

Report of the REM Annual Meeting Geneva, 4-5 October 2018

Participation

REM Members

- Giampiero Bambagioni (Chair)
- Kari Eik (Vice-chair)
- Enrico Campagnoli
- Brian Emmott
- Kat Grimsley
- Andres Jaadla
- Zita Kakalejcikova (on behalf of Gyorgy Sumeghy)
- Vladimir Kaplinski
- Reiner Lux
- Michael Malloy
- Irena Perfanova
- Nuria Raga Sastre
- Paloma Taltavull (Vice-chair – appointed at this meeting)

New members

- Gary Strong
- Mary Taylor
- Nikolaos Triatafyllopoulos

UNECE secretariat:

- Domenica Carriero (Secretary of the REM)

Agenda

- 1) Report on the current activities
- 2) Introduction of the new members
- 3) Election of the second Vice-chair
- 4) Proposals for new activities for the biennium 2019-2020
- 5) Follow-up actions

1. Report on the current activities

Giampiero Bambagioni, Chair of the REM, opened the meeting and thanked all participants to have joined it.

The Chair presented the meeting agenda, which was adopted without changes. Then, he gave the floor to the various focal points to report on the current activities carried out by the Group.

a. Policy Framework on Sustainable Real Estate Markets

Giampiero Bambagioni reported on the update of the *Policy Framework on Sustainable Real Estate Markets*. He thanked again for the contribution of the REM members to the document. He mentioned that the following step will be the dissemination of the document. In this regard, as the Committee decided to approve the publication of the document, it should undergo a final editing, formatting, etc. to align it to the UNECE publications. He asked for support for the printed version of the document in order to prepare a booklet similar to the 2010 publication.

Then he mentioned that in 2019, as an initiative of Italian Institutions (including the Ministry of Economy and Finance and Agenzia del Demanio), a Forum should be organized in Milan on the issues of sustainable development and smart cities.

b. Guidelines for Ownership and Management of Condominium Housing

Kat Grimsley reported on the update of the *Guidelines for Ownership and Management of Condominium Housing*. She started also by thanking all the contributors to the work. She mentioned that as a follow-up to the study, the Secretariat will coordinate the integration of the Guidelines with the training material on training of managers of multi-apartment buildings which is prepared by the Geneva UN Charter Center of Excellence in Estonia.

Andres Jaadla, the coordinator of the Geneva UN Charter Center of Excellence in Estonia presented the programme of work of the Center and asked for the support of the REM to provide some input into it.

Mary Taylor asked about the possibility of having web-based trainings and e-learning; as she has experience in that she could be useful. Domenica Carriero replied that this is a very interesting option that the Secretariat is exploring together with the Geneva UN Charter Center but so far they will continue working on the formal training due to lack of resources. Enrico Campagnoli suggested to involve the Federation of Condominium Managers for the training part. Giampiero Bambagioni mentioned he involved UIPI (International Union of Property Owners) for the elaboration of the document. UIPI contributed to the work with its own focal point.

Nuria Raga Sastre mentioned that more than once she raised the issue that in the document there is a reference to "Guidelines on Real Property Units and Identifiers" which is an old document (2004) but sets the reference for land registration. She proposed to ask to the WPLA to update the document. The Secretariat agreed.

c. Guidelines on tools and mechanisms to finance smart sustainable cities projects

Kari Eik reported on the drafting of the document *Guidelines on tools and mechanisms to finance smart sustainable cities projects*. She mentioned that it is a very important topic and part of the programme of work of REM under the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative. She admitted that she had a financial issue regarding the consultant that drafted the study and that this was the reason of the delay in the drafting. She mentioned that she was working on the financial resources needed for the completion of the work. She asked the REM members to contribute more to this study as for the others.

Domenica Carriero suggested the REM members to provide some case studies of financing mechanisms for cities, with a special focus on innovative financing. She further acknowledged that Donovan Rypkema and Nikolaos Triatafyllopoulos have contributed to the study.

Giampiero Bambagioni pointed out that he had already sent proposals for the integration of several topics in the document especially the “financial sustainability” of the projects, which he considers a central issue for the sustainable development of cities.

d. Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings

Domenica Carriero reported on the activities of the project Energy efficiency standards in buildings in the ECE region and the activities of the Joint Task Force (JTF). She mentioned that the first document of the project *“Mapping of existing standards in buildings in the ECE region”* has been finalized and the Committee has endorsed it. She mentioned that the JTF is now working on the second study *“Mapping of existing technologies to enhance energy efficiency”* and will be starting to work on the final study *“Compendium of best practices for energy efficiency in buildings”*. She listed also the events that took place during the year regarding the topic and the JTF and mentioned that the next event will be in Kiev on 13 November during the *9th Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development*.

e. Events

Paloma Taltavull reported on the UNECE/ERES conference which took place in Reading (UK) on 28 June 2018. UNECE organized a panel on housing affordability which was very well received and about 50 people attended it. She finally mentioned that the speakers were very well-known and knowledgeable on the topic and that during her talk she presented the REM and the work it does.

Nuria Raga Sastre presented the REM session in Athens. The event will take place at the conference “Economy, Society and Climate Change - Current Trends and Solutions for the Built Environment, Construction Industry and Real Estate” organized by the WPLA together with FIG and the Technical Chamber of Greece on 7- 9 November 2018. She prepared the agenda of the session on “Real Estate Markets: Sound Principles for Social and Economic Benefits” which has been shared with the REM members. She asked the suggested presenters to communicate their availability as well as Nikos who could be interested to participate as he is located in Athens himself. She proposed to share the agenda again for comments.

Irena Perfanova mentioned that her institute is organizing an event in Sofia on 15-16 November 2018. This will be a 2-day workshop on cadaster and housing policy. She will share the information and the invitation by 15 October.

2. Introduction of the new members

The REM Secretary, Domenica Carriero introduced the new REM members who were present in the meeting, namely, Ms. Mary Taylor, Nikolaos Triatafyllopoulos and Gary Strong and mentioned that another member, Mr. Vladimir Vagin, met her and Gulnara the day before and proposed the work on the participatory budget, discussed in part 3 of this report.

3. Election of the second Vice-chair

The Chair of REM pointed out that after the previous Vice-chair, Mr. Magnus Hammar, retired the Group was missing the second Vice-chair. He then opened the room for proposals. Paloma Taltavull proposed herself. and Kat Grimsley seconded her. Paloma Taltavull was nominated Vice-Chair of the REM.

The Chair of REM, thanking Paloma for the willingness to work systematically to implement the activities of the PoW, closed the meeting for the day and invited everybody to join the following morning at 9:00 in the room 1066.

4. Proposals for new activities for the biennium 2019-2020

On 5 October the Chair of REM, Giampiero Bambagioni, welcomed the Group members again and opened the floor for proposed activities that the Group could carry out in the biennium 2019-2020. Consequently, he read the list of possible activities and events which have been discussed by the members. The list can be found in Annex I and II.

- **Dementia housing.** Brian Emmott proposed to work on dementia housing since there is a lot of interest in the topic and a lot of experience has been already gathered in UK. The focal point for this work should be Liverpool John Moores University. On the side of the Committee Session, Giampiero Bambagioni met prof. Mike Riley (Head of Department, Built Environment), asking for a concept note to be sent to the Secretariat. The BRE is carrying out some demonstration projects. In his opinion, this work could be done together with the Population Unit of UNECE which is working on aging, creating synergies both in terms of efforts and fundraising.

- **Fire safety.** Gary Strong mentioned that the Committee has approved the idea to work on Fire Safety Standards in Buildings. He reported shortly about the establishment of the International Fire Safety Coalition, its work and members and asked for the advice of the REM members concerning other organizations to involve. Giampiero Bambagioni pointed out that the Coalition should not replicate the work already done by ISO 23932:2009, the global standard on Fire safety, but carry out an original work in the interests of the member States, consulting also institutional stakeholders as well as it should consider the Sendai Framework as was mentioned by Enrico Campagnoli.
- **Regeneration of historical centers.** This topic has been proposed by the Secretariat in support to a possible cooperation with the British Research Establishment (BRE) on this topic and possible funding sources. Nikolaos Triatafyllopoulos and Mary Taylor expressed interest in working on this topic as well as the Secretariat assumes also Donovan Rypkema will be interested.
- **Participatory budgeting.** The proposal to work on this topic comes from Valdimir Vagin. He could not join the meeting however he prepared a short concept note which the Secretariat will share with the Group after the meeting. The Secretariat will discuss with the Bureau to see if this topic is a priority otherwise could be proposed for the next biennium.
- **Housing finance.** This topic has been selected by the Bureau of the Committee as one of the priorities and requested the REM to work on. Last year, Reiner Lux and Giampiero Bambagioni offered to be the focal points for the study on this topic, however other external contacts shall be involved especially experts on the regulatory framework of countries and international organizations as the European Mortgage Federation.
- **Sharing economy.** This is the second most relevant topic for the Committee. The Group discussed that a lot of information is circulating. Paloma Taltavull agreed to be the focal point for the development of the study, which should be focused on the real estate sector and building on the recently developed “Guidelines on circular cities” elaborated under the work of the U4SSC initiative.
- **Impact of blockchain in real estate.** Enrico Campagnoli proposed to work on the impact of blockchain in the real estate. Giampiero Bambagioni recalled that the issue is of increasing importance and that it has also been included in the Policy Framework. Domenica Carriero replied that the work is indeed interesting and that the U4SSC is working on blockchain in cities. She suggested to wait until the “Guidelines on blockchain in cities” are prepared and then leverage on this to develop the REM study. Hence, she suggested to propose this topic for the next biennium.
- **Event on the Policy Framework.** Elizabeth Belenchia proposed to have an event in New York on the updated version of the Policy Framework. The event could take place in May or

November 2019 either at the Millennium Hotel or at the UN Headquarters. Kat Grimsley proposed to link the event to the World Bank Poverty Conference in Washington DC on 25-29 March 2019. She offered to check if possible to organize a session there and send a proposal. Michael Malloy have communicated their willingness to support the organization of the event in New York or Washington D.C. The Secretariat agreed to check the costs of having it at the UN headquarters.

- **Events in Prague.** David Tichy sent to the Secretariat and the REM Chair the list of events he is organizing in Prague. The meetings are listed in Annex II.

The Group approved all the proposed activities.

In conclusion of the works, the Chair thanked the participants for their relevant contributions and input and in consultation with the REM Secretary agreed to share the report from the meeting in the coming days with a list of proposed activities to submit to the Bureau of the CHLM and the WPLA.

5. Follow-up actions:

- UNECE will draft and circulate the report of the meeting to the Group.
- UNECE will update the REM page on the website and include the calendar of events.
- A list of activities will be proposed by the REM members for the coordination with the Working Party on Land Administration and for approval by the Bureau. The activities are reported in Annex II of this report.

Annex I. List of planned events

2018

- REM session in WPLA conference “Economy, Society and Climate Change - Current Trends and Solutions for the Built Environment, Construction Industry and Real Estate” Athens, Greece, 7- 9 November (focal point: Nuria Raga Sastre)
- Conference “My City, My Home, My Business”, Sofia, Bulgaria, 15-16 November (focal point: Irena Perfanova)
- European smart and sharing cities, Prague, Czech Rep., 22-23 November (focal point: David Tichy)

2019

- Conference on Urban development and smart sustainable cities, Milano, Italy, February 2019 (date to be defined) (focal point: Giampiero Bambagioni)
- WAVO/IVFC Global Valuation Conference 2019 on Challenges and opportunities in the valuation industry, Frankfurt, Germany, 13-15 June. (focal point: Reiner Lux)
- Sustainability in the strategic planning of cities, Prague, Czech Rep., June (dates to be defined) (focal point: David Tichy)
- Conference in New York or Washington on the Policy Framework, in May or November 2019 – or link it to the World Bank Poverty conference in Washington D.C. 25-29 March 2019 – ask for a session there and send proposal.

Annex II. List of proposed activities

This Annex reports the list of proposed activities of the REM for the year 2019-2020 as per discussion during the annual REM meeting.

Current activities

- Guidelines on tools and mechanisms for financing smart sustainable cities (under the U4SSC initiative) – focal point: Kari Eik – to revise the work and complete with case studies
- Guidelines for Ownership and Management of Condominium Housing - focal point: Kat Grimsley - to coordinate the integration into the training material prepared by the Geneva UN Charter Center of Excellence in Estonia and prepare the document to be officially published

New activities

- Study on Housing Finance – focal points: Reiner Lux and Giampiero Bambagioni

- Study on sharing economy in the real estate sector – focal point: Paloma Taltavull
- Compendium of best practices for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings – focal point: Domenica Carriero as this is part of the activities of the Joint Task Force
- Contribution to the International Fire Safety Coalition when needed – focal point: Gary Strong
- Possible contribution into the BRE project on the regeneration of historical centers – focal point: Nikolaos Triatafyllopoulos – the Secretariat will update the Group on this activity.
- Study on participatory budgeting – focal point: Vladimir Vagin - the Secretariat will update the Group on this activity.