



The role of housing providers to achieve health equity

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High-level Conference on Health Equity-Accelerating Progress Towards Healthy
and Prosperous Lives for all in the WHO European Region

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About us in brief



Network of national and regional housing provider federations

- 4,500 public, voluntary housing organisations
- 28,000 cooperative housing organisations

45 members & partners in 24 countries

Manage **26 million dwellings**, about **11% of existing dwellings in the EU**



PARTNERS

- ▶ Fondazione Housing Sociale (Italy)
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity
- ▶ Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (IWO)
- ▶ Social Housing & Property Rights in Kosovo
- ▶ University of West Attica

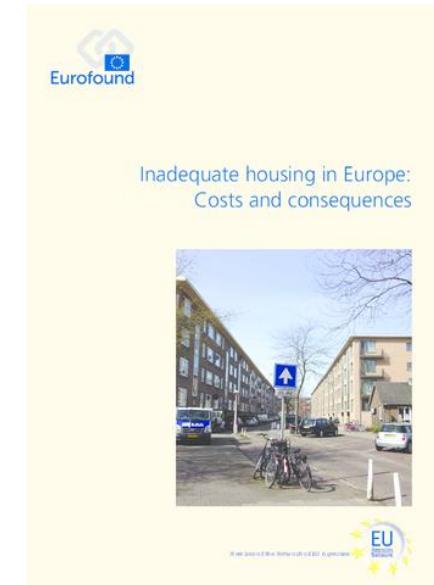
328,481 members of staff employed
by local housing providers

Total number of dwellings renovated
in 2014: 1,283,231

Total number of dwellings
completed in 2014: 301,878

The cost of inadequate housing – a view from Eurofound

- **Inadequate housing costs EU economies nearly €194 billion per year** – in direct costs associated with healthcare and related medical and social services, and indirect costs such as lost productivity and reduced opportunities.
- The **investment needed** to bring the standard of housing up to an acceptable level **which would be repaid within 18 months** by savings in healthcare and better social outcomes.



(Source: Eurofound (2016), Inadequate housing in Europe: Costs and consequences, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg)

Investing in affordable and quality housing

Housing Europe Members over the last 5 years:

- more than **1,8 million dwellings** refurbished
- investing around **33 billion Euros** and **saving on average 724 Euros/year** from their tenants' energy bills.
- wide range of activities like renovations, supporting the establishment of non-for-profit energy provision

Our aim...

1. Fair Energy Transition
2. Affordability
3. Work with community



Tackling Health Inequalities through investing in social housing

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

- Case studies based on secondary analysis of House Condition Surveys.
- Key finding: little can be done about the price of fuel or income, therefore **the Strategy should addresses fuel source and insulation.**

Building Research Establishment estimates

- annual savings to Health Service of £33m (£40m) per annum
- Payback period of 13 years
- Only includes 40% of cost to society as a whole
- Investment in social housing and all housing can make **very significant differences to the health and well-being** of particularly households:
 - direct savings to the public purse
 - more indirect ones through higher education standards
 - greater social inclusion.

Dementia friendly neighbourhood- Integrating residents with the local community



**HELM HOUSING ASSOCIATION
Belfast, Northern-Ireland**

Objective: to provide essential support services and
create a comfortable living for those living with Dementia

Tools: **social activities**, an establishment of the **Community Integration Group**

Key results: **reduced the stigma** associated with dementia, **creating better understanding** of the condition within the community

Hemsworth promotes a person-centred facility that helps maintain **independence, normalisation & social inclusion.**

It could be replicated anywhere in Europe with the support of relevant partner organisations.



Responsible Housing Awards

2019

Pflege@Quartier – Guaranteed care in the neighbourhood



GESOBAU AG, Berlin, Germany

- 2015-2018 (30 dwellings)
- develop innovative solutions to support those in need of care-allowing senior citizens (65+) to live independently in their homes

Converted homes

- **technical assistance systems (safety modules & emergency functions, fall detection, orientation lights, functions for social contact)**
- **Age friendly digital infrastructure to strengthen competence, building confidence**
- **personal services (nursing Services)**
- integrated into the neighbourhood management

Innovative

- Involving senior citizens to develop tailor-made solutions
 - Ex ante and ex-post: Regular feedback meetings, workshops on age and technology
- Based on Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) approach

Outcome

- Greater independence, higher self esteem
- Will be implemented on a systemic basis



An integrative living accommodation project for Roma families



GESOBAU AG, Berlin, Germany

- Roma families from south-eastern Europe entail the need for intensive support
- A place to live is the most important prerequisite for orientation and is one of life's basic requirements

Supported by -the “*Berlin action plan for the integration of Roma from other countries*”

- Decentralised housing project for 10 families: Municipal authority –Gesobau - Aufwind e.V (shelter)
- Social mix: Families are distributed over the entire estate
- 10 Events: “Coming here. Arrival. Welcome. Our new neighbours”
- Individual support system: make sure families are well integrated in everyday life, in other words with regard to schools, kindergartens, public transport and medical services



- ✓ reducing the level of prejudice
- ✓ Social inclusion
- ✓ A sense of home





Financial and social counselling for all residents

BO-VEST, Glostrup, Denmark

- Hiring counsellors to implement a new financial and social counselling for the residents
- Prevent evictions
- improve the life quality by empowering the residents
- a permanent service for all residents

Activities



- Help organizing finances and do a budget, bills
- Explain options and consequences (debt recovery)
- Apply for social benefits
- Collaborate with municipalities and social workers
- Contact and negotiate with creditors
- Collaborate with other authorities
- Refer to other services, for example, a **gambling helpline**, **family support**, **personal counselling** or legal aid.

Takeaways

- ✓ **Looking at neighbourhoods rather than buildings only** (not just focusing on energy performance, ecology or smart devices, but also on creating a pleasant place to live, stripping it of its social stigma)
- ✓ **Facilitator approach** (Social housing providers should offer packaged solutions for complex issues)



Impact

- Save costs in other policy areas (health-renovated homes improve health of their tenants and improve living circumstances)
- Social cohesion (integration in a culturally diversified society)
- Energy performance, environment quality
- Growth (creating jobs, living in social homes increases purchasing power)

3 October 2019, Brussels, Belgium

Promoting the district approach to tackle energy poverty

European Workshop in the frame of the EPOV project

- How EU funding schemes are fostering the tackling of energy poverty?
- How to improve financial tools to address the whole neighbourhood/district?
- What is the role of innovation/RES?
- How to upscale to achieve affordability for the providers?
- How could the decentralised energy be a reality? The role of local energy communities





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