Evaluation of the role of the UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management from 1996 to 2015

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Photograph: HSP/WUF/6/INF

May–June, 2016

This publication was produced at the request of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM). Its contents are the sole responsibility of the evaluator and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the UNECE.

Contents

Acronyms

CHLM	Committee on Housing and Land Management
CP	Country Profile
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
EECCA	Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
MS(s)	Member State(s)
HLM	Housing and Land Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEE	South-Eastern Europe
ToR	Terms of reference
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN	United Nations

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the evaluation of the role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Country Profiles (CPs) on Housing and Land Management from 1996 to 2015 by an independent evaluator, and assesses its effectiveness, efficiency and relevance among the UNECE member States (MSs) and countries where a CP was prepared. The objective of the evaluation is to use its results to improve the content, increase the efficiency and long-term sustainability, and formulate possible future activities.

The Introduction of the report describes the project, purpose and objective of the evaluation, and its scope, methodology and limitations. The evaluation is based on the experience accumulated in the course of preparing CPs in 17 countries, and takes into account the opinions and feedback collected through project documentation, individual in-depth interviews, and an online survey by the UNECE and external stakeholders. The evaluation experienced certain limitations related to locating key stakeholders and getting their responses.

The Findings chapter outlines the evaluation findings, established per requirements set forth in the terms of reference (ToR). Findings are based on seven key questions that were provided in the ToR, and draws on all methodological instruments of the evaluation. The findings demonstrate that MS governments highly value the CPs as an instrument for the analysis of the countries' HLM policies, which supports the governments' efforts in developing, reforming and advancing national legislation, strategies, plans and institutional frameworks on housing, urban planning and land management. The CP Guidelines allow a great degree of flexibility in adapting its content and structure to changing political, social and economic contexts. The CP exercise creates a unique opportunity for different branches of the national governments to consolidate their work, engage in interministerial committees, and cooperate on issues of housing, urban planning and land management. The evaluation concludes that the CP programme is relevant, and is effective in achieving its objectives. However, the absence of programme impact indicators and monitoring mechanisms, a number of inefficient and bureaucratic procedures, and a lack of sustainable funding negatively affect its effectiveness.

The report makes a set of recommendations aimed at improving mechanisms for the preparation, execution, monitoring and follow-up of the CP analytical study. Based on findings and subsequent conclusions, the evaluation recommends the improvement of fundraising, the broadening of partnerships, the promotion of peer-review and online tools for collaboration, the alignment of the goals and objectives of the programme with SDGs, embedding the programme with necessary impact indicators, the establishment of follow-up and monitoring mechanisms, the broadening of the application and the monitoring of gender issues, the update of the Guidelines with more efficient provisions, and the creation of web-based tools for exchanging and sharing of information and best practices.

2. INTRODUCTION

The evaluation was carried out during May-July 2016 by an independent evaluator, Konstantine Peradze, in accordance and full conformity with the requirements set forth in the ToR.[1] The findings, subsequent conclusions and recommendations are based on project documentation, a tailored online survey targeting the broad spectrum of project participants, stakeholders and partners, and Skype/online interviews with selected government officials, experts and UNECE staff and partners.

Project description

The UNECE region includes 56 MSs, among them countries with transition economies (EECCA and SEE regions) and countries with advanced and developed market economies. A large proportion of the region's population currently lives in cities – between less than 50% in Central Asia and up to more than 80% in North America and Western Europe. The region's urban population is growing, albeit slowly.[2]

The CHLM, established in 1947, is a regional intergovernmental platform of governments and other stakeholders from the MSs for intergovernmental dialogue and the exchange of information and experience among its MSs on housing, urban development and land management. The CHLM promotes efficient, adequate and sustainable housing, urban planning and land management throughout the region. Its work is based on key UN policy documents on housing, urban planning and land management. It assists with related policy formulation and implementation.

The CPs is one of its four areas of work. At its first session, in June 1993, the Working Party on Housing Development, Modernization and Management of the UNECE Committee on Human Settlements considered a proposal for the preparation of a strategic analysis of the housing sector for countries in transition.[3] The CP exercise was presented and initiated during the fifty-fifth session of the UNECE Committee on Human Settlements on 13-14 September 1994. Improvement of the housing sector was acknowledged as a key factor for determining the success of the transitional processes in Central and Eastern Europe for economic, social, environmental and political reasons.[4]

It was hoped that the transition of EECCA and SEE countries to a market economy could be accelerated, and progress towards the sustainable development of the housing sector through broad political and popular support could be achieved. CPs were to be produced in a manner which ensured maximum practical usefulness of the results for all interested

[1] Annex A.
[2] Habitat III Regional Report on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development for the UNECE Region. http://www.unece.org/housing/habitat3regionalreport.html
[3] HBP/WP.6/2, para. 17(e).
[4] ECE HBP/R.335.

parties in the host country, international agencies, foreign governments, and private sector investors in and outside the host country.

The CP project represents a tool for governments to analyse their policies, strategies, and institutional and financial frameworks for the housing, urban planning and land management sectors, and to compare the progress made in other MSs. The core of the CP exercise is an analytical study on the housing, urban planning and land management sectors, drafted by independent international experts with assistance from national experts and the UNECE secretariat. The revised Guidelines for the preparation of CPs[5] (CP Guidelines) provides detailed instructions on their preparation, as illustrated in Figure 1.

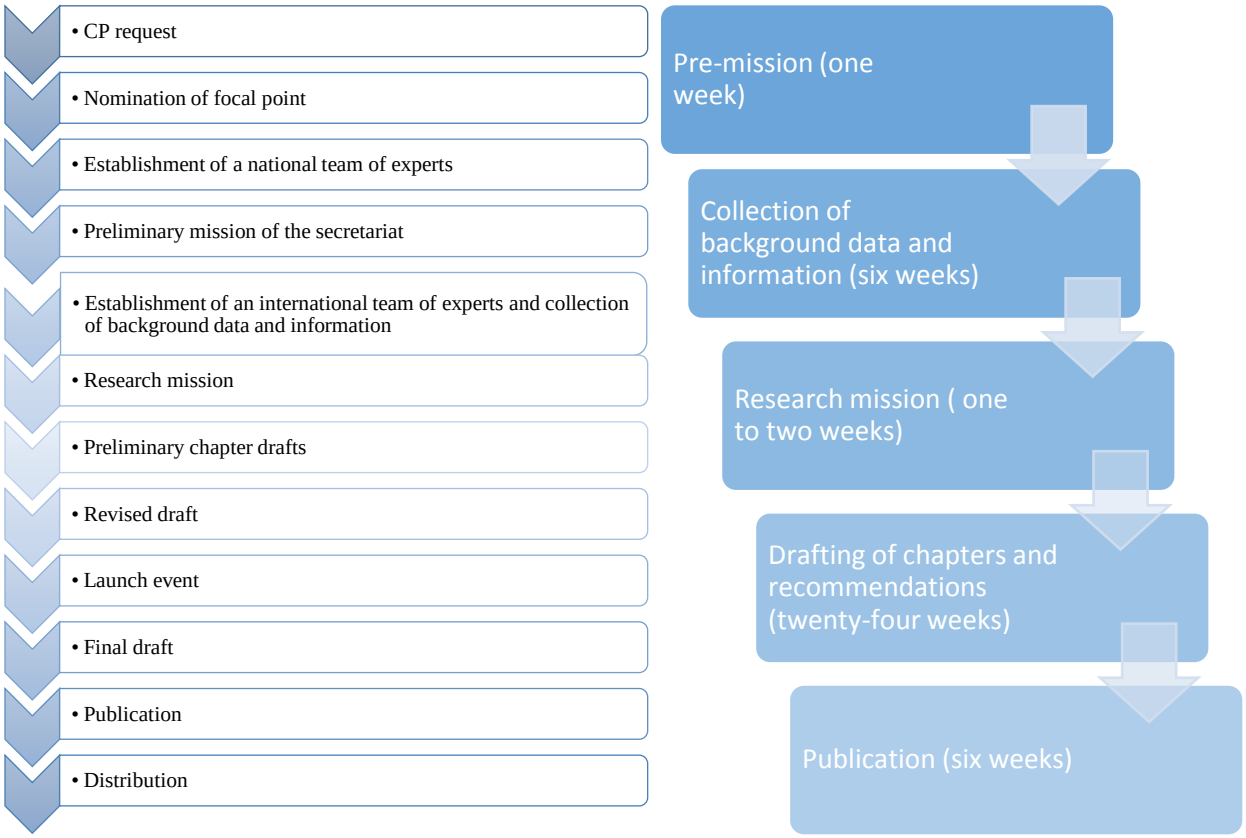

Figure 1. Procedure for the preparation of a CP and its timeline

Appropriate actors are given in the Guidelines for each phase of the CP preparation (Figure 2).

[5] ECE/HBP/2015/6.

CP preparation stages	Committee	Secretariat	Host country (local experts)	International experts
Committee consideration, approval				
Committee requests the nomination of a CP focal point				
Focal point assigned				
Establishment of a national team of experts				
Preliminary mission of the secretariat				
Establishment of an international team of experts				
Facilitation of contacts between national and international teams				
Collection of CP background information				
Research mission				
Draft, revisions				
Launch event in the host country				
Final draft approval				
Publication				
Distribution				

Figure 2. CP preparation stages and actors

While the CP study is an important tool for governments in reforming the housing, urban planning and land management sectors, its most important components are the conclusion and policy recommendations. Recommendations should be "direct, clear and realistic, and include a timeline", outlining actions that are needed for effecting change and the parties responsible for each action.[6]

The CP Guidelines propose structure and content for the CP[7] analytical study report (Figure 3). However, this can be adapted to the particular needs of countries. The study reviews housing policies, the condition of existing housing stock, the practices of spatial planning, and the state of the construction and utilities sector, as well as the socioeconomic, institutional, legal and financial frameworks of the housing, urban planning and land management sectors in the country concerned. As an integral part of the study, policy recommendations on how to improve housing, urban planning and land management strategies and policies are extended to the host government.

[6] ECE/HBP/2015/6, paras 26-27.
[7] ECE/HBP/2015/6, Chapter III.

The Guidelines are periodically reviewed, revised and updated[8] in order to reflect social, economic and political changes in housing, urban planning and land management in the UNECE region.

The HLM Unit provides clear instructions to the CP focal points in host countries. According to the project documentation, an agreement is concluded between the state authorities and the UNECE that arranges concrete steps, plans and a timeline for the exercise.

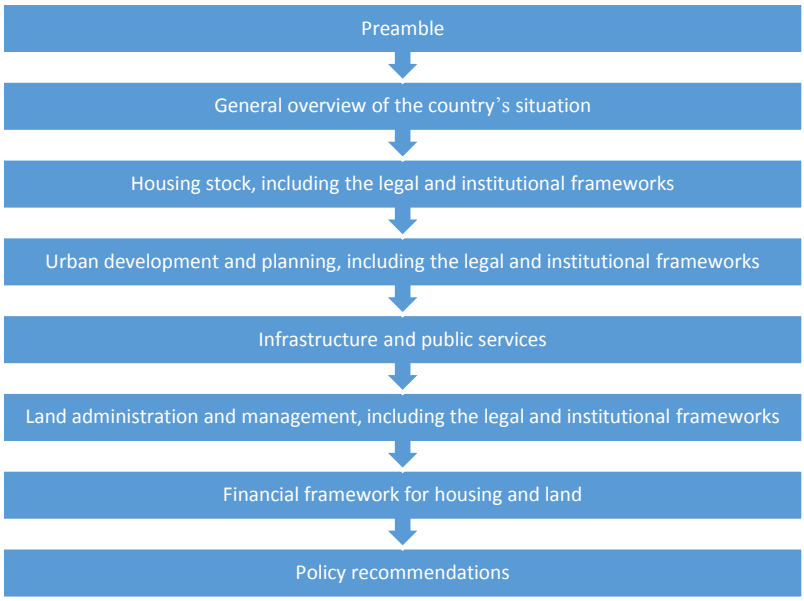

Figure 3. Structure and contents of the CP study

Being an extrabudgetary activity, the CP exercise depends on MS contributions to the HLM Trust Fund, MS and host country in-kind assistance, and other donor contributions (UN and other international agencies in the host country).

Purpose and objectives of the evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the CPs for the development and implementation of national legislation, policies and programmes on housing, urban planning and land management. Its objective is to use its results in order to:

1. Improve the content of future CPs;
2. Increase the efficiency of the work for the development of CPs, promote the long-term sustainability of the instrument, and better coordinate the work on the

[8] The evaluation uses the 2015 version. The 2013 Guidelines were also examined.

CPs with other areas of work of the CHLM; and

3. Formulate possible future activities related to the implementation of the CP recommendations.

In order to achieve the above objectives and to develop the most efficient and effective ways to respond to the requests of MSs in connection with the CP study, the following evaluation questions were developed:

1. Do governments refer to the recommendations of the CPs when improving their legislation, institutional framework, policies and programmes on housing, urban planning and land management? (relevance)
2. What are the strategies, policies or plans that have been developed so far, based on the recommendations of the CPs? (effectiveness and relevance)
3. Are there any issues or topics that are not currently being addressed by the CPs, but would be useful to address? (please specify) (relevance)
4. Is there any topic currently included which you think is not useful? (please specify) (relevance)
5. Do governments rate the CPs as effective in promoting interministerial cooperation? (please provide details) (effectiveness)
6. How to increase the efficiency of the work to produce CPs, given the limited human and financial resources available? (efficiency)
7. How to achieve the long-term sustainability of the CP programme? (effectiveness, efficiency and relevance)

The evaluation also focused on practical recommendations for the HLM Unit on how to improve the relevance, efficiency and sustainability of the work to produce the CPs.

Scope

The scope of the evaluation, as defined in the ToR, covers all UNECE MSs that participated in the CP project. The evaluation process engages host government representatives, national consultants, CP focal points, international and regional consultants, and NGOs. The evaluation framework covers this project only, and excludes other housing, urban planning and land management work done by the HLM Unit. Gender aspects are also covered. The evaluation covers activities for the following CPs:

Bulgaria (ECE/HBP/101, published in 1996), Poland (ECE/HBP/107, 1998), Slovakia (ECE/HBP/111, 1999), Lithuania (ECE/HBP/117, 2000), Romania (ECE/HBP/124, 2001), Republic of Moldova (ECE/HBP/125, 2002), Albania (ECE/HBP/130, 2002), Armenia (ECE/HBP/132, 2004), Russian Federation (ECE/HBP/131, 2004), Serbia and Montenegro (ECE/HBP/139, 2006), Georgia (ECE/HBP/143, 2007), Belarus (ECE/HBP/150, 2008), Kyrgyzstan (ECE/HPB/157, 2010), Azerbaijan (ECE/HBP/156, 2010), Tajikistan (ECE/HBP/163, 2011), Ukraine (ECE/HBP/176, 2013), Republic of Moldova (ECE/HBP/181, 2015) and Uzbekistan (ECE/HBP/185, 2015).

Methodology

The evaluation was carried out by an independent evaluator. The HLM Unit provided the necessary background documents and information on the CP exercises. The following data collection methods were employed:

1. Review of background documents and information on the CPs;
2. In-depth interviews (Skype/telephone) with a selected number of UNECE and external stakeholders involved in the CP exercise; and
3. An online survey among UNECE MSs, project participants and external stakeholders.

Document review

A detailed review of documents and information related to the CP programme was conducted, as a first step. UNECE review mechanisms, such as Environmental Performance Reviews and Innovation Performance Reviews, were analysed, and relevant staff were interviewed at a later stage. The evaluation analysed the CP proposal (HBP/R.335) and subsequent project documentations up to the latest CP Guidelines (ECE/HBP/2015/6). Individual CP documents were reviewed for conformity with the Guidelines. Various presentations by country representatives, secretariat notes, memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between the UNECE and state authorities, and technical documentation were reviewed and analysed. SDGs and housing, urban planning and land management related activities by UN Habitat, the OECD, the European Commission (EC) and others were also reviewed and analysed. A detailed list of reviewed documents and sources of information is contained in Annex B.

In-depth interviews

The evaluator conducted in-depth, semi-structured interviews with selected stakeholders. The interviewees were selected jointly with the HLM Unit. Selected interviews were held on Skype and by telephone. A list of interviewees is contained in Annex C. The interviews closely examined the knowledge and expertise of programme stakeholders, and their opinions on the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the CPs. Respondents were provided with the opportunity to express their opinion on the improvement of the CP procedures, and its structure and content.

Online survey

An online survey was developed and elaborated, together with the HLM Unit, and was addressed to all stakeholders. The final version was translated into Russian. The bilingual survey was administered on the surveymonkey.com website, and the appropriate link was e-mailed to around 100 pre-selected UNECE MS government representatives, experts

and other external stakeholders. The survey included seven questions addressing all issues presented in the ToR for the evaluation. Representatives of 16 MSs[9] expressed their opinion and commented on the CP exercise and analytical study. Respondents represented beneficiary government officials, experts and other stakeholders. A copy of the survey is contained in Annex D. A list of survey respondents can be found in Annex E.

Evaluation limitations

Every evaluation poses its own inherent limitations as to what can realistically be carried out within the scope of the mission, and this one is no exception. Below are a number of issues that could have had an impact on the evaluation results:

- Considering the many years of interval between a completed CP and this evaluation, locating and arranging interviews with key stakeholders, government representatives and experts posed a problem. Some of them had relocated or changed jobs, and tracing them with limited time and contact information was not always successful.
- The evaluation took place during a busy period for a number of experts that were, or still are, involved in CP exercises. Not all focal points could devote time to individual interviews. Therefore, evaluation conclusions are partially based on documentation rather than the personal opinions, thoughts or observations of external stakeholders.
- The evaluation also experienced difficulties with online survey responses. Considering that a link to the survey was shared via e-mail, a number of invited experts and government representatives could not respond, due to a limited timeframe. There was also the possibility that the e-mail was rejected by secure internet servers.
- There were difficulties in obtaining updated information on strategies, policies and plans that were developed due to CP recommendations.
- The findings are based, in part, on the views of those with a vested interest in the CP exercise, and are potentially biased in their responses regarding the achievements and outcomes.
- The evaluation could not examine documentation pertaining to the fundraising, funds and budget allocation for the CP programme.

3. FINDINGS

The evaluation findings are based on sources discussed in the section on methodology. The ToR specifically tasks the report with answering the questions discussed below.

[9] Representatives of the following MSs participated in the online survey: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

1. Do governments refer to the recommendations of the CPs when improving their legislation, institutional framework, policies and programmes on housing, urban planning and land management? (relevance)

Evaluation findings: Governments refer to the CP recommendations in designing new housing, urban planning and land management related laws, policies, programmes and institutional frameworks, and improving existing ones. There is clear evidence from the online survey that the recommendations are highly relevant (67%) and very useful (76%), and that the CP process is excellent or good (82% combined). According to CP programme participating government representatives, the recommendations "significantly influenced the formation" of laws and action plans in the national housing, urban planning and land management sectors. The evaluation also obtained a comprehensive list of legislations, policies and programmes on housing, urban planning and land management. According to the project documentation and in-depth (and follow-up) interviews, the formation of some of the legislation, plans and strategies was directly influenced by the CP recommendations. The evaluation was unable to find specific measures concerning the implementation of CP policy recommendations in existing National Action Plans (NAPs).

Whether governments refer to the CP recommendations depends on the relevance and usefulness of the study, and its conclusions and recommendations. Results of individual interviews with stakeholders, survey responses and project documentation analysis revealed the importance of CPs for the host governments. Findings clearly demonstrate a high degree of trust in the reputation of the study and its policy recommendations. MSs and host government representatives and other stakeholders of the CP exercise participated in an online survey for the evaluation, and expressed their individual opinions regarding the usefulness and relevance of the CPs in developing and improving housing, urban planning and land management legislation, institutional framework, policies and programmes. The online survey results (Figure 4) demonstrate the opinion of respondents on the question "how relevant are the recommendations of CPs in improving UNECE MS legislation, institutional framework, policies and programmes on housing, urban planning and land management", with a majority (67%) responding with "highly relevant".

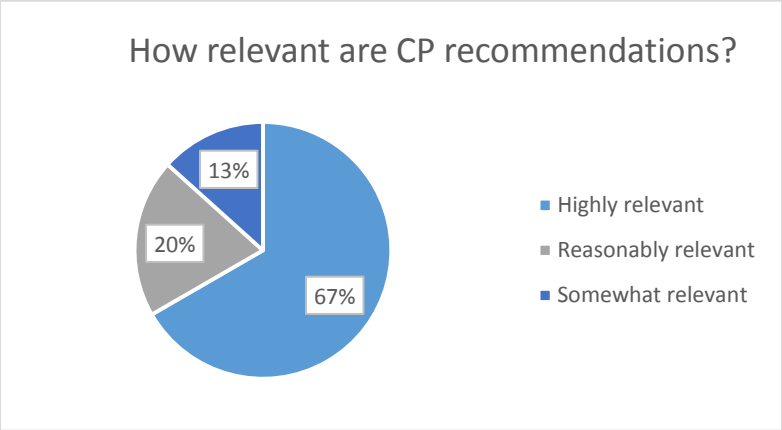

Figure 4 .Online survey question on the relevance of CP recommendations

A government representative from a CP-implemented state noted that, even though the CP exercise took place long time ago, "nearly all the recommendations were, and still are, highly relevant, and helped to subsequently formulate rational and efficient housing policies". CP recommendations not only influenced legislative changes, they also made it possible for a wide spectrum of relevant ministries to gather to consider problematic issues. According to the representative, the CP study and recommendations "significantly influenced the formation of [their] law on social housing, as well as the creation of a social housing strategy and action plan".
As demonstrated in Figure 5, 76% of respondents view the CP as "very useful", while a quarter rated it as "somewhat useful".

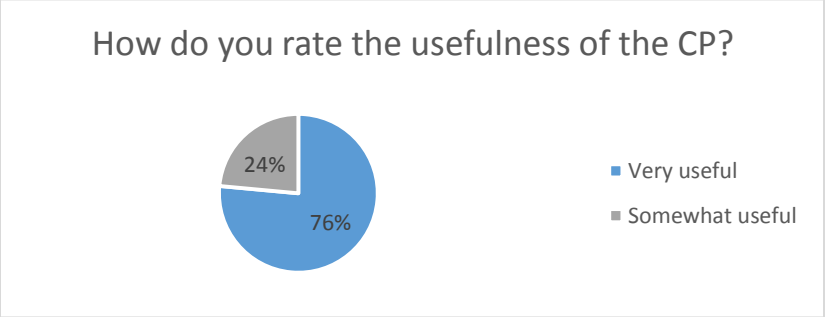

Figure 5. Online survey question on the usefulness of the CP content

According to another government representative, the CP recommendations are used for formulating legal documents and strategic plans in the development of the housing sector. An expert from a UNECE MS noted that, among many other benefits, the CP recommendations also motivate national and local governments to implement "some unpopular decisions".

As demonstrated in Figure 6, the vast majority of online survey participants find the CP process excellent (38%) and good (44%).

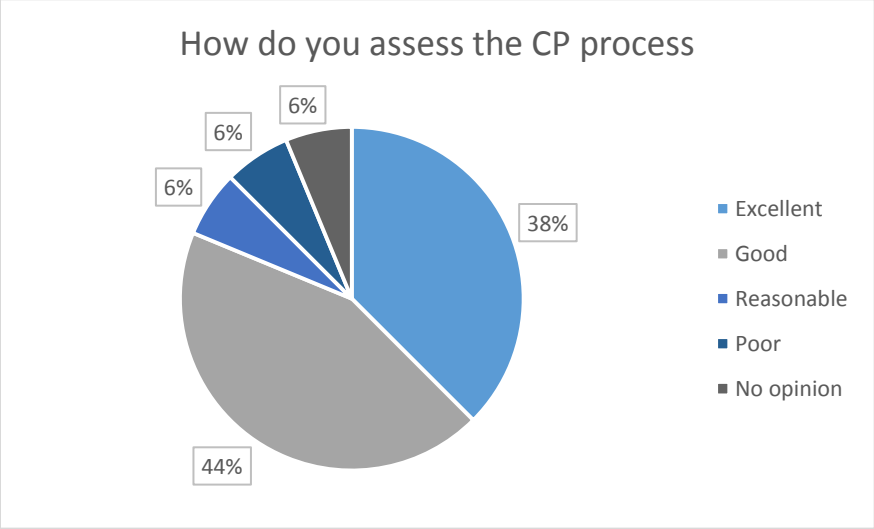

Figure 6. Online survey question on the CP process

A government representative from a CP-implemented state noted that the CP is a unique source of qualified research and recommendations that can aid the transformation of national housing, urban planning and land management policies and strategies using international experience. She added that it is "exceedingly important to have this kind of support".

2. What are the strategies, policies or plans that have been developed so far, based on the recommendations of the CPs? (effectiveness and relevance)

Evaluation findings: The evaluation report has compiled a comprehensive list (see Figure 7) of national laws, normative acts, strategies, state policy documents, action plans and programmes that were directly and significantly influenced by the recommendations of the CP. While the majority of these documents were provided during the document review process, some updated information was added during the in-depth interviews with the programme stakeholders.

The evaluation examined a large number of documents, listed in Annex B, and combined them with individual interviews and survey comments in order to ascertain which strategies, policies and plans were developed following the CP exercise. Presently, only the Governments of Tajikistan and the Republic of Moldova have initiated the development of NAPs to implement the CP recommendations.[10] Figure 7 shows the strategies, policies or plans that have been developed as a direct result of the CP recommendations.

Country	Strategies, policies or plans developed
Albania 2002	The Law on the Management of Condominiums was developed. CP working groups were established, and developed proposals for new housing legislation, the Law on the Management of Condominiums (2009), and legislation on access to affordable housing and housing management. Additionally, a pilot project for the provision of 1,000 social houses based on Law No. 9232 "on Social Programmes for the Housing of Urban Inhabitants" (approved in 2004) was initiated in 2008 following the recommendations of the CP. Projects and plans for social housing were implemented in 2005. In 2013, with the support of a UNDP programme, the drafting of the first Social Housing Strategy 2015–2025 was initiated.[11]
Armenia 2004	Based on the CP recommendations, the following changes were made: (i) Development of a state programme the provided housing for special groups of the population;

[10] ECE/HBP/2016/1, para. 34. However, the evaluation was unable to obtain updated information on the progress of developing the NAPs.

[11] Statement by Prof. Assoc. Mrs. Eglantina Gjermeni, Minister of Urban Development, Republic of Albania. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_1_presentations/1_5.01_Gjermeni_speech.pdf

	(ii) A concept programme on the improvement of housing conditions for socially vulnerable groups was approved; (iii) A strategic five-year programme on multifamily housing stock maintenance and management was approved. Various laws were developed and enacted. The incomplete list includes the Law on Urban Development (2011); the Law on Apartment House Management; the Five-Year Strategy on Improving Apartment House Management and Operation; the Action Plan for the Five-Year Strategy Implementation; and several governmental decisions and regulations to solve the housing problems of people who suffered in industrial and natural disasters. Radical reforms regulating the development of strategic town-planning documentation and administering licensing procedures were undertaken in urban planning in 2010-2011. The new legislative acts, and the amendment of the previous laws, were aimed at the simplification of documentation development, the optimization of project contents, the reduction of licensing procedures, the decrease in time and cost, and the introduction of new procedures for the adoption of town master plans. Key governmental programmes on housing have taken steps towards energy efficiency.
Azerbaijan 2010	Based on CP recommendations, the Government amended the Housing Code and developed the draft Town Planning Code. An illegal construction regulation strategy was developed by the State Committee on Property Issues, jointly with the World Bank, in 2011. Socioeconomic development in Baku and its settlements was developed in 2011-2013. Poverty reduction and sustainable development plans were implemented in 2011-2015. Subsidies for housing utilities were introduced in the 2009 Housing Code.
Belarus 2008	The following policy and legislative reforms were developed following CP recommendations: (i) The Land Code 2008 was amended. As a result, legal entities can acquire private property rights on land via auction. Before the amendment, they could acquire the rights only in special cases, and there was no procedure for regulating private property acquisition; (ii) President's Decree No. 58, adopted on 2 September 2009, regulated in detail the reimbursement of damage to the owners of expropriated land. Detailed Order on the allocation of state owned land for social housing needs was adopted; (iii) President's Decree No. 431, adopted on 23 September 2011. Legal entities and citizens are allowed to use land allocated for residential purposes simultaneously for business purposes (tourism, etc.) without any local authority's special decision. Legal entities can buy, for the price of 70% of their cadastral value, parcels of land that were earlier allocated to them with the right to use.

	The following national legal and regulatory frameworks were developed: Resolution No. 1882 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus "on Approval of the Republican Energy-Efficiency Programme for 2011-2015"; Resolution No. 267 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus "on State Housing Policy Concept of the Republic of Belarus until 2016" (2013); "The Main Directions of the State Spatial Policy for 2016-2020"; and the General Scheme of Complex Territorial Organization of the Republic of Belarus for the Period up to 2020 (National Plan). These documents are now awaiting approval by the President.[12]
Bulgaria 1996	The national legal and regulatory frameworks are enforced by the following laws: home construction codes: Ordinance No. 4, Investment Projects (2001); Ordinance No. 8, Development of Schemes and Plans (2001); Ordinance No. 7, Development of Territories and Development Zones (2003); Ordinance No. 4, Design, Execution and Maintenance of Constructions (2009); and Ordinance No. 2, Selection and Design of Lift Equipment in Residential and Public Buildings (2009). Zoning regulations and urban planning: Spatial Development Act (2001); Ordinance No. 7, Spatial Development Areas and Planning Zones (2003); Ordinance No. 8, Spatial Development Plans (2014); and the Law "on Spatial Planning and Development of the Territory of Sofia Municipality" (2007). Two programmes have been implemented in order to safeguard the social protection of vulnerable groups: "Providing social assistance by applying a differentiated approach" and "Providing targeted social protection through heating allowances to the low-income population". New programmes developed under the Energy-Efficiency Act are taking into account EU standards to provide better living conditions for homeowners, improve the energy performance of buildings, stimulate cost-effective renovations, and provide a forward-looking perspective to guide investment decisions in the market.
Georgia 2007	The following policy and legislative reforms have been developed following the CP recommendations: The Organic Law - Local Government Code (2012) sets out the obligations on the construction of shelters. Several shelters for the homeless were built. The Law of Georgia Landlords Community was developed in 2007. Following the preparation of the CP, the Government developed a draft Codex for Spatial Planning and Construction Regulation (Rec. 5, 16). This included, for example, rules to legalize existing illegal buildings; optimization of principles for spatial planning and construction regulations (Rec. 16, 18, 20, 23); elaboration of national and regional housing strategies (Rec. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7); and rules for the legalization of future and existing illegal buildings and structures (Rec. 11, 21). The Construction Code and the Zoning Code will be derived from the Building

[12] A statement on behalf of A.B. Tcherny, Minister of Architecture and Construction of the Republic of Belarus. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_1_presentations/1_5.10_Rakava_en.pdf

	Codex framework. Legislation to facilitate the transfer of state-owned land was adopted (Rec. 33). Master Plans for urban planning have been ratified for Tbilisi, Batumi and Zugdidi. Tbilisi City Hall established a committee to study social housing (Rec. 7). In 2011, funds were allocated for the development of social housing (Rec. 32). Historical centres of several cities have been architecturally restored and renovated: Tbilisi, Batumi, Signagi, Mestia, but without integrating infrastructures and engineering systems into the renovation (Rec. 9, 22, 36). In 2007, the Law on the Homeowners' Associations was enacted. At the moment, Tbilisi has more than 7,000 associations. The next step is to improve their function and increase their number (Rec. 13). Several municipalities, including Tbilisi, are co-financing the maintenance of lifts and roofs, and developing housing maintenance schemes (Rec. 14, 36). The national legal and regulatory frameworks are enforced under the following laws: the Law on Activities Related to Construction (2003); the Law on Social Protection (2006); the Law on the State Budget of Georgia for 2014 (2013) (concerning subsidies for housing utilities); and the Law on Spatial Planning and Framework of City Construction (2005). Government Decree No. 59 (2014) on the approval of basic principles regulating the use of land of settlements and construction is also relevant. The provision of housing to vulnerable populations relies on the Community Organizations subprogramme, established in 2014 by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs. Technical Regulation "on Building Safety Rules" approved by Governmental Resolution No. 41 of 28 January 2016 and the "Five-Year Action Plan for the Implementation of the European Technical Regulations (EUROCODES)" in the field of structural design of buildings.
Kyrgyzstan 2010	Following CP recommendations, the Government initiated a national programme on affordable housing, and submitted a draft Housing Code to Parliament for approval. A state mortgage lending agency was established. Practical recommendations are still under consideration for the development of housing and land management policies, strategies and laws.[13]
Lithuania 2000	The national legal and regulatory frameworks are enforced by the following laws: The Law on Construction of the Republic of Lithuania (1996) and several Construction Technical Regulations (2003-2005, 2011); the Law on State Support to Acquire or Rent or Modernize Housing (2002); the Programme for Modernization of Multi-apartment Buildings (2004); and the Law on Territorial Planning (2005). At present, the Ministry of Environment (until

[13] Проблемы обеспечения жильем населения и устойчивого градостроительного развития территории Кыргызстана, 2015.
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_1_presentations/1_6a.08_Keneshov.ru.pdf

	2011) and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (from 2011) are the national bodies responsible for the implementation and provision of housing subsidies to vulnerable population groups. The programme focuses on helping low-income families who cannot afford to purchase or rent housing on the market. Young families (less than 35 years old), families raising three or more children, orphans and handicapped people will benefit from this state programme, receiving financial support of between 10 to 20 per cent. Lithuania has taken the first steps towards energy efficiency with the implementation of the National Housing Strategy and the Programme for the Modernization of Multi-apartment Houses (Resolution No. 1213). The goal of the former is to ensure the efficient use, maintenance, renovation and modernization of existing housing, and efficient energy use. The Programme for the Modernization of Multi-apartment Houses aims to encourage apartment owners to renovate multi-apartment houses and to involve the low-income population in the implementation of such projects. The country's urban plans are revised every ten years.
Poland 1998	The following laws were enacted: The Act on Creation of Social Premises for the Homeless (2006); the Act on Municipal Housing Stock (2001); and the Act on Spatial Planning and Development (2003). Key government programmes on housing: the implementation of the provisions of Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings shall have an impact on the increase of the use of energy from renewable sources and the reduction of the consumption of carbon dioxide, until the end of 2017. Additional financial support for energy efficiency can be gotten from the National Fund of Environmental Protection and Water Management and the Thermo-modernization and Renovation Fund, as well as from the European Union. The "Creation of Social Premises, Shelter Dwellings, Dormitories and Houses for the Homeless" Act sets out conditions for obtaining financial assistance from the State for the construction of buildings or dwellings designated for social accommodation for the most vulnerable populations. The Government fully supports the under-35 population wishing to purchase their first flat or house on the primary market, with the "A Dwelling for the Young" programme (2013). Under the "Act on Spatial Planning and Development", all municipalities are obliged to adopt a study of spatial development conditions. The study, covering the whole territory of the municipality, has to be coherent with the national spatial development concept, the regional spatial development plan, and regional and local strategic documents. The local plan sets out land allocation (residential, industrial, commercial), which serves as the basis for investors to apply

	for a construction permit or commence investments that do not require a permit. The local plan is adopted by the municipality in a dedicated legislative procedure, including agreements, subprocedures and public participation. Selected public investments, such as roads, railways, pipelines and broadband networks, are developed on the basis of "special acts", enabling fast-track administrative procedures to locate the site, establish land rights and grant construction permits. Informal settlements can be legalized if they successfully comply with the Building Law (Art. 48-49).
Republic of Moldova 2002, 2015	As a result of the first CP study, a regulation for the establishment of the National Housing Agency (NHA) was developed and then adopted in 2003. The NHA has initiated the construction of 65 multi-storey housing blocks. Since the original study, new issues and challenges have emerged in the housing sector, and the Government requested the ECE to develop a second study, with a particular focus on the issues of land administration and multi-family housing stock management. The Law on Housing was adopted in 2015. The Law on Condominiums is currently being reviewed by the relevant government entities. Work on the NAP was finalized in 2016.[14] The Law on Construction Permits was adopted in 2010. The Ministry of Regional Development and Construction has elaborated a new Code of Urbanism and Construction, which is now being examined by the Government. The main objective of the "Social Housing Construction Project II", Law No. 182 (2012), is to improve housing conditions and increase the stock of rental housing for families from socially-vulnerable segments, including the elderly, the disabled, and minorities. The estimated project cost is EUR 20.4 million, and will create new jobs in the construction field, specifically in building the new housing stock and in the reparation of existing housing facilities, until 2018.
Romania 2001	Home construction codes: Law No. 50/1991 (updated in 2009); Energy efficiency in housing: Law No. 10/1995 and Law No. 372/2005. Subsidies for housing utilities: Law No. 34/1998, Law No. 241/2006, Law No. 101/2006 and Law No. 325/2006. Resilience of housing to climate change and natural disasters: Law No. 121/2014; Zoning regulations and urban planning: Law No. 350/2001 and Government Decision No. 525/1996.
Russian Federation 2004	Recommendations made in the CP are being used in the finalization of the Housing Code and are perused for elaborating relevant state programmes.
Serbia and	Serbia

[14] https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_2_presentations/2.6d.2_Bejenaru_CP_Moldova.pdf

Montenegro 2006	CP recommendations formed the basis of the legal framework for social housing adopted in 2009 and 2010. It consists of the Social Housing Law (Official Gazette No. 72/09), the Regulation on the Issuing and Revoking of the Operating License, and the Content of the Separate Register to the Non-profit Housing Agencies (Official Gazette No. 44/10). A part of the CP recommendations is to have a clearly defined national housing policy. Based on CP recommendations, local housing agencies were established in 15 cities, and the Republic Housing Agency was established. The following laws were also enacted upon CP recommendations: the Planning and Construction Law on Social Housing (2009); the Regulation of Dwellings for Social Housing (2013); and the Regulation on Using the Funds for Social Housing. Additional support was provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, which financed the engagement of the expert for property rights, and organized the public hearings and the meeting for the final harmonization of the Draft Law on Housing and Buildings Maintenance. The NAP for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development for Serbia was developed based on the conclusions of the first UNDA seminar (organized in 2014). One of the NAP's most important activities was the drafting of the new Law on Housing and Building Maintenance. For this purpose, an interministerial working group was established, which has significantly improved cooperation between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry responsible for social care. <u>Montenegro</u> The national legal and regulatory frameworks are enforced by the following laws: The Law on Spatial Development and Construction of Structures (2008); Energy efficiency in housing: the Rulebook on Content of Energy Efficiency in Buildings (2013); the Social Housing Law (2013); and the Law on Spatial Development and Construction of Structures (2008). The Social Housing Law, enforced by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and the Directorate for Housing Development, is an instrument that proposes solutions to homelessness, from 2014 to 2017.
Slovakia 1999	Part of the CP recommendations created the basis for the State Housing Policy (2000) and its subsequent updates (2005, 2010). The Civil Code was updated, and non-profit housing associations were established.
Tajikistan 2011	In compliance with one of the recommendations of the CP, the Urban Development Code was adopted in October 2012. Law No. 542 on Apartment House Maintenance and Homeowners' Associations was

	adopted on 5 August 2009.
Ukraine 2013	Eight laws are in the process of amendment, five government decisions related to housing and land management have been adopted, and four research projects were completed and confirmed by the Government Research Council. The implementation of the "Industrial Energy Efficiency on Energy Saving in Housing and Communal Services" programme (2010-2014) served as a platform to achieve sustainable technological, economic and organizational development in housing and communal services by using renewable energy resources and innovation technology. Some housing programmes for vulnerable groups were implemented by the Ministry of Regional Development Construction, Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine in collaboration with local governments.
Uzbekistan 2015	No developments have been documented or reported following the recent completion of the CP.

Figure 7. Strategies, policies and plans developed based on CP recommendations

Although significant housing, urban planning and land management related institutional and legislative changes[15] in the countries reviewed was documented, in light of the absence of any meaningful follow-up or CP recommendation monitoring mechanisms, it is impossible to affirm exactly which changes can be attributed to the CP recommendations.

3. Are there any issues or topics that are not currently being addressed by the CPs, but would be useful to address? (please specify) (relevance)

Evaluation findings: According to the online survey results of the evaluation, 37% of respondents think there are issues and topics that would be useful for the CP studies to address. Specific issues and topics that were mentioned during the in-depth interviews or formulated in the comments section of the online survey are listed in Figure 9. The evaluation examined project documentation and found that there is at least one topic that is not currently being addressed. Initially, the CP exercise did not intend to specifically empower and engage females or advance gender issues. The latest Guidelines (2013 and 2015) suggest addressing gender issues (such as home and land ownership by women). However, gender issues have not been covered by the three CPs published since 2013.

As there are great social, economic, political and cultural differences among the countries under review, no single structure and content could universally address the challenges, needs and demands of all. The CP Guidelines offer an indicative structure that can be adapted to the host country's local needs and priorities. According to the project documentation, the structure and priority topics for the CP studies are decided "in

[15] "Challenges and priorities in housing and urban development in the UNECE region" – short national reports on housing and urban development. UNECE draft. December 2015.
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/informal_notes/3bA_Mini_CPs_publication.pdf

consultation with national authorities, based on main housing, urban development and land management challenges identified during the mission"[16].

As one of the government representatives pointed out, "the CP is a process that adopts side-changes when necessary". Topics reviewed in the CP study are industry specific, and change according to local developments, context and priorities. Online survey participants expressed their opinion regarding the topics that are not currently being addressed. As shown in Figure 8, a third (37%) of the respondents think that there are topics that are not addressed by the CPs.

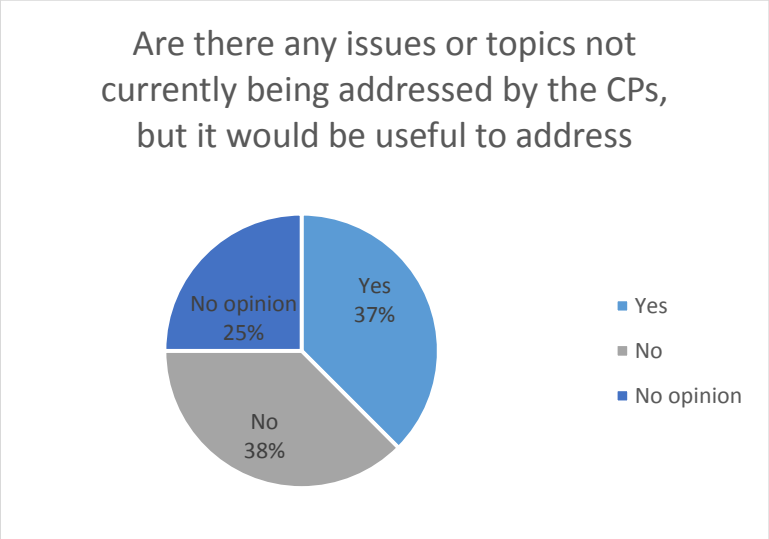

Figure 8. Online survey question on issues that are useful to address in the CP

Figure 9 below lists the comments extracted from individual interviews and the online survey that could benefit the relevance and effectiveness of the CP study.

Issue/topic
The CP lacks reference to the effects of property registry, and does not calculate the alternative costs a registration system saves. These depend on the legal effect of the registry's entries, and the trust that the court system, and therefore the market, puts in such entries.
Construction standards, particularly regarding energy efficiency, resilience to natural disasters, and spatial and urban planning for housing.
More focus on new and available technologies that can help, and are affordable to, the country's specific ability to fund.
Provision of affordable housing by cooperatives and private, non-profit landlords. It also does not describe the desk research process.
CPs need to accumulate experience regarding the building-up and development of

[16] ECE/HBP/2015/6, para. 11.

Building Information Modeling (BIM), the history of formation, and the steps for concept implementation in national legislation.

Figure 9. Issues/topics currently not addressed by the CP

The content of the CP varies from one country to another. However, there are clearly defined topics that would require more attention from the group of international experts developing the CP report. The section "*Housing stock, including the legal and institutional framework*"[17] of the CP Guidelines recommends addressing gender issues such as property (home and land) ownership by women. The same provision was included in the 2013 Guidelines.[18] However, no specific recommendations on gender issues are mentioned in the CPs that were published since 2013 for Ukraine (ECE/HBP/176), Moldova (ECE/HBP/181) and Uzbekistan (ECE/HBP/185). According to the objectives of the Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE Region for the Period of 2014-2020[19], by year 2020, the UNECE region should enact laws ensuring that "equal treatment and non-discrimination, especially for women and minority groups, are part of national legislation on housing, urban planning and management". The CP studies should more actively guide individual countries towards the fulfilment of this provision.

4. Is there any topic currently included which you think is not useful? (please specify) (relevance)

Evaluation findings: As the online survey results demonstrate, with the exception of one response (no opinion), there are no topics that are not useful in CP studies. The survey results are in line with the opinions of the in-depth interview respondents, none of whom could think of useless or irrelevant topics in the CPs. Nothing has been documented that would make the evaluator doubt the results of the online survey question or the in-depth interviews.

As discussed above, the CP reports have a clearly defined content and structure that can be adapted to local needs and demands. The topics and contents of the studies are conceptualized and designed prior to the research mission. Host countries and national expert teams have the opportunity to identify priority topics and raise most problematic and relevant issues for the development of their housing, urban planning and land management sectors. Individual interviews and online survey participants, including host government representatives, overwhelmingly agreed that the content of the analytical studies are useful and relevant. As one of the interviewed experts said "the CPs have stood the test of time, but need to be constantly reviewed to fit specific requirements".

Figure 10 shows the responses of online survey participants to the question on topics which are not useful or relevant. With the exception of one response (no opinion), all agreed that the topics currently covered by the CP are all useful and relevant. Individual

[17] ECE/HBP/2015/6, para. 30.
[18] ECE/HBP/2013/8.
[19] ECE/HBP/2012/3.

interviews with government representatives and stakeholders also confirmed this finding.

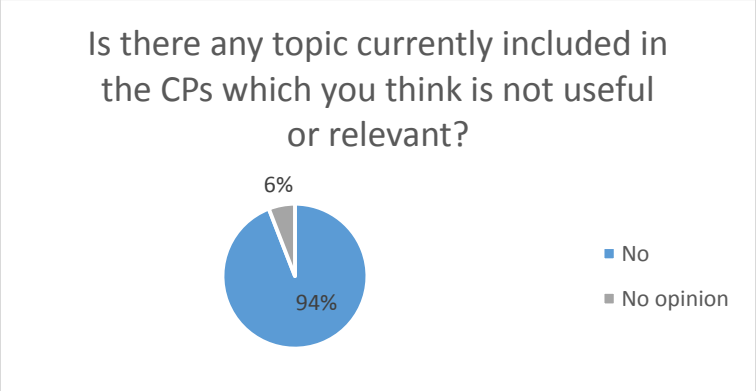

Figure 10. Online survey question on CP topics that are no longer relevant

5. Do governments rate the CPs as effective in promoting interministerial cooperation? (please provide details) (effectiveness)

Evaluation findings: According to the online survey results, 71% of respondents rate the CPs as excellent or above average for promoting interministerial cooperation. Analysis of the project documentation revealed that the individual host governments effectively cooperated on housing, urban planning and land management issues through the interministerial format. High-level interagency commissions were created in different host states involving deputy ministers and other high-ranking officials. A high level of commitment to the development of the housing, urban planning and land management sectors in CP host countries also demonstrates the importance of CP reports in promoting such cooperation.

According to the CP Guidelines[20], it is recommended that countries form an interagency steering committee to aid in the preparation of the CP study. Steering committees should include all key ministries and agencies involved in the housing, urban planning and land management sectors, as well as representatives of local authorities, academia, the private sector and civil society. The evaluation examined the steering committees created in Armenia and Uzbekistan in connection with the CP exercise and its follow-up activities. In Armenia, an interagency commission was created following Decision No. 943-A on 29 September 2014 by decision of the Prime Minister. The Decision appoints high-ranking officials from the ministries of Urban Development, Labour and Social Affairs, Territorial Administration, Economy, Emergency Situations, Justice, and Energy and Natural Resources, the Public Services Regulatory Commission, the State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre, the National Statistical Service, and the architectural services of Yerevan to participate in the work of the interagency commission. During the research

[20] ECE/HBP/2015/6, para. 38.

mission to Uzbekistan, the Inter-Agency National Working Group was created according to Decree #02/15-692 of 29 December 2013 on the preparation of the CP. The ministries of Economy, Foreign Affairs, and Finance, the State Committee for Architecture and Construction, and the State Committee for Land, Geodesy and Cadastre were actively engaged in the process. These decrees and the evidenced-based involvement of key decision makers in inter-agency commissions demonstrate the importance of interministerial cooperation for the Governments of Armenia and Uzbekistan in developing the housing, urban planning and land management sectors.

The online survey specifically asked the MSs and government representatives to express their opinion regarding the role of the CP in promoting interministerial cooperation. As demonstrated in Figure 11, the majority of respondents rate it as excellent (59%) and above average (12%). The majority of online survey respondents where CP was implemented voted it as "excellent". A good example from most recent practices is a high-level workshop on "Approaches and Best Practices for Urban Construction, Land Use and Housing" that was held in Uzbekistan. This workshop was attended by key ministries, among them first deputy and deputy ministers, heads of departments and other representatives from different branches of the Government. Discussions focused on the best practices in urban planning and land administration in the UNECE region, offering in-depth analysis of sectoral issues in the CP study for Uzbekistan[21].

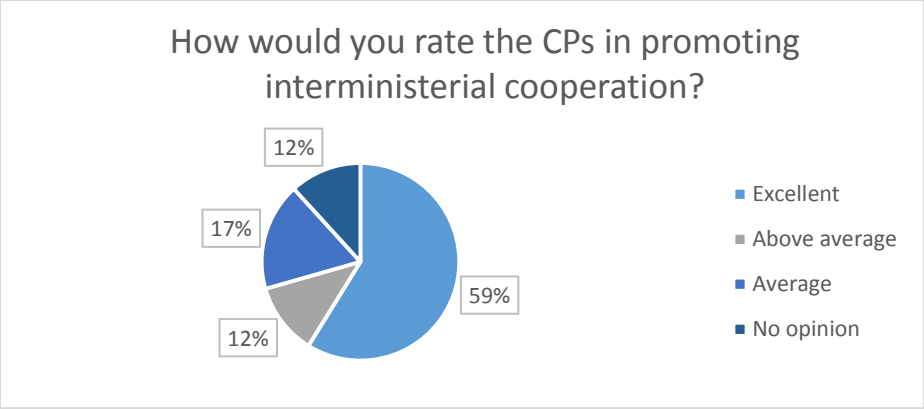

Figure 11. Online survey question on promoting interministerial cooperation

As one of the government representatives noted, the CP exercise commenced at a time when her country was initiating efforts to create policies and plans for housing, urban planning and land management, and so the exercise brought professionals from different government and non-government sectors to "an important process of collaborative thinking", which resulted in a wide spectrum of well-balanced and structured recommendations. As a result, "a significant improvement of cooperation" between the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance and Ministry for Social Care was reported, due to the creation of an interministerial working group.

[21] "Approaches and best practices in urban planning and land administration", Tashkent, 12-13 June 2014. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/docs/CP_Uzbekistan_workshop/workshop_agenda_en.pdf

According to another government representative, the research mission created a unique opportunity for meeting and collaborating with different ministries and collecting valuable information for the study that was "previously unavailable to the ministry responsible for housing". The study experts and participants continued close cooperation with the ministry responsible for housing, urban planning and land management, even after the completion of the CP. The evaluation respondents have also emphasized the importance of establishing national and international follow-up mechanisms for the further enhancement of intersectoral cooperation in promoting and solving housing, urban planning and land management challenges.

6. How to increase the efficiency of the work to produce CPs, given the limited human and financial resources available? (efficiency)

Evaluation findings: Figure 12 lists the comments of selected external stakeholders on how to increase the efficiency in producing CPs. The following key messages were extracted from the comments, suggesting a multidisciplinary approach: discussions of good practice examples during the CHLM sessions, broadening the pool of experts and funding, the inclusion of local experts, monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of CP recommendations, and awareness-raising with the national governments and local business sector.

The evaluation examined similar UNECE programmes – the Environmental Performance Review (EPR) and the Innovation Performance Review (IPR). Both of them employ a peer-review methodology for review and recommendations. This is an effective mechanism for reviewing the housing, urban planning and land development sectors as well. A peer-review methodology for the development of integrated solutions to urban challenges has been successfully piloted by the EC through its Joint Research Centre (JRC) and URBACT project. The effectiveness of the mechanism can also be enhanced by using online means of communication (video conferencing, online forums, clouds and document exchange programmes).

The evaluation also examined the project documentation, specifically the CP Guidelines (ECE/HBP/2015/6), and found that:

1 The Guidelines, paragraph 20, include a procedure for the approval of the final draft report by the Committee. This procedure, while not influencing the quality of the draft report itself, has delayed the consecutive steps in the production of the drafts.

2 The Guidelines, paragraph 11, does not specify the minimum number of HLM Unit staff required for undertaking a preliminary mission. Similarly, paragraph 16 on the research mission does not specify the number of HLM staff or of international experts needed for conducting the mission either.

3 The Guidelines do not provide a follow-up and monitoring plan or mechanism for the CP recommendations.

4 The Guidelines have no information on fundraising activities for execution of the CP programme. There are no provisions for the planning and delivering of fundraising activities for conducting the individual CP exercises.

In-depth interviewees and online survey respondents made comments on raising the efficiency of the CP exercise. Figure 12 gives some of the most useful comments from the respondents.

Comment
In order to achieve efficiency of the CP, it would be desirable to complete the sources of information with a multidisciplinary approach, getting information from representatives with different interests within the assessed country. Efficiency and long-term sustainability of CPs is an issue also related to the economic forecast, and the budgetary allocation for implementing land, urban and environmental policies. Their efficiency in the long term requires economic and political stability, allowing a reliable forecast.
The CP activity is one of the most valuable instruments in helping countries to formulate their national housing policies. Its efficiency is at the highest level possible; there is no space or need to increase it. Sustainability would depend on available resources, both financial and human.
It would be helpful to explain some good practice examples in the CP, and discuss them at the CHLM session.
Broadening the pool of available experts and funding.
Deeper cooperation and sharing of experiences would be the best, most adequate and profitable step for developing countries. It would be helpful to conduct exchange programmes to increase the qualifications of experts in the field. Sharing of best practices would enhance public awareness of the sector.
The impact of the CPs depends on who reads them and to what extent they do so, and also on the extent to which the CP recommendations are considered.
Inclusion of local experts would enhance the efficiency of the CP studies.
Monitoring of the implementation of the CP recommendations and sharing of the monitoring results online.
I see potential power in the mutual interest of state and business in the CP results. For governments, it is an issue of regulation; for companies, business orientation and the sharing of progressive ideas.
A CP review should be done annually in order to present the most successful projects. I also suggest doing video conferences.

Figure 12. Opinions on raising the efficiency and sustainability of the CP exercise

In order to examine ways to increase the efficiency of the CP exercise, the evaluation was tasked with analysing similar review mechanisms within the UNECE, in particular the EPR and the IPR. The EPR, like the CP, is funded mainly by voluntary contributions from UNECE MSs. Individual MSs provide experts and other in-kind contributions. Unlike the HLM, the EPR is served by five full-time staff members that allow the Unit to produce three EPRs annually. The interviewed staff at the UNECE have mentioned that these review mechanisms are not presently experiencing a shortage of human and financial resources. To achieve greater efficiency, the EPR utilizes a peer-review mechanism, which

is a review of policies, legislation and strategies of one country by other countries, that is, a "review among equals". During the peer-review exercise, countries focus on some of the major policy issues that have arisen during the review process. IPRs assess the innovation policies and performance of requesting countries, based on international good practices. They recommend policy reforms and provide policy advice and capacity-building assistance to facilitate the implementation of policy recommendations. IPRs, like CPs, are subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and, on request from governments, carry out assessments of national innovation systems and policies with the aim of providing peer-reviewed policy recommendations to improve performance.

The peer-review methodology is an efficient mechanism for reviewing the housing, urban planning and land development sectors. Sustainable integrated urban development strategies have been piloted by the JRC of the EC through this mechanism. This particular methodology was originally developed by the JRC team using the S3 Platform (Smart Specialization Strategies) in the context of regional research and innovation strategies. It has proven to be an effective tool in sharing, exchanging and integrating knowledge on urban development.[22] Cities under review present their strategies and engage experts in discussions and feedback sessions. Peer-review workshops also enhance knowledge by exchanging best practices and lessons learned. A similar practice is being implemented by the URBACT project, which aims to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. Action planning networks of URBACT support an organized process of exchange and learning through peer-review sessions, through the identification of a policy challenge and the development of action plans using a participatory approach.[23]

As discussed above, peer-review mechanisms offer effective and in-depth analysis of existing policy, legislation and strategy gaps. Using online tools of communication (video conferencing[24], online forums and document exchange programmes) during the peer-review process could enable experts from different countries to communicate and exchange ideas online, while minimizing/limiting their physical involvement in research missions. Utilization of online tools could save funds that are otherwise allocated for travel, honorarium and per diems of international experts and the HLM secretariat.

The efficiency of the programme is also determined by the procedural steps for the preparation of CPs. Being entirely dependent on contributions from the MSs, international organizations and host governments, the production of CPs consumes HLM administrative and human resources in terms of staff time devoted to the CP exercise and fundraising for the activity.[25] As Figure 2 shows, the HLM secretariat is heavily involved

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[22] Learning Together: Peer-Review Methodology. Dr Ruslan Rakhmatullin, JRC (JRC/IPTS) EC. http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/conferences/udn_seville_2016/peer_review_methodology.pdf

[23] URBACT III Programme Manual, fifth version, May 2016. http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/pm_complete_v5_may_2016.pdf

[24] Also suggested by one of the government representatives (see Figure 12).

[25] According to the analysis done by Marco Keiner of the UNECE, "Overview of the financial support to the work of the CHLM and funding needs". http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_2_presentations/2.7_Financial_situation_presentation.pdf

in the entire process of the preparation, creation and delivery of the CP study. Below-listed provisions of the Guidelines[26] are too vague for the development of efficient measures for promoting reforms:

- Paragraph 20, on the approval of the final draft report by the Committee, triggers unnecessary delays with the printing of the CP and does not contribute to the overall quality of it;
- Paragraphs 11 and 16 do not specify the number of staff from the HLM Unit or the number of international experts required for undertaking preliminary and research missions;
- Paragraph 37 and 38 suggest the preparation of a NAP for implementing the CP recommendations that should be overseen by the interagency steering committees. Paragraph 39 mentions an assessment of reforms carried out "several years after the CP had been produced", "allowing for long-term monitoring of reforms". However, no specific plan for monitoring or follow-up has been elaborated by the Guidelines;
- The Guidelines do not mention an important step that had been elaborated during the in-depth interviews with the UNECE staff members. Fundraising activities, that follow the request of a country for the preparation of a CP (para 1) and precede the nomination of a focal point (para 2), are not discussed in the procedural section of the Guidelines.

7. How to achieve the long-term sustainability of the CP programme? (effectiveness, efficiency and relevance)

Evaluation findings: Programme sustainability, among other factors, is influenced by funding stability, organizational capacity, adaptability and strong partnerships. As the programme documentation and in-depth interview results have shown, funding for the CP depends on sources that are not "stable", and it requires fundraising activities and tasks. The HLM Unit has the professional capacity to organize and implement the CP programme, at the Unit's maximum human capacity. Project documentation demonstrates that the programme is a flexible instrument and can be adapted to developments in the sector. It also has a positive experience with creating and maintaining partnerships with the UNECE MS governments, international organizations and experts.

Sustainability of the programme can be defined as its ability to maintain operations, services and benefit flows during its projected lifetime. Programme sustainability, among numerous other factors, also depends on funding stability, organizational capacity, adaptability to sectoral developments, and creating and maintaining strong partnerships.

Funding stability

[26] ECE/HPB/2015/6.

According to the in-depth interviews and programme documentation, the funding for the CP exercise comes from extrabudgetary funds and in-kind and donor contributions, and cannot be characterized as "stable".

A thorough search of the programme documentation and in-depth interviews also revealed the fact that Portugal and Croatia have requested the preparation of a CP for their countries, but no MS has expressed interest in contributing to the studies in these countries.[27] There are positive examples, such as the provision of USD 100,000 in 2014-2015 to cover the expenses of the CP study in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)[28] by the Russian Federation. As evidenced by the programme documentation, CP publications are considered to be the "flagship" publications of the HLM Unit, and the importance of the CP recommendations was highlighted several times in the 2006-2007 self-evaluation[29] and 2013 survey[30]. The CPs are especially important for the Russian Federation, South-East Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus.[31] Findings of the 2006-2007 self-evaluation and the 2013 survey are also confirmed by the present evaluation. The evaluation was unable to examine a programme documentation pertaining to a fundraising mechanism, or for funding and budgeting the production of the CP analytical study.

Organizational capacity

According to individual interviews, the HLM Unit works at its maximum capacity to produce the CP reports on top of its regular responsibilities and fundraising activities. The Unit is in possession of advanced knowledge on the subject and national specifics of the recipient countries. It also maintains a well-developed network of highly qualified experts with institutional memory and professional expertise in the housing, urban planning and land management sectors. Organizing comprehensive activities during the CP production cycle requires multitasking and extra work for the Unit. However, the good practice of incorporating internal UNECE resources (an expert from the EPR team participated in the Ukraine CP study) has already been established.

Adaptability

Being a flexible instrument, the CP exercise has adapted to new developments and requirements in the housing, urban planning and land management sectors over the past two decades, through revisions and updates to the Guidelines. The evaluation examined

[27] As reported, Croatia does not have the funds to cover the CP expenses.
[28] According to the analysis done by Marco Keiner of the UNECE, Overview of the financial support to the work of the CHLM and funding needs. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_2_presentations/2.7_Financial_situation_presentation.pdf
[29] ECE/HBP/2008/4.
[30] Report on the outcome of the survey, Challenges and Priorities in Housing and Land Management in the UNECE Region, ECE/HBP/2013/2.
[31] ECE/HBP/2013/2, para 113-114.
https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2013/ece.hbp.2013.02.e.pdf

the proposal of the CP programme[32] as well as the latest CP Guidelines[33]. The CP was updated in 2013 and 2015. Both of these Guidelines have expanded and built on accumulated knowledge and experience since 1994. CP recommendations have positively influenced the developments in the housing, urban planning and land management sectors, which is also due to frequent and forward-looking updates and revisions of the CP Guidelines.

Enhancing and broadening partnerships

According to the examined MoUs for Armenia and Uzbekistan, strong partnerships with the UNDP offices have developed. Cooperation on the creation of the NAPs for the implementation of CPs in the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan were jointly prepared with the UNDP offices. The CHLM established closed cooperation with the OECD and UN-Habitat for the preparation of an urban planning chapter of the CP of Armenia.[34] Examples of cooperation between the HLM Unit and the CP implementing governments, and international and local organizations and experts is also documented in a number of MoUs and UNECE documents.

Present developments in the housing, urban planning and land management sectors, especially the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), come at a critical time for HLM activities. It creates a unique opportunity for the CP programme to readjust and align its objectives with new mechanisms and instruments, while also demonstrating the important role it plays in the housing, urban planning and land management sectors. The following important agreements and conventions have been adopted by the international community that could further promote and utilize the CP analytical study for the implementation of its objectives and the monitoring of its achievements:

- SDGs (2030 Agenda)[35]. SDG 11 also known as the "Urban SDG" - make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable - acknowledges sustainable urban development as a fundamental precondition for sustainable development. UN-Habitat has prepared a "Monitoring Framework"[36] as a guide to assist national and local governments in their efforts to collect, analyse and validate data and information in view of the preparation of country-based reports. The Monitoring Framework provides the necessary definitions, methods of computation and metadata of indicators, including spatial indicators. It also includes global, national and local monitoring tools to support the implementation of SDG 11 targets. In addition to this SDG, there are others, such as SDGs 7, 9, 11, 12 and 17, which also concern housing and urban planning. SDG 11 has ten targets that include a large spectrum of topics already covered by CP analytical studies;

[32] HBP/R.335.
[33] ECE/HPB/2015/6 and HBP/2013/8.
[34] ECE/HBP/2016/1 (note by secretariat).
[35] Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, A/70/L.1.
[36] SDG 11 Monitoring Framework. http://unhabitat.org/sdg-goal-11-monitoring-framework/

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change;
- Draft New Urban Agenda;
- Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing;
- UNECE Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE Region for the Period 2014-2020;
- Global Housing Strategy;
- International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

Based on in-depth interviews, documents consulted and the surveys of UNECE staff and external stakeholders, the evaluator has drawn the conclusions that are presented in line with the structure of the seven evaluation questions.

1. *Do governments refer to the recommendations of the CP when improving their legislation, institutional framework, policies and programmes on housing, urban planning and land management? (relevance)*
2. *What are the strategies, policies or plans that have been developed so far, based on the recommendations of the CPs? (effectiveness and relevance)*

The evaluation findings clearly demonstrate that the UNECE MS governments do refer to the CP recommendations in designing new, and improving existing, housing, urban planning and land management related legislation, policies, programmes and institutional frameworks. The majority of external stakeholders (including government representatives) refer to the recommendations as highly relevant and very useful in developing legislation, plans and policies.

The recommendations significantly influence the formation and improvement of national legislation, policies, programmes and institutional frameworks. They positively affect the problematic sectoral issues in reviewed countries. The study also strengthens the ability of governments to develop their institutional frameworks, policies, legislations and plans.

The evaluation compiled a comprehensive list of national laws, normative acts, strategies, state policy documents, action plans and programmes that were developed based on the recommendations, or were significantly influenced by them. However, there is no exhaustive list of strategies, policies and plans that were based on the CP recommendations that could be verified.[37]

[37] They are mentioned in different UNECE documents, including the HCLM Committee session records and

3. *Are there any issues or topics that are not currently being addressed by the CPs, but would be useful to address? (please specify) (relevance)*
4. *Is there any topic currently included which you think is not useful? (please specify) (relevance)*

Of the online survey respondents, 37% think that there are issues or topics that are not being addressed by the CP study report which would be useful. They highlighted the following issues or topics that are either not covered or not sufficiently covered:

- A reference to the effects of property registry;
- More detailed information on construction standards, energy efficiency, resilience to natural disasters, and spatial and urban planning for housing;
- Information on affordable, new and available technologies;
- Accumulated information and the development of BIM, and a history of concept implementation in national legislation.

The latest CP Guidelines suggest addressing gender issues (such as home ownership by women). No practical steps were taken for reviewing gender equality, equal treatment and non-discrimination topics in the CP studies or their recommendations.

The evaluation has not discovered topics that are not useful, through the study of the project documentation, in-depth interviews or the online survey. Issues discussed in the CP study and subsequent recommendations are extremely useful in guiding governments to adopting more effective and efficient policies, strategies and plans for housing, urban planning and land management.

5. *Do governments rate the CPs as effective in promoting interministerial cooperation? (please provide details) (effectiveness)*

According to the evaluation, a significant majority of survey respondents (including government representatives) rate the CP as excellent and above average in promoting interministerial cooperation. Analysis of the project documentation and in-depth interviews with external stakeholders strengthen this conclusion. The CP programme is effective in promoting interministerial cooperation at the national level.

6. *How to increase the efficiency of the work to produce CPs, given the limited human and financial resources available? (efficiency)*

Respondents of the online survey as well as UNECE and external stakeholders have formulated their views on increasing the efficiency of the work to produce the CPs. The key suggestions include:

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presentations.

- A multidisciplinary approach;
- Discussions on good practice examples during the CHLM sessions;
- Broadening the pool of experts and funding, more inclusion of local experts;
- Setting up of monitoring mechanisms for implementing the CP recommendations;
- More awareness-raising with the national governments and local business sector on the significance of the CP programme.

After careful analysis of the CP Guidelines (ECE/HBP/2015/6), the evaluation makes the following conclusions on its procedures and structure:

a. Procedures for the preparation, structure and content of the CP analytical report is overall relevant but not efficient. The Guidelines include formal procedures that do not improve the quality of the study, but negatively affect its production cycle. Procedures on the approval of the final draft CP report by the CLHM is an inefficient step in the long process of production. Formal and bureaucratic procedures cause delays in the production cycle;
b. Procedures for conducting the preliminary and research missions should provide the implementation teams with more efficient and effective measures for producing a CP study;
c. The absence of impact indicators and follow-up and monitoring mechanisms do not contribute to the efficiency of the CP programme;
d. The Guidelines for preparation of the CP study do not have any guidance on fundraising mechanisms for the preparation of the study.

7. *How to achieve the long-term sustainability of the CP programme? (effectiveness, efficiency and relevance)*

The evaluation believes that the sustainability of the CP programme is determined by funding stability, organizational capacity, adaptability, strong cooperation and partnerships. Based on the findings, the evaluation concludes the following:

a. The instability of the programme funding weakens its sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness;
b. While the HLM Unit is extremely effective in delivering and executing MS requests, further enforcement of the Unit's organizational and administrative capacity would positively affect the long-term sustainability of the CP programme;
c. The programme effectively adapts to the social, economic and political changes that affect the housing, urban development and land management sector development in the MSs;
d. The programme is successful in developing strong and sustainable cooperation and partnerships among the MS governments, international organizations and experts.

The CP programme is not embedded with formal verification, monitoring and follow-up mechanisms. Neither does it have a formal set of impacts and their indicators. The absence of

monitoring and follow-up mechanisms negatively affects the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the programme. Figure 13 below sums up conclusions with regards to the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the programme.

Assessment criteria	Conclusion
Effectiveness	The production and preparation of the CPs is highly effective in "supporting housing and land policy reforms in the ECE region"[38]. The CP recommendations have positively impacted the reform process and influenced the formation of strategies, policies and plans on housing, urban planning and land management in a number of UNECE MSs.
Relevance	The CP programme procedures, content and structure are relevant to the achievement of its goals and objectives. The study effectively addresses existing challenges in the housing, urban planning and land management sectors of the UNECE MSs. The programme has demonstrated overall relevance to its objectives. However, there are serious shortcomings with regards to gender equality issues.
Efficiency	The funding mechanism for the programme is not efficient or sustainable. The programme cannot be efficient without a mechanism for measuring its impact or the monitoring of the implementation of its recommendations. This CHLM flagship activity does not have efficient organizational or financial support.

Figure 13. Conclusions regarding the evaluation assessment criteria

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: **Improve the funding and in-kind contributions by pursuing a stronger and more sustainable financial commitment by the MSs to the CP programme**. Attract new funding opportunities by promoting a participatory approach among the UNECE MSs and extending networks and partnerships with organizations that support development in the housing, urban development and land management sectors in the UNECE region and beyond.

Recommendation 2: **Utilize internal UNECE resources and broaden existing partnerships** with experts and interested parties. **Promote more efficient online communications, and peer-review mechanisms,** for the sustainable production of the CP analytical studies, broadening the networks and partnerships to attract additional experts, volunteers and pro-bono contributors.

Recommendation 3: Discuss the relevance and benefits of **aligning the goals and objectives of**

[38] ECE/HBP/2015/6, para 1.

the CP programme with SDGs, the UNECE Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management, and other important international agreements and frameworks. By doing so (most importantly with SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda), and supporting their implementation, the CP exercise will emphasize cross-sectoral linkages, including those related to the environment, climate change, natural and human-made disaster risks, urban transport, ageing, and other topics. Incorporating the Monitoring Framework to measure the progress towards the fulfilment of SDGs would increase the chances of the programme attracting additional donor funding and in-kind contributions.

Recommendation 4: **Embed the CP programme with the necessary impact indicators, and follow-up and monitoring mechanisms.** Upgrade project documentation in light of SDG 11 framework indicators. Develop closer partnerships with UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative, the OECD Territorial Reviews, and other similar programmes for the establishment of common benchmarks for local, national and global monitoring, which would be crucial for the creation of an integrated monitoring mechanism in the housing, urban planning and land management sectors.

Recommendation 5: The CPs should guide individual MSs towards the fulfilment of "equal treatment and non-discrimination, especially for women", by the **broader application and monitoring of gender issues** in the CP analytical studies and subsequent recommendations in accordance with the programme objectives and broader UN rules and regulations.

Recommendation 6: **Update the guidelines for producing the CP reports** by: a) eliminating inefficient procedures regarding the formal approval of the draft CP report by the CHLM prior to its printing and publication; b) limiting the HLM Unit's involvement in preliminary and research missions, and limiting the number of international experts[39] taking part in CP research missions; c) formalizing the fundraising activities by setting up effective and sustainable measures for the funding of the CP programme; d) if relevant, including more detailed information on construction standards, energy efficiency, resilience to natural disasters, spatial and urban planning for housing, new and available technologies, and building-up and development of BIM.

Recommendation 7: **Creation of a web-tool** (portal, forum, cloud or database) **for the exchange and sharing of information and best practice examples** of legislation, policies, plans and strategies that were developed based on CP recommendations.

[39] Experts requiring the UN per diem payments.

ANNEX A. Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

Evaluation of the role of the UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management from 1996 to 2015

I. Purpose

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management ("Country Profiles") for the development and implementation of national legislation, policies and programmes on housing and urban development.

The results of the evaluation will be used to (1) improve the content of future Country Profiles; (2) increase the efficiency of the work for the development of Country Profiles, promote the long-term sustainability of the instrument, and better coordinate the work on the Country Profiles with other areas of work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM); and (3) formulate possible future activities related to the implementation of the Country Profiles' recommendations.

II. Scope

The evaluation will include Country Profiles published from 1996-2015:

- Bulgaria (1996)
- Poland (1998)
- Slovakia (1999)
- Lithuania (2000)
- Romania (2001)
- Republic of Moldova (2002)
- Albania (2002)
- Armenia (2004)
- Russian Federation (2004)
- Serbia and Montenegro (2006)
- Georgia (2007)
- Belarus (2008)
- Kyrgyzstan (2010)
- Azerbaijan (2010)
- Tajikistan (2011)
- Ukraine (2013)
- Republic of Moldova (2015)
- Uzbekistan (2015).

III. Background

"Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management" is one of the four areas of work of the CHLM. They are analytical studies drafted by international experts and conducted at the request of a country. Their objective is to review housing policies, the condition of existing housing stock, practices of spatial planning, and the construction and utilities sector, as well as the socioeconomic, institutional, legal and financial frameworks of the housing, urban development and land management sectors in the country concerned. As an integral part of the study, policy recommendations on how to improve housing, urban planning and land management strategies and policies are extended to the host government. Country Profiles also aim to provide information to potential investors.

This evaluation was proposed in order to develop the most efficient and effective way to respond to the requests of member States to develop Country Profiles. As Country Profiles are mostly an extrabudgetary activity, there is a need to use both financial and human resources as efficiently as possible, while making the greatest impact on policies in the countries.

IV. Issues

The evaluation will answer the following questions:

1. Do governments refer to the recommendations of the Country Profiles in improving their legislation, institutional framework, policies and programmes on housing, urban planning and land management? (relevance)
2. What are the strategies, policies or plans that have been developed so far, based on the recommendations of the Country Profiles? (effectiveness and relevance)
3. Are there any issues or topics that are not currently being addressed by the Country Profiles, but would be useful to address? (please specify) (relevance)
4. Is there any topic currently included which you think is not useful? (please specify) (relevance)
5. Do governments rate the Country Profiles as effective in promoting interministerial cooperation? (please provide details) (effectiveness)
6. How to increase the efficiency of the work of producing Country Profiles, given the limited human and financial resources available? (efficiency)
7. How to achieve the long-term sustainability of the Country Profile programme? (effectiveness, efficiency and relevance)

V. Methodology

An independent consultant will be engaged to conduct the evaluation. The evaluator will be managed by the Housing and Land Management Unit, which will provide the consultant all the necessary background documents and information on the Country Profiles and on the National Action Plans. The consultant will be responsible for identifying a suitable framework and methodology for the evaluation through an inception report.

A desk review of all relevant documents and best practices of UNECE review mechanisms (i.e. the UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews and the Innovation Performance Reviews) will

be conducted in the first instance.

To obtain information on questions 1, 2 and 5 identified in Section IV, a survey of member States where Country Profiles have already been prepared (these countries are listed in Section II) will be conducted. Questions 3 and 4 should be sent to all member States.

The consultant will conduct telephone interviews with representatives of relevant member States and stakeholders to be identified by the UNECE.

The consultant will also conduct interviews with UNECE secretariat staff coordinating the Country Profiles, as well as with staff from UNECE divisions responsible for other similar review mechanisms: Environmental Performance Reviews, Innovation Performance Reviews, and others.

VI. Evaluation schedule

A. Preliminary research – April 2016
B. Preparation of questionnaire, collection of replies and telephone interviews – last week of April to first week of May 2016
C. Analysis of collected information – second week of May 2016
D. Draft report – end-May 2016
E. Final report – mid-June 2016

VII. Resources

An independent consultant will be engaged for a period of 40 days to conduct the evaluation, for a budget of USD 8,000. Ms. Gulnara Roll, Head of the Unit, will manage the evaluation in consultation with the Division's Acting Director. All members of the HLM Unit will be asked for inputs.

VIII. Intended use/Next steps

The Unit will review the results of the evaluation and report to the CHLM. The results will be used to determine whether the re-assessment of the contents of the Country Profiles is necessary. If so, the results of the self-evaluation will be considered in re-structuring the contents of the Country Profiles.

Annex: List of initial relevant documents for the consultant available from the CHLM secretariat.

1. Decision of the CHLM to include the Country Profiles activity in its programme of work (HBP/R.335)
2. Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Country Profiles (Report of the sixty-second session, ECE/HBP/122, para IV B)

3. Guidelines on the preparation of Country Profiles (ECE/HBP/2015/6)
4. Template of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNECE, the government of the partner country, and the partner organization(s)
5. Note for the national focal point.

ANNEX B. List of documents reviewed

During the course of the evaluation, the following documents and online resources were examined:

Country Profiles

Bulgaria (ECE/HBP/101, published in 1996), Poland (ECE/HBP/107, 1998), Slovakia (ECE/HBP/111, 1999), Lithuania (ECE/HBP/117, 2000), Romania (ECE/HBP/124, 2001), Republic of Moldova (ECE/HBP/125, 2002), Albania (ECE/HBP/130, 2002), Armenia (ECE/HBP/132, 2004), Russian Federation (ECE/HBP/131, 2004), Serbia and Montenegro (ECE/HBP/139, 2006), Georgia (ECE/HBP/143, 2007), Belarus (ECE/HBP/150, 2008), Kyrgyzstan (ECE/HPB/157, 2010), Azerbaijan (ECE/HBP/156, 2010), Tajikistan (ECE/HBP/163, 2011) and Ukraine (ECE/HBP/176, 2013).

UNECE CHLM documents

- Decision of the CHLM to include the Country Profiles activity in its programme of work, HBP/R.335
- Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Country Profiles, report of the sixty-second session, ECE/HBP/122
- Guidelines on the preparation of Country Profiles, ECE/HBP/2015/6 and ECE/HBP/2013/8
- Note for the national focal point
- HBP/WP.6/2
- ECE/HBP/2008/4
- ECE/HBP/2016/1
- ECE/HBP/2013/2

Miscellaneous documents, statements and presentations

- MoU between the UNDP, the UNECE and the Government of Uzbekistan (and annexes), 23 September 2013
- Learning Together: Peer-Review Methodology. Dr Ruslan Rakhmatullin, Joint Research Centre (JRC/IPTS), European Commission. http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/conferences/udn_seville_2016/peer_review_methodology.pdf
- URBACT III Programme Manual, fifth version, May 2016. http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/pm_complete_v5_may_2016.pdf
- Страновый Обзор Жилищного Хозяйства и Землепользования, Республика Молдова. Рекомендации и Дальнейшие Действия

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_2_presentations/2.6d.2_Bejenaru_CP_Moldova.pdf

- Проблемы Обеспечения Жильем Населения и Устойчивого Градостроительного Развития Территории Кыргызстана, 2015. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_1_presentations/1_6a.08_Keneshov.ru.pdf
- A Statement on behalf of A.B. Tcherny, Minister of Architecture and Construction of the Republic of Belarus. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_1_presentations/1_5.10_Rakava_en.pdf
- Statements of Ministers and Heads of Delegations at the Ministerial Meeting on Housing and Land Management, Geneva, 8 October 2013. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/ministerial.statements.full.pdf
- Peer-review in the context of integrated sustainable urban development strategies, Dr Ruslan Rakhmatullin and Martina Pertoldi, Smart Specialization Platform, DG JRC, European Commission, Rome, 18 May 2016
- SDG Goal 11 Monitoring Framework. http://unhabitat.org/sdg-goal-11-monitoring-framework/
- Workshop "Approaches and best practices in urban planning and land administration", Tashkent, 12-13 June 2014. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/docs/CP_Uzbekistan_workshop/workshop_agenda_en.pdf
- Statement. Prof. Assoc. Mrs. Eglantina Gjermeni, Minister of Urban Development, Republic of Albania. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_1_presentations/1_5.01_Gjermeni_speech.pdf
- СТРАНОВЫЙ ОБЗОР ЖИЛИЩНОГО ХОЗЯЙСТВА и ЗЕМЛЕПОЛЬЗОВАНИЯ. РЕСПУБЛИКА МОЛДОВА. РЕКОМЕНДАЦИИ И ДАЛЬНЕЙШИЕ ДЕЙСТВИЯ https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_2_presentations/2.6d.2_Bejenaru_CP_Moldova.pdf
- "Challenges and priorities in housing and urban development in the UNECE region" – short national reports on housing and urban development. UNECE draft, December 2015. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/informal_notes/3bA_Mini_CPs_publication.pdf
- Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Decision No. 943–A, 29 September 2014, on establishing an interagency commission and approving its composition
- Marco Keiner, Overview of the financial support to the work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and funding needs. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2015/day_2_presentations/2.7_Financial_situation_presentation.pdf

ANNEX C. List of interviewees

The following stakeholders were reached for individual interviews on skype/by telephone:

- Ms. Elena BEJENARU, Director, General Directorate for Architecture, Construction and Housing, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of the Republic of Moldova
- Mr. Toomas NAKHKUR, Assistant to the Minister, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine
- Ms. Oksana REMIGA, Senior Programme Manager, Human Security/Local Development Cluster, United Nations Development Programme
- Ms. Inga VOYTSEKHOVSKA, former focal point of the CP exercise in Ukraine
- Mr. Abubakr SAFAROV, Head, International Department, Committee for Construction and Architecture under the Government of Tajikistan
- Mr. Bakytbek DZHUSUPBEKOV, Head, GIS Centre, State Registration Service under the Kyrgyz Republic Government
- Mr. Tolobai KENESHOV, Director, State Design of Urban Planning and Architecture, State Agency of Architecture, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Kyrgyzstan
- Ms. Alena RAKAVA, Deputy Head of Regional Planning and Urban Planning, Ministry of Construction and Architecture of Belarus
- Ms. Svetlana RISTIĆ, Head of Housing Department, Ministry of Construction and Urbanism of Serbia
- Ms. Doris ANDONI, General Director, The National Housing Agency, Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism of Albania
- Ms. Vilma VAICIUNIENE, Chief Desk Officer of Housing Division, Construction and Housing Department of the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania
- Ms. Elena SZOLGAYOVÁ, Director General, DG Housing Policy and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of Slovakia
- Mr. Antoine Nunes, EPR Programme Manager, Environment Division, UNECE
- Ms. Paola Deda, Chief, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
- Ms. Gulnara Roll, Head, Housing and Land Management Unit, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE
- Ms. Cecilia Batac, CP Programme Coordinator, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE

ANNEX D. Evaluation survey (combined English and Russian versions)

Evaluation of the role of the UNECE Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management from 1996 to 2015/Оценка роли страновых обзоров ЕЭК ООН в области жилищного хозяйства и землепользования в 1996-2015 годах

1. Respondent details/ Информация о респонденте
   Name/ Имя, Фамилия
   Position title/ Должность
   Company/Organization/ Компания/ Организация
   Country/ Страна
   e-mail address

2. In your opinion, how relevant are the recommendations of Country Profiles in improving UNECE Member States' legislation, institutional framework, policies and programmes on housing, urban planning and land management?/ Насколько актуальны, по вашему мнению, рекомендации страновых обзоров в области улучшения законодательства стран членов ЕЭК ООН, институциональных и правовых основ, политики и программ в области жилищного хозяйства, городского развития и землепользования?

   Highly relevant/ Очень актуальны
   Reasonably relevant/ Достаточно актуальны
   Somewhat relevant/ Частично актуальны
   Not relevant/ Не актуальны
   No opinion/ Нет ответа

3. How do you assess the entire process of the Country Profile exercise? (please click on this link for background information on the Country Profiles, the process of conducting the study and the procedural guidelines for preparing the Country Profile)/ Как вы в целом оцениваете процесс разработки страновых обзоров? (для дополнительной информации по страновым обзорам, процессу проведения исследования и по руководящим принципам для подготовки страновых обзоров, перейдите по данной ссылке)

   Excellent/ Отлично
   Good/ Хорошо
   Reasonable/ Удовлетворительно

Poor/ Неудовлетворительно

No opinion/ Нет ответа

4. How would you rate the usefulness of the Country Profile content?/ Насколько полезным вы находите содержание страновых обзоров?

   Very/ Очень

   Somewhat/ Частично

   Not very/ Не очень

   Not at all/ Совсем бесполезным

   No opinion/ Нет ответа

5. Are there any issues or topics not currently being addressed by the Country Profiles that would be useful to address?/ Есть ли какие-либо проблемы или темы, которые не адресованы в настоящий момент в страновых обзорах, но которые было бы полезно учесть в будущем?

   Yes/ Да

   No/ Нет

   Do not know/ Не знаю

6. Is there any topic currently included in the Country Profiles which you think is not useful or relevant?/ Содержат ли в настоящее время страновые обзоры вопросы, которые, по вашему мнению, не являются полезными или уместными?

   Yes/ Да

   No/ Нет

   Do not know/ Не знаю

7. How would you rate the Country Profiles in promoting interministerial cooperation?/ Как бы вы оценили роль страновых обзоров в развитии межведомственного сотрудничества?

   Excellent/ Отлично

   Above average/ Выше среднего

   Average/ Средне

   Below average/ Ниже среднего

   Poor/ Удовлетворительно

   No opinion/ Нет ответа

8. Please provide your opinion on increasing the efficiency and long-term sustainability of the Country Profiles activity:/ Пожалуйста, поделитесь своим мнением о том, как можно было бы повысить эффективность и долгосрочную устойчивость страновых обзоров:

ANNEX E. List of survey participants

The following representatives of the Member States and project participant states took part in the online questionnaire:

- Daiva Matonienė, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania
- Tatiana Andreeva, Russian Federation
- Natalya Kozlovskaya, Director of the Housing Programs, Ministry of Regional Development, Ukraine
- Stanislaw Kudron, Director of the Housing Department, Ministry of Infrastructure and Construction of Poland
- Zane, Senior Officer of Housing Policy Division, Ministry of Economics of Latvia
- Aida Martiro, Director, Urban Services and Housing, Ministry of Urban Development of Albania
- Huri Ernst, Director, Federal Office of Housing of Switzerland
- Daniela Grabmüllerová, Director of the European Affairs Department, Ministry of Regional Development, Czech Republic
- Agata Krause, Research Coordinator, Housing Europe, Belgium
- Nino Gventsadze, Head of Spatial Planning and Construction Policy, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
- Brian Emmott, Member of the UNECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group, United Kingdom
- Elshad Khanalibayli, Head of International Cooperation Department, State Committee on Property Issues of Azerbaijan
- Svetlana Ristić, Head of Housing Unit, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of Serbia
- Elena Szolgayova, Director General, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of Slovakia
- Nuria Raga Sastre, member of the Real Estate Advisory Group, Colegio de Registradores de la Propiedad y Mercantiles de España
- Dr.sc. Borka Bobovec, Head of Department for Construction and Energy Efficiency of the Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning of Croatia