Importance of Spatial Data Infrastructure in the UNECE Region

Amie Figueiredo
INSPIRE Conference 2016
Barcelona, 26 September 2016
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

56 member States in Europe, Central Asia and North America

An intergovernmental platform for policy dialogue and exchange of best practices
UNECE established because, as stated in resolution number 1 at the 6th session in 1951, “constructive economic cooperation was essential to the maintenance of peace”
Challenges

In the UNECE region are:

– sustainable land administration and land use,
– access to land and security of tenure,
– improved spatial planning policies,
– better urban environmental performance
– and strengthening social cohesion in cities.

The Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Working Party on Land Administration are the UNECE intergovernmental bodies that have a mandate to compile, disseminate and exchange information and experiences on housing, urban development and land administration policies.
Mandate
To improve housing, urban sustainability and land governance
1. Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets
2. Smart and Sustainable Urban Development
3. Land Administration and Management
4. Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management

Areas of Work
Housing and Land Management

- Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing
- Best practices and standards on energy efficiency in buildings
- Tools for sustainable urban development and land management
- Smart city indicators and smart city profiles
UNECE and the SDGs
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

“UNECE’s achievements have made it a go-to source for improving global public goods and services, with more than 100 countries beyond the UNECE region benefiting from its work”.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11.1</th>
<th>By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</th>
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<td>11.2</td>
<td>By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons</td>
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<td>11.3</td>
<td>By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries</td>
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<td>11.4</td>
<td>Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage</td>
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<td>11.5</td>
<td>By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations</td>
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Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

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<td>11.6</td>
<td>By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management</td>
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<td>11.7</td>
<td>By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities</td>
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<td>11.a</td>
<td>Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, per-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning</td>
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<td>11.b</td>
<td>By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels</td>
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<td>11.c</td>
<td>Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials</td>
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Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

Improve sustainability of housing in the ECE region through effective policies and actions supported by international cooperation

The charter is based on four key principles:
1. Environmental Protection
2. Economic Effectiveness
3. Social inclusion and participation
4. Cultural adequacy
Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing
To ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all

• Promote the use of spatial, cadastral and land registration information and services to create an environment conducive to investment in housing and the security of land and housing tenure;
• Promote integrated spatial planning which supports: the efficient spatial distribution of economic activities; the improvement of technical and social infrastructure; urban regeneration and integrated urban renewal, affordable housing; and addressing urban sprawl;
• Support good governance at all levels, cooperation between relevant government agencies within countries, effective public participation in decision-making, and the rule of law in housing;
• Develop and implement capacity-building programmes on housing, urban planning and land management issues for all stakeholders;
• Intensify the regional and international exchange of experience and cooperation in housing, urban planning and land management.
National Action Plans for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development

- Based on country profiles’ policy recommendations
- Implementation overseen by a high-level interministerial steering committees
- Implementation by national experts in cooperation with the UNECE, UNDP, other international organisations and experts
- Donor coordination mechanism
- Supported by capacity building activities
Activities of the Task Group on Urban Planning

Spatial Planning Key Instrument for Development and Effective Governance, 2008

Providing guidance to improve spatial planning systems in the UNECE Region, especially in countries in transition considering:

- **Principles** of spatial planning (6 principles)
- Roles and responsibilities (allocation of competences)
- **Components** of spatial planning systems (tools, directives, enforcement, spatial strategies and environmental assessment)
- **Recommendations** for stronger and more effective systems (encouraging debate, legal frameworks, guidance and guidelines for spatial planning)
Main Objectives:

- Promote **KNOWLEDGE** and **BEST PRACTICES TRANSFER** on sustainable urban development
- Help national and local authorities to develop **POLICIES** on sustainable urban development
- Establish partnerships and **COOPERATION** among stakeholders
- Extend the concept of smart cities to **LOW- and MEDIUM INCOME** economies
- Identify and develop smart **FINANCING MECHANISMS**
- Improve the inhabitants’ **QUALITY OF LIFE**
- Raising **AWARENESS**
2. Methodology

- Pilot cities

Phase 1

Phase 2

- City assessment

Phase 3

- Implementation of recommendations

Phase 4

- Monitoring
- Benchmarking

Capacity building: training, workshops, meetings and events

Indicators

Smart sustainable city profiles

City action plan

Online platform

Smart and Sustainable Urban Development
United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III)
Quito, Ecuador, 17 – 20 October 2016
Towards a City-Focused, People-Centred and Integrated Approach to the New Urban Agenda

- GA res. 66/207 in 2011, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the Habitat III Conference in line with bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016),

- GA Res. 67/216 in 2012, decided the objective of the conference:
  > To secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development
  > To assess HA accomplishments to date, addressing poverty
  > To identify and address new and emerging challenges.

- GA Res. 69/226 in 2014, decided that the Conference will be held in Quito in October 2016.
UNECE coordinates the preparation of a regional report for ECE region and supports the implementation of a regional roadmap for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - HABITAT III.

**HABITAT III Regional Roadmap milestones:**

- **First Expert Group Meeting on Regional Report, 29 May 2015, Milano, Italy**
- **Second Expert Group Meeting on Regional Report, September 2015, Geneva, Switzerland**
- **European Regional Meeting for Habitat III, 18-20 March 2016, Prague, Czech Republic**
- **Conference "Reviewing the State of World Cities" – towards Habitat III, 7-8 July, 2016, Geneva, Switzerland**
- **HABITAT III Third PrepCom, 25-27 July 2016, Surabaya, Indonesia**
- **HABITAT III Conference, 17-20 October 2016, Quito, Ecuador**

- **76th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management, 14-15 December 2015, Geneva, Switzerland**
- **77th session of the Committee Housing and Land Management, 12 – 15 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland**
Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA)

- improve Land Administration and Management through activities based on cooperation and the exchange of experiences between all countries in the region.

- promotes the establishment of secure tenure, the improvement and creation of more effective land registries and the use of sustainable land use policies.

- upgrade spatial data infrastructure, transparency in conveyancing and the application of cost recovery mechanisms in cadastre and registration services.
Studies

- Challenges of Fraud to Land Administration Institutions (2011)
- Informal settlements (2015)
Real Estate Market Advisory Group

- In the context of the current world economic crisis, improved land administration implies a good understanding of regulatory institutions that underpin the well-functioning of the economy.
- There is an obvious need for improved regulation of both the real estate and financial markets.

Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets
- This Framework includes guidelines on the characteristics that real estate markets and credit system should have, including the setting of standards for increased informational transparency on real estate valuation, limitations on the use of complex financial tools, better capital risk allocation models, and policies and actions to sustain investors’ confidence and increase citizens’ trust.
- The REM is working on updating the Policy Framework in 2017.
Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management

- On request of countries
- Prepared by international experts in cooperation with a government and national UNDP offices
- Include analysis and policy recommendations

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Country Profiles

2015 • Republic of Moldova (2nd), Uzbekistan
2013 • Ukraine
2011 • Tajikistan
2010 • Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan
2008 • Belarus
2007 • Georgia
2006 • Serbia and Montenegro
2004 • Armenia, Russian Federation
2002 • Albania, Republic of Moldova
2001 • Romania
2000 • Lithuania
1999 • Slovakia
1998 • Poland
1997 • Bulgaria
Regionalisation of International Guidelines

The International Urban and Territorial Planning Guidelines provide national governments, local authorities, civil society organizations and planning professionals with a global reference framework that promotes more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories.
Regionalisation of International Guidelines

- In the UNECE region, the challenges are different. There is a special need in assistance in countries in transition economies with the history of planned economies.

- The UNECE and UN-Habitat organised a joint workshop in Minsk in April 2016 where discussed adapting the Guidelines to the context of countries with economies in transition in the UNECE region. The workshop recommended elaborating a joint UNECE-UN-Habitat programme on capacity building for urban planners in countries with transition economies in the UNECE region based on the Guidelines.

- The UNECE CHLM also organized in Geneva in April 2016 jointly with secretariats of the Industrial Accidents Convention and of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention); and the European Investment Bank a workshop on land use planning and hazardous wastes. Cooperation with other divisions at UNECE will be established to support the joint capacity building programme.
Regionalisation of International Guidelines

• A proposal for a joint capacity-building programme on urban planning with UN-Habitat and other relevant organizations was endorsed by the UNECE CHLM in September 2016.

• The joint capacity building will include trainings, pilot projects, advisory services to promote sustainable urban development, especially in countries with transition economies. Pilot projects are being prepared jointly with national governments and municipalities in Belarus and Kyrgyzstan.

• The programme will also support the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the UNECE Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE region for the period 2014-2020.
Spatial information in Lithuania

- Statistics Division has a project on data integration with integrating geospatial data with data from other sources.
- Cooperation between Statistics Lithuania and the state enterprise geographic information system centres, the development and benefits of the geographic information services provided by the portals, and integration of geographic data with other data.
UN-GGIM

- UN Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
- Committee of Experts tasked with streamlining the work of the four current subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC in the field of geospatial information management. Establishment of a strong and operational regional infrastructure, composed of the five regional technical geospatial information committees that report to the Committee of Experts, recognize and encapsulate the importance of strengthening coordination, capacity building and coherence of global geospatial information management, especially in developing countries.
- Two members of the WPLA are part of the Land Administration Expert working group.
- http://un-ggim-europe.org/
Cooperation with international organizations

- Permanent Committee on Cadastre for the European Union (PCC)
- Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE)
- EuroGeographics
- European Land Information Service (EULIS)
- European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information (EUROGI)
- International Federation of Surveyors (FIG),
- European Land Registry Network (ELRA)
- International Property Registries Association (IPRA-CINDER)
Planned events 2016

- Seminar “Long Term Sustainable Value: approaches for valuation of properties for lending purposes”, Bonn, 13 October 2016
- Side events in Quito, 17-22 October 2016
- National workshops in Serbia, Armenia and Republic of Moldova – October to December 2016
- Smart Sustainable Cities Financing forum Liechtenstein, Ruggell, Liechtenstein, 7 - 8 November 2016
- Discovery Day 2016: SDI in support of good land governance, Rome, 28 November 2016
Thank you for your attention!

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