

ENVAR

*Cover: Lodz (Poland), ENHR conference city 2023, can be characterised as a city in transition.*

# CONTENTS

<b>EDITORIAL</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>COORDINATION COMMITTEE NEWS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS .....	5
<b>ENHR CONFERENCES</b> .....	<b>6</b>
ENHR CONFERENCE 2024 DELFT (THE NETHERLANDS) .....	6
PROPOSALS WELCOME FOR ENHR CONFERENCE CITY 2026.....	7
<b>ENHR WORKING GROUPS</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>NEWS FROM MEMBERS</b> .....	<b>13</b>
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS .....	13
<b>NEW BOOKS / STUDIES</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>WHO IS WHO?</b> .....	<b>16</b>
COORDINATION COMMITTEE .....	16
NEW MEMBERS .....	17
INSTITUTIONAL AND ASSOCIATE INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS.....	18
WORKING GROUPS AND COORDINATORS.....	21
ENHR'S COOPERATIONS .....	24

## EDITORIAL

### The need for a wider view on housing for older adults

The ageing of societies is a global phenomenon and is increasing on all continents, as has been the case in Europe and Asia in recent decades. This underlines the need to analyse and carry out research on housing conditions and housing availability and how the housing market adapts to population ageing, in particular with disability rates and long-term care needs that increase with age, and in addition, the severe effects of global warming.

At this year's ENHR conference eight papers were presented on aspects in the housing market relating to older adults in ageing societies. The papers were geographically spread, covering seven European countries as well as Australia, South Korea and Taiwan, by content and/or authorship. These countries all face a rather rapid ageing of their population and some are even described as Super-Aged societies. The papers covered issues that currently are high on the research agenda in regard to housing and older adults. There is a need for an increased understanding of the housing market for older adults, and how the structure of the housing market influences the possibilities they have to adjust their housing situation according to changing needs in old age. Studies on residential mobility and housing satisfaction will increase our knowledge as to how the housing supply matches the demand.

Comparative studies show how differences in national housing market structures, such as the availability of social or rented housing or very high home ownership rates, limits or enables different housing options and provides differences in possibilities for care, for example how a large rented sector may facilitate moves in old age. Many older adults in western countries are, generally seen, well housed. However, residential mobility rates differ between groups, where those with higher incomes and higher education to a larger extent adapt their housing situation to changing needs.

#### *To ascertain that older peoples' housing needs are met we need data and research methods that include all ages*

Not only health but changing life styles and family relations will influence the demand on housing. Increasing divorce rates among older adults will change the economy of individual households and subsequently their available options in the housing market, older women on a low pension may be particularly vulnerable. Decreasing fertility rates and increased longevity will affect formal as well as informal care, risking a shortage of staff in countries with weak family-ties as in northern Europe, and put more strain on family carers in countries with strong family-ties, as in southern Europe. In addition, with welfare state retrenchments there is an increase in family care burden in the whole of Europe but with an even higher pressure on southern European countries. Housing that support older adults' independence can reduce costs for society and take pressure off family carers. In many countries a variety of housing types appear on the market, such as senior housing, 65+ housing, extra care housing, senior cooperative housing, retirement villages etc. Such housing, although still a limited proportion of the market, may help to reduce the time older adults spend in more costly care facilities and may in addition increase the quality of life. However, more studies are needed to ascertain such effects and that access to care is guaranteed. In many countries ageing in place, i.e., ageing in the ordinary housing market has been a government policy with the aim of reducing subsidised institutional care, rendering older people more dependent on the market to provide the necessary housing options.

The need for improving housing conditions for well-being was addressed during the conference, in a case of how older people's sense of quality of life in housing and the housing environment can influence depressive tendencies. This is an issue that needs to be explored further as older people often remain in housing they have lived in for a long time and for the financially weaker age groups or those in poor health in particular, maintenance or relocation may be an impossible obstacle. Age discrimination practices, or ageism, in housing, i.e., the neglect of older adults' needs in housing design, construction and planning will increase their vulnerability, limit independence, emotional and physical well-being. Housing is generally planned with younger people and their needs and preferences in mind rather than from a life-time perspective. A non-ageist housing market should offer suitable housing and housing environments that take older adults' needs into account. To ascertain that older peoples' housing needs are met we need data and research methods that include all ages. In surveys and interviews the oldest old or the most

fragile are sometimes not included and they are more likely than other age groups to refrain from responding. Thus, an apparent risk is that our conclusions about older adults' needs are based on the more active and healthy individuals. Using registered data, where all individuals are included, would combat this but would instead demand high quality data on housing quality, health and social care. Such information is readily available in some countries but lacking in others.

Current research, as shown in the conference proceedings, based on recent surveys, registered data, policy documents, comparative studies and literature reviews has clearly advanced the research field and increased our knowledge of the housing situation of older adults, the shortcomings and research gaps.

We can sum up that ageing and older adults, need to be taken into account in housing development and in housing research. We look forward to continue the discussions at the next year's conference.

*Marianne Abramsson & Blanca Deusdad*

*Coordinators of Working Group Housing and living conditions of ageing populations*

*See also the detailed report from the Lodz2023 of Marianne and Blanca's workshops on pp 8-10 of this Newsletter.*

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# COORDINATION COMMITTEE NEWS

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## Coordination Committee meetings

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### Meeting results June 2023, during the Lodz conference

#### Conferences

The Lodz 2023 conference attracted quite a good number of participants and from many different countries. Conference chair Magdalena Zaleczna was thanked for her efforts.

#### Bengt Turner Award

The CC decided to raise the 8,000-word limit for BTA papers to 9,000, as several papers submitted for the 2023 competition exceeded the present limit and were consequently turned down.

#### Guidelines for NHRC seminar chairs

The CC updated the Guidelines for NHRC seminar chairs.

The most important modification is the removal of the recommendation to provide written feedback--only oral feedback will be required. Session leaders during the online seminars will act as chairs, not mentors. Expectations of participating PhDs appear in a separate document, also on the website. This will be made clear to the participants. See <https://enhr.net/activities/new-housing-researchers-colloquia-and-seminars/>

#### New Housing Researchers seminar 2024 – Date and organisation

The CC agreed that an online New Housing Researchers meeting should be held early every year. The dates for 2024 are 11 (afternoon) and 12 (morning) March 2024. See <https://enhr.net/new-researchers-online-seminar-2024/>

#### Executive Board elections

The CC is allowed to elect from their midst an Executive Board, which consists of chair, two vice chairs, secretary and treasurer. This procedure takes place every two years after the CC elections. The following rules will be put into effect directly after the conclusion of the 2024 CC elections (Decision 3):

- The term for executive board members is four years.
- Executive board members will be limited to serving for two successive terms (2 x 4 years).
- The terms of chair and vice chairs will coincide, and the terms of secretary and treasurer will also coincide. Every two years the CC will elect either chair and vice chairs, or secretary and treasurer.
- In 2024 the new CC will elect a chair and vice chairs. The current secretary and treasurer will continue to serve for a further two years (until 2026) to achieve staggered terms.
- Executive Board members who must step down after two terms may seek re-election after two/four years (depending on the position sought).

The expectation is that one of the vice chairs will become chair, but this is not a requirement. Only CC members who have served for at least one term (four years) are eligible for executive board positions.

## ENHR CONFERENCES

### ENHR Conference 2024 Delft (The Netherlands)

**Making Housing Systems work: Evidence and Solutions**  
26-30 August 2024

**Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment**  
The Netherlands



*20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century housing in the city of Delft.*

#### **The ENHR conference returns to The Netherlands!**

You may remember the ENHR2007 conference in the city of Rotterdam. This time the city of Delft will be the scene of the conference.

This 5-day event includes a New Housing Researchers Conference on Monday 26 August.

#### **Conference venues**

The conference will be held at two locations on the university campus:

##### *Aula Conference Centre*

The Aula Conference Centre holds a large Auditorium, four college rooms and many meeting rooms. Built in 1966 it is a nationally acclaimed monument.

##### *Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment*

The Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment building (a.k.a. 'Bk City') is home to four thousand people studying, working, designing, conducting research and disseminating knowledge.

The campus can be reached easily on foot, by bus and by bike from the centre and the railway station.

We will keep you informed via social media and the ENHR website. You can also contact the ENHR Secretariat: [enhr@tudelft.nl](mailto:enhr@tudelft.nl).

## Proposals welcome for ENHR Conference city 2026

The ENHR Coordination Committee (CC) invites research institutes and research centres which would be interested in organising an ENHR conference somewhere in Europe in 2026 to apply.

A formal proposal for the 2026 conference should be submitted **by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024** to the ENHR Secretariat ([enhr@tudelft.nl](mailto:enhr@tudelft.nl)) based on the ENHR-application form.

Application form and guidelines for ENHR conferences are available on the [ENHR website](#). These guidelines include a description of how such conferences are generally organised and what an application to host an ENHR conference should contain.

### Application should contain information about:

- the date of the conference
- the profile of the organising institute and its reasons for hosting the conference
- a proposed conference theme
- a statement on academic quality
- former experiences in hosting conferences
- a budget which clarifies how to ensure the viability
- accessibility and affordability and hotel capacity of the location
- attractiveness of the location for housing researchers (what is there to be seen, esp. regarding to housing issues)
- the ability to attract an audience usually of 300-600 people. If a smaller conference is envisaged, a clear statement of the planned scale should be presented
- the availability of enough assistants (as students or junior researchers) during the conference
- the creation of a well organised conference webpage, which is maintained and updated on a regular basis
- the establishment of a Local Organising Committee (LOC).

The Coordination Committee would also need to be informed about hybrid conference options and carbon footprint reduction options of the conference.

Applications will be evaluated by the Coordination Committee based on these criteria. Affordability of the conference to the participants will be an important criterion.

Participants from all parts of Europe should be able to participate in the conference. Therefore, while setting the fees the organisers should take the affordability of the conference (travel costs, hotel accommodation and fees) into account.

Ideally, some conferences should have lower fees and fees should preferably not exceed the fee of former conferences.

Research institutes or research centres that are interested in organising a conference in 2026 are encouraged to contact ENHR Chairman Peter Boelhouwer ([p.j.boelhouwer@tudelft.nl](mailto:p.j.boelhouwer@tudelft.nl)).



## ENHR WORKING GROUPS

Basic information concerning the aims, activities and membership of the various Working Groups is available on the ENHR website at [www.enhr.net](http://www.enhr.net). In this section the Working Groups report on recent activities such as seminars (to be) held, books to be published, etc. The names and addresses of the coordinators are given at the end of the Newsletter in the Who is Who? section. Members of ENHR are encouraged to contact these persons in order to join a particular Working Group or to obtain further information about its activities.

### WG Housing and Living Conditions of Ageing Populations

*Marianne Abramsson and Blanca Deusdad (coordinators)*

#### **Results of the ENHR 2023 conference workshops in Lodz (Poland)**

The ageing of societies is a global phenomenon that is increasing on all continents, as has been the case in Europe and Asia in recent decades. This underlines the need to analyse and carry out research on housing conditions and housing availability and how the housing market adapts to population ageing, in particular with increasing disability rates with age, care needs, and the severe effects of global warming. In this year's conference eight papers were presented in three sessions. Each of the papers dealt with aspects in the housing market relating to older adults in ageing societies. The papers were geographically spread, covering seven European countries as well as Australia, South Korea and Taiwan, by content and/or authorship.

A presentation made by Bruce Judd, the University of New South Wales, Australia enlightened us about different housing models for ageing populations in Australia. He discussed the possibility to access care in land lease communities (LLC) and retirements villages (RV). The former to a larger extent attract low-income households, often singles, as a result of increasing housing precarity among older Australians. The results show that residents in LLCs and RVs have similar rights to home care services but that access is poorer in the latter from a number of perspectives; legislation, location, care provision, co-location (of care facilities), personal service, tenure and design. In his presentation Bruce Judd showed an excellent summary of housing policies in Australia.

**[Access to Aged Care in Land-Lease Communities and Retirement Villages in Australia, author Bruce Judd]**

Papers were also dealing with housing conditions and residential mobility. Giovanna de Santis, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, presented a study, based on data from the ITA.LI survey, a household panel of the Italian population, on the household composition, housing conditions and residential mobility patterns and tenure transitions of older adults (60+). The paper concludes that most older Italians are rather well housed, report higher housing satisfaction and neighbourhood attachment than younger age groups. Residential mobility rates are low but more prominent among renters, rural dwellers and in connections to partnership dissolution and retirement. It also shows that older adults with higher education are more prone to relocate and adjust their housing according to needs. The results provide important input for housing policies in Italy as the country face an ageing population.

**[Dealing with ageing challenges: housing conditions and residential mobility of Italian older adults, authors Giovanna de Santis, Tiziana Nazio, and Micol Bronzini]**

Likewise, Young-ha Cho of Oxford Brooks University, discussed how different methods of measuring residential mobility among older adults provides different understanding of housing demand. Senior housing demand is studied, in the UK, the US and South Korea, countries that all need to prepare for becoming Super-Aged, to explain spatial variation of housing needs. Preliminary findings show that residential mobility is more frequent in the US and South Korea

than in the UK and mobility rates are quite stable over time in the UK and the US but more varied in South Korea. Residential mobility rates are higher among renters than among home owners in all countries and again higher in the US and South Korea than in the UK. The proportion of renters increase with age in the UK and the US but not in South Korea. More results will follow.

**[Cohort and Age-based Measures of Residential Mobility: Comparing Senior Housing Demand in UK, US, and South Korea., authors JungHo Park, TaeGyun Yim and Yungha Cho]**



*Accessibility is a serious issue in housing the elderly.*

Another document related to mobility in old age and also to housing condition constraints for women in old age was presented by Jutta Kawalerowicz, Stockholm University, Sweden, a study on housing and residential consequences of late-life (60+) divorce in Sweden. Results show that women were more prone to move out of a common home and to make more remote moves than men. Many older adults live in home ownership from which, upon a divorce, women were more likely than men to leave to move to tenant cooperatives or rented housing. Among couples living in a tenant cooperative, women were more likely to remain and for couples in rented housing, both partners are likely to remain in this sector upon a divorce. As for socio-economic position, the financially weaker part is in general more likely to move out but women somewhat more often than a financially weaker man.

**[Late-life divorce: housing and residential consequences of divorce for older men and women in Sweden, authors Jutta Kawalerowicz and Marianne Abramsson]**

The need for improving housing conditions for well-being and age discrimination practices, and their consequences for health, as a social determinant of health were also addressed in two papers.

Firstly, the paper of Blanca Deusdad, Rovira I Virgili University of Tarragona, Spain, aims to shed light on the discussions on ageist attitudes in relation to housing. In the paper the neglect of older adults' needs in housing design, construction and planning is discussed as a matter of ageism, i.e., an act of discrimination and stereotyping based on age. Instead housing is generally planned with younger people and their needs and preferences in mind. The paper is based on data from the EU and OECD countries and literature in the field. Providing for an ageing population will change the scene and in the paper the author states that it is becoming more important to construct and rehabilitate housing from a lifetime perspective, that is housing that functions for all ages, through life.

**[Housing and ageism, author Blanca Deusdad]**

Secondly Ching-Yi Chen of the National Open University of Taiwan, presented a paper on how the sense of quality of life of older adults, 50+, is affected by latent effects of for example, personality traits and tendencies toward depression. For the study data from the 2021 Taiwan Social Change Survey, Health, was used and the Latent Variable Probit Model was employed. In the study it is concluded that perceived stress has a negative impact on quality of life. This results in high prevalence and risk of depression among older adults. As such there is a need to improve living conditions and support systems targeting this group.

**[Analysis of the Latent Variable of Quality of Life of Middle-Aged and Older Adults, author Ching-Yi Chen]**

Another comparative paper presented by Pawel Luzak, of the University of Economics and Business, Poznan addressed housing market conditions. Based on the concept of housing as an infrastructure of care a comparison was made between Prague and Vienna, Long-term care policies are based on a similar model of Cash for care benefits but in distinctly different housing market contexts. Austria has a large social and rental housing sector whereas the Czech Republic as a post-communist country have high home-ownership rates and very little social housing. The first results comparing the two cities show a more severe lack of social (rental) housing in Prague where the strain of high housing costs of older adults is also higher, in particular for older women, than in Vienna. In both countries the housing market has been more beneficial for the older population as they live in old and cheaper housing and in the Czech Republic could benefit from the privatisation during the post-communist transformation. Cash for care has reinforced reliance on family care.

**[How does housing matter for long-term care policies? The comparison of different housing contexts, author Pawel Luzak]**

A paper from Norway, presented by Lars Gulbrandsen, NOVA, Oslo Metropolitan University dealt with the invisibility of older adults in housing studies. The aim of the paper was to discuss methodological issues regarding representativity of the very old in housing studies. In a study from Norway the use of surveys, interviews and registered data was discussed. With the increasing use of internet also by older adults, web-based surveys provide a higher response rate and better possibilities of presenting follow-up questions. However, when conducting surveys in particular, but also interviews, a risk is that the respondents are among the more active and healthy older adults and that the results are biased toward this group. As a result the needs of the more frail older adults might not be considered. The use of registered data would minimise this bias but demands data of high quality.

**[How to measure housing situation and housing preferences of very old people, authors Hans Christian Sandlie, Maja Flåto & Lars Gulbrandsen]**

We wish to thank all contributors for sharing their work, reading the assigned papers and for participating in the following discussions. We can sum up that ageing and older adults' need to be taken into account in housing planning and in housing research. We hope to continue with the discussions at next year's conference in Delft, the Netherlands, August 27th–30th, 2024.

*Marianne Abramsson and Blanca Deusdad*

*See also Marianne and Blanca's editorial on pp. 3-4 of this Newsletter.*

### **WG Southern European Housing**

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*Thorsten Heitkamp, Sandra Marques Pereira, Dimitra Siatitsa and Héctor Simón-Moreno (coordinators)*

**Webinar 'Southern European housing policies in the 2020s: the farewell to residualisation?', March 2023**

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 the Southern European Housing Working Group organized its webinar 'Southern European housing policies in the 2020s: the farewell to residualisation?' within a scenario of profound changes in housing (e.g. growth of renting to the detriment of ownership – traditionally dominant in Southern European countries – and a lack of affordable and social

housing due to an increase of inflation interest rates and housing expenses) with deep consequences that are leading to a new social outlook and, no less importantly, to a rethinking of political positions. The webinar intended to promote a discussion and review of the “state of the art” of current housing policies (and their respective narratives – political, media, citizens etc.) in Southern European countries and/or regions and/or cities, problematizing them in the context of the above-mentioned changes. In this context, the countries of Southern Europe are particularly interesting cases, since they were “traditionally” classified as “residual”, with minimalist housing policies, aimed exclusively at the poorest segments.

The webinar had thirteen interventions in total, distributed in three different slots. The first slot addressed the “Southern European Housing Policies: pathways of reaction to residualisation and financialisation”. Simone Tulumello provided an overview of the financialisation and/against the universalism/residualisation spectrum: perspectives for housing policies in Southern Europe, arguing that (housing) financialisation problematises the capacity of the universalism/residualisation spectrum to capture the characters of (emerging) housing regimes. Sandra Marques Pereira focused specifically on the Portuguese housing policy shift, exploring the recent emergence of the housing issue in both the political and the social agenda, identifying the respective conceptions regarding the role of the State (in its multiple scales of governance - from national to local) and of the market.

Romana Xerez, Joana de Mesquita Lima and Valesca Lima also focused on Portugal, addressing in particular the financialization and asset-based welfare state and the trends in housing policy in Portugal highlighting the power of international European institutions as the main force behind the financialization.

For its part, Héctor Simón Moreno tackled the new and first Spanish housing law in democracy, perceiving it as a missed opportunity after years of erratic multi-level housing policies that has implemented no structural measure regarding territorial cohesion, new forms of land tenure or multi-level governance.

Lastly, Meriç Özgüneş and Nikos Vrantzis focused on the Resilience and Recovery Plan, Green investment and potential housing outcomes in Greece, which may become an accelerator of housing commodification and financialization either directly through its measures or the absence thereof, rather than what could have potentially been instrumentalized to build the basis for social and affordable housing in a country with stark absence of housing policies.

The second slot was dedicated to the territorial and local dimensions of housing policies. Nuno Travasso, Aitor Varea Oro, Cynthia El-Dash and Silvia Jorge focused on real estate and housing public policies in Portugal and the impact on territorial cohesion, which sought to demonstrate that the strong concentration of resources in the metropolitan areas in recent years tends to exacerbate the housing problem and abandon the remaining national territory, worsening inequalities and putting at risk the desired territorial cohesion.

For its part, Andreas Panagidis analysed the housing policy in Cyprus and the perspective of market-led planning and land development practice enabling sprawl. Fátima Matos, Teresa Sá Marques, Catarina Maia and Diogo Ribeiro addressed the housing needs in the Porto metropolitan area and local housing strategies.

Finally, Jannis Kühne discussed a decentralized rehousing program in the Lisbon metropolitan area and the benefits of this new approach to an old problem of precarisation and segregation.

The third and last slot addressed the “New frameworks for housing affordability policies: the rental sector and cooperative housing”. D. Balabanidis, S. Gyftopoulou, E. Papatzani and D. Siatitsa provided an overview of the rental sector in Greece and discussed the continuing precarisation of tenants in the Greek housing market and the insufficiency and inadequacy of the recently proposed package of financing tools as a response to the housing crisis. Jake Azzopardi, Stefan Cutajar, Brian Micallef and Kurt Xerri discussed the Maltese State’s response to the housing affordability challenges experienced in a period of rapid economic growth. Ludovica Rolando explored the nature and characteristics of cohousing in Barcelona focusing mainly on the design strategies and solutions adopted in selected case studies. Lastly, Rossella Ferro discussed how Italian housing cooperatives are facing the emerging demand for alternatives for affordable, liveable, and sustainable housing, and how they are addressing the critical issues related to the need to innovate their cooperative housing model itself.



With over 50 attendees from different countries and nationalities, the webinar succeeded in being a forum for contact and active and constructive dialogue around the specificities of Southern European countries.

### **WG Welfare Policy, Homelessness, and Social Exclusion**

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*Joe Finnerty, Magdalena Mostowska, Yoshihiro Okamoto and Chris Bevan (coordinators)*

#### **20th Anniversary of WELPHASE Working Group prompts opportunity for reflection**

We recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of the WELPHASE (Welfare Policy, Homelessness, and Social Exclusion) Working Group at the ENHR Łódź conference. Founded by Isobel Anderson (Stirling University), and with the support of Evelyn Dyb (OsloMet) and Joe Finnerty (University College Cork), the first workshop took place at the 2004 conference in Cambridge, England, and has been active ever since (apart from pandemic disruptions).

The workshop is jointly coordinated by a number of colleagues: in addition to Joe Finnerty, coordinators are: Magdalena Mostowska (University of Warsaw) who joined in 2015; Evelyn Dyb (who stepped down in 2022); Yoshihiro Okamoto (Chukyo University) who joined in 2016; and most recently Chris Bevan (Durham University), who joined in 2022.

Homelessness itself remains the core focus of the Working Group. Nonetheless, increasing awareness of the relationships between homelessness and housing, social exclusion and welfare policy, is reflected in the papers presented at more recent WELPHASE workshops. As a result, the papers reflect a considerable thematic and methodological diversity, albeit framed by the overarching focus indicated by the Working Group's name. In Łódź this year, research was presented on issues as diverse as visual representations of homeless mortality, service user participation, the uses of artificial intelligence to interrogate homelessness administrative data, comparative policy analysis, the experience of homeless migrants in housing relocation, and deinstitutionalisation and Housing First.

Prompted by the 20th anniversary milestone, we kicked off the Łódź workshop with a short discussion about homelessness research and its future. Five questions, reflecting the multi-faceted and interdisciplinary nature of homelessness research and of WELPHASE itself, were put to attendees:

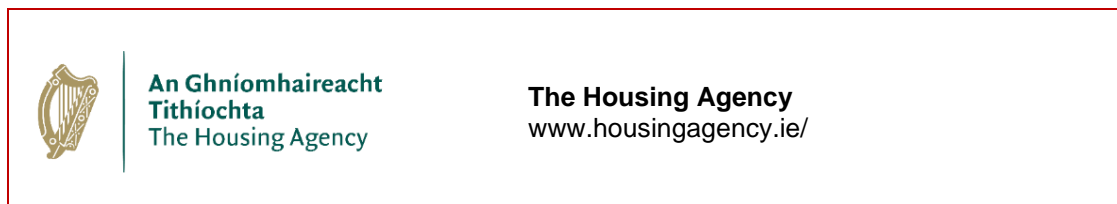
- Do you consider yourself a "homelessness researcher"? Why so, why not?
- How is framing your research as homelessness research (as opposed to housing/poverty etc.) making it easier/more difficult to secure financing? Collaboration? Teaching? Publishing?
- What type of research you conduct (qualitative/quantitative; commissioned/"academic"/action research/participatory research)?
- In your opinion, what kind of impact does your homelessness research have on policy? How does that influence what you're doing? What type of research would you like to pursue in the future?
- What are your experiences of previous WELPHASE participation (if applicable), (in comparison to) or of other types of conferences/meetings/workshops relating to homelessness and housing exclusion?

A lively discussion ensued, with viewpoints as varied as homelessness research itself. The consensus that did emerge centred on the central relevance of researching homelessness and housing exclusion, and of the importance of carrying on the work of WELPHASE in future ENHR conferences.

*Joe Finnerty*

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### Institutional members



#### Recent Research

##### **Launch of Implementation Plan & Awareness Campaign for National Housing Strategy for Disabled People**

On 22nd June 2023, the Minister of State for Local Government & Planning, Kieran O'Donnell, T.D., and the Minister of State with Responsibility for Disability, Anne Rabbitte, T.D. launched the Implementation Plan for the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027. The plan will deliver on the primary objective of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027, which is to “facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community”.

An awareness campaign on the Strategy and the Implementation Plan was also launched on the same day. The purpose of the campaign is to promote the Strategy and its Implementation Plan locally and nationally with stakeholders, the general public, and throughout the disability sector through various platforms. The campaign will ensure the housing needs of disabled people are afforded a high level of visibility at local and national level in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities UNCRPD principles. Welcoming the launch of the Implementation Plan and the awareness campaign, Bob Jordan, Chief Executive Officer of The Housing Agency, said “We welcome the launch of the Implementation Plan for the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People. This implementation plan aims to provide real sustainable housing solutions for disabled people, and for delivery to be done in a coordinated and collaborative way. Furthermore, the awareness campaign that is being launched today is an opportunity to raise awareness with disabled people, families, the general public and others on the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People and the emphasis it places on disabled people being supported to live independently and be included in the community, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.”

*View the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 [here](#).*

*To view the Implementation Plan for the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027, click [here](#).*

##### **Press Release: Secure Tenancy Affordable Rental Scheme (STAR)**

On 18th July 2023, the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD and the Chief Executive of The Housing Agency, Bob Jordan, launched the new Secure Tenancy Affordable Rental (STAR) investment scheme. The scheme aims to invest up to €750m in the delivery of over 4,000 Cost Rental homes, which will benefit from secure tenancies under Cost Rental housing legislation and will be let at a minimum of 25% below comparable market rental levels in high demand urban areas.

The STAR investment scheme, which was signalled by the government in April as a Cost Rental viability measure, will assist in addressing viability challenges for developments by providing equity investment to stimulate the creation of Cost Rental accommodation. Private providers

and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) can apply to provide Cost Rental homes under the Scheme and the State will make an equity investment available in return for designation of the homes as Cost Rental homes for 50 years.

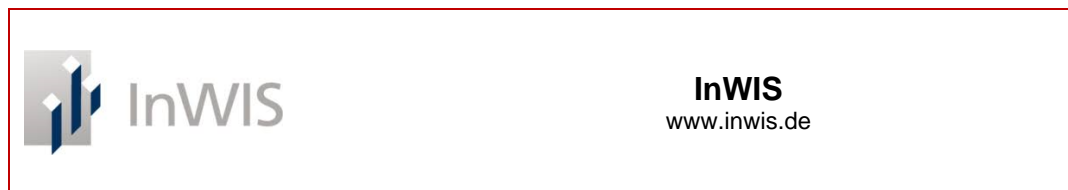
By increasing the supply of Cost Rental homes, the scheme will benefit households who are disadvantaged by prevailing market rents, through providing an option of a home for rent at a more affordable level with security of tenure. The Scheme will also support the government's objectives of compact growth and creating vibrant liveable cities for people who want to live close to work and urban amenities.

For more information click [here](#).

### About The Housing Agency

The Housing Agency was set up to support local authorities, approved housing bodies (housing associations) and government in the delivery of housing and housing services in Ireland. The vision of The Housing Agency is to enable everyone to live in good quality, affordable homes in sustainable communities, and it is driven by the understanding of the central role that housing plays in people's quality of life and life chances. One of the Agency's core activities is research, particularly to inform policy and practice. The Agency undertakes in-house research and data analysis, commissions research, works in partnership with other housing bodies on research projects and provides housing research support to other state agencies.

Housing Agency contact: [Karl Burke](#).



### KlimaKoop.Kommunen" network

As a way to adapt to climate change, the "KlimaKoop.Kommunen" network encourages collaboration between local governments and the housing sector.

A new initiative at the InWIS Institute encourages collaboration between the housing sector and local governments in order to construct blue-green infrastructure in urban areas. Trees, green areas, water parks, green roofs, and green facades can all significantly contribute to the mitigation of impact of heavy rains and the regulation of temperature in cities on private and public sites, as well as to the preservation of neighbourhood value. Utilizing these so-called "green" and "blue" infrastructures is crucial for climate change adaptation. The establishment of the "KlimaKoop.Kommunen" network is a result of the promising potential of new collaboration between municipalities and the housing sector for the prompt and cost-effective implementation of measures.

The network's objectives include the establishment and consolidation of the exchange of knowledge and experience between municipalities and the housing industry (knowledge management), the identification and use of synergies in the cooperation between municipalities and the housing industry in climate change adaptation, the preparation of group-specific and stakeholder-related information, and the development of concepts for climate adaptation based on examples from the network partners.

*As part of a research project supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), the network is being established in collaboration with Fraunhofer ISI and Kommunalagentur NRW.*

*This project runs from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025.*

*Are you curious about the network or do you have any questions? Contact: Prof. Torsten Bölting ([torsten.boelting@inwis.de](mailto:torsten.boelting@inwis.de)) or Rabea Bieckmann ([rabea.bieckmann@inwis.de](mailto:rabea.bieckmann@inwis.de))*

*Further information: [www.isi.fraunhofer.de/de/competence-center/nachhaltigkeit@infrastruktursysteme/projekte/klimakoopkomm.html](http://www.isi.fraunhofer.de/de/competence-center/nachhaltigkeit@infrastruktursysteme/projekte/klimakoopkomm.html)*

## NEW BOOKS / STUDIES

### **ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: MAKING THE SHIFT TO A HOUSING-LED SYSTEM COMPARATIVE REPORT**

*József Hegedüs, Eszter Somogyi, Ágota Scharle, Nóra Teller, Balázs Váradi and Veronika Vass-Vígh*

From the foreword by World Habitat CEO David Ireland:

‘We know that progress towards fairer and more equitable housing systems are more challenging in some places than others. This is true in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), where levels of social and other types of affordable housing are inadequate, and as a consequence homelessness is rising.’

‘The study focuses on four countries: Croatia, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. ... We know that, despite the barriers, there is in each country the commitment, drive, and the desire to improve housing outcomes for people who are homeless. What is lacking however, is the systemic shift in housing policy towards a housing-led system, rather than one that relies on traditional models of shelter-based provision or insecure housing. Street homelessness is a systemic issue. Solving it requires solutions that are interconnected with other areas such as institutional social care, affordable housing and political decision making.’

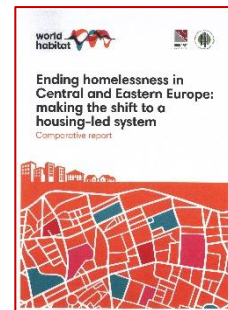
‘This feasibility study draws on the experiences of practitioners working in Croatia, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. It is not limited to those countries, however. It goes further, comparing, contrasting and analysing housing contexts in the wider CEE region.’

‘This report offers specific policy recommendations for EU member states, municipalities, funders working in the region and for housing practitioners.’

‘Accompanying this main report are four specific policy briefs for each of the four countries. These take a more direct approach with recommendations of the changes needed in each country.’

*2023, 47 p., published by World Habitat.*

<https://world-habitat.org/our-programmes/homelessness/ending-homelessness-in-central-and-eastern-europe/full-report-ending-homelessness-in-central-and-eastern-europe/> *for a free pdf of the report.*





## WHO IS WHO?

### Coordination Committee



**Peter Boelhouwer** (Chairman)  
The Netherlands



**Montserrat Pareja Eastaway**  
(Vice Chairman) Spain



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Hungary



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United Kingdom



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The Netherlands



**Igor Costarelli** (contact person New  
Housing Researchers Colloquium)  
Italy



**Ebru Karahan**  
Turkey



**Terry Hartig**  
Sweden



**Lena Magnusson Turner**  
Norway



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Finland



**Emma Holmqvist** (contact person  
New Housing Researchers  
Colloquium) Sweden



**Richard Sendi**  
Slovenia



**Catalina Turcu**  
United Kingdom

#### Ad hoc members

**Magdalena Zaleczna**  
Organiser 2023 Conference  
Lodz (Poland)

## New members

NEW INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS		
-		

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Jonny Webb	Sheffield Hallam University	United Kingdom

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-		

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NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS		
Anahita Sal Moslehian	Deakin University	Australia
Tahena Bilger	Université Bordeaux Montaigne	France
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Teresa Sa Marques	University of Porto	Portugal
Can Orhan	Universität Greifswald	Turkey
Jenny Hoolachan	Cardiff University	United Kingdom
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Colin Imoh	University of Bradford	United Kingdom
Julie Howe	University of Washington	USA
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## Institutional and Associate Institutional Members

Below you find their current addresses and contact persons of the ENHR Institutional Members. There is, however, room for more members. Visit [www.enhr.net](http://www.enhr.net) or contact the ENHR Office ([ENHR@tudelft.nl](mailto:ENHR@tudelft.nl)) for institutional membership information.

### Institutional Members

#### ALBANIA

*POLIS University*, Department of Urban Planning and Management, Rr. Bylis, 12, 1051, Tirana, ALBANIA. Contact: Artan Kacani. [www.universitetipolis.edu.al](http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al)

#### AUSTRALIA

*Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)*, Level 1, 114 Flinders Street, 3000, Melbourne, Victoria, AUSTRALIA. Contact: Tom Alves. [www.ahuri.edu.au](http://www.ahuri.edu.au)

#### AUSTRIA

*University of Vienna*, Department of Sociology, Rooseveltplatz 2, 1090, Vienna, AUSTRIA. Contact: Kathrin Lichtenberger [www.soz.univie.ac.at](http://www.soz.univie.ac.at)

*Vienna University of Technology*, Center of Public Finance and Infrastructure Policy, Department of Spatial Planning, Regelgasse 5, A-1040, Vienna, AUSTRIA. Contact: Justin Kadi [raum.tuwien.ac.at](http://raum.tuwien.ac.at)

#### BELGIUM

*Hasselt University*, Faculty of Architecture and Arts, Campus Diepenbeek, Agoralaan Building E, 3590 Diepenbeek, Belgium. Contact: Jan Vanrie [www.uhasselt.be/fac-architectuur-en-kunst](http://www.uhasselt.be/fac-architectuur-en-kunst)

#### CROATIA

*Institute for social Research, Urban/Rural and Science Research Centre, Zagreb* CROATIA. Contact: Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac, <https://www.idi.hr/en/centri/cizip/>

#### CZECH REPUBLIC

*Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic*, Jiřská 1, 110 00, Prague 1, CZECH REPUBLIC. Contact: Veronika Fronkova [www.soc.cas.cz](http://www.soc.cas.cz)

#### DENMARK

*Aalborg University Copenhagen*, Department of the Built Environment (BUILD), A.C. Meyers Vænge 15, 2450, København SV, DENMARK. Contact: Rikke Skovgaard Nielsen, [www.build.aau.dk/](http://www.build.aau.dk/)

*Knowledge Centre for Housing Economics*, Boligøkonomisk Videncenter, c/o Realdania, Jarmers Plads 2, 551, Copenhagen V, DENMARK. Contact: Curt Liliegreen [www.bvc.dk](http://www.bvc.dk)

#### FINLAND

*Aalto University, School of Arts, Design and Architecture Department of Architecture*, P.O. Box 31000, FI-00076, Aalto, FINLAND. Contact: Johanna Lilius [www.aalto.fi/en/school-of-arts-design-and-architecture](http://www.aalto.fi/en/school-of-arts-design-and-architecture)

#### FRANCE

*Interdisciplinary Laboratory on Solidarities, Societies, Territories LISST (UTM-CNRS-EHESS) UMR 5193 and Recherche Habitat-Logement (REHAL)*, University of Toulouse – Le Mirail, Maison de la Recherche, 5 allées Antonio Machado, 31058, Toulouse Cedex 9, FRANCE. Contact: Claire Carriou [w3.lisst.univ-tlse2.fr](http://w3.lisst.univ-tlse2.fr) and <http://rehal.fr>

*Lab'Urba, Cité Descartes – Bâtiment Bienvenüe*, 14-20 boulevard Newton – Champs-sur-Marne, 77454 Marne-la-Vallée cedex 2, France. Contact: Sabine Hermenault <http://www.laburba.fr/>

#### GERMANY

*ILS-Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development GmbH*, Brüderweg 22-24, 44135, Dortmund, GERMANY. Contact: Cornelia Toppel [www.ils-forschung.de](http://www.ils-forschung.de)

*Institut der Deutschen Wirtschaft Köln*, PO Box 101942, 50459 Cologne, GERMANY. Contact: Michael Voigtländer <http://www.iwkoeln.de/en>

*Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Urban Development (IOER)*, Weberplatz 1, 01217, Dresden, GERMANY. Contact: Andreas Blum [www.ioer.de](http://www.ioer.de)

*Ruhr-University Bochum, Institute for Housing, Real Estate and Urban and Regional Development (InWIS)*, Springorumallee 5, 44795, Bochum, GERMANY. Contact: Torsten Bölting [www.inwis.de](http://www.inwis.de)

#### HUNGARY

*Metropolitan Research Institute, (Városkutatás Kft)*, Lónyay utca 34, III. 21., 1093, Budapest, HUNGARY. Contact: Iván Tosics [www.mri.hu](http://www.mri.hu)

#### IRELAND

*University College Dublin*, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington Building, Belfield, D04 N9Y1 Dublin, IRELAND. Contact: Michelle Norris <http://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice/>

#### ITALY

*Politecnico di Milano*, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Via Edoardo Bonardi, 3, 20133 Milano, Italy. Contact: Igor Costarelli <https://www.polimi.it/en/scientific-research/research-at-the-politecnico/departments/department->

[of-architecture-and-urban-studies](#)

#### LUXEMBOURG

*University of Luxembourg, Institute of Political Science*, 11, Porte des Sciences 4366 Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg. Contact: Lindsay Flynn, [https://www.univ.lu/research/fhse/ds-oc/research\\_areas/political\\_science](https://www.univ.lu/research/fhse/ds-oc/research_areas/political_science)

#### NORWAY

*Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, HIOA*, PO Box 4 St. Olavs plass, 0130 Oslo Norway. Contact: Hans Christian Sandlie [www.hioa.no/eng](http://www.hioa.no/eng)

#### PORTUGAL

*DINÂMIA-CET – Centro de estudos sobre a Mudança Socioeconómica e o Território*, Av. das Forças Armadas, Ed. ISCTE-IUL, 1649-026, Lisbon PORTUGAL. Contact: Maria João Machado [dinamiacet.iscte-iul.pt/](http://dinamiacet.iscte-iul.pt/)

#### SERBIA

*Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, Laboratory for Theory and Politics of Space*, Kraljice Natalije 45 11000 Belgrade SERBIA. Contact: Sara Nikolić, [www.bg.ac.rs/en/members/institutes/p\\_hilosophy.php](http://www.bg.ac.rs/en/members/institutes/p_hilosophy.php)

#### SLOVENIA

*Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia*, Trnovski pristan 2, 1127, Ljubljana, p.p. 4717, SLOVENIA. Contact: Richard Sendi [www.uirs.si](http://www.uirs.si)

#### SPAIN

*Basque Research Institute for Housing (Observatorio Vasco de la Vivienda)* Gobierno Vasco-Eusko Jaurlaritz – c/ Donostia-San Sebastian 1, 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz, SPAIN. Contact: Elena Sánchez Fernández [www.euskadi.net/viviendaeuskadi](http://www.euskadi.net/viviendaeuskadi)

*Housing Chair, Rovira i Virgili University - Campus Catalunya, Housing Chair*, Av. Catalunya 35, 43002 Tarragona, SPAIN. Contact: Hector Simon. <http://housing.urv.cat/en/cover/>

*Barcelona Chair for Housing Studies*, Avinguda Diagonal 649, 08028 Barcelona, SPAIN. Contact: David H. Falagán <https://cbeh.cat/>

#### SWEDEN

*Malmö University*, Department of Urban Studies, 205 06, Malmö, SWEDEN. Contact: Carina Listerborn [www.mah.se](http://www.mah.se)

*Stockholm University*, Department of Human Geography, Svante Arrhenius väg 8, 10691 Stockholm, SWEDEN. Contact: Eva Andersson [www.humangeo.su.se/english/](http://www.humangeo.su.se/english/)

Umeå School of Business and Economics. Biblioteksgränd 6, SE-90187, Umeå, SWEDEN. Contact: Lars Lindbergh [www.usbe.umu.se](http://www.usbe.umu.se)  
Uppsala University, Institute for Housing & Urban Research, Box 514, SE-75120, Uppsala, SWEDEN. Contact: Nils Hertting  
[www.ibf.uu.se/index\\_eng.html](http://www.ibf.uu.se/index_eng.html)

### SWITZERLAND

ETH Wohnforum ETH CASE, Centre for Research on Architecture, Society & the Built Environment, ETH Hönggerberg, HIL G65 1, 8093, CH-8093, SWITZERLAND. Contact: Jolanda Stauffer.  
[www.wohnforum.arch.ethz.ch](http://www.wohnforum.arch.ethz.ch)

### THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR), PO Box 15629, 1001 NC, Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS. Contact: Christianne van Domburg Scipio <http://aissr.uva.nl/>  
Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, PO Box 5043, 2600 GA, Delft, THE NETHERLANDS. Contact: Manja

Stalman. [www.mbe.bk.tudelft.nl](http://www.mbe.bk.tudelft.nl)  
Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), PO Box 1935, 3000 BX, Rotterdam, THE NETHERLANDS. Contact: Maartje van Eerd & Alonso Ayala [www.ihs.nl](http://www.ihs.nl)

### TURKEY

Özyeğin University, Faculty of Architecture and Design, Çekmeköy Campus Nişantepe District, Orman Street, 34794, Istanbul, TURKEY. Contact: Prof Dr Aslıhan Unlu [aslihan.unlu@ozyegin.edu.tr](mailto:aslihan.unlu@ozyegin.edu.tr)

### UNITED KINGDOM

Glasgow University, Urban Studies (School of Social & Political Sciences), 25 Bute Gardens G12 8RS Glasgow, UNITED KINGDOM. Contact: Simon Joss, [www.gla.ac.uk/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/)

Heriot-Watt University (The Urban Institute and I-SPHERE), Edinburgh, EH14 4AS, Scotland, United Kingdom. Contact: Suzanne Fitzpartick.  
<https://www.hw.ac.uk/schools/energy-geoscience-infrastructure-society/the-urban-institute.htm> and  
<https://www.hw.ac.uk/schools/energy-geoscience-infrastructure-society/research/i-sphere.htm>

[www.brookes.ac.uk](http://www.brookes.ac.uk)  
Oxford Brookes University, Department of Real Estate and Construction, Gibsy Lane, OX3 9BP, Oxford, UNITED KINGDOM. Contact: Youngha Cho

Sheffield Hallam University, Centre for Regional Economic & Social Research, Pond St., S1 1WB, Sheffield, UNITED KINGDOM. Contact: Tom Archer  
[www.shu.ac.uk/cresr/](http://www.shu.ac.uk/cresr/)

University of Cambridge, Cambridge Centre for Housing & Planning Research, 19 Silver Street, CB3 9EP, Cambridge, UNITED KINGDOM. Contact: Gemma Burgess  
[www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk)

### UKRAINE

Cedos, PO Box 103, 04080 Kiev, UKRAINE. Contact: Ivan Verbytskyi.  
[www.cedos.org.ua/en/](http://www.cedos.org.ua/en/)

### Associate Institutional Members

#### AUSTRIA

Österreichischer Verband Gemeinnütziger Bauvereinigungen - Revisionsverband (GBV), Department of Housing Policy and Research, Bösendorferstraße 7, 1010, Vienna, AUSTRIA. Contact: Gerlinde Gutheil-Knopp-Kirchwald [www.gbv.at](http://www.gbv.at)

#### BELGIUM

European Social Housing Observatory, CECODHAS-European Liaison Committee, 18 Square de Meeus, 1050, Brussels, BELGIUM. Contact: Alice Pittini [www.housingeurope.eu](http://www.housingeurope.eu)

Agentschap Wonen-Vlaanderen, afdeling Woonbeleid, Havenlaan 80 bus 40D 1000 Bruxelles, BELGIUM. Contact: Veerle Geurts, [www.wonenvlaanderen.be](http://www.wonenvlaanderen.be)

#### FINLAND

Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, PL 30, 1514, Lathi, FINLAND. Contact: Kaisi Hantula [www.ara.fi](http://www.ara.fi)

Ministry of the Environment, Department of the Built Environment, PO Box 35, 00023, Government, FINLAND. Contact: Jaana Nevalainen [www.environment.fi](http://www.environment.fi)

Y-Foundation, PL 322, 00531 Helsinki, FINLAND. Contact: Saija Turunen, [www.ysaatio.fi](http://www.ysaatio.fi)

#### GERMANY

Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs & Spatial Development within the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Deichmanns Aue. 31-37, 531797, Bonn, GERMANY. Contact: Jonathan Franke [www.bbsr.bund.de](http://www.bbsr.bund.de)

#### IRELAND

Dublin Region Homeless Executive, Dublin, City Council, Block 1, Floor 2,

Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, IRELAND. Contact: Dáithí Downey [www.homelessdublin.ie](http://www.homelessdublin.ie)

Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency, 53-54 Mount Street Upper, D02KT73, Dublin 2, IRELAND. Contact: David Silke [www.housingagency.ie](http://www.housingagency.ie)

THRESHOLD, 21 Stoneybatter, Dublin 7, IRELAND. Contact: Aideen Hayden [www.threshold.ie](http://www.threshold.ie)

#### NORWAY

The Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, The Housing and Building Department, PO Box 8112 DEP, 0032, Oslo, NORWAY. Contact: Kjersti Halvorsrud [www.regjeringen.no/kmd](http://www.regjeringen.no/kmd)

The Norwegian State Housing Bank, PO Box 824, 3007, Drammen, NORWAY. Contact: Ingvild Fosse [www.husbanken.no](http://www.husbanken.no)

#### PORTUGAL

GEBALIS, Gestão do Arrendamento da Habitação Municipal de Lisboa, Rua Costa Malheiro, Lote B12, 1800-812 Lisboa, Portugal. Contact: Joao Carvalhosa, <https://www.gebalis.pt/Paginas/default.aspx>

#### SPAIN

Barcelona's Municipal Institute of Housing and Renovation (IMHAB), Housing Department of Barcelona City Council, Dr. Aiguader, 36, 08003 Barcelona, SPAIN. Contact: Natalia Frers Teberobsky [www.habitatge.barcelona/en/about-us/municipal-institute-housing-](http://www.habitatge.barcelona/en/about-us/municipal-institute-housing-)

#### renovation

Catalan Housing Agency (ADIGSA), Calle Diputación, 92, 08015, Barcelona, SPAIN. Contact: Jordi Bosch

[www.agenciahabitatge.cat/wps/portal](http://www.agenciahabitatge.cat/wps/portal)  
Institut D'estudis Regionals I Metropolitans Barcelona / Observatori Metropolita de l'Habitatge de Barcelona (O-HB), Plaça De La Vila De Gracia 6 baixos, 08012, Barcelona, SPAIN, Contact: Anna Verges <https://iermb.uab.cat/ca/>

#### SWEDEN

International Union of Tenants, Norrlandsgatan 7, PO Box no. 7514, SE-103 92, Stockholm, SWEDEN. Contact: Annika Wahlberg [www.iut.nu](http://www.iut.nu)  
National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket), PO Box 534, 371 23, Karlskrona, SWEDEN. Contact: Olov Schultz [www.boverket.se](http://www.boverket.se)

#### THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdamsse Federatie van Woningcorporaties, Delflandlaan 4bg, 1062 EB, Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS. Contact: Daniël Bende, [www.afwc.nl](http://www.afwc.nl)

Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Housing Policy Department, PO Box 20011, 2500 EA, The Hague, The Netherlands. Contact: Martijn Eskinassie, [www.minbzk.nl](http://www.minbzk.nl)



## Working Groups and Coordinators

WG	Coordinators
<b>Collaborative Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claire Carriou, Paris School of Urban Planning, Lab'urba and ReHal (French Network of Housing Research), FRANCE, <a href="mailto:claire.carriou@u-pec.fr">claire.carriou@u-pec.fr</a></li> <li>Darinka Czischke, Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, THE NETHERLANDS, <a href="mailto:D.K.Czischke@tudelft.nl">D.K.Czischke@tudelft.nl</a></li> <li>Richard Lang, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Institute of Innovation Management, Linz, AUSTRIA, <a href="mailto:richard.lang@jku.at">richard.lang@jku.at</a></li> <li>Henrik Larsen, Department of Human Geography, Lund University, SWEDEN, <a href="mailto:henrik_gutzon.larsen@keg.lu.se">henrik_gutzon.larsen@keg.lu.se</a></li> </ul>
<b>Comparative Housing Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marja Elsinga, Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, THE NETHERLANDS, <a href="mailto:M.G.Elsinga@tudelft.nl">M.G.Elsinga@tudelft.nl</a></li> <li>Martin Grander, Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University, SWEDEN. <a href="mailto:martin.grander@mau.se">martin.grander@mau.se</a></li> <li>Michelle Norris, School of Applied Social Science, University College Dublin, IRELAND, <a href="mailto:michelle.norris@ucd.ie">michelle.norris@ucd.ie</a></li> <li>Mark Stephens, University of Glasgow, UNITED KINGDOM, <a href="mailto:Mark.Stephens@glasgow.ac.uk">Mark.Stephens@glasgow.ac.uk</a></li> </ul>
<b>Disadvantaged Urban Neighbourhoods and Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eva Andersson, Stockholm University, Department of Human Geography, SWEDEN, <a href="mailto:eva.andersson@humangeo.su.se">eva.andersson@humangeo.su.se</a></li> </ul>
<b>Energy Efficiency and Environmental Sustainability of Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ebru Ergöz Karahan, Ozyegin University, TURKEY, <a href="mailto:eergoz@gmail.com">eergoz@gmail.com</a></li> <li>Catalina Turcu, University College London, Bartlett School of Planning, UNITED KINGDOM, <a href="mailto:catalina.turcu@ucl.ac.uk">catalina.turcu@ucl.ac.uk</a></li> <li>Henk Visscher, Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:h.j.visscher@tudelft.nl">h.j.visscher@tudelft.nl</a></li> </ul>
<b>Governing Metropolis – Land and Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Willem Korthals Altes, Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:W.K.KorthalsAltes@tudelft.nl">W.K.KorthalsAltes@tudelft.nl</a></li> <li>Berit Nordahl, NIBR, NORWAY. <a href="mailto:berir@oslomet.no">berir@oslomet.no</a></li> <li>Iván Tosics, Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest, HUNGARY. <a href="mailto:tosics@mri.hu">tosics@mri.hu</a></li> </ul>
<b>Home Ownership and Globalisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caroline Dewilde, University of Tilburg, Department of Sociology, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:c.i.dewilde@uvt.nl">c.i.dewilde@uvt.nl</a></li> <li>Justin Kadi, Vienna University of Technology, Centre for Public Finance and Infrastructure Policy, AUSTRIA. <a href="mailto:Justin.kadi@tuwien.ac.at">Justin.kadi@tuwien.ac.at</a></li> <li>Richard Ronald, Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:R.Ronald@uva.nl">R.Ronald@uva.nl</a></li> </ul>
<b>Housing and Living Conditions of Ageing Populations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marianne Abramsson, Stockholm University, Department of Human Geography, SWEDEN. <a href="mailto:marianne.abramsson@humangeo.su.se">marianne.abramsson@humangeo.su.se</a></li> <li>Blanca Deusdad, Rovira i Virgili University, SPAIN. <a href="mailto:blanca.deusdad@urv.cat">blanca.deusdad@urv.cat</a></li> </ul>
<b>Housing and New Technologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michel Vols, University of Groningen. THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:m.vols@rug.nl">m.vols@rug.nl</a></li> <li>Rosa Garcia-Teruel, University of Barcelona, SPAIN. <a href="mailto:rm.garciateruel@ub.edu">rm.garciateruel@ub.edu</a></li> </ul>
<b>Housing Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andreja Cirman, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics, SLOVENIA. <a href="mailto:andreja.cirman@ef.uni-lj.si">andreja.cirman@ef.uni-lj.si</a></li> <li>Michael Voigtländer, Institut der Deutschen Wirtschaft Köln, GERMANY. <a href="mailto:voigtlaender@iwkoeln.de">voigtlaender@iwkoeln.de</a></li> </ul>
<b>Housing in Developing Countries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claudio Acioly Jr., Freelancer International Consultant and Associate Staff of the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies-IHS of the Erasmus University Rotterdam, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:claudioaciolyjr@gmail.com">claudioaciolyjr@gmail.com</a></li> <li>Yurdanur Düğleröğlü (contact person), Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Technical University, TURKEY. <a href="mailto:yukselyu@itu.edu.tr">yukselyu@itu.edu.tr</a></li> <li>Gülden Erkut, Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning, TURKEY. <a href="mailto:gerkut@itu.edu.tr">gerkut@itu.edu.tr</a></li> <li>Kosta Mathéy, PAR/TUD, GERMANY. <a href="mailto:kmathey@aol.com">kmathey@aol.com</a></li> </ul>

<b>Housing Law</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stefan van Tongeren, Department of Legal Methods, University of Groningen, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:j.h.s.van.tongeren@rug.nl">j.h.s.van.tongeren@rug.nl</a></li> <li>Padraic Kenna, National University of Ireland, Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy, School of Law, IRELAND. <a href="mailto:Padraic.kenna@nuigalway.ie">Padraic.kenna@nuigalway.ie</a></li> <li>Michel Vols, University of Groningen, Faculty of Law and Honours College, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:m.vols@rug.nl">m.vols@rug.nl</a></li> </ul>
<b>Housing, Migration and Family Dynamics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rory Coulter, University of Cambridge, Department of Sociology, UNITED KINGDOM. <a href="mailto:r.coulter@ucl.ac.uk">r.coulter@ucl.ac.uk</a></li> <li>Tomáš Hoření Samec, Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, CZECH REPUBLIC. <a href="mailto:tomas.samec@soc.cas.cz">tomas.samec@soc.cas.cz</a></li> <li>Michael Thomas, University of Groningen, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:michael.thomas@sbb.no">michael.thomas@sbb.no</a></li> <li>Isabel Palomares Linares, University of Groningen, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:m.i.palomares@rug.nl">m.i.palomares@rug.nl</a></li> </ul>
<b>Minority Ethnic Groups and Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gideon Bolt, Urban and Regional Research Centre Utrecht, Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:g.s.bolt@uu.nl">g.s.bolt@uu.nl</a></li> <li>Rikke Skovgaard Nielsen, Aalborg University Copenhagen, Department of the Built Environment (BUILD), DENMARK. <a href="mailto:risn@build.aau.dk">risn@build.aau.dk</a></li> </ul>
<b>Policy and Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jaana Nevalainen, Ministry of Environment, Housing and Building Department, FINLAND. <a href="mailto:Jaana.Nevalainen@ym.fi">Jaana.Nevalainen@ym.fi</a></li> <li>Steffen Wetzstein, Brandt School of Public Policy/University of Erfurt, GERMANY, <a href="mailto:steffen.wetzstein@uwa.edu.au">steffen.wetzstein@uwa.edu.au</a></li> </ul>
<b>Private Rented Markets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aideen Hayden, University College Dublin, IRELAND. <a href="mailto:aideenhayden@gmail.com">aideenhayden@gmail.com</a></li> <li>Paddy Gray, University of Ulster, Centre for Research in Property, School of the Built Environment, NORTHERN IRELAND, <a href="mailto:pf.gray@ulster.ac.uk">pf.gray@ulster.ac.uk</a></li> </ul>
<b>Residential Buildings and Architectural Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birgit Jürgenhake, Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:b.jurgenhake@tudelft.nl">b.jurgenhake@tudelft.nl</a></li> <li>Maja Lorbek, University of Applied Arts Vienna, Department of Design History and Theory, AUSTRIA. <a href="mailto:maja.lorbek@uni-ak.ac.at">maja.lorbek@uni-ak.ac.at</a></li> <li>Ahsen Ozsoy, Istanbul Technical University; Faculty of Architecture, TURKEY. <a href="mailto:ozsoya@itu.edu.tr">ozsoya@itu.edu.tr</a></li> </ul>
<b>Residential Context of Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emma Baker, School of Architecture and Built Environment, University of Adelaide, AUSTRALIA. <a href="mailto:emma.baker@adelaide.edu.au">emma.baker@adelaide.edu.au</a></li> <li>Terry Hartig, Institute for Housing &amp; Urban Research, Uppsala University, SWEDEN. <a href="mailto:terry.hartig@ibf.uu.se">terry.hartig@ibf.uu.se</a></li> </ul>
<b>Residential Environments and People</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jana Zdrahalova, Czech Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, CZECH REPUBLIC. <a href="mailto:zdrahjan@fa.cvut.cz">zdrahjan@fa.cvut.cz</a></li> <li>Hélène Bélanger, Département d'études urbaines et touristiques, École des Sciences de la Gestion, Université du Québec à Montréal, CANADA. <a href="mailto:belanger.helene@uqam.ca">belanger.helene@uqam.ca</a></li> </ul>
<b>Social Housing and Globalization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claire Levy-Vroelant, Université de Paris. FRANCE. <a href="mailto:clevyvroelant@gmail.com">clevyvroelant@gmail.com</a></li> <li>Christoph Reinprecht, University of Vienna, Institute for Sociology, AUSTRIA. <a href="mailto:christoph.reinprecht@univie.ac.at">christoph.reinprecht@univie.ac.at</a></li> <li>Sasha Tsenkova, International Development, University of Calgary, CANADA. <a href="mailto:tsenkova@ucalgary.ca">tsenkova@ucalgary.ca</a></li> </ul>
<b>Social Housing: Institutions, Organisations and Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anita Blessing, European Federation for Living (EFL), THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:ablessing@ef-l.eu">ablessing@ef-l.eu</a></li> <li>Gerard van Bortel, Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:g.a.vanBortel@tudelft.nl">g.a.vanBortel@tudelft.nl</a></li> <li>Marco Peverini, Politecnico di Milano, ITALY. <a href="mailto:marco.peverini@polimi.it">marco.peverini@polimi.it</a></li> </ul>
<b>Southern European Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thorsten Heitkamp, TU Dortmund University, GERMANY, <a href="mailto:thorsten.heitkamp@udo.edu">thorsten.heitkamp@udo.edu</a></li> <li>Sandra Marques Pereira, DINÂMIA'CET/ ISCTE-IUL- Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, PORTUGAL <a href="mailto:s.marquespereira11@gmail.com">s.marquespereira11@gmail.com</a> / <a href="mailto:ssgmp@iscte.pt">ssgmp@iscte.pt</a></li> <li>Dimitra Siatitsa, Harokopeio University, GREECE, <a href="mailto:dimisiat@gmail.com">dimisiat@gmail.com</a></li> <li>Héctor Simón-Moreno, University Rovira I Virgili, SPAIN, <a href="mailto:hector.simon@urv.cat">hector.simon@urv.cat</a></li> </ul>

<b>Towards Sustainable Communities and Housing: Actors, Interventions and Solutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesper Ole Jensen, Danish Building Research Institute (SBI), Department of Town, Housing and Property, Aalborg University Copenhagen, DENMARK. <a href="mailto:jojen@build.aau.dk">jojen@build.aau.dk</a></li> <li>Montserrat Pareja-Eastaway, Departament de Teoria Economica, Escola d'Empresarials, Universitat de Barcelona, SPAIN. <a href="mailto:mpareja@ub.edu">mpareja@ub.edu</a></li> <li>Nessa Winston, University College Dublin, School of Applied Social Science, IRELAND, <a href="mailto:nessa.winston@ucd.ie">nessa.winston@ucd.ie</a></li> </ul>
<b>Welfare Policy, Homelessness, and Social Exclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Bevan, Durham Law School Durham University, UNITED KINGDOM. <a href="mailto:christopher.w.bevan@durham.ac.uk">christopher.w.bevan@durham.ac.uk</a></li> <li>Joe Finnerty, Dept. of Applied Social Studies, Housing Research Project, University College, IRELAND. <a href="mailto:j.finnerty@ucc.ie">j.finnerty@ucc.ie</a></li> <li>Magdalena Mostowska, University of Warsaw, POLAND. <a href="mailto:mmostowska@uw.edu.pl">mmostowska@uw.edu.pl</a></li> <li>Yoshihiro Okamoto, Chukyo University, School of Business and Public Policies, JAPAN. <a href="mailto:yokamoto@mecl.chukyo-u.ac.jp">yokamoto@mecl.chukyo-u.ac.jp</a></li> </ul>

<b>WG in preparation</b>	
<b>Housing and Young People (2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Igor Costarelli, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan Bicocca, ITALY. <a href="mailto:igor.costarelli@unimib.it">igor.costarelli@unimib.it</a></li> <li>Oana Druta, Urbanism Group, Eindhoven University of Technology, THE NETHERLANDS. <a href="mailto:o.druta@tue.nl">o.druta@tue.nl</a></li> <li>Constance Uyttebrouck, P.PUL Research Group, Department of Architecture, KU Leuven, BELGIUM. <a href="mailto:constanceuyttebrouck@gmail.com">constanceuyttebrouck@gmail.com</a></li> </ul>
<b>Crises, Conflict and Recovery (2022)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Galyna Sukhomud, New housing policy – Ukraine / Bauhaus University Weimar, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, UKRAINE. <a href="mailto:galynasukhomud@gmail.com">galynasukhomud@gmail.com</a></li> <li>Pavlo Fedoriv, New housing policy, UKRAINE. <a href="mailto:pavlo.fedoriv@gmail.com">pavlo.fedoriv@gmail.com</a></li> </ul>
<b>Housing and Theory (2022)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Julie Lawson, Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University, AUSTRALIA. <a href="mailto:julie.lawson@rmit.edu.au">julie.lawson@rmit.edu.au</a></li> <li>Hannu Ruonavaara, University of Turku, FINLAND. <a href="mailto:hanruona@utu.fi">hanruona@utu.fi</a></li> </ul>

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[fac.arch.hku.hk/upad/apnhr](http://fac.arch.hku.hk/upad/apnhr)

### Partners (signed Memorandum of Understanding)



European Federation for Living (EFL)  
[www.ef-l.eu](http://www.ef-l.eu)



Housing Studies Association (HSA)  
[housing-studies-association.org](http://housing-studies-association.org)



Urban Affairs Association (UAA)  
[urbanaffairsassociation.org/](http://urbanaffairsassociation.org/)

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#### **ENHR Secretariat**

Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment // Delft University of Technology  
PO Box 5043 // 2600 GA Delft // The Netherlands

☎ +31 6 426 012 78 // [ENHR@tudelft.nl](mailto:ENHR@tudelft.nl) // [www.enhr.net](http://www.enhr.net)

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