Affordable, carbon-neutral and energy efficient housing in the UNECE region

Update on Housing 2030 related activities

October 2024





Good governance- using evidence to support countries

Expertise provided to Governments:

- 2021: Report and recommendations on the use of EU Structural Funds in Bulgaria & organisation of a capacity building workshop for municipalities
- 2022: Assistance to the French Presidency related to the Ministerial Declaration of the Presidency
- 2022: Assistance to the Czech Presidency preparation of a background note for the Housing Ministers meeting
- 2023: UNECE Country profile Albania on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management
- 2024: Assistance to the **Belgian Presidency** preparation of an overview of European funding instruments; and of the Background note for the Ministers conference



Albanian country profile developed by Housing Europe & UNECE- Recommendations

Increase sources of financing for affordable housing

• Introducing a state housing development fund following international examples



Strengthen the role of municipalities in social rental housing provision

• Local banks can perform the role of international financial institutions by creating a syndicate loan, (implies more robust institutions, and certainly adequate demand-based support for social housing).

Revise the functions of the National Housing Agency

- The establishment of a housing financial institution (FI) with dedicated products (such as mortgage loans) with the help of a national guarantee instrument.
- The establishment of an **Investment Platform/Specific agreement** that engages EIB and CEB to invest.
- Introduction of a **Social Rental Agency (SRA)** model to mobilize private housing for social rent. **NHA could coordinate the implementation of local SRAs through a liaison centre** or newly established local agencies (implementers).





2024-2027: European Community for Housing Equality

Policymakers

politicians, civil servants, and others who directly develop public housing policy



Practitioners

housing providers, cooperatives, and other bodies who turn policy into affordable & accessible homes



Households

The ordinary households who feel the real impact of the policy of the 'policymakers', and the implementation efforts of the 'practitioners'

Key topics to be discussed and developed with the European Community for Housing Equality

- Analysing Income, Wealth and Housing Inequalities and their Interrelationships
- Financial and Fiscal Influences on Housing Inequalities
- Using Subsidies, Regulation, Land and Services to Make Housing Affordable
- Socially Innovative & Community-led Solutions to Housing Inequalities
- Tackling Acute Housing Inequalities Among Refugees and Migrants
- Tackling Unsustainable Housing and Energy Poverty
- Links between labour markets and housing issues



Finance

- Czechia adopted a new legislation that enables the ground for the development of social housing providers & notified the usage of State Aid for that sector
 - We support them to provide European best practice on the good governance and finance
- Supporting capacity building in **Poland** together with EIB on inclusion of Ukrainian refugees through housing
- Housing Europe created **the European Housing Finance Working Group (2023-2027)** to develop capacity across Europe to create healthy housing systems that are able to provide sustainable, long-term solutions.
 - ✓ Annual European Housing Finance Summit
 - ✓ Local workshops
 - ✓ Identification of investment needs
 - ✓ Peer-to-peer learning, mentoring.



Climate-neutral housing

FIT-FOR-55 Package and others

- Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) Completed
- Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) Completed
- Renewable Energy Directive (RED) Completed
- Emission Trading System for Buildings and Road Transport (ETS II) Completed
- Social Climate Fund (SCF) Completed
- Protection of Workers from Asbestos Directive Completed



Effective use of Land 1/2

- European Nature restoration Regulation
 - Article 2 gives a definition of urban green space;
 - Article 8 sets the biodiversity restoration target for urban ecosystems;
 - By 2030, Member States shall ensure that there is **no net loss in the total national area of urban green space** and **of urban tree canopy cover** in urban ecosystem areas;
 - From 2031, Member States shall achieve an increasing trend in the total national area of urban green space;
 - **▶** will mostly affect the planning decision made by local authorities;
 - ➤ the restoration and non-deterioration principles can impact the development of new housing;
 - ➤ it will be necessary to compile data which will feed into the development of the National Restoration Plans, highlighting particularly the socio-economic impact of restoration measures.



Effective use of Land 2/2

- European Soil Monitoring Directive
 - Main aim is healthy soils by 2050 and provide common framework to assess healthy soils
 - Sets out measures to reduce and compensate land take
 - Land take refers to the conversion of **natural and semi-natural land** into artificial land
 - Could have an impact on new construction on natural and semi-natural land
 - ENVI committee position: specific references to socio-economic considerations when implementing soil monitoring measures
 - Lot of flexibility for Member States



Thank you

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