

Committee on Housing and Land Management

Housing and Land Management Unit

Report of the UNDA Workshop
‘Strengthening National Capacities for Sustainable Housing, Urban Development and Land Management: Development, Implementation and Monitoring of the National Action Plans’
31 January – 2 February 2017

SUMMARY:

UNECE (lead agency) in partnership with UN-Habitat (implementing partner) initiated the Project “Strengthening National Capacities for Sustainable Housing, Urban Development and Land Management: Development, Implementation and Monitoring of the National Action Plans”. UNECE, UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia, organized the workshop held on 31 January – 2 February in Belgrade, Serbia. This report provides an overview of the presentations, conclusions and recommendations deriving from the workshop.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

This report was prepared by Svetlana Ristić, Head of the Section of Housing and Architectural Policy and Public Utilities, Department for Housing and Architectural Policy, Public Utilities and Energy Efficiency of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia and Ana Raković, Local Coordinator from the Faculty of Architecture – University of Belgrade.

INTRODUCTION

In 2014, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) launched the Project „Strengthening National Capacities for Sustainable Housing in countries with economies in transition”¹. This Project is financed within the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) framework and is carried out from 2014 to 2017 in Armenia, Serbia, Moldova and Tajikistan.

This work presents an important part of a wider regional programme with distinct aims and objectives. Namely, the UNDA project is underpinned by the results of the survey carried out by the UNECE Secretariat in 2012-2013². This work highlighted several key issues that need to be addressed in the countries with economies in transition such as: energy efficiency, lack of housing affordability, reduced access to credit (for home ownership), and decreasing housing quality due to the limited maintenance. It stressed the strong need for institutional change and capacity building as a vital precondition for advancing issues listed above.

This report presents the outcomes of the third national UNDA workshop in Serbia held on 31 January – 2 February, 2017. The 3-day workshop was dedicated to the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the strategical documents and National Action Plans, presenting methodological approaches used, content and particular cases of the participating countries. In the aftermath of the workshop, the NAPs shall be updated in accordance with the recommendations issued.

In line with the aims and objectives of the UNDA project the report provides the a list of participants listed by their institution and sector, as well as a short overview of each presentation; each section is followed by the conclusions.

¹ For more details about the UNDA projects please follow the link: <http://www.unece.org/housing-and-land-management/projects/national-capacities-for-sustainable-housing.html>

² ECE/HPB/2013/2

ATTENDANCE

This section lists the workshop participants who have contributed to the event with a presentation. The PowerPoint presentations were sent to the UNECE Secretariat after the event. The section classifies the presenters based on affiliation. This is deemed important as one of the key objectives of the UNDA workshop is creating new institutional links and strengthening existing ones. In addition to the presenters, number of local institutions and representatives of civil society were present at the event this (see the concluding paragraph).

Representatives of UN Agencies

UN Office Serbia

- Michel SAINT LOT, ai UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Serbia

UNECE

- Regina KHANBEKOVA, Consultant, Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE

UN-Habitat

- Tatiana KHABAROVA, Programme Manager, UN-Habitat in Russian Federation
- Remy SIETCHIPING, Leader, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit, Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-Habitat

UNDP Serbia

- Snežana OSTOJIĆ-PAUNOVIĆ, Project Associate

UNOPS Serbia

- Jasmina ILIĆ, Component Manager

Representatives of the Countries Participating in the UNDA Project (National Coordinators/Consultants)

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

- Tanya ARZUMANYAN, Housing Provision and Communal Infrastructures Division, State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre
- Arsen KARAPETYAN, “Development Solutions Institute” Foundation

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

- Elena BEJENARU, General Directorate for Architecture, Construction and Housing, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

- Abubakr SAFAROV, Head of the International Department, Committee for Construction and Architecture under the Government of Tajikistan

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

- Tolobai KENESHOV, State Design Institute of Urban Planning and Architecture, State Agency of Architecture, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Kyrgyz Republic

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

- Marsida GRAMI, IPA projects and Other Donors Unit, Directorate of European Integration and Projects, Ministry of Urban Development of the Republic of Albania

Representatives of Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MCTI) of the Republic of Serbia

- Aleksandra DAMNJANOVIĆ, State Secretary
- Jovanka ATANACKOVIĆ, Assistant to Minister
- Djordje MILIĆ, Assistant to Minister

- Svetlana RISTIĆ, Head of the Department for Housing and Architectural Policy, Public Utilities and Energy Efficiency
- Božana LUKIĆ, Senior Adviser, Department for Housing and Architectural Policy, Public Utilities and Energy Efficiency
- Nebojša ANTEŠEVIĆ, Department for Housing and Architectural Policy, Public Utilities and Energy Efficiency
- Tijana ŽIVANOVIĆ, Senior Adviser, Department for Spatial Planning and Urbanism
- Siniša TRKULJA, Department for Spatial Planning and Urbanism

Representatives of Non-Governmental Bodies

STANDING CONFERENCE OF TOWN AND MUNICIPALITIES

- Klara DANILOVIĆ

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF SERBIA

- Dalibor JOKNIĆ

Representatives of Academic Institutions

UNIVERSITY OF NIŠ, FACULTY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE

- Dr. Aleksandar KEKOVIĆ, Associate Professor
- Dr. Goran JOVANOVIĆ, Associate Professor

International Experts

- Irina ILYINA, Institute of Regional Studies and Urban Planning, Higher School of Economics, Russia
- Oleg GOLUBCHIKOV, Cardiff School of Planning and Geography, Cardiff University, United Kingdom
- Brian EVANS, Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow School of Art, United Kingdom

Public Participation at the Event

In addition to the presenters listed above, the UNDA Workshop was open to wider audience. The invitations for presence (audience) were extended to the number of local institutions and civil society organizations in Serbia. Around 80 viewers were present at the event.

DAY I [31 January 2017]

Day 1 of the Workshop was dedicated to a general discussion of the concepts and methodological approaches in the development, implementation and monitoring of the strategic documents in the field of housing, urban planning and land management. The national coordinators and consultants have presented their experiences and outcomes in the processes of development, implementation and monitoring of the NAPs including such topics as financing, cooperation with stakeholders and risks associated with the implementation.

Session 1: OPENING

This year's seminar "Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing, urban development and land management: Development, implementation and monitoring of the national action plans" was opened by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, **Aleksandra Damnjanović** by greeting the guests and giving special thanks to the UNECE and UN-HABITAT for their support throughout the project and in organizing the workshop, since by organizing this workshop MCTI has completed the activities within the three-year UNDA Project. In the aftermath of to this workshop, the Action Plan for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development of the Republic of Serbia will be updated. She also pointed out the importance of the active participation of Serbia in the process of the development of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, within which it cooperated with over 50 member countries of the Committee on Housing and Land Management during numerous sessions before the Charter was approved.

An introductory speech was also made by **Michel Saint Lot**, ai UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Serbia. He underlined the importance of the UN in setting global goals in sustainable housing and other areas, as well as in providing the support to developing national capacities that contribute to achieving the global goals. He expressed his hopes that the member countries will increase their efforts in providing solutions for problems related to the growing poverty and climate change at the global level. To this end, strengthening the capacities represents an important issue related to the formulation and enforcement of the strategic documents aiming at achieving those goals on the national level. He also mentioned that the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on a global level was adopted, defining 17 goals of sustainable development, which represents the framework for action of the United Nations organizations for that period. He mentioned the Habitat III Conference, held in Quito, Ecuador, where the New Urban Agenda was adopted as a global action plan related to the issues that refer to the same points as this workshop.

Opening session continued with an introductory note by **Tatiana Khabarova**, Programme Manager in UN-Habitat in Russian Federation, who also pointed out of the importance of UN-Habitat's role. Her speech was followed by the address of **Regina Khanbekova** representing UNECE, who welcomed all the participants of the UNDA regional workshop and presented in-brief endeavors and goals of the UNDA Project and the agenda of the workshop. She emphasized the importance of the inter-regional cooperation and of the knowledge transfer facilitation that became possible due to project workshops, which gather all the national project coordinators, consultants and key Serbian stakeholders together.

Session 2: PRESENTATIONS BY THE NATIONAL COORDINATORS/CONSULTANTS ON THE CURRENT STEPS ON THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN INCL. FINANCING, COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND RISKS

The first thematic session involved presentations by the national coordinators/consultants on the current steps and general framework for the development and implementation of national action plans.

Representing Armenia, **Arsen Karapetyan** at first presented the basic information about the country and went on presenting the Draft Action Plan which included the activities conducted by the state authorities in the area of territorial planning (National Spatial Development Strategy, adoption of the Local Urban Plans and strengthening of decentralization) and housing, and particularly management and maintenance of residential buildings, improving the energy efficiency, anti-seismic construction standards, as well as land management and the estimated budget. The Action Plan is expected to be adopted for the period from 2017 to 2025 and to be implemented in three phases.

Elena Bejenaru presented the case of Moldova and the Draft Action Plan for the period from 2017 to 2021, including such goals as the housing legislation promotion, preservation and increase of the housing fund value of, housing availability; the urban development harmonization and the land management improvement. Bejenaru also explained the official system of the monitoring of a state action plan, which included the tasks conducted by the competent state authorities in this area (Cadastral Office, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction), and which also concerned the activities in the territorial planning, construction, energy efficiency improvement, land management areas and others. She also pointed out the important legislative activities underway at that moment.

Abubakr Safarov from Tajikistan presented the Country Profile on Housing Sector completed in cooperation with the UNECE in 2010 and added a short summary of urban planning and cadaster system. He paid special attention to the programmes for the energy efficiency improvement, as well as the standards accessibility and the removal of physical barriers in urban areas, announcing the cooperation with UNDP in the process of implementation of the communal infrastructure improvement projects.

On behalf of Serbia, **Svetlana Ristić** presented the initial instructions for the development of the NAP, which mainly referred to the housing sector, but eventually also covered the urban development issues. She spoke about the results achieved so far – the new Law on Housing and Buildings Maintenance and the National Report for Habitat III Conference. She highlighted the importance of the workshop as the platform for exchanging experience between domestic and foreign experts, but also the unrealistic initial requirement of creating Steering Committees, which had no distinct authority among the workshops.

The presentations by the national coordinators showed that, in addition to various conditions existing in the participating countries, the difficulties they face were similar, considering that all the countries were in the process of transition to the market economy. All of the action plans underlined the integral role of territorial and urban planning, whereas improving of energy efficiency and developing construction standards and legislation in the area of housing were indicated as the priority activities. The conclusion that may be drawn from the presentations is that all the countries prepared their respective Draft Action Plans, which included the priorities in the areas given in the submitted guidelines: urban development policy, housing and communal infrastructure, housing policy, construction, land management and ownership relations. It can also be concluded that, in their action plans, the countries included activities that were already representing a part of the regular activities of the administrative bodies, what significantly reduced the chance of their realization. Hence the funding sources mostly came from the public budgets and international organizations with the already existing cooperation within the certain projects as the most common partners. Along with some specific risks, the delay in the government operations due to political changes was identified as the constant risks.

Session 3: METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO THE FORMULATION OF THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND LAND MANAGEMENT

The second thematic session presented an overview of the methodology and guidelines in the process of formulating the strategic documents. **Irina Ilyina** from the Institute of Regional Studies and Urban Planning in Russia pointed out that national action plans should be integrated into other strategic documents; the goals should be concretized with precise indicators; the prioritization should be completed and the active participants should be defined in compliance with the adequate problem analysis. According to Ilyina, it would be desirable to define 3-5 tasks, providing a plan of the activities stimulating the economic development, and to apply the inter-sectoral principle in terms of the activities being realized by several actors. The indicators should be underpinned with the official statistics, they must be objective and verifiable not only by state bodies, but by other participants as well. The main goal should be connected to the country's development goals on all levels – cities and regions development priorities, as well as the national priorities. Ilyina underlined that improving energy efficiency was not the goal in itself; it was rather a mean for achieving goals. The same is relevant for the investment politics. She emphasized the flexibility of the approach used to this end, which she supported by mentioning the example from one of regions of the Russian Federation. Namely, the state had bought vacant flats from a private investor and gave them to the poor people in housing needs.

Remy Sietchiping from the UN-Habitat imposed that this organization was going to offer help in preparation and implementation of national action plans, as well as in monitoring the implementation and displaying the benefits of national urban policies. According to him, national reports for Habitat III Conference should be used for the purpose of preparation of national action plans. Sietchiping also stated that more flexible action plans could be adopted, along with urgent tasks, and as far as financing was concerned, he thought that the first thing to do was to make plans for currently available resources, and emphasized that the forming of the project management committee was not mandatory.

The Q&A part started by A. Karapetyan's question on if energy efficiency can be defined as an area, and the answer was that it is a mean to an end, therefore it should not be singled out as a special area. E. Bejenaru's question referred to what to do in a situation where there is a high degree of decentralization, so that the national level does not have competence or instruments for involvement of local actors. The answer to this question was that considering a particular national context, one should consider what local actors would be the most appropriate to engage, they have to show interest to be involved to the project area.

Session 4: DEFINING THE SUBSTANCE: DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONTENT OF THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND LAND MANAGEMENT

The final thematic session of the first day of the seminar opened **Oleg Golubchikov**, Senior Lecturer at the Cardiff School of Planning and Geography, who gave a systematic and comprehensive view of issues relevant for the sustainable urban development. He emphasized various possible conflicts and challenges of the transition to market economy. He pointed out the necessity of a greater sustainability in all aspects of development, from sustainable housing and cities, and energetics, to the political dimensions as well. According to Golubchikov, in order to consider the problem more closely, it was important to observe it from the expanded point of view and to increase the interaction among all the actors. To this end, he expressed the attitude that sustainable housing should not be observed just in terms of construction, but also in a much broader sense. Sustainable housing policy should be based on compatibility of three major aspects: environment, economy and social equality. For the purpose of the development of sustainable housing policy, he suggested the division of authority into national, local (regional) and community level. He also emphasized the importance of interconnection of all these authorities for the purpose of implementation of housing policy measures as the housing policy requires a holistic approach, which is supposed to include cross-sectoral issues. He asserted that global goals would help defining the local ones, and that they should be ambitious.

As the most important guidelines of urban development, **Brian Evans** emphasized the following: demography, automation, urban concentration and new urban paradigm, which were characterized by the development from the industrial to the knowledge city (smart city). In his speech, Bryan Evans presented the development of the New Moscow Project, as the new urban area was planned to be constructed in the city. This ambitious design should at the same time enable the reconstruction of Moscow.

Regina Khanbekova presented the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, including goals, coverage and principles of the Charter and emphasized the fact that this document was not legally binding. It represented a solid platform for spreading information on sustainable housing principles, providing advisory services, interconnection, developing capacities, conducting the studies, research, gathering and exchange of information. She mentioned the establishing of national centers for implementation of the Charter in Albania, Estonia and Great Britain as one of activities realized in the first place.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE DAY I

Tatiana Khabarova drew the following conclusions of the first day of the workshop:

1. This regional workshop was of a great importance as it gathered national representatives of all countries project-beneficiaries for the first time;
2. Furthermore, the workshop was also significant due to participation of national coordinators from the countries which proceeded to the second phase of the Project, thanks to the exchange of experience and to the connection among the countries being close to their goal and those starting the activities in the next phase of UNDA project;

3. Based on the presentations and discussions, the necessity of the support to the participating countries became obvious;
4. National Action Plans must include adequate contexts in the process of finding the appropriate solutions, since each of the countries had different historical heritage and developmental conditions;
5. It is important to monitor trends in urban development, and to propose solutions in compliance with those;
6. It is necessary to apply comprehensive holistic approach to the process of defining and implementation of the activities;
7. Widespread participation of all the actors is of a great importance, starting from the administration, business, local self-government, academy and citizens;
8. It is very significant to properly define priorities in the national action documents.

DAY II [1 February 2017]

Day 2 of the Workshop was devoted to the case study on the launch, implementation and monitoring of the NAP of the Republic of Serbia. Representatives of the MCTI presented the process of implementation of the Law on Housing and Buildings Maintenance which entered into force on 1 January 2017 and upcoming activities on the preparation of a number of important strategic documents in 2017, including the National Housing Strategy, Strategy of Energy Efficiency in the Construction Sector, Policy of Integrated Urban Development and Architectural Policy.

Session 1: INTRODUCTION

Svetlana Ristić, Head of the Section of Housing and Architectural Policy and Public Utilities of the MCTI opened the introductory session on the second day. She emphasized the fact that in the course of the implementation of UNDA Project, two main achievements could be recognized as the greatest progress in the area of sustainable housing and urban development: adoption of the new Law on Housing and Buildings Maintenance and preparation of the National report for Habitat III Conference. The above-mentioned law represented a general legal framework for housing, which had not been fundamentally changed since the pre-transitional period, 1992.

Opening of the second day was continued by **Remy Sietchiping** who reminded that the New Urban Agenda issued in 2016 pays a particular attention to sustainable housing. He also emphasized that for the purpose of achieving higher sustainability of housing and urban development, UN-Habitat would facilitate the implementation of national action plans for improvement in this area.

Session 2-3: IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE SERBIAN NAP IN THE AREA OF SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

Starting the session dedicated to the case study of Serbian NAP and presentation of the Law on Housing and Buildings Maintenance, **Svetlana Ristić** stated that the UNDA Project greatly facilitated the realization of this legal activity, firstly through the broad discussion on starting points of preparation of the law, and then through involving the participants into the discussion on urban development issues and also through initiation of the exchange of experience on housing policies with other countries. Ristić further continued by briefly presenting the legal solutions and their implementation that engendered discussion on particular issues.

Klara Danilović, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM) presented the solutions from the Law on Housing and Buildings Maintenance, particularly the Law referring to management and maintenance part. She asserted that back in 2011, SCTM organized discussions and workshops on the issues related to the improvement of management and maintenance of buildings, which resulted in issuing the action plan for improvement of this sector in 2013 that was adopted by the SCTM Assembly. During her speech, Klara Danilović particularly emphasized the importance of the local self-government authorities in law enforcement, and informed the attendants about the support that SCTM would offer in the process of preparation of subordinate legislations that are already in progress, as well as in the process of law enforcement, which imposed numerous and serious responsibilities on the local self-government units.

During the second part of the session, the Assistant to Minister, **Jovanka Atanacković** addressed the audience by pointing out activities on the issuing of subordinate legislations arising from the Law on Housing and Buildings Maintenance, as well as of the importance of the Rulebook and instructions for the Law enforcement, particularly emphasizing the area of dealing with management and maintenance of buildings. She highlighted that the Ministry would provide all necessary help to local self-governments, as well as to citizens and other actors applying the Law, which is a very consistent resolution, since the Law referred to every citizen. To this end, the preparation of the "Law in Pictures" was ongoing, in order to introduce it to both the citizens and the competent public administration bodies implementing the Law become as familiar with it as possible. Also, for the purpose of facilitating access to information related to the implementation of the Law, a special website "Housing" was going to be set up within the official website of the Ministry, containing all the acts and other documents

necessary for the Law enforcement, as well as the interactive part dedicated to the communication with interested parties, and to a questions and answers section.

Nebojša Antešević, MCTI, presented the coverage and the goals of the new Law on Housing and Buildings Maintenance, which would contribute to solving numerous already existing problems in the housing sector. Therefore, the sustainable housing development was addressed by the new Law as public interest, accordingly defined as the building maintenance sector. He explained minor (terminological) changes of the solutions offered in the new Law, which represented the continuity in comparison to the previous rules which regulated these issues. He paid special attention to the new legal solutions, such as establishing the Registry of housing communities and the central records base set up by using electronic exchange of data between relevant authorities; the possibility of appointing a professional manager; as well as the rules issued by the owners unanimously, which can define the relations in a way that different from the statutory one.

Dalibor Joknić, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, presented an overview of the competence of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to develop the registry of professional managers as well as the licensing system. He also stated the ongoing cooperation between the Chamber and MCTI on preparations of bylaws regulating examination program, licensing conditions and the content of the registry. Joknić stated that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia has already initiated organizational activities aiming to exercise designated statutory jurisdiction as soon as the bylaw enter into force.

After the presentations a discussion on how numerous problems in the housing sector are expected to be gradually solved via the provisions of the new Law on Housing and Buildings Maintenance was engaged. As a conclusion, it was decided that MCTI needs to take additional measures on promotion and to provide broader cooperation of all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure full implementation of the Law given that it actually concerns every citizen.

Session 4: IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE SERBIAN NAP IN THE AREA OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Assistant to Minister for spatial and urban planning **Djordje Milić** opened the session related to the sustainable urban development and stated that the Spatial Plan for the Republic of Serbia (SPRS) represented a strategic framework for spatial and planning treatment of sustainability in the Republic of Serbia. The instrument for realization of the SPRS is the Implementation Program, the execution of which had been monitored through the annual reports on the program implementation based on the indicators system. This 2016 Report was discussed and adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. He also emphasized the absence of a clear division between strategic and regulation plans, as well as the fact that the general urban plans were actually strategic plans for city development. Through the defined goals and principles including all aspects of sustainability, SPRS represented the broadest framework of the sustainable development in the Republic of Serbia, with the realization based on a solid horizontal and vertical coordination between the participants in the process of program implementation. He announced the development of the National Policy of Integrated Urban Development within the land management project, implemented in cooperation with GIZ expected to be adopted during the first half of 2018.

Drawing on the previous presentation, **Tijana Živanović** from the MCTI presented the National Report for HABITAT III Conference, which included all relevant areas of directing and monitoring of urban development. The report showed: negative demographic tendencies (population aging, depopulation, refugees, unemployment); numerous challenges for sustainable land management and spatial and urban planning (updated plans coverage, strict observance of sustainability principles, more efficient land use, dealing with illegal construction); improving risk management; reducing traffic concentration in the cities by constructing by-passes; strengthening local self-government capacity; increasing efficiency and local funding transparency by introducing a program budget; strengthening technical capacities at all levels, as well as transition from CAD to GIS technologies; increasing participation in the process of planning; reduction of grey economy and increasing chances for new employment; improvement of substandard settlements and increasing access to adequate housing; increasing the renewable energy sources and sustainable transport systems.

Following the previous presentations, **Siniša Trkulja** from the MCTI emphasized the effects that the New Urban Agenda had on national urban development policies. He gave a presentation of new Sustainable Development Goals, particularly emphasizing the goal 11, which mostly referred to the issues being discussed in the workshop.

He stated that the New Urban Agenda envisioned quadrennial reports, at the same time pointing out other relevant documents, such as International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Services for All, International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, the European Union Urban Agenda (including migration management), Culture Urban Future (UNESCO), Roadmap for Localizing the SDGs: Implementation and Monitoring at Subnational Level, Global Agenda Council on the Future of Cities (including urban innovations). According to Trkulja, the forthcoming update of the Spatial Plan for the Republic of Serbia planned in the next three years is a great opportunity to comply this document with the New Urban Agenda. Development of National Policy of Integrated Urban Development and the preparation of the new law on planning system was seen as particularly significant activities that would reflect on the urban development.

Božana Lukić from the MCTI presented the starting points for the development of architectural policy in Serbia, as well as the development of the architectural policies in European countries. She pointed out the Guidelines on the future architectural policy of the Architects' Council of Europe, which nowadays considered the following as the most important aspects of the architectural policy development: energy efficiency, urban regeneration, public procurements based on quality, cultural development and education, mobility and legal regulation of the profession. In compliance with these guidelines, some of the goals of architectural policy in Serbia would be valorization of architectural values, protection of architectural heritage, recognition of the role of architecture in economic development, energy efficiency and sustainable development through architecture, improving quality of planning and project documentation and construction quality control system, improving the system of education, status of architects and raising awareness on the effect that architecture had on the quality of life. She also mentioned all the major participants, who would take part in the strategy development of architectural policy.

Continuing upon the previous presentation, prof. **Aleksandar Keković** from the University of Niš paid special attention to education, status and position of an architect in the development of architectural policy. Although the architecture is "a renascent discipline" according to his words, and the process of compliance with the EU legislation offered a great opportunity for more favorable regulation of the profession of architect. The importance, status and position of architects in Serbia were not properly recognized and regulated before. He emphasized numerous problems, such as excessive number of graduated architects, which did not comply with the market demands, absence of rules for regulating the most important issues related to professional qualifications and activities, as well as the broader understanding of the importance of architects in the society. Hence, the development of architectural policy should be particularly dedicated to the improvement of the educational system and the status of architects in Serbia.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE DAY II

Svetlana Ristić drew the following conclusions of the second day of the workshop:

1. UNDA Project contributed to the successful implementation of the activities on the development of housing legislation and preparation of starting points for the development of strategic documents for sustainable urban development;
2. Within the activities conducted in the process of preparation of subordinate regulations for implementation of the Law on Housing and Buildings Maintenance, the MCTI would, along with subordinate regulations, prepare the instructions and guidelines for law-enforcement; it would also use other ways to improve providing information to professional and general public on the process of implementation of this law, which was in the interest of all citizens;
3. Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM) would provide support to the MCTI in the process of development of subordinate regulations, as well as in improving capacities of the local self-government units in the process of Law enforcement, by organizing workshops and training for local administration, as well as preparation of adequate publications;
4. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia was also seen as a reliable partner to the MCTI, since it had all required capacities for the enforcement of a part of the Law related to the regulation of professional manager licensing;
5. The Ministry made effort to prepare the adequate strategic framework that would provide the basis for high quality planning and construction of cities in Serbia, and would direct the urban development to greater

sustainability;

6. It would be necessary to define activities and to provide resources for development of professional capacities at all levels for the purpose of preparation and implementation of strategic documents for both integral urban development policy and architectural policy;
7. Development of legal and strategic framework in the area of sustainable housing, urban development and land management should be directed towards increasing of economic activities and improving the quality of life of people in Serbia;
8. It would be important to actively participate in international initiatives and activities undertaken for the purpose of achieving Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 11, which mostly referred to the area of jurisdiction of the MCTI.

DAY III [2 February 2017]

Day 2 of the Workshop was devoted to interactive session aimed at discussing the participants' achievements and challenges in the implementation and monitoring of the NAPs and the next steps in the realization of the project. During this session, international experts have provided feedback on the implementation and monitoring of NAPs in the countries-participants, and divided in two working groups led discussions with national consultants drawing conclusions.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE NATIONAL COORDINATORS OF THE UNDA 10TH TRANCHE: "Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in selected countries with economies in transition: Challenges in the field of sustainable housing and urban planning and expectations towards the project"

After a short introductory speech, the first presentation of the third day was made by **Tolobai Keneshov**, State Design Institute of Urban Planning and Architecture of the Kyrgyz Republic. In the context of presenting basic information about the country, Keneshov drew everybody's attention to the fact that the population is of the younger age and noted that is the matter concerns a highly unstable geographical area that requires improvement of antiseismic regulations in construction. Since the larger cities are old over 3000 years, application of antiseismic standards on cultural heritage sites which have become obsolete is a very demanding task. It is also necessary to rebuild housing stock and municipal infrastructure, as well as to increase housing area per capita (from the current 12 to an average of 18m²/capita), and also to improve the newer housing stock in terms of antiseismic standards. Challenges exist also in the sphere of attraction of market and non-market investments in housing construction, as well as in the management of the existing housing stock.

Marsida Grami, Head of IPA projects and Other Donors Unit in the Ministry of Urban Development of the Republic of Albania, presented the Social Housing Strategy of the Republic of Albania for the period 2016-2025. It is estimated that this strategy should include about 25,000 households with lower and middle incomes. Supported by the UNDP, currently implementing is a pilot project of reconstruction of housing area and regularization of informal settlements for the area of Skadar, after which the project can be applied in other areas of the country. Due to the small public budgets, the project should develop funding models through private-public partnership. Grami also stated that the National Spatial Plan for the period 2015-2030 was adopted, as well as two sectoral strategic (integrated) plans for the coastal area and the economic area of Tirana-Durres. She pointed out the fact that there has been a shift of administrative division of the country: the 373 municipalities were unified in 61 local units of government, she also mentioned the ongoing implementation of the "acupuncture" urban renewal projects and a number of projects supported by international donors (USAID and SDC).

GROUP WORK

Divided in two groups – one consisting representatives of Moldova, Tajikistan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan and coordinated by Irina Ilyina and Oleg Golubchikov, and the other consisting of representatives of Albania and Serbia and coordinated by Brian Evans and Remy Sietchiping – the participants discussed the issues of NAP finalization, exercising implementation, monitoring and content flexibility. Participating countries presented their views on these issues, on the basis of which international experts drew the appropriate conclusions.

Questions for discussions included:

1. *Finalization of the draft document*
 - a. *What is the most suitable timeframe (short-term/mid-term) for the implementation of the NAPs?*
 - b. *How to ensure the financial feasibility of the activities; how to mitigate the risk of underfinancing; how to better engage international organizations into the process (donors and financial institutions)?*

- c. *How to ensure the stakeholders' (local governments, civil society, private sector, academia, design institutions) ownership (shared vision and targets)?*
 - d. *Should it be a multistage or one stage approach?*
 - e. *How do we ensure prioritization of the objectives?*
2. *The main problem in the countries in transition is not availability and approval of the documents but the ability of their implementation. It could be considered as a risk that impeccable strategic documents in course of elaboration might not be implemented after the approval. How to ensure the implementability of the document? Which concrete measures could you undertake to avoid these risks?*
 3. *In the most NAPs one can only see indicators measuring the final results. How to set up the monitoring system focused on results rather than process? How to monitor intermediate results?*
 4. *How to make the NAP more adaptable to the changes in the context and external factors? Do you admit that the document could be adjusted or re-approved if the context changes?*
 - 5.

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

A wrapping-up with the conclusions and the bringing into compliance the next steps of the Project followed the group work.

Brian Evans stated that there are similarities and differences in the cases of Albania and Serbia, and that the implementation can be ensured through a spatial plan, which implies establishing of a system of monitoring. He stressed the need for continuity in the implementation of the NAP and of the possibility of changes in priorities due to the elections and likely political changes. Evans believes that the NAP objectives should be linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Irina Ilyina stated that the deadline for implementation by 2025 is proposed by the country and further divided into stages, the first stage includes more concrete measures with numerical parameters. Ilyina considers that it is necessary to activate the cooperation with international donors for the co-financing of the NAP implementation, but first to define the objectives and measures per stages and that the NAP needs to be reviewed with the local city planners, donors, business sector, citizens and other stakeholders before the adoption. The NAP objectives should be connected with broader strategic plans and the priority actions to get along with the current activities of the competent authority. A system of indicators should be developed based on the available data collected and processed by the official statistics. The NAP should be independent of political changes, while the approval of a NAP at the national level may also be in the form of recommendations, but it must be widely recognized.

Oleg Golubchikov also pointed to the risks of political changes, as well as changes in the budgets, stating that the vision of the NAP does not need to be changed, while the priorities should be linked to the implementation of specific programmes. He also insisted on the need for allocation of responsibilities between the specific executors.

Regina Khanbekova closed the workshop by presenting a set of next steps of the implementation of the UNDA Project, such as a questionnaire on best practice to be forwarded to all the countries participating in the UNDA 9th and 10th Tranche, and a regional meeting in Kishinev (Chisinau) in Moldova in September 2017.

APPENDIX 1.

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APPENDIX 2.

Full list of attendance

No.	Name	Affiliation
1	Vanja Rakidžić	MHA Pančevo
2	Živojin Djurić	MHA Pančevo
3	Dejana Djordjević	Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
4	Milka Djuka	Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
5	Sonja Rakić	Republic Geodetic Authority
6	Danka Garić	Republic Geodetic Authority
7	Vesna Protulipac	Republic Geodetic Authority
8	Slobodanka Radojko	Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy of the Republic of Serbia
9	Predrag Kovačević	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia
10	Sonja Ristić	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia
11	HE Ambassador Dragan Županjevac	Ambassador of the Government of Serbia to Nairobi, Kenya
12	Thibaut Nguyen	UN-Habitat
13	Stanislava Filipović	Housing Center, Belgrade, Serbia
14	Miša Obradović	Housing Center, Belgrade, Serbia
15	Branislava Žarković	Housing Center, Belgrade, Serbia
16	Jasmina Ilić	UNOPS Serbia
17	Snežana Ostojić-Paunović	UNDP Serbia
18	Žaklina Gligorijević	Urban Planning Institute of Belgrade, Serbia
19	Marija Maruna	University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture
20	Branislav Antić	University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture
21	Ratka Čolić	GIZ/Ambero, Belgrade
22	Andrej Dimitrijević	REC, Country Office Serbia
23	Srna Sudar	REC, Country Office Serbia
24	Zoran Radosavljević	Serbian Spatial Planners Association (APPS)
25	Boris Žerjav	OSCE Serbia
26	Predrag Nikolić	OSCE Serbia
27	Denis Jukić	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia
28	Zoran Milićević	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia
29	Nina Malinovski	Association “Kućepazitelj”, Belgrade, Serbia
30	Borislav Stojkov	PALGO Center, Belgrade, Serbia
31	Goran Blagojević	The City of Belgrade

32	Rastko Andrić	Belgrade Municipality of Vračar
33	Zorica Simeunović	Belgrade Municipality of Vračar
34	Dragana Simić	Belgrade Municipality of Vračar
35	Svetlana Denda	Belgrade Municipality of New Belgrade
36	Neda Kažić	Belgrade Municipality of Savski venac
37	Nada Madić	Belgrade Municipality of Savski venac
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46	Mirjana Popović	Belgrade Municipality of Zemun
47	Saša Stojanović	Belgrade Municipality of Zemun
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49	Julijana Nedeljković	Belgrade Municipality of Lazarevac
50	Mirela Pajić	Belgrade Municipality of Mladenovac
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52	Stana Mladenović	Belgrade Municipality of Barajevo
53	Verica Mišević	City Administration of Subotica
54	Tamara Šebešćen	City Administration of Subotica
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56	Jelena Jovanović	Municipal Administration of Lajkovac
57	Tot Vilmoš	Municipal Administration of Kanjiža
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59	Delfina Karadarević	City Administration of Šabac
60	Branislava Baljošević	City Administration of Novi Sad
61	Siniša Nikolić	City Administration of Novi Sad
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66	Vera Andjelković	City Administration of Kruševac
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68	Milan Stojkov	City Administration of Sombor

69	Nataša Ivanović	Municipal Administration of Lapovo
70	Ružica Jelić	MHA Kragujevac
71	Marko Drašković	MHA Kragujevac
72	Bojan Stojadinović	MHA Kragujevac
73	Olivera Bošković	MHA Kragujevac
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