



Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

// Importance of Data in the Housing Partnership's Action Plan (affordability, data, housing)



UAEU Housing Partnership and its Action plan

Right to decent, adequate, affordable, accessible and healthy housing

- Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing
- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
- European Pillar of Social Rights
- European Declaration on Responsible Housing
- Sustainable Development Goals - SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Affordable housing in the EU

- The **diversity of local, regional and national housing traditions and systems** creates a unique fabric of housing provision all over the EU.
- Nevertheless, the Global Financial Crisis led to massive **decline in investments in affordable and social housing** in Europe to half of pre-crisis level.
- There is a **steep and continuous increase in house prices and market rents** in most EU cities and urban areas; housing markets being fragmented to a great extent.
- A **growing number of EU citizens**, from low to middle class incomes **faces** affordability limits, **housing cost overburden**, low quality, overcrowded housing situations and are at risk of eviction.

Members of the Partnership



- **Cities/City Networks:** Vienna (AT, coordinator), Lisbon (PT), Poznan (PL), Riga (LV), Scottish Cities Alliance (UK), EUROCITIES
- **Member States:** Slovakia (coordinator), Latvia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Slovenia + 1 observer (Czech Republic)
- **Stakeholders:** AEDES, Housing Europe, International Union of Tenants (IUT)
- **EU- Institutions:** DG REGIO, DG ENER, DG EMPL, European Investment Bank (EIB), URBACT (observer)
- **Experts:** Faculty for Urban Studies Science Po, Paris

Housing Partnership MISSION STATEMENT

- *We have a vision of Europe which provides **affordable housing to all its citizens and cares for inclusive and sustainable communities**, where everyone is enabled to reach their full potential.*



Housing Continuum: The scope of Housing Partnership



Actions and recommendations of the HP

Better regulation

Action 1: **Guidance on EU regulation and public support for housing**

The action aims to provide clear guidance on the use of state aid support for social and affordable housing in European cities. Its key output is the analytical position paper of the Housing Partnership.

Action 2: **Capacity building for the application of state aid rules in the affordable housing sector at a city level**

The action aims to provide capacity building for the application of state aid rules in the affordable housing sector for practitioners and legislators at a city level.

Action 3: **Revision of the SGEI decision with regard to the narrow target group of social housing**

The action elaborates a proposal to revise the definition of the term 'Social Housing' in the regulation on the Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI)

Actions and recommendations of the HP

Better knowledge and governance

Action 4: Affordable housing good practice database

The action proposes the design of an online database gathering the best practices of the social and affordable housing sector, in order to foster learning and knowledge exchange about the provision of affordable housing in European cities.

Action 5: Policy guidance for the supply of social and affordable housing in Europe

The aim of this action is to develop housing policy guidance that provides examples of the ways that social and affordable housing can be supplied by cities and affordable housing providers.

Action 6: Exchange programme for urban housing professionals

The aim of the proposed action is to create an exchange programme for urban housing professionals in European cities.

Actions and recommendations of the HP 3

Better knowledge and governance

Action 7: Monitoring system for affordable housing in the European Union

This action aims to establish a system for regular and systematic monitoring and securing of housing properties at national, subnational and city levels in the EU.

Action 8: Exchange on affordable housing at member-state level

This action aims to re-establish the Housing Focal Points and the informal Ministerial Meetings in Housing to allow for structural and continuous exchange on housing at a high political level.

Action 9: Recommendations on improvement of EU urban housing market data

The aim of this action is to improve and expand housing market data at regional and city levels, and to establish an EU database mapping housing prices (rent and purchase) on the subnational levels (regions and cities) in the EU.

Action 10: Recommendations on the improvement of EU gender-poverty-energy nexus data

The aim of this action is to advance knowledge on the gender-energy-poverty nexus by developing gender disaggregated data and making it available to inform policy development.

Actions and recommendations of the HP

Better funding

Action 11: Recommendations on EU funding of affordable housing

This action addresses the capacity of cities and affordable housing providers to access the different funding instruments of the EU Cohesion policy and EIB. The overall aim is to increase the supply of affordable housing in Europe with EU funding and EIB financing instruments.

Action 12: Recommendations on the European Semester and affordable housing

This action aims to improve the European Semester procedure to better reflect diverse housing tenures, fragmentation of the housing markets, housing need and support better financing conditions for affordable housing.

Actions and recommendations of the HP

Recommendations on good policies, governance and practices

Recommendations on good housing policy and governance at local, regional, national and EU level

In addition to the **actions**, the Housing Partnership also provided a **set of recommendations** that focus on priority areas for policy development in the affordable housing sector:

- **Protection of vulnerable groups**
- **Anti-speculation**
- **Renovation and energy efficiency**
- **Co-ownership, co-management and co-design**
- **Spatial planning**
- **Rent stabilization and control**
- **Land use and building ground**
- **Security of tenure**



Data related actions

Action 7: Monitoring System for Affordable Housing in the EU



- **This action aims at securing regular and structural observation of housing realities on national and subnational level in the EU with regard to investment in affordable housing as well as the social development. Important fields of attention should be:**
 - *1. Funding & Financing Conditions: use of cohesion policy for affordable housing, EIB instruments, national schemes, smart blending of funding instruments, aggregators role*
 - *2. Knowledge & Data: housing overburden data and comprehensive affordability indicators, gender dimension of affordability, energy poverty*
 - *3. Governance: citizen participation, consumer rights and local leadership*

Improvement of urban housing database



- **Action 9: Recommendations on Improvement of EU Urban Housing Market Data**
 - *This action aims at establishing a subnational database on affordable housing that will contribute to more locally and regionally targeted evidence for future EU policy development in areas that affect affordable housing.*
- **Action 10: Gender Dimension in Affordability/Energy Poverty**
 - *This action aims at showcasing that housing policies, like all other urban policies, have a gender dimension. Affordability is depending on income, which is structurally different when examined with a gender-sensitive approach. The case of energy poverty is taken as a starting point to develop the action.*
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// Thank you



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This presentation will be made available at: www.espon.eu/Helsinki-2019