



MUNICIPAL HOUSING SCHEMES

CITIES ENGAGING IN THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

What

In January 2020, Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) and URBACT will be launching a one-year joint capitalisation activity on Municipal housing schemes.

The aim of this to explore how cities can design housing policies and practical solutions to implement the right to housing. This will be done by mapping, exchanging and disseminating emerging and existing approaches, strategies, initiatives and practices at municipal level, and considering how these link to policy design at different government levels (local, national and EU).

The ultimate goal is to push the agenda on the right to housing EU wide and to further enrich the work done by the EU Urban Agenda (most prominently the Housing partnership, but also urban poverty and inclusion of migrants and refugees partnerships).

Three leading questions will underline the development of the activities:

- What are the most innovative practices at city level concretely delivering the right to housing?
- What can cities do to ensure that everyone – particularly the most disadvantaged groups - have access to safe, adequate and affordable housing?
- How can the EU and member States create an enabling environment for cities to innovate?

How

Over a one-year period, the capitalisation activity will collect knowledge, challenges and reflections from European cities already implementing the right to housing that others can take inspiration from.

Three themes are proposed for knowledge exchange:

- **Community-led practices:** shared ownership, CLT, co-housing, cooperative housing, remunicipalisation of housing
- **No one left behind:** addressing specific issues of accessibility to adequate housing by vulnerable groups with a focus on homelessness, ethnic minority, gender, disability et al.
- **Fair finance :** municipal strategies protecting housing from speculation (provision of social rent, rent regulation, reuse of vacant building, short term rental regulation, taking back control of land management for community purposes et al)

We are planning a series of workshops - the first in Porto during the Cities Forum - as well as short videos and digital outputs to accompany the work. Each sub-theme will have a dedicated online or physical workshop that will bring together experts, cities and stakeholders working on the theme. Beside the recording of the workshops contributions, the final output will be a political event involving representatives of different level of governments to sustain the work of the EU UA partnership and the right to housing in the EU agenda.

Who

Beyond the cities working with UIA and URBACT on this topic, the success of this capitalisation activity will rely on the essential involvement and contribution of key stakeholders representing housing practitioners, administrations, EU wide organisations, academia and civil society initiatives.

The Lead Expert for the project is Laura Colini. For the three themes identified, UIA and URBACT will be working with ad hoc experts and city practitioners (mainly from UIA and URBACT cities), as well as representatives of partner organisations. The launch event at the Cities Forum will be an opportunity to further explore and formalise collaboration opportunities.

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