency for buildings as a contribution to meeting its international obligations on climate change. Under its energy saving strategy, the Government has targeted an aggregate energy saving in residential buildings of 23% by 2020 compared to 2010 levels.

The Government of Armenia has also established an effective land administration system. All real estate is registered in the cadastre, property rights have been secured, and a real estate transfer system today is based on the effective registration of property rights. Armenia provides efficient services of property and land rights registration for its citizens.

Whilst progress has been achieved through a wide range of initiatives, the UNECE Country Profile also identifies persisting challenges and areas for improvement. It provides policy recommendations for the government to further improve its legal and institutional framework and implement specific actions in the areas of housing, urban development and land administration.

Armenia has high risks related to geophysical hazards (such as earthquakes, landslides and mudflows, hail storms, etc.). The Government has adopted a number of laws and regulation on seismic hazard reduction and emergency management. Design and construction regulations have been revised to reflect actual seismic hazards and to ensure more accurate identification of the seismic load on buildings. At the same time, damages from the 1988 Spitak earthquake are yet to be fully liquidated, with some of the 517,000 people left homeless after the earthquake not receiving access to adequate housing.

Access to adequate and decent housing remains the main challenge in the housing policy of Armenia. Sixty thousand families, or about 8 per cent of households, require improvement of their living conditions and 8,000 families live in dormitories and rooms adapted as dwellings. More than 50% of multi-apartment buildings should be renovated to improve earthquake resistance and energy-efficiency.

The Government has adopted the National Strategy on Developing Social Housing Stock, but it lacks regulations on a number of issues on social housing provision and the affordable rental sector. There is a need to develop a comprehensive strategy for the housing sector, paying special attention to instruments to promote greater efficiency in the housing market.

The findings and recommendations of the Smart Sustainable City Profile of Goris, conducted as part of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities programme led by UNECE in cooperation with ITU, were also discussed at the workshop.

Based on the recommendations of the Country and City Profiles, the Government of Armenia, together with the support of UNECE, UN-Habitat and the UNDP office in Armenia, elaborated a draft National Action Plan on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development. A consultation was carried out on the draft National Action Plan during the workshop with the participation of representatives of different ministries and stakeholders.

Mr. Narek Sargsyan, Chairman of Armenia's State Urban Development Committee, considered that "the National Action Plan with proposed activities based on a comprehensive analysis prepared by international and national actors will support the government in its efforts towards improving the quality of life of people of Armenia".

"The Country Profile and the Smart Sustainable City Profile of Goris are the beginning of a new chapter on cooperation for the

implementation of a National Action Plan on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development," said Ms Ivonne Higuero, Director of the UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division, on the launch of the two assessments.

The national workshop was jointly organized by the State Urban Development Committee of the Government of Armenia, UNECE, UN-Habitat, and the UNDP Office in Armenia, and financially supported through the United Nations Development Account project "Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing, urban development and land management". The preparation of the Country Profile on Housing and Land Management was financially supported by the Russian Federation with in-kind contributions from OECD, and Her Majesty's Land Registry of England and Wales. The Second UNECE Country Profile on Housing and Land Management of Armenia is available at <https://www.uncece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/cp.armenia.2017.pdf>

Decent housing and sustainable cities at the heart of UN celebrations of World Habitat Day in Geneva



World Habitat Day 2017 is the occasion to raise awareness of the theme of "housing policies: affordable homes", underscoring the importance of ensuring adequate, affordable and decent housing for all as a key feature of sustainable cities. This year's celebration also coincided with the 70th anniversary of the establishment of UNECE's Committee on Housing and Land Management.

The provision of adequate, affordable and decent housing is of crosscutting relevance to sustainable development, linking to a wide range of areas including health, energy efficiency and inclusion.

World Habitat Day celebrations in Geneva, held on 2 October, featured a photo exhibition on "Geneva: the Habitats Within", alongside an "Urban Breakfast" event, co-organised by UNECE and UN-Habitat with participation of key UN agencies working in Geneva on issues of housing and urban development.

Speaking at the Urban Breakfast event, Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of UNECE, stated, "UNECE endorsed the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing in 2015. It is an important international instrument to support member States as they seek to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all, with due attention to reducing the impact of the housing sector on the environment. The Committee on Housing and Land Management is further committed to ensuring adequate, decent and affordable housing for all through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs), with a particular emphasis on SDG 11 on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, stressed the importance of World Habitat Day as a reminder that adequate shelter for all is a basic human right. He underlined that “The photo exhibition “Geneva: The Habitats Within”, demonstrated that the city of Geneva is unique in its ability to accommodate immense diversity in terms of ideas, action and people”.

The Urban Breakfast focused on “implementing the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the SDGs in the UNECE region”. Key issues included sustainable city planning, the use of national urban policy instruments, stakeholder participation in urban policy development, and enhancing measurement of progress towards SDGs in cities.

Financial support for the preparation of the exhibition was provided by the Government of Slovenia.

For more information on Geneva World Habitat Day celebrations, please visit:
<http://www.unece.org/housing/worldhabitatday2017.html>

FROM OUR PARTNERS

Laying the groundwork for achieving SDGs in the Western Balkans – Towards gender equality in land tenure



by UNFAO –

**Rumyana
Tonchovska,
Javier Molina
Cruz,
Martha Osorio,
Margret Vidar**

The Western Balkans regional initiative, which started in 2013 with the support of FAO, the World Bank and the UN Women office in Albania, aims to address the challenges to women’s land ownership in the region. Following the adoption of Agenda 2030, FAO, GIZ⁴ and the International Union of Notaries (UINL) continue to support the countries in the region to achieve measurable progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality and women’s empowerment. More specifically, the joint initiative provides technical support in the monitoring of SDG indicator 5.a.2, which measures through a number of proxies the proportion of countries where the legal framework guarantees women’s equal rights to land ownership and/or control. FAO is the custodian UN agency for this indicator 5.a.2.

The legal and policy frameworks in all participating countries were screened by national legal experts using the FAO Legal Assessment Tool (LAT) for gender-equitable land tenure and the draft methodology for SDG indicator 5.a.2. All the countries of the Western Balkans have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and thanks to

the ongoing regional exchanges facilitated by the development partners the Western Balkans have undertaken legislative action to strengthen gender equality. Despite these achievements, longstanding customs and traditions continue to favour male property ownership. Some remaining gaps in the legal framework were identified, which served as a basis for providing targeted recommendations to address them, with the ultimate objective of achieving SDG Indicator 5.a.2.

Lessons learned: Laws can influence social norms and attitudes, but most often, there is a need for implementation mechanisms to achieve gender equitable outcomes. ; the understanding of attitudes of men and women and the role of key actors such as legal professionals and land registration staff in supporting gender equality should shape recommendations for future action; the exchange of good practices and experiences across country teams have stimulated reform in the region and demonstrated that change is possible, despite deeply held customs and traditions.

The draft methodology for SDG indicator 5.a.2. was tested in the Western Balkans and later refined in light of the lessons learnt and retested in Albania, Serbia and in several other countries in different regions before it is submitted for final approval by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) in October 2017.

Read more: Understanding local customs to achieve the 2030 Agenda

Leaflet: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6942e.pdf>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AT THE SECRETARIAT:

Our Interns



Pavitra Raja is from Sydney, Australia and has recently completed a Juris Doctor from Macquarie University, specialising in Intellectual Property and International Law. She holds a Bachelor in Arts, majoring in Political Sciences and International Relations from the University of Melbourne and has also studied in other esteemed universities such as University of Gothenburg, University of Oxford and Maastricht University. She has a keen interest in Roman and Indian history, graphic novels, traveling and languages.



Christian Holländer holds Bachelor degrees in Business Administration and Politics, and Economics from the Westfälische-Wilhelms-University, Münster, Germany, and is currently pursuing a Master degree in Business Administration with specialisation in Corporate Social Responsibility. He has been working with the UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit as an intern since August 2017, providing support to the preparation of the 78th session of the Committee. Prior to this, he has gained considerable practical experience in the renewable energy private industry as well as with energy efficiency service providers devising

⁴ On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

business development strategies for startups and multinational corporations.

UPCOMING KEY EVENTS OF THE UNECE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT IN 2018

- Workshop on social housing, April 2018 (tbc), Vienna, Austria
- WPLA workshop, June 2018
- Housing Europe (joint event), June, Rakvere, Estonia
- WPLA workshop on real estate markets, September, Greece
- 79th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management, 3-5 October 2018, Switzerland

A NOTE ON THE COORDINATOR:



Inputs to this edition of the newsletter were coordinated and edited by **Ms. Cecilia Batac**.

Special thanks to **Mr. Adrien Ciret** for assisting in compiling information for the Committee's history.

Article contributions to this newsletter are welcome.

For more information on the standard requirements for the articles, you may write the Vital Spaces coordinator

Ms. Cecilia Batac, email: cecilia.batac@unece.org

TRANSLATION OF THE GENEVA UN CHARTER ON SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

To continue to promote the Charter implementation and dissemination, the secretariat kindly invites you to translate it into your national language. We would be grateful if, once translated, you would send it to the secretariat (housing.landmanagement@unece.org).

Currently, the Charter is available in 11 languages and these translations are available in our website - <http://www.unece.org/housing/charter.html>

Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

The *Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing* is a non-legally binding document that aims to support member States as they seek to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all. It was endorsed by the *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe* on 16 April 2015.

You can also download a power point presentation about the Charter in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

The Charter is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and in other languages.

The Charter in your language

Albanian	Armenian	Bulgarian	Czech
English	French	Italian	Russian
Slovenian	Spanish	Slovak	

Geneva UN Charter Centres

Geneva UN Charter Centres support the Committee in the implementation of the Charter through active dissemination of information on the Charter and its principles through publications, mass media, and national and local events; organising capacity building and networking activities.

Activities of the Centres are coordinated by the secretariat. Please see contacts for the Charter Centres under this link.

Disclaimer: This is not a United Nations official publication. This newsletter is distributed only electronically to CHLM and WPLA members and interested individuals and organizations wishing to receive information on the work on housing and land management. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of the articles and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the United Nations.