



Joining the Housing Europe family

Become a Partner of Housing Europe

A. Introduction

Who are we?

Housing Europe is the European Federation of Public, Cooperative and Social Housing. Established in 1988, it is a network of 44 national and regional federations which together gather about 43.000 public, social and cooperative housing providers in 23 countries. Altogether they manage over 26 million homes, about 11% of existing dwellings in the EU.

Social, public and co-operative housing providers have a vision of a Europe which provides access to decent and affordable housing for all in communities which are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and where everyone is enabled to reach their full potential.

Therefore, they do not just provide affordable homes but a number of other services such as:

Domiciliary care and support services for residents with specific needs:

- Additional services for tenants (kindergartens, community centres, employment and training services, financial advice)
- Neighbourhood services
- Management of other types of 'sheltered' accommodation
- Urban development and urban regeneration

Do you share these values? Do you operate in a similar way? We invite you to join our network and be part of the Housing Europe family! Make your voice stronger while extending the impact of our work.

Find out more about the history of Housing Europe by [reading the 'History Series' on our blog](#)



Our Structure

Housing Europe is administered by a board of directors, known as the Board, comprising the President and eight members. Neither the President nor the Board members represent their own country or their organisation. The length of its members' mandate is three years; it is renewable. A third of the Board members is renewed every year.

At the same time the organisation consists of **five (5) thematic committees** open to all member and partner organisations:

1. Energy & Construction
2. Urban Affairs
3. Social Affairs
4. Economic & Financial Affairs
5. Observatory

* More information about the Work Plan of the Committees as well as their Chairs and Vice-Chairs [can be found on our website](#).

The role of the Secretariat

The Secretariat of Housing Europe, based in Brussels, is responsible for the day-to-day work of the Federation. There are **5 main themes** around which the work is structured, reflecting the respective Committees of Housing Europe:

At the same time, there are **3 key strands** around which the activities are developed:

1. *Policy Formulation & Advocacy*

Housing Europe represents and promotes the interests of the public, cooperative and social housing sector towards the EU Institutions and all other relevant stakeholders in the European Capital.

2. *Knowledge Sharing & Networking*

Exchange of best practices and of ideas or strategies that work on the ground are among the priorities of the organisation. The exchange takes place both within the framework of EU projects and beyond, both among the Housing Europe members and partners and between them and other peers across the continent.

3. *Research*

Launched in 2004, the Observatory is the research branch of Housing Europe. The main aim of the Observatory is to identify research needs and analyse key trends in the field of housing and social housing at European level, and thus support Housing Europe's policy work by providing strategic and evidence-based analysis. Besides from regularly publishing its own reports and research briefings, the Observatory participates into a number of EU-funded research projects and liaises with European and international agencies and networks such as OECD, UNECE, ENHR.

The string that connects all departments is the ***Communications Department*** that is responsible for the external communication of the organisation online (website, social media), the media relations but also for the internal communication of the network through the Housing Europe Newsletter, the thematic mailing lists and the various tools developed for the Federation members.

The team (as of 20.12.2016)



- Sorcha Edwards, Secretary General

Sorcha is responsible for the institutional relations and the overall coordination of the Secretariat's work. At the same time, Sorcha is the face of Housing Europe in Brussels and also makes the link between the Board and the rest of the organisation's structure.

- Julien Dijol, Deputy Secretary General & Policy Coordinator

Julien coordinates the policy work of Housing Europe, monitoring all relevant political developments and drafting the position papers of the organisations. Julien coordinates the work



of all Committees and makes the link between them and the day-to-day work in Brussels. Julien also represents Housing Europe in various events, delivering a wide range of presentations.

- Agata Krause, Research coordinator

Agata leads the daily work of the European Social Housing Observatory, coordinating researches, comparative studies, thematic briefings and articles. As the go-to person for facts and figures around housing in Europe she delivers presentations in various events that try to make a reality check with what happens on the ground. Agata also works closely with the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Observatory.

- Laura Gies, Project & Membership Officer

Laura coordinates the work of Housing Europe when it comes to applying for and working within the framework of EU Projects. At the same time, she is responsible for the engagement of current members and the development of the network of the organisation.

- Michalis Goudis, Communications Director

Michalis is responsible for the external and the internal communications of Housing Europe. You will see him updating the website and the social media channels, drafting press releases and Op-Eds, responding to journalists' queries, curating the organisation's publications and preparing the bi-weekly Housing Europe Newsletter. Michalis also coordinates the work around the various tools available to Housing Europe members.

- Edit Lakatos, Policy Officer

Edit is part of the policy team, focusing especially in European Funding. She is monitoring all sources of EU financial means that can support the public, cooperative and social housing sector and is responsible for all relevant publications and the respective online portal. Edit is also involved in a number of Housing Europe partnerships, including SDG Watch Europe.

- Abderrahim Khairi, Research Assistant

Abderrahim supports the daily work of the Observatory, preparing briefings, statistics and all other materials presenting the contributions of the Research branch of Housing Europe.

B. Why to become a partner of Housing Europe

At a time when housing seems to be a key challenge in many countries with supply of affordable homes being among the priorities of most political agendas at national level the added value of being part of a wider network increases. At times of pressure national bodies can become stronger by joining a broader, international alliance. What are the key benefits?

- Now that many EU policies in the fields of Energy, Financial Regulation, Urban Affairs etc. affect the present and the future of housing make sure that you **stay up-to-date with all important developments**.
- Get access to **evidence to support your work at national level**. Both through to the research findings of our Observatory and the monitoring of policies and best practices across Europe you may get equipped with additional means to protect your interests at national level.
- **Exchange on what works best on the ground**. Stay up-to-date with best practices and schemes that have proven to be effective. Our communication channels feed you constantly with information, while initiatives such as the [European Responsible Housing Awards](#) offer a chance to get in touch with exceptional projects that make a difference in the wider community in which housing providers operate.
- **Be part of EU projects** that will allow you to collaborate with diverse partners from many EU member states on a wide range of issues around technical and social innovation.
- **Take part in international events and meet interesting peers**. Throughout the year, Housing Europe organises various big and small scale events in Brussels and other European cities in collaboration with its members, while it participates in many more organised by third parties. Get access to our agenda and use the opportunities to expand your network of contacts.

Partners in a nutshell

	Partners
Fee	<i>Depending on the size of the organisation</i>
Involvement	Exchange of knowledge & Best Practices Research
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Participation at the Working Committee Meetings ✓ Access to exclusive content on HE website ✓ Participation & Representation in EU Project consortia ✓ Feed in to the Research work of Housing Europe ✓ Exclusive access to housing data ✓ Participation in International Events and Partnerships such as the UNECE Housing Committee

c. How to become a partner

The procedure is rather simple and involves **4 main steps**:

1. The interested foundation, university etc. sends a **letter to the Secretary General of Housing Europe**, expressing their interest to become a Partner.
If they are based in a country where Housing Europe already has a member or partner, then the Secretary General will have to check with them first whether they are fine with the European Federation expanding its presence in the country.
2. **Housing Europe Secretary General informs the Board** of the interest and asks the **interested body to fill in the application form** and send all relevant documents, so that a formal request can be processed.
3. The request for partnership is discussed during a Housing Europe Board meeting. The **Board makes its decision** that will be shared with all members at the upcoming General Assembly.
4. The **Housing Europe General Assembly makes a simple majority decision** about the integration of the new Partner.
The representatives of the interested body are invited to participate at the GA delivering a presentation that explains the reasons for their application and the added value of their organisation.

As far as the **timeframe** of the whole procedure is concerned, it usually takes up to 6 months for an organisation to officially become a partner of Housing Europe. However, if in the meantime, the Board expresses its positive opinion then representatives of the organisation may be invited to attend Working Committee meetings or other events before the official approval of their application from the General Assembly.