

# ENHR Housing and Young People Working Group Annual Meeting :

## Young People and Housing Precarity

*Conveners: Oana Druta, Igor Costarelli, Constance Uyttebrouck*

*Dates: 2-4 March, 2026*

*Location: Eindhoven University of Technology*

Across Europe, young people are navigating increasingly fragile housing pathways shaped by intersecting crises of affordability, welfare retrenchment, and rapid urban transformation. Within this landscape, housing precarity (Waldron, 2024; Bimpson, 2025; Debrunner et al, 2024; Dotsey & Chiodelli, 2021; Mulvey et al, 2024) takes multiple forms—ranging from acute homelessness and insecure tenures to dependence on temporary, or highly commodified housing. In the context of the EU's Affordable Housing Initiative and ongoing debates on social inclusion, this symposium of the ENHR Working group Housing and Young People invites papers that conceptualise and examine dimensions of housing precarity in the pathways of young people. We propose two thematic sessions: *Housing First for Young People* and *Student Accommodation in Cities* as complementary windows into the diverse expressions of precarity experienced by young adults and as important directions for tackling the affordable housing provision challenge. Additionally, we welcome papers that address different dimensions of precarity, and different aspect of young people's housing to be included in an open paper day.

Contributions should interrogate the governance configurations, welfare regimes, and planning systems shaping precarious housing experiences, as well as analyses that trace how different housing pathways expose young people to varying degrees of vulnerability, marginalisation, and opportunity. We encourage three main types of contributions:

- Papers that foreground the lived experiences of students and young people, exploring how mobility, social support and financial constraints influence their exposure to homelessness, overcrowding or unstable living arrangements ;
- Studies addressing more institutional perspectives on how higher education institutions, municipalities, non-profit providers, as well as market actors, shape the student housing landscape and housing solutions for young people more generally.
- Contributions on how commodification and marketisation processes affect the stability, affordability, and accessibility of accommodation.

By examining these diverse yet interrelated forms of youth housing precarity, the symposium aims to develop a more integrated understanding of the socio-spatial, institutional, and demographic forces shaping young people's access to adequate, secure, and sustainable housing across European urban regions. These dynamics are particularly visible in high-pressure regions such as the Netherlands—and notably the Brainport Eindhoven region—where structural supply shortages intersect with internationalization and knowledge-worker migration to intensify the precariousness of young people's housing options. Aiming to bring research and practice in conversation, the event will combine paper sessions and panel discussions involving practitioners at the local, regional and national levels :

- **Day one** will be dedicated to *Housing First for Young People*, and will include a keynote by Cody Hochstenbach, and a panel discussion anchored in the Passende Huisvesting (Suitable Housing: Transformative Research into the Transition from Shelters to Housing) project, a large scale research programme addressing the transition to a Housing First systemic approach in the Netherlands.
- **Day two** will be dedicated to *Student Housing*, and will include alongside academic contributions, a panel discussion with local/regional practitioners and policy makers. Papers submitted for this thematic day will be considered for publication in a planned special issue on Student Housing in Cities (in collaboration with Jin Zhu, University of Hong Kong). The spatial issue tentatively aims to examine the diverse provision models emerging globally and their multifaceted impacts on students and urban communities.
- **Day three** will be an open contributions day representing the broader preoccupations of the working group, but aligned with the direction of the symposium and its interest in youth precarities.

Abstracts of no more than **500 words** shall be sent to Oana Druta ([o.druta@tue.nl](mailto:o.druta@tue.nl)) by **January 16, 2026**. Authors should also indicate which thematic session they wish to attend. If planning to submit to the open day (day three) please contact the organizers with a short email no later than **December 19** (this will help us assess how much interest there is in this last day).

The symposium is free to attend. The WG will NOT support accommodation or travel, but we will offer tips and information about local hotels and best transport options. Eindhoven is well connected via train and airplane, as well as offering many affordable hotel options.

Please address any further inquiries to Oana Druta ([o.druta@tue.nl](mailto:o.druta@tue.nl)) or Valentina Cortes Urra ([v.a.cortes.urra@tue.nl](mailto:v.a.cortes.urra@tue.nl)).

## References:

- Bimpson, E. (2025). Governing homelessness in the PRS: a capabilities perspective. *Housing Studies*, 1-22.
- Debrunner, G., Hofer, K., Wicki, M., Kauer, F., & Kaufmann, D. (2024). Housing precarity in six European and North American cities: Threatened by the loss of a safe, stable, and affordable home. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 90(4), 610-626.
- Dotsey, S., & Chiodelli, F. (2021). Housing precarity: a fourfold epistemological lancet for dissecting the housing conditions of migrants. *City*, 25(5-6), 720-739.
- Mulvey, B., Morris, A., & Ashton, L. (2024). Differentiated experiences of financial precarity and lived precariousness among international students in Australia. *Higher Education*, 87(3), 741-760.
- Waldron, R. (2024). Responding to housing precarity: The coping strategies of generation rent. *Housing Studies*, 39(1), 124-145.