

PREFACE

The Country Profile on the Housing Sector of Albania started with a preparatory mission by the secretariat in December 2001. The research mission of the international team of experts took place in February 2002. Albanian experts responded to the queries and requests of the international team during and after the mission. The project's expenses were covered by extrabudgetary funds provided by the Governments of the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom. The successful conclusion of the project would not have been possible without this generous support.

The previous studies in this series were on: Bulgaria, published in 1996 (ECE/HBP/101); Poland, published in 1998 (ECE/HBP/107); Slovakia, published in 1999 (ECE/HBP/112); Lithuania, published in 2000 (ECE/HBP/117); Romania, published in 2001 (ECE/HBP/124); and the Republic of Moldova, published in 2002 (ECE/HBP/125).

Other work carried out by UNECE in Albania includes an environmental performance review (EPR) in 2001-2002. It provides recent information about Albania, including on its built environment and urban development. The follow-up process to both projects is important for inter-sectoral policy implementation in the country. Two other UNECE projects related to housing may also prove useful to Albania and other countries in transition: (i) the Guidelines on housing condominiums for countries in transition, and (ii) the Guidelines on housing finance systems for countries in transition.

This Country Profile on Albania is also available on the web site of the Committee on Human Settlements <http://www.unece.org/env/hs/cph/welcome.html>.

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The above experts are the principal authors of the chapters mentioned. Parts of their work have, however, been incorporated into other chapters for better cohesion and clarity. The conclusions and recommendations are a result of joint team work.

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