Towards smart sustainable cities in the UNECE region

Domenica Carriero
Housing and Land Management Unit
Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE
UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management

Members:
56 countries in Europe, Central Asia and North America

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
Urbanization in UNECE region

Statistics
• 1/5 of global population
• 73% urban residents (85% in 2050)
• 45% of the world’s GDP
• 66% of global fresh water
• 45% of energy consumption
• 40% of GHG emissions

Main challenges
• High energy consumption
• High quantities GHG emissions
• Overpopulation and critical living conditions for citizens
• Informal settlements
• Conversion of land and green spaces into constructions and buildings
• Mobility problems and lack of infrastructures and services
• Housing issues
Smart city: definition

- Many existing definitions
- UNECE/ITU definition combines the «smartness» and the sustainability of a city
- Framed in the SDG 11

“A smart sustainable city is an innovative city that uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social and environmental aspects as well as cultural.”

[UNECE/ITU]
Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

**Main purpose:** to ensure the access to decent, affordable and healthy housing for all

**Scope:** to improve the sustainability of housing in the ECE region through effective policies and actions at all levels, supported by international cooperation

UNECE endorsed the Geneva UN Charter in **April 2015**
United Smart Cities

IDENTITY CARD

- What: project
- When: 2014-2020
- Why: survey «Challenges and Priorities in the ECE region»
- Who: UNECE with partners
United Smart Cities - activities

Activity 1
- Methodology
- Pilot cities

Activity 2
- City assessment

Activity 3
- Implementation of the recommendations

Activity 4
- Monitoring
- Benchmarking

Activity 5
Capacity building

Outputs
- Standards
- Smart sustainable city profiles
- City action plan
- Online platform

Stakeholders’ training, workshops, meetings and events

Standards

Smart sustainable city profiles

City action plan

Online platform

Stakeholders’ training, workshops, meetings and events
United Smart Cities: objectives

**WHAT**

- Raise awareness/educate to the **PROCESS** of becoming smarter and more sustainable
- Promote **KNOWLEDGE** and **GOOD PRACTICES** **TRANSFER** on sustainable urban development
- Improve the inhabitants’ **QUALITY OF LIFE**

**HOW**

- Help national and local authorities to develop **POLICIES** on sustainable urban development
- Identify and develop smart **FINANCING MECHANISMS**
- Establish **COOPERATION** and **PARTNERSHIPS**
- Capacity building
Output 1: KPIs for smart sustainable cities to assess the achievement of SDGs (TD 1465 Rev.2)

Developed by a consortium of organizations—framework: ITU-T SG5

Base: the UNECE/ITU Smart Sustainable Cities Indicators endorsed by the Committee on Housing and Land Management on 15 December 2015 (ECE/HBP/2015/4)

Approach
3 main areas
19 topics
92 indicators (core & additional)
Urban indicators: benefits

Helpful tool to:
• set priorities
• measure changes
• evaluate the current status of a city
• serve as a starting point for action

Alignment with the SDGs and their indicators
Sources

- More than 25 worldwide initiatives
- Available statistical data (EUROSTAT, Urban Audit, World-Bank, WHO, FAO etc.)
- Thematic maps (likelihood of drought, earthquakes, flooding, precipitations)
- Other (perception surveys, check lists, expert judgement etc.)
- ITU Focus Group on smart sustainable cities
UNECE-ITU Smart Sustainable City Indicators: Milestones for the adoption

- 2013: survey “Challenges and priorities for the UNECE region”
- 2013: 74th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM) - smart cities as one of the main priorities for member States
- 2014: Analysis of the sources and development of the draft list of indicators
- 2014: 75th session of the CHLM - smart cities enters the program of work of UNECE with the project “United Smart Cities” and indicators become a priority
- 2015: Draft indicators tested in the pilot city of Goris, Armenia for feasibility
- 2015, 4 and 5 June: Workshop and Committee Bureau meeting, Rakvere, Estonia – starting point of the inter-governmental dialog
- 2015, 30 June: Cities workshop, Vienna, Austria – input from cities
- 2015, June: negotiations with ITU to merge ITU and UNECE indicators
- 2015, July: draft sent to the member States for comments
- 2015, 14-15 December: 76th session of the CHLM – indicators endorsed
- 2016, March: proposal to the ITU-T SG5 for a draft Recommendation (standard)
- 2016, 20-27 April: ITU-SG5 meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – discussion of KPIs and approval with revisions

- Long process – dialogue and negotiations (experts, countries, cities, organizations, etc.)
- One-UN approach
Upcoming events in 2016

Upcoming Scheduled events


- June, 2, Berlin, «Metropolitan solutions»


- September 13-14, Geneva, 77th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management
1. Report for the ECE region “Towards a city-focused, people-centred and integrated approach to the new urban agenda”
   - Three expert consultations with more than 40 experts
     - 29 May 2015 in Milan, Italy;
     - 8 July 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland;
     - 21 September 2015 in Brussels, Belgium

2. Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing
   - Negotiated by 56 ECE member States (2010 – 2015)
   - Approved by UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management on 15 October 2014
   - Endorsed by ECE on 16 April 2015 and forwarded to HABITAT III
Thank you for your attention!

Domenica Carriero
Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE
Email: domenica.carriero@unece.org
Tel.: +41 (0) 22 917 16 72
Website: www.unece.org/housing