

Wednesday 17 February 2021, 15:00 CET “Changing spatial preferences through Covid-19”

Moderators: Peter Boelhouwer and Christian Lennartz

Already before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were limited signs that more people were orientating about leaving the bigger cities. For instance after the recovery of the housing market in the Netherlands in 2014 the internal migration figure of Amsterdam was negative. The city was however growing with 5.000 to 6.000 persons due to international labor migration. Since the COVID pandemic, the city is actually loosing population and more in specific households with young children. Research suggests that this out-migration can be explained by a lack of affordable housing or a wish to switch from an urban to a suburban environment. Also, search figures show that since the pandemic between 15% to 20% of the home seekers are more interested in housing with outer spaces and gardens.

More and more people are working from home and notice that it is very convenient to have a separate working space and some outdoor space for relaxation. Will after the pandemic, working from home be the standard? Will the already existing migration from households out of the city to more sub-urban environments after the pandemic be continued or will on the other hand the city with all its amenities and the possibilities to be connected with people even during a pandemic be more attractive than nowadays?

Information and subscriptions: Peter Boelhouwer (p.j.boelhouwer@tudelft.nl)

The idea of the ENHR seminar is to create an exchange platform for housing researchers and practitioners in times where it's difficult or even impossible to meet scholars from other universities and countries. We start with two seminars about the impact of COVID-19 on the housing market.

The seminar will start with just short pitches or a presentation of a more elaborate paper. The length of the sessions is between one and two hours, dependent on the amount of short presentations.

The Coordination Committee considers it important to organize events like this in this special period we are living in now. It would also bring ENHR members together and give us all the feeling we belong to a network, despite the fact that the 2020 conference in Nicosia was cancelled. ENHR Working Groups might consider this event as preparation for the 2021 conference in Nicosia.