ENHR Memories

European Network for Housing Research
Beware: ENHR ROOM!!
Dear Christine,

I hope that this book with more than 21 years of ENHR memories will bring you some pleasure. Although you are not fond of pictures, if I remember well, this book includes some nice reflections from Hugo, Judy, Isobel and Jens and also brings back the daily life of more than 20 years of ENHR.

It’s not my intention to repeat all the great scientific results you accomplished during your career. Others will do that presumably better and in more depth on other occasions. And besides that, the magnitude of this task is too big for me to summarize in this short note.

What I would like to do is to express my deepest gratitude - for the fact that we were able to work together over the past few decades and, as chair of ENHR, for the important work you carried out for the network. Our many common interests - housing economics, being responsible for an important research institute in our own country, hosting an ENHR conference and as vice-chairs, being responsible for the continuation of the network after Bengt’s death - give me a feeling of connectedness.

My experiences of the many meetings of the coordination committee of ENHR also lead me to believe that we share a common attitude and ideas about our profession and the network. This has made it a real privilege to work with you, especially during the past few years. Just as Bengt was the father of ENHR, then you - because of your experience, knowledge and dedication - are in my opinion certainly the mother of ENHR. The whole network and more specifically the working group on housing finance, has gained a lot from your work. And I am sure that they will continue to benefit from it in years to come.

Just like Hugo, I presume you will still be active in the future and hope we shall meet at many more ENHR events to come.

Peter Boelhouwer
OTB Research Institute for the Built Environment
Technical University of Delft
You were invited to the very first meeting of the Coordination Committee in Amsterdam in 1988 but you were unable to attend. You did, however, attend the very next meeting held in Paris 17-18 February, 1989. Here is a transcript of that meeting:

Minutes from the ENHR Coordination Committee Meeting in Paris, February 17-18, 1989


1. Opening Statement

Bengt Turner opened the meeting, especially welcoming the representatives of the 1990 Paris and 1992 Montreal conferences.

2. The ENHR Working Groups

Stephen Merrett presented the outline for a Working Group on Metropolitan Housing Systems (see encl. 1). An application for funding will be submitted to the European Science Foundation in March, with a decision expected in April. As presently envisaged, the program will cover 12 cities. There are, however, still some problems with a couple of the cities originally included.

Lennart J. Lundqvist commented on the application to the Swedish Building Research Council for funding the Working Group on Comparative Housing Policy (see encl. 2). The Council’s decision is expected by the second half of April. The meeting noted that although the Network is free to establish connections of a working group character with existing international research endeavours, it should do so on the explicit condition that the scientific quality and content of the effort is guaranteed. Furthermore, the composition of the Executive Committee of the Working Group should be such as to secure full ENHR overview of the operation.

With regard to the planned Working Group on Housing Models, the Coordination Committee decided that at the next ENHR meeting, Frans Dieleman, Hugo Priemus and Peter Hooimeijer will present an outline for such a group.

Having received a letter from Ivan Tosics concerning the possibility of a Working Group on Housing Policy in Eastern Europe (see encl. 3), the Committee noted that the outcome of the Nossz-vaj conference in June 1989 will be very important to the future shape and direction of such a Working Group. Given the problems
of funding, the Committee furthermore recommended that the possibilities of including the East European dimension in the group on Comparative Housing Policy should be closely examined.

As a background to the discussion on a Working Group on Housing Education, Lars-Torsten Eriksson from the University College in Gavle, informed about the structure and content of Sweden's education for real estate management. He furthermore outlined several ideas for a Housing Education Group. The Coordination Committee decided that such a group should be established, with Lars-Torsten Eriksson as coordinator.

Discussing the prospects for a group on Social Housing, the Committee identified several problems of delineating such a group from several other of the planned working groups. Therefore, it was decided that the Network should not seek to establish such a group for the time being.

Following Rolf Albriktssen's presentation, the meeting decided that the Working Group on Construction and Productivity should not be fully launched until the Norwegian project has gotten under way. However, the meeting recommended that preparatory efforts be made as soon as possible with regard to the content and direction of the joint efforts, as well as the identification of researchers and projects to be included in the group.

During the discussion, the Committee identified several general issues concerning all Working Groups, such as membership criteria, group size, and funding principles. The Committee decided that,

- the size of the Working Groups should be such as to ensure close contacts and a reasonable overview,
- workshops arranged by the Working Groups should be open also to researchers not participating regularly in the Working Group, the only criterion being an active research interest in the field,
- funding for the Working Groups will — in case of scarce resources — be limited to the Executive Committee of each group, to guarantee continuity and successful finalization of group aims,
- individual researchers and projects brought together through the Working Groups should then find their own funding for Group participation.

Furthermore, the Coordination Committee stressed that institutions participating in the Network should be given as much of a role in the Working Group process as possible. The back-up resources of the institutions were seen as crucial to the participation of individual researchers, and thus to the final success of the Working Groups.

3. Conferences

Christian Arnaud and J.R. Berthélémy informed about the preparation for the 1990 Housing Conference. Sponsored by several official bodies, the conference will be held in Paris July 3-7. The main theme will be "Les enjeux de l'habitat et de l'environnement urbain. The English title will probably be "Housing Debates, Urban Challenges." Eight workshops are planned for so far:

- local housing policies
- tenure policies
- changing lifestyles and homes
- residential mobility and consequences for the urban network
- processes for housing production
- minority problems and urban accommodation
- rehabilitation, renewal and new production
- unknown.

The organization of the workshops provides for simultaneous interpretation, double chairing (French and English) and two discussants for each session (French and English). A Call for Papers will be issued in April 1989, with the papers due by December 1989. A Scientific Committee will be charged with selecting which papers are to be presented as Keynote Speeches, which to be selected for publication (one volume is planned), and which to be presented during workshops by the discussants. There seems to be a reasonable budget for the conference, so the conference fee will be modest. The meeting made several points following the presentation:

- discussants should be appointed also for the keynote paper,
- As many papergivers as possible should be allowed to present their contributions,
- workshops should be allowed to differ in duration,
- several alternative ways of publishing conference papers should be pursued, also making use of the well known scientific housing and urban journals,
- final delivery of the papers should be closer to the conference.

Mark Choko informed about the preparatory work under way for the 1992 Housing Conference in Montreal. The organizers have asked the city to include this conference in the official program for the celebration of the 350th anniversary of Montreal in 1992. It seems probable that this will be the case. A consortium of universities will act as principal organizers of the conference.

Rolf Albriktssen reported that the exact dates of the 1991 Oslo Housing Conference will be decided this summer, as will the date for issuing the Call for Papers.

4. Changes in the ENHR Coordination Committee

Dan Ferrand-Bechmann has resigned from the Committee. Bengt Turner, Lennart J. Lundqvist and Hugo Priemus were assigned the
task of finding a substitute, preferably from the Mediterranean area, and to carry out an old decision to further widen the Committee in terms of number of members. A number of possible candidates were mentioned during the discussion, which will serve as a guidance in the process of finding new members.

The Committee also recommended a reconsideration, and possible restructuring, of the U.K. representation.

5. The ENHR Newsletter

Gun Frank presented a proposal for the layout and content of the Network's Newsletter (see encl. 4). The Committee strongly approved of the ideas. The logo will be used already for the distribution of the Announcement Document (see below). The Committee particularly emphasized that the Newsletter should contain a number of standing sections. To make clear the character of newsletter, there should, however, be no section on Book Reviews. The costs will be limited to SEK 10 000 for the first issue (to be issued as soon as possible, and in September 1989 at the latest) and about SEK 5 000 for successive quarterly issues.

As to whether the Newsletter should be distributed to non-research institutions, or to research institutions outside Europe the meeting recommended a system of secondary membership (associated members), on in principle the same conditions as for full members. This point will be finalized at the next meeting.

6. Announcement Document

The document was approved for distribution, following some changes concerning the section on conferences, and a final polish of language. It was pointed out that the relation between ENHR and the conferences which are mentioned, must be made clear. ENHR is not organizing conferences - but the conferences may be organized under the auspices of ENHR. The document will be reprinted in the first issue of the Newsletter.

7. ENHR Membership: Institutional vs. Individual

The Committee decided that the institutional membership fee should be set at SEK 3 000. The list of institutions prepared by Bengt Turner at NSIBR in Gävle will be updated and used for the distribution. The Committee furthermore committed itself to some clarification as to the benefits of institutional in relation to individual membership, the fee of the latter being only SEK 100. As for the benefits of individual membership, the Committee stated that individual participation will be based on the same principles that guide institutional membership.

8. Financial Issues

The main financial source of the Network will be the Working Groups. The Coordination Committee members serving on Executive Committees of the Working Groups should secure funding sufficient to cover the costs also for their participation in the Coordination Committee. Basic administrative costs for the ENHR Secretariat will be covered by the NSIBR in Gävle; this is equivalent to SEK 200 000. The Network has also received a grant from the Swedish Ministry of Housing, amounting to SEK 75 000. The possibility of getting funds from other Housing Ministries in Europe should be strongly pursued. The Committee recommended that a firm Economic Plan is presented to the Coordination Committee as soon as the picture concerning membership rates and structure, income from such fees, etc. becomes clearer.

9. Administrative Issues

Bengt Turner informed about the NSIBR documentation on housing researchers, institutions in this field, etc. He also informed about the documentation on housing literature available at NSIBR. It was noted that all this documentation will soon be available through BITNET.

10. Other Issues

The Committee was informed that in November 1988, a European Network of Building Research Institutes was established for the EC countries. Nine institutes, mostly dealing with technological issues, founded the ENBRI. The Committee noted that there should be no borderline problems between the ENHR and the ENBRI.

With respect to the relationship between the ENHR and the ISA Working Group on Housing and the Built Environment, Mark Chokh wanted to clarify the roles of both organizations in arranging conferences, workshops and seminars. The Committee decided that the relations between the ENHR and the ISA group should be worked out in an open-minded atmosphere, recognizing that large conferences can be held under the auspices of both organizations, and with the precise relations to be worked out from case to case.

11. Next Meeting

The next Coordination Committee meeting will be held in London, at the London School of Economics and Political Science, on June 16-17, 1989. A follow-up meeting will be held in connection with the Noszvaj Conference in Hungary at the end of June.
Altogether you took part in 30 meetings of the Coordination Committee. These meetings were held in the following cities:

- Paris
- London
- Utrecht
- Gothenburg
- Oslo
- Venice
- Amsterdam
- Gävle
- Helsingör
- Vienna
- Cardiff
- Balatonfüred
- Delft
- Berlin
- Dublin
- Tirana
- Barcelona
- Glasgow
- Cambridge
- Rome
- Reykjavik
- Dresden
- York
- Ljubljana
- Rotterdam
- Lisbon
- Prague
- Budapest
- Toulouse
- Istanbul
Christine Whitehead: it must be true and very wise

I do not know when it happened. It has been years ago. I arrived in a London hotel, the day before the start of a housing conference. In the lobby the TV was broadcasting an interview with a housing expert. The expert was Christine Whitehead. Apparently she was critical about a proposed housing policy change. It would not improve things. Christine's eyes were wide open, as if to say: How could a politician propose such a thing? And how could he really think that it will work?

This small experience illustrates a number of things: Christine is really an academic champion with authority, Christine knows how to link housing theory and housing practice, Christine is a really independent person and Christine knows how to explain things.

For a non-English listener, like I am, Christine's formulations are not always clear. Some letters and words do not leave her mouth. This adds to her authority. It is the same with foreign soccer trainers who are not understood completely by the young soccer players, who think: this must be true and very wise. This is always the feeling I have when I listen to Christine.

Dear Christine, thank you very much for the lessons I learnt. Do not stop commenting proposals by housing politicians and do not stop explaining your insights to me and so many others.

Professor Hugo Priemus,
OTB Research Institute for the Built Environment,
Delft, The Netherlands
The ENHR Working Group on Housing Finance was one of the very first working groups and is still very active, organising sessions at ENHR conferences as well as separate seminars. Below is a photo of you working with Bengt Turner and Mark Stephens to organise a session.
Christine Whitehead: a privilege to know her

It is a privilege to know Christine Whitehead - the fast walking Londoner with an enormous networking capacity; the lady who expects you to know about Kingsway; the professor who naturally stands at the front of the assembly, the meeting, the class, or the group; an international ambassador for the ENHR; and the economist with an academic position in Housing and Urban Economics at two world famous universities.

The Housing Finance Working Group was founded by Bengt Turner and Christine Whitehead in 1990. It was a natural extension of their professional interests and afterwards they had been writing journal articles and other publications together. Seen from outside, she and Bengt had an excellent collaboration and complemented each other when they created the informal and rather efficient structure of ENHR.

Christine has a fantastic working capacity and her ability to produce high quality research in a great many areas is most impressive. As a lecturer and professor in Housing and Urban Economics she has done work on housing demand, housing market models and forecasts, local and national housing policy, local housing markets (mostly London), housing and the wider economy, housing and financial crises, mortgage finance, financing of social housing, mortgage payment protections insurance, planning and housing, land supply and policy, affordable housing, mobility and migration, housing subsidies, housing benefits, social housing, private rental housing, shared ownership, and...

Christine will never be able to stop communicating, networking and writing; she will not sit back and relax in the chair by the fire.

Jens Lunde
Copenhagen Business School
Joint Coordinator (with Christine Whitehead) of the ENHR Working Group on Housing Finance
ENHR Conference in Cambridge in 2004

You were the chief organiser of the ENHR conference on "Housing: Growth and Regeneration" that was held in Cambridge, UK in the summer of 2004. You were assisted by a good number of colleagues from the Cambridge Centre of Housing & Planning Research at the University of Cambridge. The CCHPR institute is, by the way, a long time Institutional Member of the ENHR.

About 350 participants from Europe and the rest of the world attended. In addition to the seminars and plenary sessions, there were of course numerous occasions for scholars to meet informally. This could be simply to meet old friends or to plan new research projects. Below is a photo of you with Bengt Turner and Stephen Malpezzi during a pause between two sessions of the conference.
And then there was the conference dinner.
As can be seen below, someone with authority was needed to establish order when things got too rowdy.
Since 1988 approximately 20 international research conferences have been held under the auspices of the ENHR. You participated in most of these - at the plenary sessions, the debates and in the workshops. The photo below is from the conference in Reykjavik, Iceland in 2007. The theme of the conference was 'Housing in Europe: Challenges and Innovations'.

Could you already see the approaching financial crisis in the dark clouds on the horizon?
You gave your support, for instance, to the Asian Pacific Network for Housing Research. These photos were taken when you spoke at the inauguration of APNHR on 17 April 2001.
Again, there were many conferences and seminars in different parts of the world and Europe. This photo shows you discussing the housing prices and shoe prices in Budapest with Richard Turkington.
A great many members of the European Network for Housing Research have been inspired by you, by your research but also by the interest and warmth you showed in your relations with younger researchers. Here is a testimony of one such colleague:

"I think I've known Christine since my earliest days in housing research - firstly through the UK Housing Studies Association and then ENHR. As may be the case for others, I particularly enjoyed working with her at the Cambridge ENHR conference in 2004 where we launched our working group on homelessness (now WELPHASE - Welfare Policy, Homelessness and Social Exclusion). Being involved in both the New Housing Researchers Colloquium and co-ordinating a workshop for the first time made it a memorable event for me - very much helped by the enthusiasm and hospitality of Christine and the rest of the Cambridge team. Very best wishes for a long and happy retirement."

Professor Isobel Anderson
Director, Housing Policy and Practice Unit
Department of Applied Social Science
University of Sterling, Scotland
You have also distinguished yourself by your consistent emphasis on the quality of research. It was therefore very fitting that the organisers of the ENHR Conference in Prague in 2009 asked you to present the winner of Hypoteční Banka Award for the best conference paper. Below you can be seen announcing the name of the winner, which was Gwilym Pryce from the Department of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow, for his paper 'Housing Markets Segmentation: The Theory and Measurement of submarkets'.
Christine, you are a true friend and colleague, to the other members of the ENHR Coordination Committee, and to other members of the research community.

As can be seen on these photos, everyone was in a merry mood when you and the other members of the ENHR Coordination Committee presented a special gift to Iván Tosics and József Hegedűs on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Metropolitan Research Institute in Budapest.
A good example of Christine as a friend and generous host is the following text and photo received from Judy Yates, School of Economics and Political Science, University of Sydney:

This photo shows a side of Christine that many of her friends and colleagues will have experienced: sitting down to a fine wine and dining experience in her own home with 2 or 3 (or 6 or 8) others and a cool, calm and collected Christine. Those who have waited with baited breath wondering whether her paper (or even she) will arrive on time will not be surprised by her capacity to produce a 3 course meal of top restaurant standard in less than an hour after arriving home. Ingredients are picked up from a variety of tiny shops on the way home and assembled with much the same panache shown in her academic presentations.

As with her public life, no matter how much her contribution is left until the last minute, the standard of the final product is inspired, appreciated by all and, in the end, there in time. Much of the apparent ease with which things are done, however, is deceptive. It is due to a considerable amount of prior thought, hard work and organisation and an unswerving commitment to the task in hand. Thanks Christine for all you have done for housing and for housing research and for your unbounded generosity to all in all that you do.
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COMMITTED