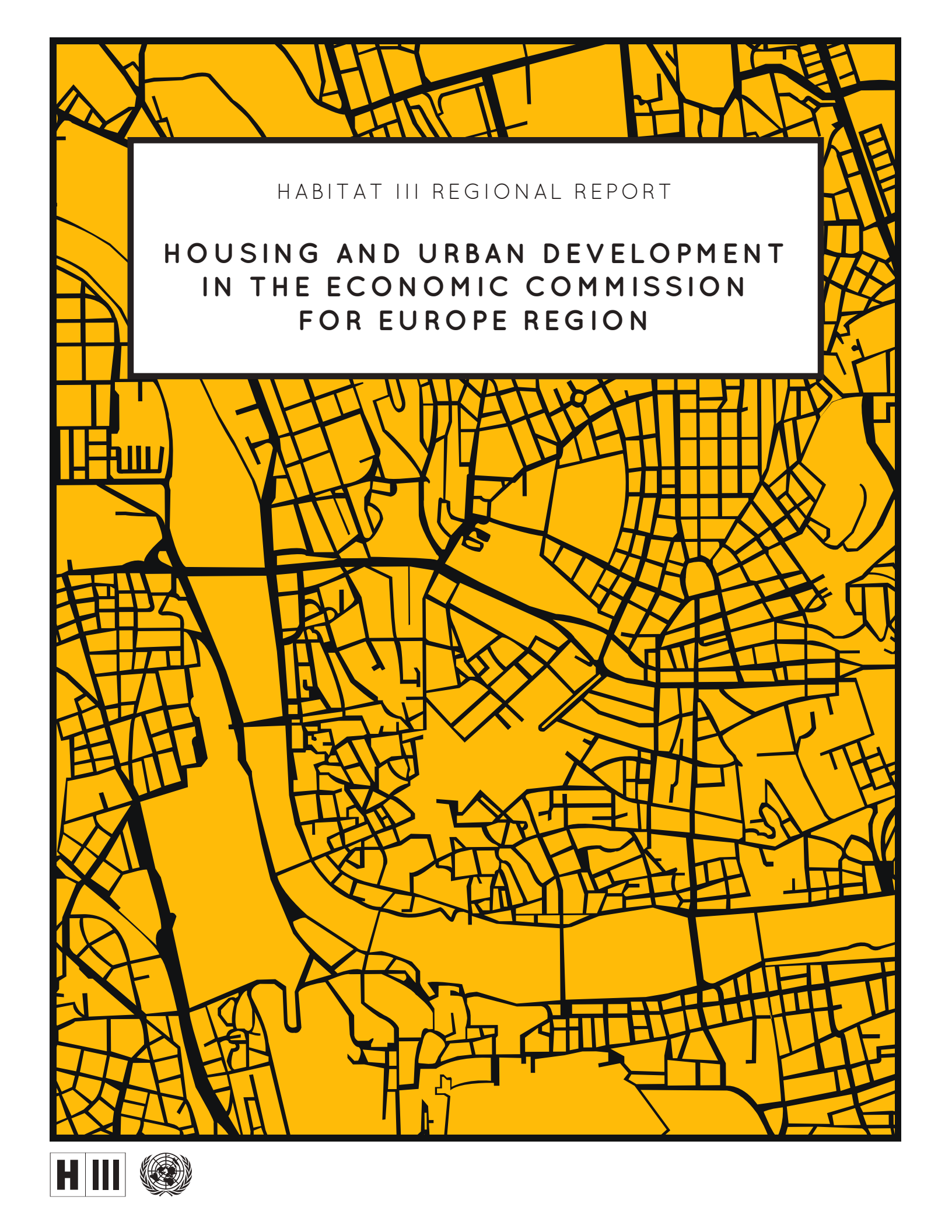




HABITAT III REGIONAL REPORT

**HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
IN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE REGION**



HABITAT III
REGIONAL REPORT
**EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA
AND COMMONWEALTH OF
INDEPENDENT STATES**

Towards a City-Focused,
People-Centred and
Integrated Approach to the
New Urban Agenda

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Foreword

Recognition that sustainable development needs to be the central pillar of urbanization has become a clear and present concern of stakeholders in the 20 years since the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). In the region covered by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), with its 56 member States, the importance of sustainable urban development and the role of cities is now central to public, political, business, and scientific debates. This regional report to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) will not only contribute to the debate among all stakeholders in the region but also inform the New Urban Agenda and the negotiations on the outcome document of Habitat III that will take place in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

This analysis of urban development in the large and diverse region of ECE, together with the Conference conclusions, will serve a wide range of stakeholders in their efforts to improve the quality of urban development and to enable a more sustainable development in their cities and communities. It addresses a wide variety of issues that have a strong regional interconnected urban dimension – from urban structure, the environment and climate change, to job creation, affordable housing,

and equality. Sustainable urban development can be achieved through regional and subregional frameworks which guide the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete actions at the national and subnational levels.

The programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations will continue to work in close partnership to advance the findings of this report in implementing the transformative Agenda 2030 and the outcome of Habitat III. We will strengthen joint efforts to promote existing instruments, like the *Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing* to make housing safer, more affordable, resilient, and available while encouraging investment and growth; or the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning* that provides national governments, local authorities, civil society organizations, and planning professionals with a global reference framework promoting more compact, socially inclusive, and better integrated and connected cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development. Together, we will support policies and actions — and encourage international cooperation at all levels — to serve the Member States, their cities, and all stakeholders in their quest for sustainable urban development.



Dr. Joan Clos

Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)



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This report covers the European Economic Commission region as defined by the United Nations.*

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* http://www.unece.org/oes/member_countries/member_countries.html

Contents

FOREWORD	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
CONTENTS	v
ACRONYMS	ix
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
I. INTRODUCTION: ABOUT THE REGION.....	4
A. Geographical coverage of this report.....	5
B. The subregions	5
II. URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT: TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF URBANIZATION.....	8
A. The process of urbanization	9
B. Demographic trends	14
C. The challenges and opportunities of migration.....	17
D. Conclusions	19
III. URBANIZATION AND ECONOMY: THE ECONOMY OF CITIES.....	20
A. Overall trends.....	21
B. Economic transition: from planned to market economies.....	21
C. The emergence of the knowledge economy.....	26
D. The digital revolution	28
E. The Internet of Things.....	29
F. Conclusions	30
IV. URBANIZATION AND SOCIAL EQUALITY: LIVING IN CITIES.....	32
A. Introduction.....	33
B. The relationship of trends in urbanization and housing	35
C. An overview of housing stock and housing provision	36
D. A brief overview of housing tenure trends	37
E. Emerging housing needs.....	38
F. Housing affordability challenges	40
G. Distribution of the housing cost overburden.....	41
H. Public space	44
I. Conclusions	47

V. URBANIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK	48
A. The environmental context	49
B. Environmentally diverse subregions	49
C. Climate change	50
D. Air, energy and soil	52
E. Water	54
F. Disaster risk reduction	54
G. Conclusions and trends.....	54
VI. URBANIZATION, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES: GOVERNANCE OF CITIES	56
A. About urban governance.....	57
B. Urban governance	57
C. ICT-enabled applications, big data, open data and evidence-based governance	58
D. The management and delivery of services in the city	59
E. Governing metropolitan areas.....	59
F. Governing small and medium-sized cities	62
G. Governing regeneration of urban peripheries	63
H. Engagement with the public/private and social innovative approaches	64
I. Conclusions	64
VII. CONCLUSIONS AND EMERGING TRENDS	66
REFERENCES	70

List of Boxes

Box 1: Economies of EERCCA	25
Box 2: City Growth Commission – United Kingdom	28
Box 3: Key elements of digital economy strategies	30
Box 4: The sharing economy.....	30
Box 5: Housing as a human right	35

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