

## PREFACE

This study on the Slovak housing sector is the third carried out by the ECE Committee on Human Settlements to analyse housing sector reform in countries in transition. The first project of this kind focused on Bulgaria and the results were published in 1996 (ECE/HBP/101). The second study, on Poland, was published in 1998 (ECE/HBP/107).

These country-specific strategic analyses of the housing sector are intended to assist the Governments of countries in transition in improving the performance of the sector. They also aim to provide practical information to those with a special interest in the country, such as international lender and donor organizations, technical assistance agencies, or private sector investors, both within and outside the country. The objective is to identify positive trends and problem areas, so as to be able to assess the implementation of national policies and strategies, and the social and economic consequences of housing reform for the population and other major actors in the sector. The studies are the work of international teams of experts. They cooperate with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and the private sector to mobilize available information sources in the country. The international team of experts also draws up recommendations for action to guide the housing sector reform towards sustainable patterns of housing development.

For the study on Slovakia, the international team of experts consisted of Ms. Sasha Tsenkova (Bulgaria), project coordinator, Ms. Helena Kinnunen (Finland), Mr. Markku Tahvanainen (Finland), Mr. Alle Elbers (Netherlands), Mr. Gert Gundersen (Norway), and Mr. Andrew Wiles (United Kingdom). The Governments of Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom helped to finance the study.