

Towards Sustainable Homes and Neighbourhoods in the Mediterranean Region: *Reflecting on Malta's potential*

Online workshop on Zoom
17 September 2020
10:00 – 13:00 CET (*Malta time*)
In English

This online workshop is organized by the Ministry for Social Accommodation, Malta in cooperation with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Housing Europe, UN-Habitat and Union for the Mediterranean within the initiative “#Housing2030 - Improving Housing Affordability in the UNECE region”.

DRAFT AGENDA

Moderator: Ms. Sarah-Lee Zammit, Ministry for Social Accommodation, Malta

10:00 – 10:30 Workshop Opening and Objectives

- H.E. Mr. Hon. Roderick Galdes, The Minister for Social Accommodation, Malta
- H. E. Ms. Ayşe Asya, Deputy Secretary-General for Transport and Urban Development, Union for the Mediterranean
- Ms. Doris Andoni, Chair, UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management
Housing Europe and Head of Housing, Ministry of Economy and Finance of Albania
- Mr. Bent Madsen, President of Housing Europe
- Mr. Christophe Lalande, Leader, Housing Unit, UN-Habitat

10:30-10:45 – Setting the stage on affordable housing: information on the #Housing2030 study objectives and planned activities

- Ms. Elena Szolgayova, #Housing2030 Initiative Co-Chair
- Mr. David Orr, #Housing2030 Initiative Co-Chair
- Ms. Julie Lawson, Lead Author of the #Housing2030 Initiative Report and Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University.

10:45 – 11:30 Session 1. How can a people-centred and systems-based approach to housing promote social cohesion, belonging and wellbeing?

Keynote – Ms. Rachael Marie Scicluna, Policy, Development and Strategy Expert, Ministry for Social Accommodation & Chairperson of the Sustainable Communities Board, Housing Authority, Malta. (10 mins)

Panel discussion

Moderator: Ms. Julie Lawson, Lead Author of the #Housing2030 Initiative Report and Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University.

Questions:

1. How does a society shift from perceiving ‘housing as capital’ to one which sees ‘housing as a human and social right’?
2. What are the existing approaches and practices adopted by other societies for implementing socially inclusive policies?
3. In practical terms, how can the multiple voices of vulnerable communities be included at planning stage in order to promote connectedness, lifetime homes and neighbourhoods?
4. How can a housing systems-based approach facilitate ‘resilience’ as a tool for cities and neighbourhoods to cope with social, political and economic transformations?

Panelists (5 min interventions following the guiding questions)

- Ms. Susanna Bauer, City of Vienna/Wiener Wohnen, Austria
- Ms. Sophie Lecoq, Director, Fonciere de la Ville de Paris
- Mr. Javier Buron, Housing Manager, Barcelona Municipality, Spain
- Ms. Marissa Plouin, Housing Policy Analyst, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

Questions and answers

11:30-11:45 Short break

11:45-12:45 Session 2. A rights-based approach to affordable housing programmes and land-use

Keynote – Mr. Kurt Xerri, Legal Housing and Policy Expert, Ministry for Social Accommodation & Housing Authority (10 min)

Panel discussion:

Moderator: Mr. Marc Darder, Chief of the Technical Cabinet at the Regional Ministry for Territory and Sustainability, Catalonia, Spain

(5 min interventions following the following guiding questions)

1. What are the experiences with establishing legal and institutional frameworks for planning and investments into affordable and adequate housing for all?

2. What policies could ensure social inclusion and avoid the negative impacts of mass development and gentrification?
3. How can countries utilize their planning and investment powers to accommodate changing demographic needs particularly of vulnerable groups?

Panellists

- Ms. Lisa Bullen, Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Program, Housing Needs Demand Assessment Process and Social Housing Investment Plans
- Mr. Iacovou Charalambos, Cyprus Land Development Corporation, Cyprus
- Ms. Manana Hafnaoui, Director General for Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Equipment Housing and Territorial Planning, Tunisia
- Mr. Grzegorz Gadja, European Investment Bank
- Ms. Virginie Toussain, Director of European law and internal market & competition affairs, l'Union sociale pour l'habitat (USH) France

Discussion

12:45-13:00 Conclusions by the Moderator and adjourn