

Social and Affordable housing



Online Experts Meeting | Social and affordable housing

Tuesday 22nd September 2020

10:00 – 10:05

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

László Andor, FEPS Secretary General
and former European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

10:05 – 11:15

SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Learning from inclusive, sustainable and affordable national initiatives

Presentation of the research:

Sergio Nasarre, Full Professor of Civil Law and Director of the UNESCO Housing Chair at the University Rovira i Virgili

Nuria Lambea Llop, Postdoctoral researcher at the UNESCO Housing Chair of the University Rovira i Virgili

Discussants:

Marietta Haffner, Professor affordable decent housing, Delf University (tbc)

Laurent Ghékière, Director of European affairs, Union sociale pour l'habitat (tbc)

Santina Bertulessi, Deputy head of cabinet and political adviser of Commissioner Schmit

Chair: FEPS or partner foundation

Q&A

Social and Affordable housing



11:15 – 12:20

BOLD PROPOSALS FOR A DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL –

Social and inclusive? Yes, but the progressive solution is affordable. Energy efficient? Yes, but needs to be sustainable. Local and national approach? Yes, but also European.

Discussants:

Estrella Durá Ferrandis, MEP S&D Group, European Parliament

Kim Van Sparrentak, MEP Greens/EFA Group, European Parliament

Freek Spinnewijn, Director, FEANTSA

Mikaela Kauer, Head of Brussels Office of the City of Vienna and co-coordinator of EUUA Housing Partnership

Chair: **Milan Ftacnik**, Chairman of the Smart Solutions and Innovation Council, Former mayor of Bratislava and Professor at the Department of Applied Informatics, Comenius University in Bratislava

Q&A

12:20 – 12:30

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Sorcha Edwards, Secretary General, Housing Europe



About the project

The Covid-19 crisis highlighted the essential role of housing to build a resilient and inclusive society. In its turn, social housing has had just a limited effect on affordability problem, both in countries where it is scarce and even in those where it is more general, because of legal and financial troubles.

Despite the consistent inequalities in access to housing across EU countries and regions, many of them related to affordability, sustainability and inclusiveness, and the striking consequences that all kind of housing-pathologies have in everyday lives of EU citizens, the EU has no direct competence to legislate in housing matters, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. However, there are areas in which the EU can legislate such as state aid law, fiscal law, consumers and competition law which have a direct impact into housing. Other areas with impact into housing are energy, employment, social exclusion and migration policies.

This study focuses on the lessons learned from national, regional or local programs which goals are to make housing affordable, sustainable and inclusive for all. It highlights common challenges but also offers good practices, from the collaborative housing to the improvement of energy efficiency.

It provides key understanding that social housing can have limits and that a model of public-private owned housing can offer some solutions to ensure that every citizen benefit from a decent place to call home. The replicability and success of those initiatives are put into perspective, while bearing in mind that a lack of European competences is still to be deplored.

The research aims at providing set of progressive policy recommendations or actionable points to be considered from a Regional to a European level to enhance access to a decent, inclusive and sustainable place to live.

The authors

Sergio Nasarre-Aznar is Full Professor of Civil Law and Director of the UNESCO Housing Chair at the University Rovira i Virgili (Spain).

Milan Ftáčnik is a Slovak politician and was in 2010-2014 mayor of Bratislava. He is the chairman of the Smart Solutions and Innovation Council.

Núria Lambea Llop is international Doctor in Laws. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the UNESCO Housing Chair of the University Rovira i Virgili.

Līga Rasnaca is associate professor at the Faculty of Social sciences, University of Latvia. She holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of Latvia and does research in Social Policy.

Next Events

Presentation of the Study: Prague

Presentation of the Study: Spain

Presentation of the Study: Riga

Contact

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