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Guidelines to evidence-based policies and decision-making for sustainable housing and urban development



Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Georgia.

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Aim and objectives of the presentation

Aim of the presentation is to improve understanding evidence-based policy-making for sustainable housing and urban development in the ECE region as a collaborative process.

Objectives of the presentation:

- To discuss the role of collaborative approaches to evidence-based policy-making,
- To explore how the approaches can be applied in practice, in relation to production, management and use of data,
- To discuss opportunities for improving evidence-based policy-making for sustainable housing and urban development in Georgia.



Structure of the presentation

- Context,
- Urban governance and evidence-based policies as the core values of the 2030 Agenda,
- Collaborative production of data for sustainable housing and urban development policies,
- Collective process of crafting evidence for policies on sustainable housing and urban development,
- Shared responsibilities in informing housing & urban development policies & decision-making,
- Summary and Conclusions,
- Recommendations.



Context

- Diversity of urban development challenges and governance structures in the ECE countries; a common issue – access to decent quality, affordable housing,
- Lack of reliable data/evidence and insufficient capacity of the governments to use this data/evidence: (i) hinder policy development; and (ii) limit effectiveness of policies,
- Importance of producing policy responses based on best available evidence and in a timely manner
 - Evidence-based policy-making – an approach which 'helps people make well informed decisions about policies, programmes and projects by putting the best available evidence at the heart of policy development and implementation' (Davies 1999).



Urban governance and evidence-based policy-making as the core values the 2030 Agenda

- Transition from MDGs to SDGs – a new, more rigorous approach to evidence-based policy-making in the 2030 Agenda; embracing opportunities stemming from ‘data revolution’ and ensuring that ‘no one is left behind’,
- Rigorous approach to review and implementation target 11 ‘Sustainable cities and Communities’
- SDG 17 ‘Partnerships for the goals’ (17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships).



Collective production of data for sustainable housing and urban development policies

- Data: ‘things known or assumed as facts, making the basis of reasoning or calculation’,
 - Numerical/non-numerical language (e.g. textual or visual),
- Mainstream data for housing policies: statistical+administrative data gathered via censuses, surveys, policy/programme, project evaluation,
- Emergence of ‘new’ sources of data (‘big data’, ‘geospatial information’ and ‘citizen generated data’).



Collective production of data for sustainable housing and urban development policies II

- Variety of data producers in the ECE countries
 - More or less decentralised NSS,
 - Increasingly more important role of private sector organizations, international and intersectoral partnerships in better data production & management,
- E.g. CBS Urban data centres in the Netherlands – partnerships including the municipalities and the NSO of the Netherlands
 - 11 CBS Urban data centres in the Netherlands since 2016
 - better understanding of a city; to better (fact-based and data-driven) city decisions; and others.



Collaboration in crafting evidence for policies on sustainable housing and urban development

- ‘Evidence’: an input 'to establish the case for a specific policy response'; is crafted based on data,
- Importance of ensuring a high quality of evidence for policy and the relevance of evidence to values of the 2030 Agenda and housing and urban challenges ‘on the ground’,
- Disaggregation of data as per gender, age, ethnicity, income, disability, migratory status; and at the city level = leaving no one behind (across time and space)
- International standards for aggregation of data (crafting indicator sets).



Collaboration in crafting evidence for policies on sustainable housing and urban development II

- Various organisations play an important role in ensuring high quality and determining relevance of evidence for policy, for instance, NGOs as they have a good and practical understanding of challenges and needs ‘on the ground’
 - can support activities of NSOs by providing inputs and comments to policy initiatives and statistical and research reports and gather relevant; acquire often difficult to access, data,
- E.g. Initiative of the municipality of Barcelona, ‘Fundació Arrels’ (Arrels Foundation) + Network for Attention to the Homeless to count number of homeless persons sleeping rough, on the streets in 2015
 - To inform housing and homelessness policies; improve resource allocation,
 - 700 combed 160 areas of the city during the night – approach replicated internationally.



Shared responsibilities in informing housing and urban development policies and decision-making

- Informing housing and urban development policy: variety of frameworks tying data collection+evidence crafting+decision-making,
 - Important issues: in-advance approaches, limitation of biases,
- Housing is a ‘universal’ policy domain. It requires a collective approach to policy-making and decision-making,
- Sole responsibility of a singular ministry but requires feeding data/evidence from various policy domains (economic, social, spatial etc. policies).



Shared responsibilities in informing housing and urban development policies and decision-making II

- E.g. Regulatory Impact Assessment commonly used by the EC and the EU MS in policy development
 - allows appraisal of various policy 'options' with regard to their potential, future impact,
 - evidence is crafted in advance to decisions-making about character and scope of policy interventions.
- Promotes inter-ministerial cooperation + public consultation
 - stakeholder consultation; 12 week internet-based public consultation?
 - steps in RIA: Creation of Interservice group (ISG); Publication of Inception IA the website + consultation with stakeholders; Preparation and implementation of consultation strategy etc.



Summary

- Applying collaborative approaches to evidence-based policies on sustainable housing and urban development = overcoming a 'tunnel view' on housing/urban development (data) and acknowledging the 'universal' character of housing/urban development as policy domains.
- It can be executed during data collection and analysis/crafting evidence and while informing housing and urban development policies and decision-making
- Value added:
 - improves understanding of housing problems and the process of developing solutions to address these problems by ensuring that data collected and analysed in a way that reflects multiple - social, economic, environmental and 'other' dimensions of housing and urban development.



Conclusions



Recommendations

- Ensure an integrated and coordinated approach to the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
 - Increase Awareness; Align Policies and Monitoring Frameworks; Connect Data Producers.
- Support openness of the data collection processes
 - Strengthen the capacity and the role of the National Statistical Offices in data collection and analysis; Stimulate Local Data Production; Engage Private Sector; Engage Third Parties, including the private sector, in data production; Ensure data privacy and security..
- Promote comprehensive and integrated approaches to the organisation of data.
 - Engage Academia to Promote Evidence-based Policy-making.
- Reduce Bias
 - Adopt Collaborative Tools for Data Production; Disseminate Evidence to Public.



Resources

Justin Parkhurst, 'The Politics of Evidence: From evidence-based policy to the good governance of evidence' (2017), http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/68604/1/Parkhurst_The%20Politics%20of%20Evidence.pdf

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Thank you

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