

**RENEWAL & REVIVAL  
OF PUBLIC,  
COOPERATIVE &  
SOCIAL HOUSING**



**YEARBOOK 2020**

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## **BENT MADSEN**

### **HOUSING EUROPE PRESIDENT**

I kicked off my term as a President with the guiding principle that welfare is no longer only measured in prosperity but is how we thrive and feel. Right at the start, I witnessed how the Housing Europe network can move mountains in a short period to protect tenants and residents.

This pandemic leaves us without a doubt and will add to the huge amount of evidence out there already about the adverse impact of poor-quality homes on people's physical health, and indeed the adverse impact on their life chances generally.

So, the term adequacy is already taking on a new meaning. These few years will be a moment for renewal and revival of social and affordable housing, a rare chance to provide #NextGeneration neighbourhoods where our communities can live a full life in all its potential.

The sector knows best how to contribute to minimising inequalities and our joint efforts within Housing Europe, as well as with policymakers, cities and key fellow organisations can shape the post-pandemic reality our communities want to live in.

This 2020 Yearbook already sets the tone.



**SORCHA EDWARDS**  
**HOUSING EUROPE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

In the past year, we saw the core values of members coming to the fore during the COVID-19 period. What really kept the Housing Europe team going is the fact that we are very proud to work for the sector and the wellbeing of society.

The combination of the new recognition of the sector and the importance of having a decent home is a turning point. There is a clear momentum for more political support on all levels - local, regional, national and European level. The work on the Renovation Wave, the EU Affordable Housing Initiative and New European Bauhaus is an opportunity to go through a real social green transition. Housing 2030 - our joint initiative with the UNECE and UN-Habitat – will be eye-opening for many governments, helping to see the multi-layered benefits of social and affordable housing, not just in the short-term, but for generations.

Looking ahead, our 2021 edition of the 'State of Housing in Europe' report will demonstrate that the phrase 'Housing is Healthcare' has never been so true and that more social, cooperative, public means that more people are shielded from unexpected economic and social shocks. The upcoming Renovation Summit and Social Housing Film Festival will continue making the case that the sector knows best how to connect the dots between affordability, climate-proof homes and social inclusion. Let's stay connected.

## 2020 HAS BEEN A ROLLER-COASTER FOR OUR SOCIETY

For the very first time, the significant role of having a home in every sense of the word came to the surface. The global health pandemic left no doubt that after a 12-hour shift, essential workers should be able to afford to live close to where they work; that teleworking should be an easy go; that a bit of greenery and a balcony where one can take fresh air is vital for our mental health; that the elderly must age in dignity and that hearing 'StayAtHome' while being homeless is an alarming paradox.

## WEATHERING THE STORM ON THE GROUND

We saw Housing Europe members - public, cooperative and social housing providers - immediately focusing their efforts on decoding the implications of the crisis and offering the much-needed safety net to the most vulnerable. A full stop on evictions and rent arrears, providing clear guidance on all available support, pre-paying service providers, regular phone calls, reaching out to isolated seniors, disinfection of buildings have been only part of the measures taken by social and affordable landlords. Strict safety measures also put construction and renovation on hold in many Member States, slowing down the usual rates at which members would usually deliver or improve their dwellings. The sector has literally been weathering the storm and continues to do so today. Watch this [2-minute animation](#) that sums up how members have been protecting people, communities, and the economy. You can also read how doing an internship at Housing Europe during the COVID-19 lockdown turned into an inspiration for a [master thesis](#).





## EU, IT IS TIME TO ACT

Moving to Brussels, the Housing Europe team had to adapt quickly to a fully-digital working environment to ensure the exchange of practices between members, shape key policy messages based on the work on the ground and work towards a fair recovery.

## HOUSING EXCHANGES

The series of member-only webinars 'Housing Exchanges' turned into a platform to discuss major topics, such as [the role of the sector in the EU green recovery](#), [homelessness](#) and housing exclusion, [ageing at home](#), the cost of the [Renovation Wave](#), [innovative renovation concepts](#), as well as the development of [positive or zero-energy districts](#).

These 90-minute sessions continue to meet Housing Europe members with EU policymakers and organisations that have a leading role in housing also in 2021.

Is there a topic you would like us to cover? Contact our Membership and Events Coordinator, [Abderrahim Khairi](#). 

It is no secret that the challenges came on top of an already existing housing crisis, a deepening problem that Housing Europe's Observatory 'State of Housing' report has been illustrating with facts and numbers for years. However, we also know that the crisis offers an opportunity to re-evaluate the policy mistakes which have been made in recent years, and to begin to do things better.



## NEXT GENERATION EU

The mounting evidence of the need to invest in more affordable, adequate housing has put our sector in the spotlight. Last summer, the plan for European recovery, Next Generation EU was announced. With the aim of addressing the consequences of COVID-19 and to set the Union firmly on the path to a sustainable and resilient recovery, the EU secured the amount of €750 billion. The biggest instrument is the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) which represents €672,5 billion which is divided into €360 billion in loans and €312,5 billion in grants.

## RECOVERY TOOLKIT FOR MEMBERS

The Housing Europe team has carefully analysed the possibilities ahead of us and has prepared a [Recovery Toolkit for Members](#) to steer the discussion at national level.

Our Policy Officer, [Edit Lakatos](#) is your point of contact on the recovery package. ✉



## OUR VISION OF THE RENOVATION WAVE

The [Renovation Wave initiative](#), announced by the European Commission as part of the EU Green Deal, is another important milestone for the political push towards a carbon-neutral Europe by 2050. Housing Europe has been insisting that the transition must not only be green but also socially-oriented, [stressing](#) the importance of channelling the necessary funding to avoid unintended consequences on affordability and citizens.



OUR HOMES  
OUR DEAL

Europe's public, cooperative  
& social housing providers  
leading a just transition

Rethinking, modernising people's homes requires attention to what works on the ground and social, affordable housing providers can be the soundboard EU Member States would need. It has now been almost a year, since the 'Our Homes, Our Deal' has started showcasing how renovation done within the sector can be efficient, affordable, inclusive, integrated, well-financed and also beautiful.

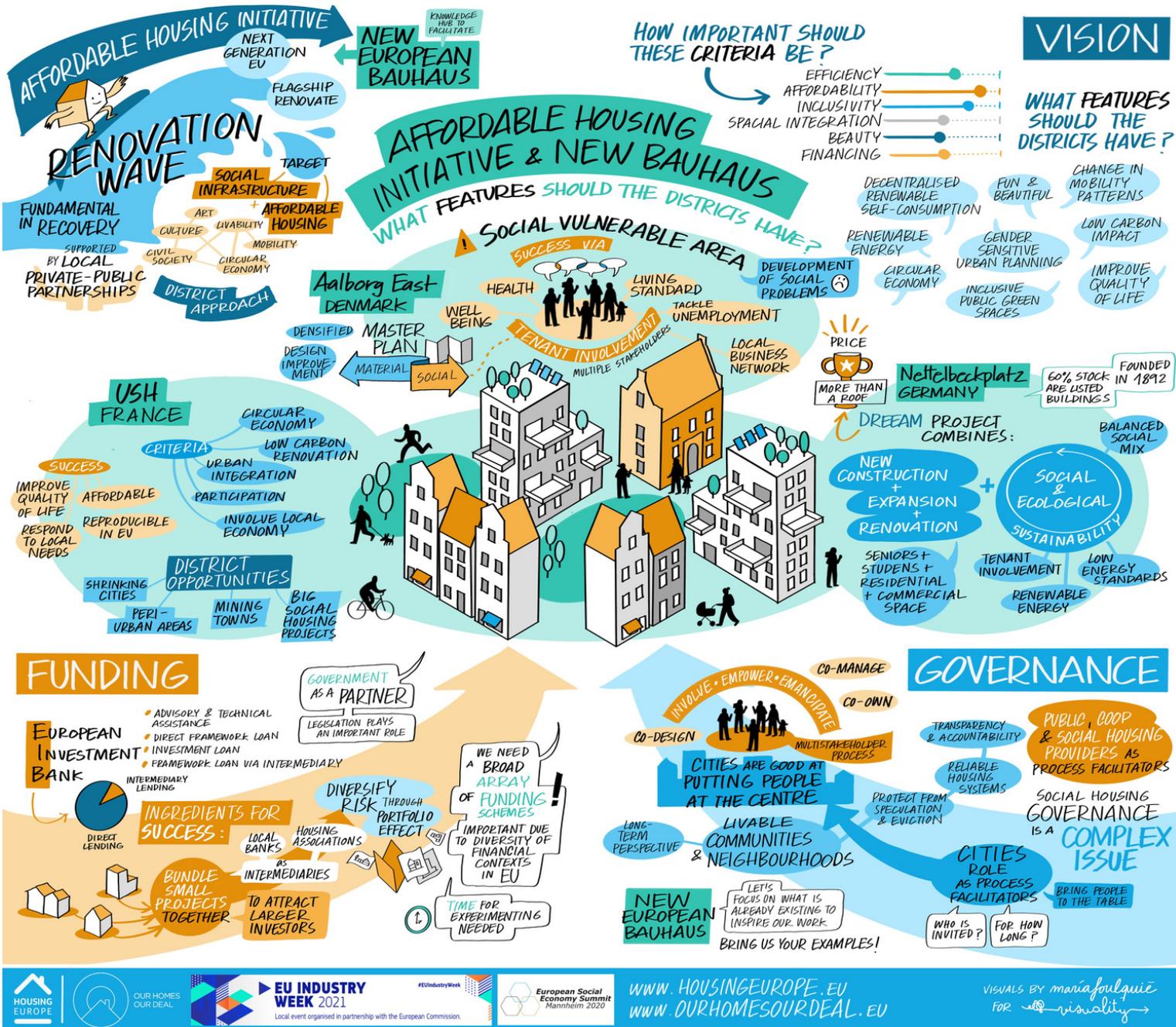
Contact our Junior Project Officer, [Clara Mafé](#) to share a best practice. ✉



[www.ourhomesourdeal.eu](http://www.ourhomesourdeal.eu)

[#OurHomesOurDeal](https://twitter.com/OurHomesOurDeal)

# THE RENOVATION WAVE'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE & THE NEW BAUHAUS: TOWARDS A GREEN TRANSITION - THE ROLE OF PUBLIC, COOPERATIVE & SOCIAL HOUSING



## TOWARDS A GREEN TRANSITION - THE ROLE OF PUBLIC, COOPERATIVE, SOCIAL HOUSING

The European Commission has heard Housing Europe's voice and introduced the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI) that will pilot 100 lighthouse renovation districts. The project focuses on creating quality, liveable homes for people and will mobilise cross-sectoral project partnerships.

To kick off the discussion and position the sector, we have created a special page under the 'Our Homes Our Deal' initiative' where we ask our network to share its view on the selection criteria, governance and funding of the initiative.

Be part of our video series or share your vision. [Contact us.](#)

On the same page, you will also discover how the New European Bauhaus should look like through the lens of social and affordable housing providers. Our stance on this initiative will be further elaborated during the Spring Working Committees in March 2021.

## Public, Cooperative & Social Housing Providers' ambition

# 4,000,000



## THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID IN THE 2021 EUROPEAN SEMESTER 'AUTUMN PACKAGE'

Since early 2020, we have all been going through exceptional times and this year's Semester, published on 18th November, also represents an exceptional cycle. Housing Europe brings to its members an analysis of the spotted economic imbalances in the 2021 Alert Mechanism Report (AMR) and highlights the recent trends in housing affordability in the Draft Joint Employment Report 2021.

Members can have a read [here](#).

## OUR 4 MILLION HOMES AMBITION

If we have to choose one final piece dedicated to renovation, this will be Housing Europe's ambition to renovate 4 million affordable homes by 2030 which was announced by our President, Bent Madsen last November. The document plans to decrease the energy consumption of the refurbished housing units on average by 50% by 2030, cut emissions with at least 50% and save up to €700 per year on average to each resident. This can only be achieved with adequate support at EU and Member State level.

To know more about the initiative, contact Housing Europe's Policy Director, [Julien Dijol](#) 



## THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CALLED FOR 'ACCESS TO DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL'

Major progress was made also by the European Parliament as the Dutch MEP, Kim van Sparrentak from the Greens launched its own-initiative report on 'Decent and Affordable Housing for All'.

The report has become known for its seven measures that address some of the, unfortunately, ever-growing problems related to the lack of affordable housing across Europe. Just to name a few, the proposals included increasing Europe's affordable housing stock, having an integrated strategy on housing, fighting evictions and eradicating homelessness by 2030.

The resolution was adopted in January 2021, calling the European Commission and the 27 EU Member States to put forward a coherent response to the housing problem that is now, even more, exacerbated due to the global health pandemic.

Read the key points for our sector.



### SPOT ON 7 MEASURES THAT CAN DELIVER MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

1.  
Set a European goal of eradicating homelessness by 2030
2.  
Fight evictions and create inclusive housing markets
3.  
Increase Europe's affordable housing stock
4.  
Devise an integrated European strategy on housing
5.  
Prioritise the European Green Deal
6.  
Adapt European rules for digital platforms
7.  
Combat housing discrimination

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Recognition of the role of renovation of social, cooperative and public housing in the Resilience & Recovery plans.



New Affordable Housing Initiative as part of the Renovation Wave that will support the renovation of 100 districts.



European Parliament resolution on 'Access to affordable and decent housing for all' that calls for more investment and coherent approach at EU level.

Contact our policy team - Julien Dijol and Edit Lakatos  - for any clarification and updates on the legislative developments.

Policy



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## THE SOCIAL VALUE OF HOUSING IN THE SPOTLIGHT OF OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Seeing more than 120 key figures discuss the social value of housing during the joint annual agenda-setting event of Housing Europe and our member, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) has been truly inspiring. Even if we had to meet online due to the circumstances, the commitment of public, cooperative and social housing providers to invest in their neighbourhoods, generating value in different forms and in the long-term, came to the surface.

If we have to guide you through some of the highlights of the event, we will start with the keynote address of the Secretary-General of the OECD, Angel Gurría who clearly recognised the vital role of 'committed professionals'. He said: "As social housing providers, you were on the frontlines to ensure tenants could cope financially with the crisis.

These measures have helped to avoid the worst impacts of COVID-19. To build back better, we need renewed investment in the housing stock."

Mr Gurría also launched a policy brief under the title "Social Housing: A Key Part of Past and Future Housing Policy," that refers favourably to examples of broadly accessible social housing sectors that have proved more resilient and financially sustainable.

Sally Thomas - CEO of SFHA - set the tone and stressed on the need for a positive new framing of our housing systems with social justice at its centre. She also welcomed us to Scotland's impressive affordable housing with a short Google Earth video that challenged misconceptions about the sector.



**ANGEL GURRIA**

Secretary-General of the OECD

The President of Housing Europe, Bent Madsen pointed out the need "to put Social Justice at the heart of our housing system with affordable and social housing, not a last resort but part of the mainstream, not as an afterthought, but at the heart of our housing systems in a complete re-framing exercise."

We also listened to tenants' stories about the transformational power of social housing' in Denmark, Poland, France and Scotland. Their experience brought us on a revelatory journey that helped us witness how neighbourhoods can undergo transformation without losing their soul.

Here is the [throwback video](#).

**Congrats! | Housing Europe President 2020 - 2023**

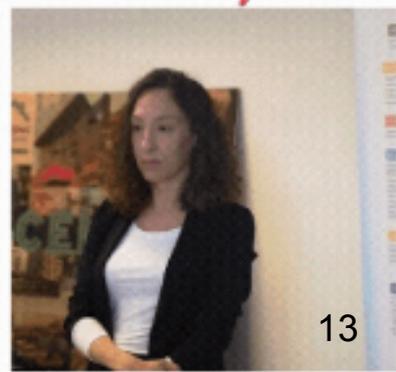
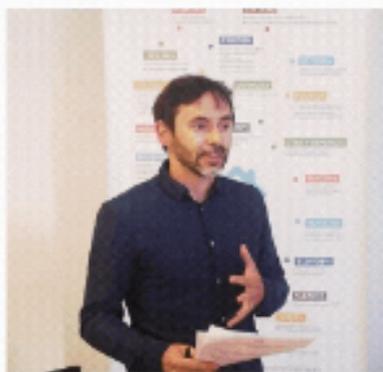
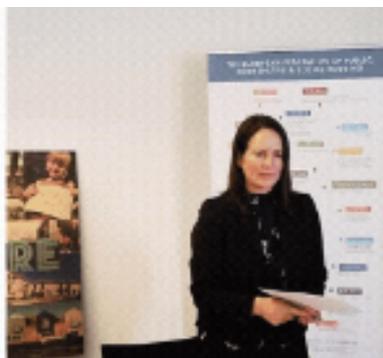
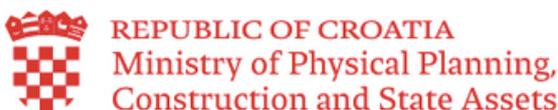


**Bent Madsen**  
President of BL, Denmark  
President of Housing Europe

### THE FIRST DIGITAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY PACKED WITH STRATEGIC DECISIONS

On 4th September, the Housing Europe family elected its new President Bent Madsen who is also the CEO of B.L. (Danish Social Housing). You have surely already seen him addressing key policies at high-level events that can make homes efficient, affordable, inclusive, integrated and financed, as well as representing the Federation at high-level events. We invite you also to find out the [current structure](#) of the Board and working committees as quite a few members have been newly-elected or re-elected.

Speaking about elections, the General Assembly welcomed the applications of Gebalis - Management of the Public Housing of the Municipality of Lisbon, Portugal and the Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction & State Assets in Croatia to become a member and partner respectively and to join forces in building resilient communities. Gebalis is a municipally-owned enterprise of local development that manages Lisbon's public housing and caters for 61 400 residents, 3 261 buildings, 66 quarters. The Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Property is responsible for physical planning, construction, housing and the implementation of key EU-funded programmes in Croatia.



## OUR WORK PLAN 2020 - 2023

The start of a new cycle was also the moment to revise our work plan for the 2020-2023 period. In a nutshell, the strategy of the Federation is to focus on unlocking opportunities at EU level to support investments; to communicate our offer by increasing visibility; to ensure we are fit for 21st century challenges by increasing members' skills; to reduce face-to-face meetings while increasing ad-hoc events in order to provide timely, relevant information.

## HOUSING 2030

### TIME TO THINK AND DO DIFFERENTLY

The need for effective, affordable housing policy to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all, as demanded by the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, Geneva UN Charter for Sustainable Housing (2015) and Urban Agenda for the EU Housing Partnership, has been amplified by COVID-19. These policy goals and guidance, in the context of the pandemic, highlight not only our global connections but also the vital importance of urban and housing policy in promoting decent housing and liveable cities. Evidence for the need of affordable and secure housing in liveable and sustainable environments has motivated collaboration between key international organisations at the highest level. This is how #Housing2030 came to life last February.

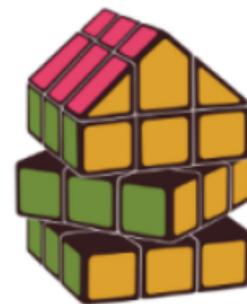
The joint international initiative of housing experts from over 56 governments through UNECE and UN Habitat and 43,000 affordable housing providers represented by Housing Europe aims to improve the capacity of national and local governments to formulate policies that improve housing affordability and sustainability. The project aims to identify key tried and tested policy instruments for improving affordability and sustainability of housing, as well as to identify and facilitate exchange of 'good practices'.

After two Social Housing festivals, tens of high-level meetings and a 30-year anniversary, the Housing Europe team and the General Assembly also thanked Cédric Van Styvendael. A short [60-second video](#) summarises his key moments during his presidency.

Even during a pandemic, farewells matter. We said 'goodbye and see you soon' to Housing Europe's former Communications Director, Michalis Goudis and Eva Bauer who used to be the Head of the Housing Department at GBV (Austria).

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Share an example with our Research Coordinator, [Dara Turnbull](#). 



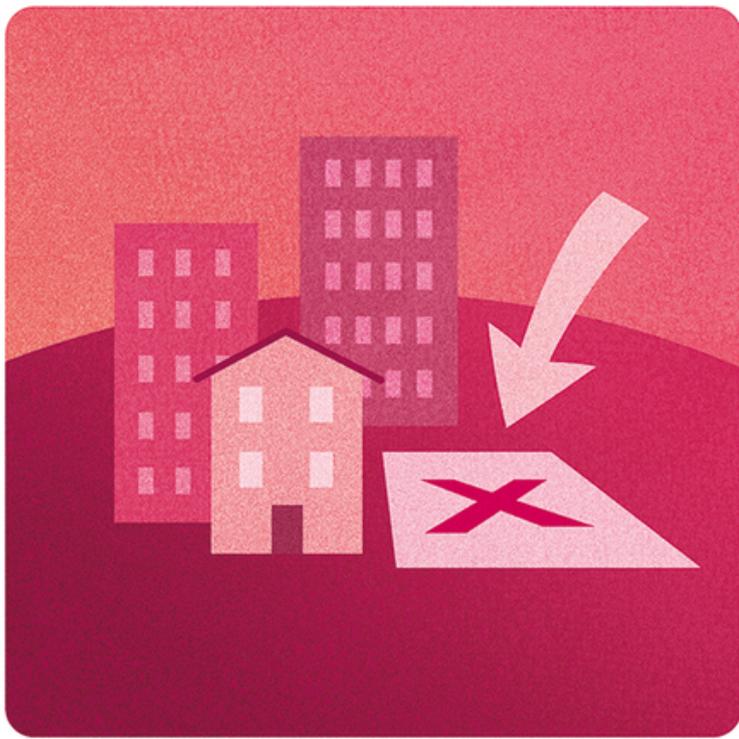
# #Housing2030



UNECE

UN HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

For already a year, the #Housing2030 team has been investigating tirelessly four key issues related to both current and future affordability issues: access and availability of land for housing construction, climate-neutral housing construction and renovation; housing governance and regulation; access to finance and funding.



In May, we kicked off the conversation with a first conference dedicated to '[Access & Availability of Land for Housing Provision](#)'. We were joined by Leilani Farha, Global Director at The Shift and former United Nations special rapporteur on adequate housing who gave the keynote address. Right from the start, inviting the speakers from our Q&A panel ahead of the event to be our podcast guests became a tradition. It is still not too late to tune in and hear what they had to say about land policy and its relation to affordability.



[Good land policy involves planning for the wider public interest](#)

with Dr Julie Lawson, #Housing2030 Lead Writer



[It all comes down to what piece of land you can afford](#)

with Toby Lloyd, Independent housing policy consultant, author and former Downing Street Special Adviser for housing



[Paris: the housing strategy at the heart of a functional and socially-mixed '15-minute' city'](#)

with Olivier Richard is Urban planner and Designer at APUR, the Paris Urbanism Agency

Later in November, we gathered some of the bright minds from the housing sector, the policy and academic world around a key challenge - the need to improve the climate and energy performance of our homes in a way that does not put an unsustainable financial burden on low- and middle-income households. The [Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for the EU Green Deal, Frans Timmermans delivered a video keynote speech](#), stressing how essential it is for the transition to be fair and the importance of tackling all obstacles along all stages of renovation - the scale in the scope of measures, financial support and geographical breadth of the Renovation Wave.

We invite you to go through the recording of the event that will show you a handful of successful best practices from Flanders in Belgium, Estonia, the Basque Country, the Slovak government and the Council of Europe Development Bank. "For the green transition in buildings, we need an orchestra to create a powerful symphony, not just a string quartet playing some nice tunes," one of the researchers behind the #Housing2030 toolkit, Professor Holger Wallbaum said.

Find out more in the podcasts below.



### Homes good for the climate and for the pocket - it is possible

with Martin van Rijn, Chairperson of the Dutch Association of Housing Corporations, Aedes



### Bringing tenants on board - an ingredient for a successful renovation

with Dr Holger Wallbaum, #Housing2030 researcher and a Professor of Sustainable building at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg



### The 'cocktail of change' improving the cities we live in

with Brian Evans, Glasgow's first-ever City Urbanist

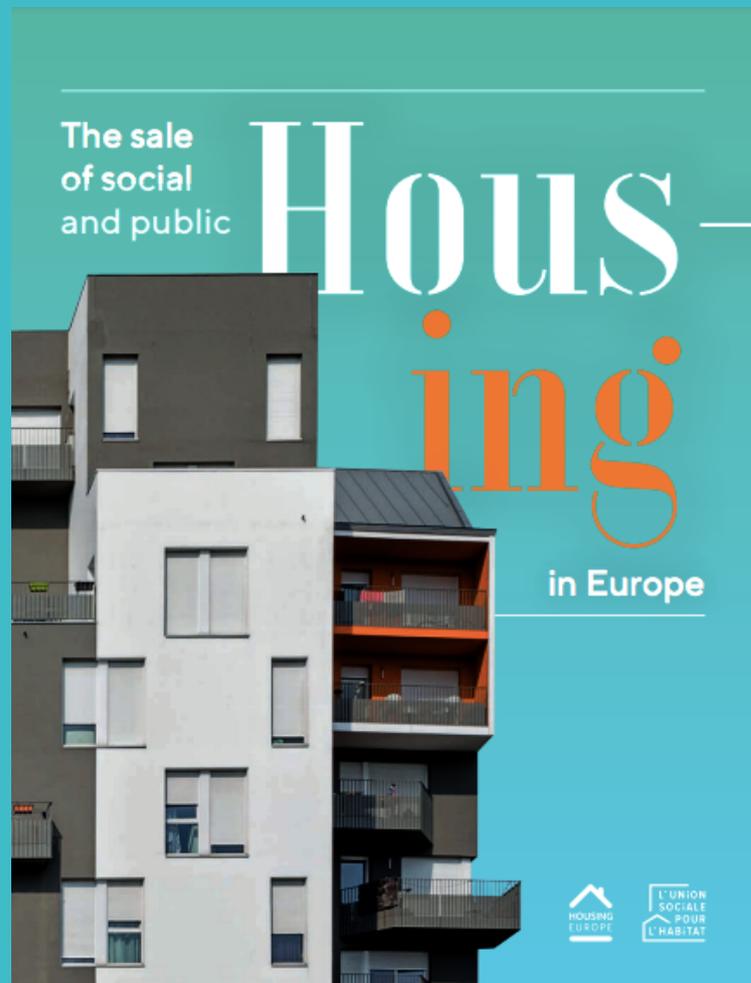
Welcome to the official website of the initiative - [www.housing2030.org](http://www.housing2030.org).

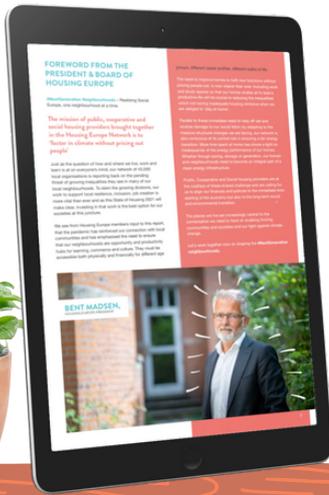
Make sure that you check it out regularly, together with the #Housing2030 hashtag, as all information and podcasts about the co-creation workshop on Governance (24th February 2021) and Finance (14th April 2021) will be published there.

La grande finale of the report has already been scheduled for 6th October 2021 at the UN HQ in Geneva (if COVID-19 allows). Mark it on your calendar. 

The Housing Europe Observatory has also been staying upbeat. 'The sale of social and public housing in Europe' is the latest research of the Housing Europe Observatory, commissioned by our French member, l'Union sociale pour l'habitat (USH) and Caisse des Dépôts in France. The sale of social and public housing has existed in many different forms in Europe for decades and this study is a step towards a better understanding of the experiences of 10 European countries - Austria, Belgium, Czechia, England, Estonia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Scotland and Sweden. It also attempts to provide some guidance to housing providers, as well as policymakers, regarding how to potentially structure the sale of housing in a way that is fair and socially sustainable.

Enjoy the read.





## 'STATE OF HOUSING IN EUROPE'

The flagship biennial publication of the Housing Europe Observatory and its 2021 edition will be officially launched on 26th March. One year into the pandemic and with an uncertain future ahead, it's important to take stock of the impact the COVID-19 crisis has had on our sector, on housing conditions overall and understand future implications and policy changes. Thanks to the inputs gathered, Housing Europe will be able to provide new and strategic evidence on the state of housing based on the different realities on the ground - backing our policy demands vis à vis the EU. The report will be presented to members at the next Working Committees in mid-March 2021.

Another key moment to keep in mind.

## MAJOR PIECES OF RESEARCH

When it comes to external pieces of research, we have been fortunate to have seen a flurry of high-quality reports related to public, cooperative and social housing released during the past year. If we have to draw your attention to just a few this will certainly be the following briefings of the OECD and the European Parliament.

### THE OECD ABOUT THE SECTOR

'Social housing: A key part of past and future housing policy' refers favourably to examples of broadly accessible social housing sectors, that have proved more resilient and financially sustainable. One of the main takeaways of the paper is the decline in public investment in housing, which the OECD stresses creates further challenges to housing affordability. 'Housing and Inclusive Growth' shows how closely interlinked inclusive growth and housing actually are. The paper also concludes by saying that "Investments in social housing construction and renovation can be a central part of a more sustainable, inclusive economic recovery as countries chart the path towards economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19"

### THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ECHOES OUR ASKS

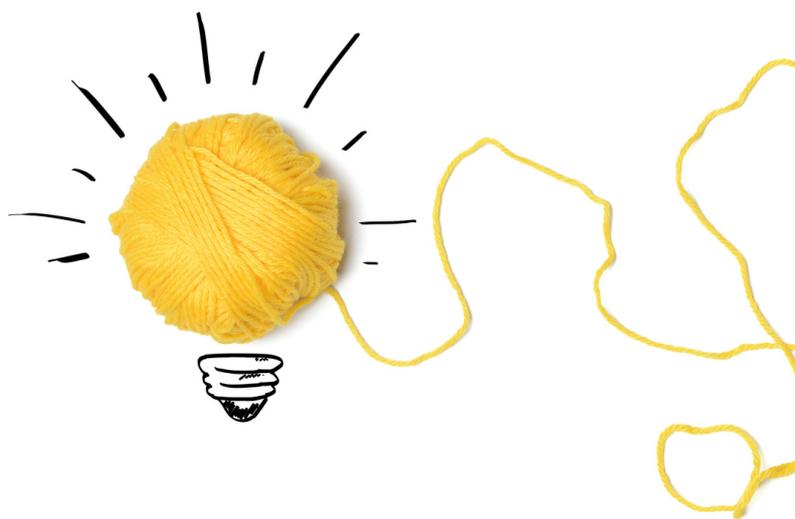
'Policies to Ensure Access to Affordable Housing' is a study that has been published following the request of the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL). The study takes into account some findings of Housing Europe's "The State of Housing in the EU 2019". A key recommendation of the report is not to link the exemption for social housing under EU State Aid rules to a specific target group in order to facilitate the provision of affordable housing for wider groups of the population.

## INNOVATING TO NAVIGATE THROUGH CHALLENGES

In 2020, Housing Europe continued expanding its portfolio of EU-funded projects, making the link between housing providers, state-of-the-art innovation and advocacy. Our goal is to involve members (or their members) in projects when they can benefit from cutting-edge technology, sustainable solutions that help them face challenges and increase capacity building within the sector.

We kicked off the year with the start of the syn.ikia project that aims at increasing the share of sustainable neighbourhoods with surplus renewable energy in different contexts, climates and markets in Europe. Later in autumn, we started the work with NRG2Peers to support the uptake of a next generation of European peer-to-peer Energy Communities. At the same time, we got involved in POWERPOOR which is not just a one-off action, but a long-term plan to identify and scale-up paths out of energy poverty in the EU. Last October, we embarked on a journey with MATRYCS to provide a holistic open solution for decision-making and data analytics solutions for energy-efficient buildings.

Find out the full portfolio of Housing Europe projects below and expect to see many of these innovative methods presented at our Renovation Summit in May 2021.



### OUR PROJECTS



DRIVE 0 has a unique concept, offering efficient renovation solutions concerning energy, materials and costs, within innovative consumer-centred circular renovation processes. By implementing this concept, DRIVE 0 encourages a transition from a linear economy to a circular economy.

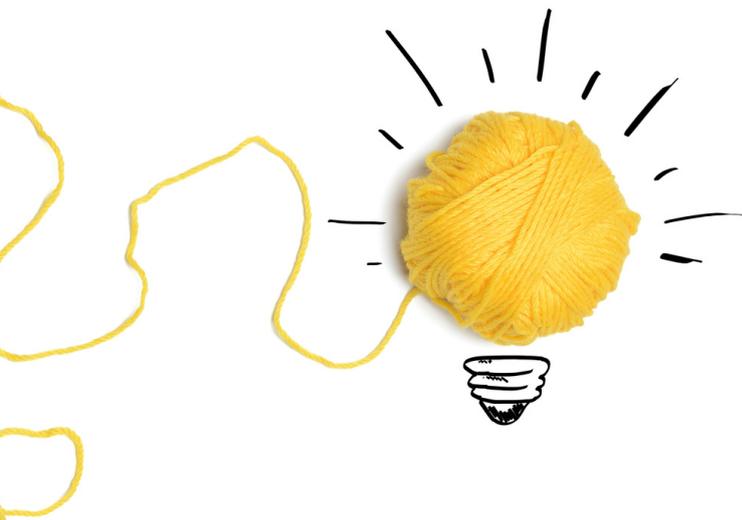


HEART is tackling technical, economic and social aspects of energy retrofits. At the centre of the project are two buildings managed by social housing providers. One is managed by Est Metropole Habitat with activities nearby Lyon in France and the other one is from ACER and situated around Reggio Emilia in Italy.



### HOUSEFUL

HOUSEFUL develops and demonstrates innovative integrated circular services focused on the optimal management and use of water, waste, energy and material resources during all stages of the life cycle of residential buildings (new and existing). These services will be deployed and tested in four residential buildings in Austria and Spain from different building periods.



MATRYCS

MATRYCS or Modular Big Data Applications for Holistic Energy Services in Buildings is a project that brings together 18 partners from 10 European countries aiming to provide a holistic open solution for decision-making and data analytics solution for energy-efficient buildings. Housing Europe will work on capitalising on the project results and on the demonstrator outcomes and best practices identified so as to design European, national or regional policies.



METABUILDING LABS' strives to unleash the innovation potential of SMEs within the construction sector by lowering the entry barriers to test innovative solutions in a network of testing facilities in RTOs and Living Labs in 13 countries, mostly EU member states.



NRG2PEERS supports the uptake of a next generation of European peer-to-peer Energy Communities and sets up a gamified platform in three levels, supporting residential energy communities to increase energy efficiency and to integrate a higher share of renewable energy.



OPENGELA brings to life a novel concept of neighbourhood offices in Otxarkoaga (Bilbao) and Txonta (Eibar) which will operate as one-stop-shops, helping the community of neighbours with any procedure related to the renovation of their buildings.



POWERPOOR has embarked on a real mission - to develop support programmes and schemes for energy-poor citizens in 8 EU countries and encourage the use of alternative financing schemes, such as establishing energy communities, energy cooperatives and crowdfunding. The project's goal is also to ensure that governments and authorities across Europe take energy poverty into consideration when drafting energy and climate action plans.



TRIPLE A-RENO wants to make nZE (nearly Zero Energy) renovations attractive for consumers TripleA-reno wants to come up with clear information and communication on the real energy usage, indoor quality and personal health by developing an open and end-user-centred gamified (application of game-design elements and game principles) platform for decision support, quality validation / proven quality and community building.



SYN.IKIA aims at achieving sustainable plus energy neighbourhoods. This will be achieved while ensuring high-quality indoor environment and well-being. The main strategy for achieving these goals is to deliver a blueprint for sustainable plus energy buildings and neighbourhoods, leading the way to plus energy districts and cities.

The European Energy Poverty Observatory is geared at improving the transparency of information and policy by bringing together the disparate sources of data and knowledge that exist in varying degrees across the whole of the EU. It also provides a user-friendly and open-access resource that promotes public engagement as well as informed decision-making by local, national and EU-level decision makers.

PUSH is a 'Humanities in the European Research Area' (HERA) network supported project that explores the hypothesis that public spaces on social housing estates throughout Europe are a prime locus of cultural encounter and therefore constitute a unique potential resource for European integration. Housing Europe is an associate partner.

## THE HOUSING EVOLUTIONS HUB - A TRUE SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

Speaking about innovation, it is vital to mention the on-going work around Housing Europe's Housing Evolutions Hub that presents the sector as a hub for sustainable social and environmental innovation. The website walks you through impressive initiatives in public, cooperative and social housing in different corners in Europe.

The Hub continues to be work in progress that helps immensely our advocacy work.

Log in & submit your story today.

[www.housingevolutions.eu](http://www.housingevolutions.eu)  
#HousingEvolutions

 **HOUSING  
EVOLUTIONS**

## COMMUNICATING OUR OFFER

Before, during and after COVID, content is king  
In a year when face-to-face communication became almost a luxury, Housing Europe invested its efforts in creating more visual, dynamic content.

### AIRING STRAIGHT FROM A HOME OFFICE

Our 'Making a House a Home' podcast show aired 11 podcasts - a personal record for the Federation. We discussed the EU Green Deal, the coronavirus crisis, the European Parliament report on decent housing, land policy, as well as why homes should be good for the climate and for the pocket. The 2020 episodes have been listened to over 2,300 times and counting. Contact our Communications Director, Diana Yordanova  if you have an idea of a pressing issue that we should discuss and be our guest.



A special sub-section dedicated to the pandemic was created under our Housing Europe blog. A series of articles have been explaining how members have been providing the much-needed safety net people needed, the impact on the sector and the recovery plans for Europe. To illustrate better all the actions our sector has been taking to protect tenants and the economy, Housing Europe worked on a short animation.

The launch of the Affordable Housing Initiative Series features different voices from within and outside the sector that help for the shaping of the EU ambition to renovate 100 lighthouse districts.

Contact us if you would like to feature in one of the next episodes.

### Shape the Affordable Housing Initiative

Episode 3 

**Wim Hazeu**  
Director of Wonen Limburg, the Netherlands



Here are a couple of other videos that you might have missed.



The Next Generation EU is a case of now or never with our President, Bent Madsen



Scotland's impressive social, affordable housing a Google Earth tour



The Housing Europe team about 2020 our special end-of-the year video



## IN THE MEDIA

Our 4 million homes renovated by 2030 ambition was covered by [POLITICO Europe](#)

Our Secretary-General, Sorcha Edwards spoke to [Le Monde International](#) about the need for the EU recovery to be green and adapted to our needs

Our former President, Cédric Van Styvendael spoke to [Friends of Europe](#) about how the COVID-19 crisis will affect housing in Europe

## NEW AGE FESTIVAL

June 2021 will be more than exciting as in addition to our annual conference and General Assembly, a [Social Housing Film Festival](#) is in the preparation. All three events will happen online on 16th and 17th June. If we have to describe it with one word, that would be a celebration. A global celebration of the long tradition of decent, affordable housing that provides opportunities, breaks stereotypes and myths, and especially nowadays, creates a feeling of stability and safety. Be one of the storytellers and submit a film by mid-May.

The [International Social Housing Festival](#) as you know it has been scheduled for June 2022 in Helsinki when, hopefully, the world will find its normality. The call for participants will most probably open in autumn and we will keep you informed.

## BY THE NUMBERS



63 Blog posts



12 Newsletters  
+4,000 readers



Videos & webinars  
+2,000 viewers



11 podcasts  
Listened +2,300 times



53,542 new website users  
& 183,357 pageviews



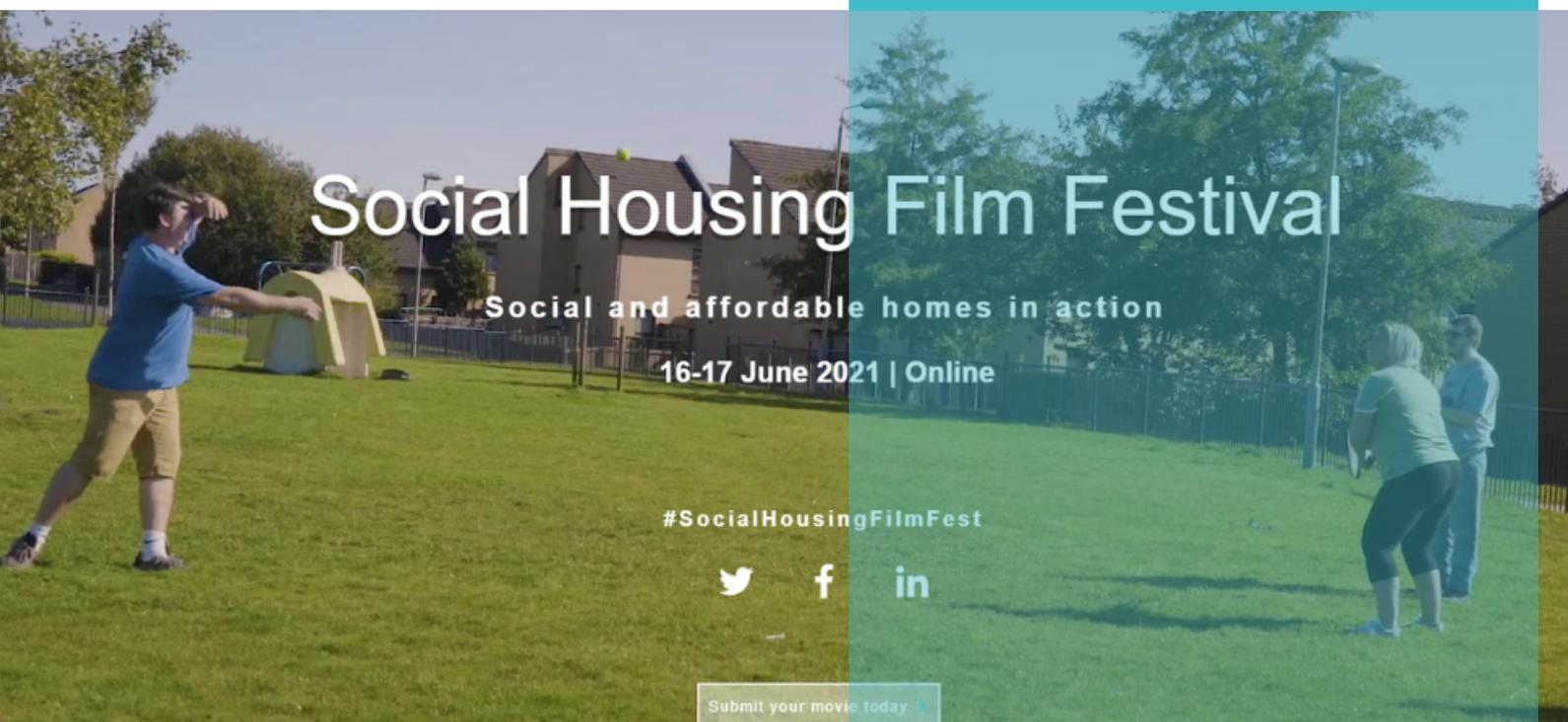
6,885 Twitter followers  
(versus 5,906 in 2019)



2,349 LinkedIn followers  
(versus 1,580 in 2019)



2,349 LinkedIn followers  
(versus 1,580 in 2019)



## DIGITALISATION MADE STRESSING OUR MESSAGE IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN A SINGLE DAY POSSIBLE



### FEBRUARY

- > To mark the World Day of Social Justice, the United Nations, the Swedish Embassy, RBDH, Feantsa and Housing Europe organised the screening of the 'PUSH' documentary
- > Housing Europe organised a field trip with EU policymakers to the UIA backed project 'Superlocal' in Kerkrade in the Netherlands
- > Housing Europe's Secretary General, Sorcha Edwards was part of the delegation that presented "The Energy efficiency package as an enabler to deliver the European Green Deal" of the Coalition to Energy Savings to Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson
- > Housing Europe speaks at the CITIES Forum in Porto

### MARCH

- > A joint workshop with the European Investment Bank on the ways EU finance can be used to support housing projects over the period 2020-2027
- > Housing Europe & European Policy Centre Workshop in the frame of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory project

### APRIL

- > Housing Europe members webinar on the actions taken by our network during the pandemic and the challenges that lie ahead
- > Housing Europe & our EU-funded project, Houseful co-organised a webinar on the indicators and methodologies evaluating circularity
- > Housing Europe joined the CEEP platform, a valuable toolkit for Services of General Interest that are on the frontline of COVID-19
- > Housing Europe was among the European associations representing the construction sector that signed a call upon public authorities to take into account the scale of the disruptions to our sector

### MAY

- > First #Housing2030 conference - 'Access and Availability of Land for Housing Provision'

### JUNE

- > Laurent Ghekiere, Chair of the Housing Europe Observatory and AVS Director-General Maria Montes Miguel stressed the role of the sector at a webinar co-hosted by the S&D Group and Housing Europe
- > Housing Europe organised a member webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on housing exclusion and homelessness
- > Housing Europe hosted a webinar for members about the EU green recovery and the contribution of the public, cooperative and social housing sector
- > Our Research Director, Alice Pittini contributed to the webinar on age-friendly housing organised by the Homes4Life project
- > Our Deputy Secretary General and Policy Coordinator, Julien Dijol contributed to the discussion on EU policy tackling energy poverty organised by the ASSIST EU-funded project
- > The Housing Solutions Platform hosted a webinar with representatives from its #50Solutions projects, to discuss alternative forms of ownership and land management

### JULY

- > Housing Europe's member webinar looked at ageing and how public, cooperative, social housing providers have been supporting the elderly during COVID
- > Our Secretary-General, Sorcha Edwards contributed to the debate of the European Alliance Against Coronavirus (EAAC) that looked at finding a collaborative approach to social housing

> Housing Europe's Sorcha Edwards stressed the need for more adequate homes at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) event 'Who owns the city?'

> Our Secretary General joined the discussion on how to reboot the housing business model after the pandemic during the first International Housing Summit organised by the Chartered Institute of Housing

## SEPTEMBER

> Housing Europe & our EU-funded HEART project co-hosted a webinar on 'Pre-fabricated and integrated renovation toolkits: an opportunity for a Renovation Wave in Social Housing?'

> As part of Housing Europe's 'Our Homes, Our Deal' initiative, we organised an online event that focused on affordable housing through district heating together with our Dutch member, Aedes

> Our President Bent Madsen spoke at a #Housing2030 conference about adequate, affordable housing in Malta and the Mediterranean region

## OCTOBER

> Housing Europe's annual conference 'Forget about the price tag! Let's talk about the social value of housing'

> Housing Europe President addresses UNECE in Geneva on the added value of housing

> As part of Housing Europe's work for the EU-funded syn.ikia project, we hosted a webinar to discuss National Strengths and Weaknesses in Developing Positive Energy Districts in Europe

> The Spanish Social Housing Association (AVS), in collaboration with Housing Europe organised a webinar with the objective of showing social housing management models in three European countries: Austria, France and Wales

> Housing Europe's Secretary General, Sorcha Edwards spoke at the 2020 ICSH Housing Finance and Development Conference

## NOVEMBER

> Housing2030 conference on 'Climate change, environmental and health impacts on housing affordability'

> The Greens/EFA group and the Housing Solutions Platform organised a webinar to discuss the possibilities for regulating online short-term rentals and how EU rules can unlock housing affordability

> Housing Europe's Secretary General spoke at the international conference 'Inhabit the Future' of our Portuguese member, Gebalis

> L'Union Sociale pour l'Habitat (USH) and our research team presented key takeaways from social and public rental housing sale models based on the Housing Europe Observatory study on the same matter

> The European Parliament's Social Economy Intergroup organised a public hearing during which our Secretary-General, Sorcha Edwards presented the central role of cooperative and social housing in the framework of the Renovation Wave

> Housing Europe's Sorcha Edwards speaks at the conference 'Hlm actors in the recovery' organised by USH, this is also when our French member announced the joint declaration of the European Alliance

## DECEMBER

> Housing Europe & FEANTSA organised a webinar on the European Pillar of Social Rights Social housing and the fight against homelessness: discussion on the future EU action plan

> Housing Europe and our partner, Community Land Trust (CLT) organised an event to take stock of the emergence of a European CLT movement and its relevance to the EU policy agenda



# 2021

Category	Date	Event	Format
HOME SHOW	15 FEBRUARY	Working with tenants to plan renovation*	online
	25 FEBRUARY	EU Industry Days & EUSES The Affordable Housing Initiative & New European Bauhaus	online
	24 FEBRUARY	Good governance and regulation to support affordability in housing	online conference
INDUSTRY & GOVERNANCE	25 FEBRUARY	EU Industry Days & EUSES The Affordable Housing Initiative & New European Bauhaus	online
	24 FEBRUARY	Good governance and regulation to support affordability in housing	online conference
FINANCE	12 MARCH	Challenging Times for Associations - Navigating the global pandemic	online
	14 APRIL	Improving housing affordability through access to finance and funding	online conference
BY THE NUMBERS	17-19 MARCH	Housing Europe Working Committees	online
	26 MARCH	Launch State of Housing 2021	online
RENOVATION	MAY	Renovation Summit Conference	online
	7-8 MAY	EU Social Summit	online
CINEMA DAYS	16 - 17 JUNE	Social Housing Film Festival	online
	16 - 17 JUNE	Housing Europe Annual conference	online
HOUSING STRATEGY	17 JUNE	Housing Europe General Assembly	online
	JUNE	16 Info Days on energy poverty in 8 EU countries*	
POLICY	13-14 OCTOBER	Housing Europe Working Committee Meetings	online

**events are still ON**

**FOR THE DIGITAL CALENDAR, SCAN THE CODE**

SCAN ME

Let us walk you through some of the most exciting events that will happen in the next 11 months so that you can pin down the dates in your diaries and contact us to get involved or find out more.

On 26th March, the Housing Europe Observatory will launch the newest edition of our 'State of Housing in the EU' report which will take stock of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis based on the data you have provided and give you an overview of the latest developments within the sector. Mid-March is also when Working Committees will meet virtually to update you on key policy developments we need to influence.

On 24th February and 14th April, join our co-creation work on a toolkit for better housing systems called #Housing2030 where Housing Europe is in partnership with the UN-Habitat and UNECE. While governance and funding will be the centre of discussion in the upcoming two conferences, la grande finale of the report has already been scheduled for 6th October at the UN HQ in Geneva (if COVID-19 allows).

In May, we will hold a Renovation Summit to stress the financial needs of our sector and take stock of whether the recovery plans have resulted in more finance engaged for our sector and promote our positions on planned legislative reviews of the Energy Efficiency Directive and The Energy Performance.

June will be more than exciting as in addition to our annual conference and General Assembly, a Social Housing Film Festival is in the preparation. All three events will happen on 16th and 17th June. The International Social Housing Festival as you know it has been scheduled for June 2022 when, hopefully, the world will find its normality.

Added to this we will continue with our series of mini-members webinars and quite a lot more.

Finally, please do reach out via a short phone call, an email, a tweet. We will do so too and hope we will be able to see you in person soon.



## BRUSSELS TEAM

Sorcha Edwards  
Secretary General  
sorcha.edwards@housingeurope.eu

## POLICY

Julien Dijol  
Deputy Secretary General & Policy Director  
julien.dijol@housingeurope.eu

Edit Lakatos  
Policy Officer  
edit.lakatos@housingeurope.eu

## RESEARCH

Alice Pittini  
Research Director  
alice.pittini@housingeurope.eu

Dara Turnbull  
Research Coordinator  
dara.turnbull@housingeurope.eu

## INNOVATION

Clara Mafé  
Junior Project Officer  
clara.mafe@housingeurope.eu

Anousheh Parsaei  
Project Assistant  
project.assistant@housingeurope.eu

## COMMUNICATIONS

Diana Yordanova  
Communications Director  
diana.yordanova@housingeurope.eu

## EVENTS & MEMBERSHIP

Abderrahim Khairi  
Membership & Events Coordinator  
abderrahim.khairi@housingeurope.eu

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bent Madsen, President  
Daniel Biard, Vice-President  
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Marco Corradi  
Andres Jaadla  
Marten Lilja  
Björn Mallants  
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Jeroen Pepers

## WORKING COMMITTEES

### ENERGY & CONSTRUCTION

Chair: Wim Hazeu | Aedes, the Netherlands  
Vice-Chair: Dr. Ingrid Vogler | GdW, Germany

### ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Chair: Donal Mc Manus | ICSH, Ireland

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### URBAN AFFAIRS

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Vice-Chair: Ara Nazinyan | ASBA, Armenia

### HOUSING EUROPE OBSERVATORY

Chair: Laurent Ghekiere | USH, France  
Vice-Chair: Christian Krainer | GBV, Austria

## NORWAY

- Co-operative Housing federation of Norway (NBBL)

## FINLAND

- Municipal Housing Ltd (Kunta-asunnot Oy)
- Association for Advocating Affordable Rental Housing (KOVA)

## IRELAND

- Irish Council for Social Housing
- Co-operative Housing Ireland

## SWEDEN

- Public Housing Sweden
- HSB Housing Cooperative Association
- RIKSBYGGGEN Housing Cooperative Association

## ESTONIA

- Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations (EKÜL)

## UNITED KINGDOM

- National Housing Federation
- Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
- Community Housing Cymru
- World Habitat

## POLAND

- Polish Chamber of Commerce of Low Cost Social Housing (TBS)
- Auditing Union of Housing Co-operatives activity (ZRSMP RP)

## NETHERLANDS

- Association of Dutch Housing Corporations (Aedes)

## DENMARK

- BL - Danish Social Housing

## GERMANY

- Federal Association of German Housing and Real Estate Companies (GdW)

## CZECH REPUBLIC

- Union of Czech and Moravian Co-operative Housing (SCMBD)

## BELGIUM

- Walloon Housing Fund (FLW)
- Housing Company of the Brussels Capital Region (SLRB)
- Walloon Housing Company (SWL)
- Association of Flemish Social Housing Companies (VVH)
- Flemish Company for Social Housing (VMSW)

## AUSTRIA

- Austrian Federation of Limited-Profit Housing Associations (GBV)

## LUXEMBOURG

- Fund for Housing Development (FDLH)
- National Affordable Housing Company (SNHBM)

## SLOVENIA

- Housing Fund of the Republic of Slovenia

## FRANCE

- Social Union for Housing (USH)
- Social Enterprises for Housing (ESH)
- National Federation of Cooperative Associations for Low-Rent Housing (FNCOOP HLM)
- Public Local Organizations for Social Housing (OPH)
- National Federation of Regional Social Housing Associations (FNAR HLM)

## ITALY

- Federcasa
- Alliance of Italian Cooperatives in the Housing Sector

## ALBANIA

- National Housing Agency (EKB)

## PORTUGAL

- Management of the Public Housing of the Municipality of Lisbon (Gebalis)

## SPAIN

- Spanish Social Housing Association (AVS)
- Spanish Confederation of Housing Cooperatives (CONCOVI)

## CYPRUS

- Cyprus Land Development Corporation



# HOUSING EUROPE

## PARTNERS



- Urbamonde
- Habitat for Humanity
- Community Land Trust Brussels
- Fondazione Housing Sociale (Italy)
- Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (IWO)
- Social Housing & Property Rights in Kosovo (SHPRK)
- Organisme de Foncier Solidaire de la Metropole Lilloise
- Technical Educational Institute of Athens (TEI Athinon)
- Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction & State Assets, Croatia

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



- ARMENIA - National Social Housing Association Foundation (ASBA)
- SWITZERLAND - Swiss Housing Cooperatives

# BUILDING A STRONG NETWORK





The European Federation of Public, Cooperative & Social Housing Since 1988 it's a network of 45 national & regional federations gathering 43,000 housing providers in 25 countries. Together they manage over 25 million homes, about 11% of existing dwellings in Europe.

[www.housingeurope.eu](http://www.housingeurope.eu)

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*Edited & designed by Diana Yordanova,  
Communications Director at Housing Europe  
Brussels, March 2020*