Economic Commission for Europe Protocol on the Evaluation of City Performance Against the Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities

Dr Agata Krause, UNECE

81st session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

07 October 2020

Structure

Structure of the presentation

- Acknowledgements

- Background information

- Aim of the protocol & Key stakeholders

- Evaluation procedure (data collection; data verification; benchmarking; development of recommendations).

Acknowledgements

Prepared by the Secretariat and reviewed by

- Smart Cities Task for to the Bureau to the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (chaired by Mr Olzhas Startayev; and Mr Giampiero Bambagioni).

- UNECE Nexus on Sustainable Smart Cities for All Ages.

- UNECE Nexus on Measuring and Monitoring of SDGs.

Background

- Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities (KPIs for SSC) were developed by UNECE & ITU in 2015
  - endorsed by the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management in 2016 (ECE/HBP/2016/4); brought under the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC).

- KPIs for SSC provide cities with a consistent and standardized method to collect data and measure performance and progress to:
  - achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - becoming a smarter city
  - becoming a more sustainable city.

- The "Collection Methodology for the Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities" (2017) does not explain how to carry out the evaluation using the KPIs for SSC.

Aim of the protocol & Key stakeholders

- Protocol aims to improve the quality, efficiency and transparency of the evaluation of city performance against the KPIs for SSC.
  - It introduces a clear and transparent **evaluation procedure**, outlines the roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders involved in the process: the ECE secretariat, evaluator, and the government concerned; and provides guidelines on how to carry out the evaluation.
  - It can be amended in the future, as appropriate.

- Evaluation procedure has four steps: (i) data collection; (ii) data verification; (iii) benchmarking; (iv) development of recommendations.

Data collection and verification

- Data collection is the responsibility of the government. The following sources of data can be used for KPIs:
    - Official statistics - data that is produced based on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, by the National Statistical Offices (and/or their regional/local branches)
    - Other sources of data (data produced by the municipality or the ministries – administrative data; data produced by international organizations, e.g. United Nations Statistics Division, European Union institutions, OECD and others, academia and others).

- The evaluation should be based only on accurate data. Therefore, the evaluator verifies the accuracy of the collected data ("data verification").
    - The evaluator considers the data submitted as "verified" if the government (i) submitted the required reference information on the sources of data; and (ii) reported the correct data values based on the references.

Benchmarking and development of recommendations

- Benchmarking: the process of assigning a target value (a 'benchmark') for each KPI based on e.g. development objectives and targets at all levels; standards.
  - The comparison between the KPIs for the city and the benchmarks reveals the performance is "below average" (KPI value falls between 0 and 33 per cent of the benchmark value), "average" (KPI value is between 33 per cent and 66 per cent of the benchmark value) or "good" (KPI value is more than 66 per cent of the benchmark value).
- Recommendations are developed based on the KPI evaluation and additional information
  - e.g. information gathered via the survey; local policies, plans the Country Profiles on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management), and consulted with the government.
- Outcomes of the evaluation of a city against the KPIs for SSC are included in Sustainable Smart Cities Profile (SSCP).

Thank you!

Contact:
Dr Agata Krause
UNECE
agata.krause@un.org
07 I 10 I 2020