



#Housing2030

Positive policy solutions to improve housing affordability in the UNECE region

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Background to #Housing2030 initiative

The project builds on the principles of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing:

1. Environmental protection
2. Economic effectiveness
3. Social inclusion and participation
4. Cultural adequacy

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

Ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all



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Background to #Housing2030

Improving housing affordability – an important challenge for the UNECE region.

Impacts - social well-being, economic productivity and environmental sustainability.

An outcome of cross cutting policies: land, investment, construction, incomes and assistance.

Understanding the key drivers to formulate appropriate policy responses.

Therefore, we need:

1. An active exchange of tools and illustration to build capacity
2. Strategic and coordinated policy reform to shape more effective housing systems.

Housing2030 is supported by UNECE, Housing Europe and UN Habitat.



“Affordable housing is broadly defined as that which is adequate in quality and location and does not cost so much that it prohibits its occupants meeting other basic living costs or threatens their enjoyment of basic human rights.”

Housing affordability, however, is multi-dimensional and involves more than the often-used simplified conception of the ratio of house purchase price to household income.”

UN Habitat



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What is the focus?

Policy tools and good illustrations – *not universal blue prints*

Four key chapters:

1. **Governance** of housing policies and institutions
2. Access and **availability of land** for affordable housing
3. **Finance and funding** to invest in affordable housing
4. **Climate-neutral** housing that is affordable and inclusive



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Not universal blueprints

Understanding drivers of housing outcomes

Sharing and learning from good and bad practice

Adapting and refining policies to shape better markets

1. Why is housing unaffordable and inaccessible for some households in my country?

2. What changes to the housing system could increase access to affordable housing?

4. What capabilities are required to implement this policy at the appropriate scale?

3. Which policy tools are appropriate to generate required outcomes?



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Governance

What kind of tools will be outlined and illustrated?

- Strategic frameworks
- Leadership and commitment
- Market shaping institutions
- Building the capacity to deliver
- Multi-level governance and partnership
- Governing with insight - policies for change
- Housing Standards Setting and Monitoring
- Accountability and enforcement structures
- Providers for the common good
- Households governing their own housing



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Land policy

What kind of tools will be outlined and illustrated?

- Public land banking and purposeful development
- Public land leasing and conditional use
- Land re-adjustment guiding effective redevelopment
- Land value recapture reinvesting with purpose
- Planning for affordable, inclusive housing
- Neighbourhood planning



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Finance & Funding

What kind of tools will be outlined and illustrated?

- Regulations affecting operation of financial institutions and their investment in housing
- Public investment: Capital investment and operating subsidies
- Special purpose financial intermediaries
- Long term financial instruments for affordable housing provision
- Interest rate subsidies, guarantees and insurance
- Rent setting, indexing and rent/revenue assistance
- Not for profit business models: Use of surpluses, revolving funds in housing provision
- Tax provisions influencing housing investment



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Climate-neutral housing

What kind of tools will be outlined and illustrated?

- Regulation
- Non-regulatory policy initiatives
- Standards
- Financial incentives
- Awareness raising and training



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Where to now?

1. Housing policy **is part of the solution** to addressing the affordability, climate crises and will now be used for the pandemic recovery.
2. Important to **build on principles of the Geneva UN Charter and develop expertise and capacity** in housing policy - adapting and refining useful tools, sharing and learning from good and bad practice.
3. **Hard work continues**: workshops attracting high level and expert input, survey of best practice remains open, more podcasts in production and website continues to evolve.
4. Housing2030 builds capacity for more effective housing policy making and implementation in a **practical and illustrative way**.
5. Opportunities for **input and involvement!**



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When & Where

Joint Housing2030.org website and online call for best practices launched May 2020, interactive and continuously updated

UNECE Survey on housing affordability challenges, policy responses, capacity building needs of 56 governments

Four online workshops

- “Land for inclusive and affordable housing” May 2020 hosted by UN ECE, Housing Europe, UN Habitat
- “Climate change, environmental and health impacts on housing affordability” November 2020: City of Glasgow
- “Good governance and regulation for affordable housing” **February 24** 2021 host Republic of Slovenia
- “Housing affordability through access to finance and funding” April 2021 host The Housing Agency, Ireland

Podcast series “Making a House a Home: Housing2030 special series” (9 of 12 episodes produced and online)

Videos of events and presentations are also available on the website

Presentation and Launch of final UN report at the UNECE Ministerial meeting - UNECE, Geneva October 2021



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Affordable housing is a major **common concern** of UNECE countries

Housing2030 promotes **strategic, expert** and interactive engagement

Active exchange of **tools and their illustrations** to improve affordability

Will **strengthen capacity** to shape more effective housing systems

Final Report to the UNECE Ministerial Meeting in October 2021

Join tomorrow's workshop on **“Good governance and regulation for affordable housing”**.



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