

Welcome  
to  
**#Housing2030!**



Effective policies for affordable  
housing in the UNECE region

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Division

Cooperative Housing  
Symposium Zurich  
September 22

**#Housing2030**

an initiative of



**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



# #Housing 2030



#Housing2030



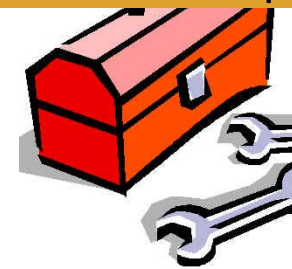
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#Housing2030

Report launched by UN Geneva, October 2021

#Housing2030: Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region

**A joint initiative of UNECE, Housing Europe and UN-Habitat**

Focuses on solutions to the housing affordability crisis in the UNECE region, highlighting the need for strategic and coordinated policy reform to shape more effective housing systems.

**Addresses four topics:**

- (1) Housing governance and regulation**
- (2) Access to finance and funding**
- (3) Access and availability of land**
- (4) Climate-neutral housing construction and renovation**

56 countries surveyed, evaluative evidence reviewed, 8 thematic and regional workshops, 12 podcasts

More than 30 policy tools outlined and applied in 70 illustrations



# #Housing 2030 engaged researchers, policymakers, housing providers and advocates

**Engaging over 1,200 participants**

**#Housing2030 PODCAST - Episode 10**  
**Diverse funding ensures housing affordability when public finances 'get tight'**  
Michelle Norris  
School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice at University College Dublin

**#Housing2030 PODCAST - Episode 11**  
**The ABC of housing market financialisation & what can we do to fix it**  
Manuel Aalbers  
KU Leuven School of Geography & Tourism Belgium

**Online Workshop | 24 February 2021**  
**NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE STATE OF THE HOUSING SECTOR: SOUTH-EAST EUROPE**  
Marie Schreier  
Ministry of Social Accommodation, Welfare and Consumer Protection

**HOUSING EUROPE**

**Listen now**

**www.housing2030.org > Best Practices by 31 May 2021**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: TIME TO THINK AND DO DIFFERENTLY



# Climate-neutral and inclusive housing



## In developing countries

- we need to accommodate 2.4 billion new urban residents by 2050

## In the EU

- residential and commercial EU building stock account for around 36% of the total GHG emissions
- most buildings are older than 50 years and built before minimum energy efficiency standards were implemented

## In the UNECE region:

- More than 87 million people live in poor-quality dwellings
- Almost 42 million face arrears on their utility bills
- More than 52 million people cannot keep their home adequately warm
- The urban heat island effect will increase the energy demand for cooling
- Over 161 million face disproportionate housing expenditure



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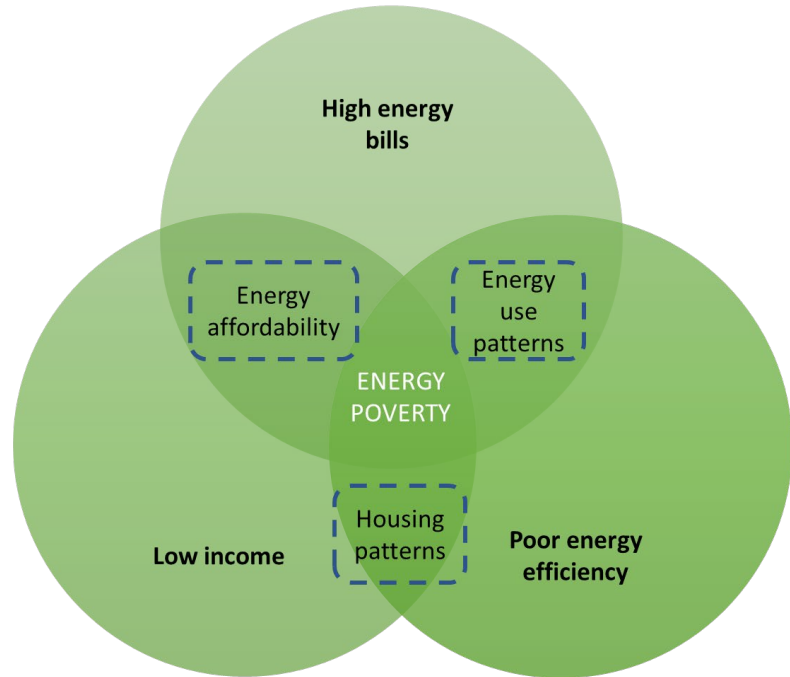
**UNECE**

Source: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. 2014. 'The Future of Social Housing Environmental and Social Challenges and the Way Forward'. Geneva, Switzerland.

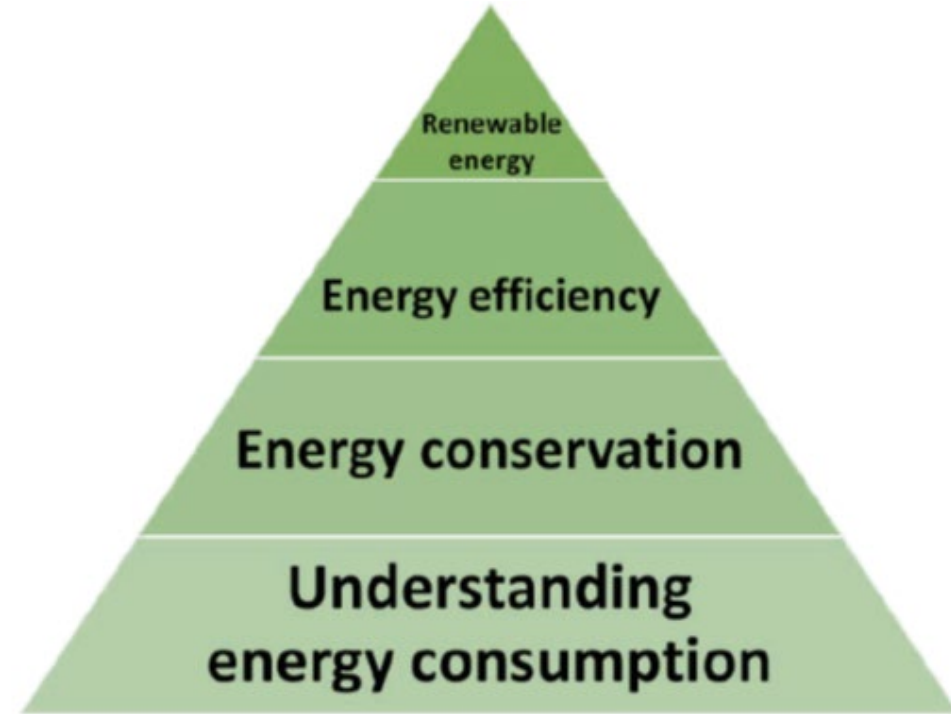


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# Understanding the drivers of energy poverty and designing appropriate tools addressing it



Source: Adapted figure from ASSIST Consortium. 2019. 'Vulnerable Consumers and Fuel Poverty Report'



Source: Buffington, D. E. (2010): The Energy Pyramid. In: Mushroom News. Volume 58, Number 5 – May 2010. In: (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2013)





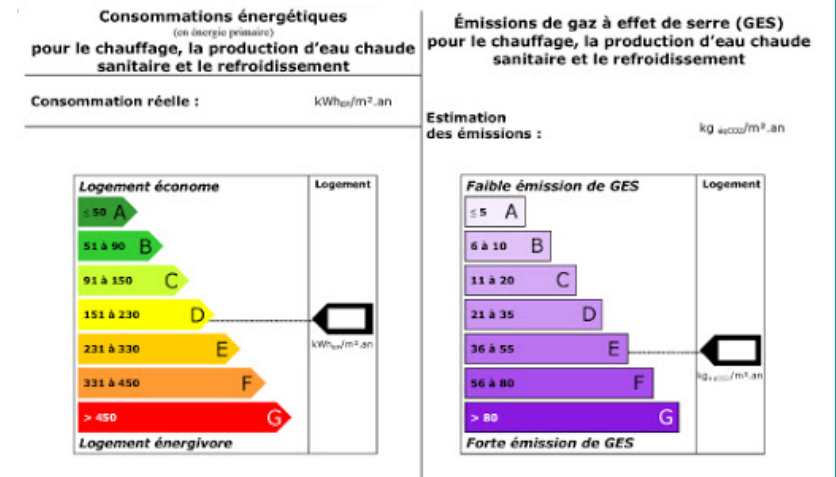
# What kind of tools are outlined and illustrated?

- National strategy, directions and agreements
- Spatial and mobility planning to promote energy-efficient homes, neighborhoods, cities, and regions
- Phasing out fossil fuel subsidies
- Procurement, incentives and support
- Regulation and certification
- Standardization and targets
- Building management and roadmaps
- Non-regulatory policy initiatives
- Capacity building and professional training
- Awareness raising amongst households



# Regulation & Standards

- **European Performance of Buildings Directive**
- **Performance based renovation targets and obligations (France).** The French Energy and Climate Act includes introducing mandatory audits as from 2022. May include a national obligation to renovate all buildings of the energy classes F and G by 2028.
- **German Building Code and Replacement of combustion units** that are older than 30 years (German Energy Conservation Act).
- **Klimat Aktiv (Austria) quality standards, building certification** concerning EE and emissions (exemplary role played by limited profit builders).
- Continuing development of **EU taxonomy** channeling investment towards **socially** sustainable renovation ensuring affordability, security and social inclusion for occupants.

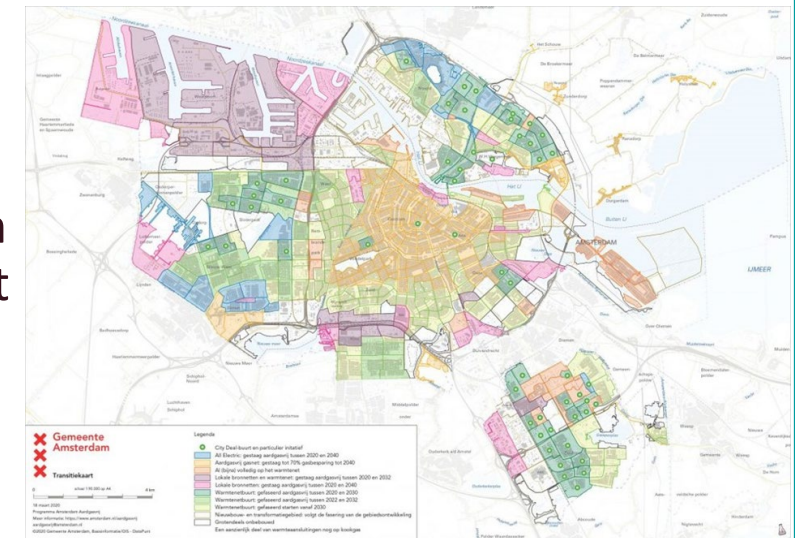




# Non-regulatory policy initiatives

Agreements and strategic plans ensure focused efforts, set targets, tailored to context

- In 2019, the Dutch established a long-term renovation agreement across sectors electricity, industry, built environment, traffic and transport, and agriculture to help achieve the climate goals. Includes phase out of natural gas as the main source of heat supply for over 7 million households in the Netherlands by 2050. As a first step, the Dutch government has set the goal to have 1.5 million households connected to a new heating system by 2030. Municipalities are in the lead to establish a **heat plan ('Warmteplan')** by 2021.
- Other countries have **tailored strategic plans**, as relevant to their housing system – e.g., Austria, Estonia, Germany, France, US and Russia.





# Financial incentives

Direct public investment provides a strong instrument: EU and State Housing Development Funds, also dedicated CO<sub>2</sub> auction proceeds, revolving loans funds and tax incentives

- Spain invests into **solar energy generation**.
- Slovenia Eco Fund uses both **non-repayable grants and favorable loans** in a revolving fund to improve the thermal insulation of residential buildings and apartments.
- The Danish National Building Foundation is investing its **revolving fund** in large renovation projects and social development plans in challenged housing areas.
- **Long-term low-interest public loans** with various conditions and target groups that differ across the provinces (SCOT, AUT, GER).
- The Housing Finance and Development Centre (ARA) in Finland provides **grants, subsidies and guarantees** to fund housing construction, purchase, and renovation.
- **Reduction of VAT or tax deduction on renovation activities**, mainly on labor costs, can be tied to affordability outcomes as in France.
- Continuing efforts to **change investment and building management culture and attitudes** – energy related renovation should not drive renovation.

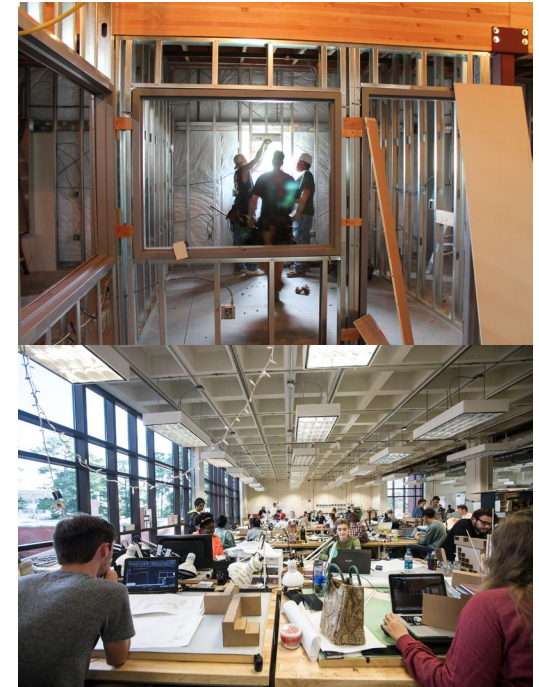


# Awareness raising and training



Ensure early and meaningful engagement of all occupiers

- **Awareness of the consequences for the inhabitants**, e.g., in terms of a bad indoor environmental (mold), structural damages and higher energy costs than theoretically necessary (heat bridges).
- **Industry training programs** ensure skills available, where needed in sufficient quality and quantity.
- **Specific master programs** on urban planning, housing design, renovation, design, life cycle costing, certification.
- **Renovation coaches , One Stop Shops and tenant councils** to guide all stakeholders to ensure they can make a difference.





# Conclusions on climate neutral policies

- Establish a national strategy to promote climate neutral, inclusive and affordable living environments.
- Coordinate spatial and mobility planning to promote energy-efficient homes, neighborhoods, cities, and regions.
- Use financing, fiscal and regulatory tools to accelerate and shape more effective, housing systems that deliver affordable, inclusive and energy-efficient housing.
- Use building resources efficiently, by balancing benefits of constructing new housing against re-use and renovation of existing housing.
- Ensure costs of renovation processes do not displace residents.
- Support the development and implementation of building standards, technologies, processes and supply-chains to promote climate-neutral and socially inclusive living environments.
- Improve knowledge of deep renovation possibilities among tenants, housing providers and private owners.

**“Place and Life in the UNECE: Regional Action Plan 2030” endorsed by  
UNECE member States October 2021**



# Main messages

1. Need to rethink housing policy making - a new paradigm - shaping better housing systems
2. From housing as a commodity to housing as a basic need, key role in quality of human life and sustainable communities
3. Move away from reliance on free market mechanisms only - strive to realise the right to adequate housing, with active and strategic involvement of the national and local government
4. Shape markets with a long-term vision to better deliver the housing we need
5. Empower cities to create liveable neighbourhoods
6. Requires well informed, purposeful policy and mission focussed and expert agencies
7. Requires co-operation of international community, national and local governments



#Housing2030



Search for a place

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- GOOD GOVERNANCE
- LAND POLICY
- BETTER FINANCE
- CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY

FILTER

Good practices Podcasts Videos Events Publications

## 12 #Housing2030 podcasts

<p><b>Investing right in housing systems in transition</b></p> <p>Stephan Dijk Regional Director, European Investment Bank</p>	<p><b>Good land policy involves planning for the wider public interest</b></p> <p>Julia Lawrence Professor of Land Use &amp; Planning, University of Cambridge</p>	<p><b>Homes good for the climate and for the pocket - it is possible</b></p> <p>Martin van Rijn Chairperson of Aedes</p>
<p><b>How to take the Finnish track in housing policy?</b></p> <p>Janne Lindén Director of the Housing Policy &amp; Development Centre of Finland 2020</p>	<p><b>The 'cocktail of change' improving the cities we live in</b></p> <p>Brian Evans City councillor for Glasgow &amp; Professor at the Glasgow School of Art</p>	<p><b>Diverse funding ensures housing affordability when public finances 'get a cold'</b></p> <p>Monika Herzig Senior Lecturer in Social Policy, Social Work and Social Care at University College London</p>

+2,300 listeners Available on Housing2030.org, Spotify, Google & Apple Podcasts



## #Housing 2030 report

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE HOUSING EUROPE

### #Housing2030

Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region

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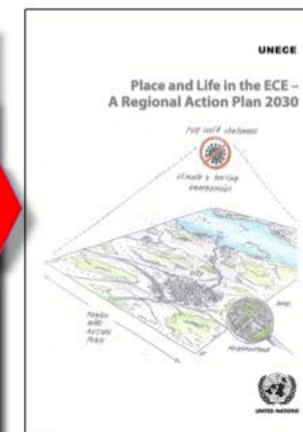
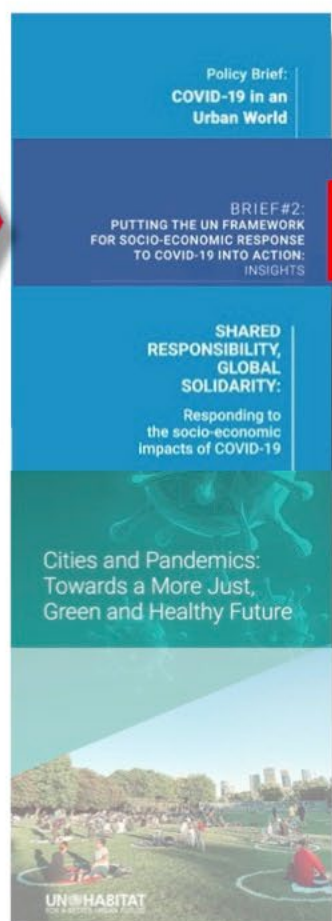
AFFORDABLE HOUSING: TIME TO THINK AND DO DIFFERENTLY

## Action Plan: "Place and Life in the UNECE: Regional Action Plan 2030" endorsed by UNECE member States October 2021



AFFORDABLE HOUSING: TIME TO THINK AND DO DIFFERENTLY

# Place and Life in the UNECE: Regional Action Plan 2030



## CONTENTS

**Principles:**

**Policy Areas:**

**Goals:**

**Targets/Actions**

Geneva Charter X 4 | Policy Briefs X 3

A: Cities/Neighbourhoods/Homes/Rural Life

B: Sustainable Housing and Homes

A: Cities – Coordination/Partnership/Integration

B: Housing – Governance/Land/finance/Climate

Download here: <https://unece.org/hlm/documents/2021/08/session-documents/place-and-life-ece-regional-action-plan-2030>

The Regional Action Plan 2030 was endorsed at the Ministerial Meeting in October 2021 and will be published in early 2022.

International Workshop on delivery planned for early 2022.



# UNECE inter-governmental processes for supporting housing development



## Strategic objective

Strengthen national and city level programmes and policies promoting decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all, smart sustainable cities, sustainable urban development and land management

Multi-level (local, national and global) Whole-of-Government approaches to planning and implementation

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a special emphasis on SDG 11
- UN Decade of Actions
- New Urban Agenda





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of Mayors, Geneva, Switzerland (back-to-back with the ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, RFSD)

- **44 city leaders** shared experiences and best practices on :
  - Sustainable urban transport, shared mobility and safer roads
  - Vibrant public spaces, green cities and nature-based solutions
  - Resilient, healthy and climate-neutral buildings and affordable and adequate housing
  - Sustainable urban planning, the 15-minute city and smart urban development solutions
- Networked for joint action: **More than 500 participants** from UNECE region and beyond.



# SAN MARINO 2022

## 83rd UNECE meeting

Committee on Urban Development,  
Housing and Land Management

3-6 October 2022

Sustainable and inclusive urban design and architecture in support of sustainable, safe, healthy, socially inclusive, climate-neutral and circular homes, urban infrastructure and cities



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SCAN ME

For registration and more information



DECENT



ADEQUATE



AFFORDABLE



HEALTHY

<https://unece.org/housing/cudhlm-session83>



## Country Profiles on the Housing Sector: Albania (2002)

### Key conclusions and recommendations

#### Framework for the housing sector transition

- Social housing, housing policy, housing market

#### Institutional framework

- Central government institutions, national housing agency

#### Legal framework

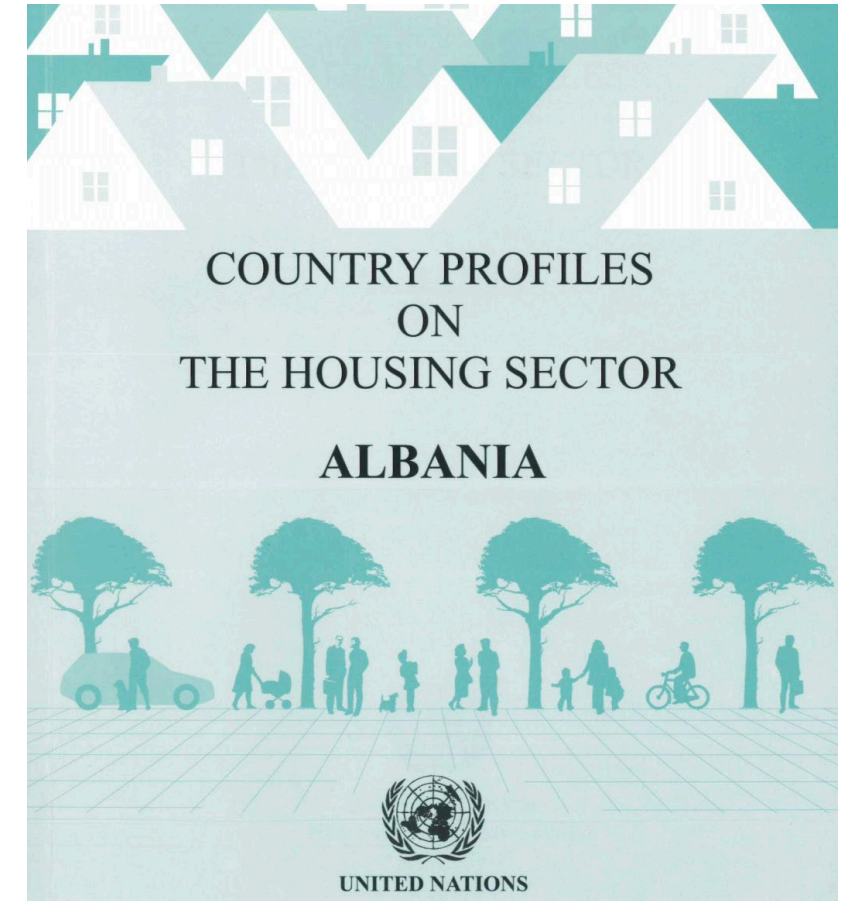
- Rental housing, condominiums

#### Financial framework

- Housing financing

#### Further work

- Research
- Future cooperation with UNECE



<https://unece.org/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/cp.albania.en.pdf>



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