

Formalizing the Informal: Challenges and Opportunities of Informal Settlements in South–East Europe

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SUMMARY

Informal urban development is not a new issue for Europe; the southern part of the continent has long dealt with this problem. However, over the last 25 years, informal settlements have become an increasingly urgent matter in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region. In the early 1990s the amount of informal settlements started to increase, as a result of political and economic changes in Eastern Europe and former-Soviet countries. This was coupled with rapid urbanization, and often uncontrolled, massive internal migration due to poverty, conflicts, marginalization and natural disasters. The report was prepared by the Bureau of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Working Party on Land Administration and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Task Force on Property and Housing. The lead author was Ms. Chryssy Potsiou of the National Technical University of Athens (Greece).