

**WG Policy and Research online (Teams) workshop**

**'The Covid-19 pandemic effects on housing and policy & research responses'**

**Thursday 18 February 2021 at 3 pm – 5 pm CET** (Registration required! An email with the link to join the event will be sent on the day of the event at the latest)

**This ENHR Working Group 'Policy and Research' session on Thursday 18th February at 3 pm CET brings together up-to-date research and policy insights across national borders in order to give a broad view of the current Covid-19 situation and its effects on housing, now and in the future. We hope for a critical and open dialogue. The session is a part of the series of online seminars, 'HOUSING RELATED IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC', exploring the housing-related impacts of the pandemic. The series of seminars will take place online 12-28 February 2021 and hosted by the ENHR – European Network for Housing Research.**

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been clear how vital housing is for our wellbeing. Lockdowns, working from home and home schooling have made the home literally the central place of our everyday lives. The pandemic has reshaped our housing needs and expectations leading many to look for wider spaces and also access to a private garden or nearby green spaces. In many cities the Covid-19 situation has increased demand for larger dwellings and this has led to climbing prices, which, combined with higher unemployment rates and Covid-19 -related financial problems, has made home ownership an even further-away dream for many. In some countries social security and housing allowance systems have offered a well-functioning buffer against rent arrears caused by financial problems or unemployment and possible housing evictions, but we also can assume large numbers of evictions will happen in the near future somewhere else, when eviction bans will end. At the same time there have been many households without the possibility to have a larger dwelling and households that have worried how to isolate a family member who has been infected with the coronavirus in an already cramped flat.

How will the Covid-19 pandemic reshape housing? What are the policy and research responses to the current situation and for the future? What do we need to do now for sustainable and adequate housing in the post-Covid world? Can we even imagine what housing futures could look like after the Covid-19 pandemic? Whatever the answers may be, it seems very clear that the pandemic is (re)shaping the future of housing in many ways. Even in big cities housing cannot be seen as 'human storage' anymore, but must offer space for life and different activities. This changing situation clearly underlines the need for and the necessity of affordable, adequate, and accessible housing. It also emphasizes the importance of sustainable and long-term policy responses to existing housing challenges and the need for an evidence-based housing policy, as well as research and policy collaboration.

**Opening words:**

Dr. Jaana Nevalainen, WG Policy and Research Coordinator, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of the Environment of Finland

**Moderator:**

Dr. Steffen Wetzstein, WG Policy and Research Coordinator, URBACT Validated Lead Expert, URBACT Lead Expert 2019/2022

**Speakers:**

**'The impact of Covid-19 on the German Housing Market'**

Prof. Dr. Michael Voigtländer, Head of research Unit Financial and Real Estate Markets German Economic Institute (Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft)

**'Covid-19 impacts on Dutch housing market trends'**

Dr. Marietta Haffner, Assistant Professor, Department of Management in the Built Environment, TU Delft

**'English housing policy responses to the Covid pandemic'**

Kath Scanlon, Distinguished Policy Fellow, LSE London, London School of Economics

**'Housing in the time of COVID: How governments can protect the housing needs of vulnerable populations in developing country contexts'**

Gyorgy Sumeghy, Associate Director, Policy and Advocacy, Habitat for Humanity International, EMEA

Please, register by Monday 15 February 2021 by E-mail (Subject: WG Policy and Research 18 Feb; Message: name, institution, E-mail):

[jaana.nevalainen@ym.fi](mailto:jaana.nevalainen@ym.fi); [steffen.wetzstein@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:steffen.wetzstein@uni-erfurt.de)