

URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU



HOUSING

Links to International Commitments

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Structure of the presentation

Aims and objectives
Housing partnership work
International commitments
of the EU Urban Agenda
EU UA Housing Partnership
contribution to
implementation of the EU
international commitments.



Aims and objectives

To provide a preliminary assessment of the potential links between the HP themes of work and the international commitments.

To contribute to the development of the Housing Partnership action plan.



EU UA Housing Partnership

The EU Urban Agenda has an aim to provide urban dimension to the European policies and it is a part of wider EU efforts implement international agreements, especially those with urban dimension.



EU UA Housing Partnership

EU Urban Agenda
Housing Partnership is
one of four pilot
partnerships established
under the Pact of
Amsterdam and within
the framework of the EU
Urban Agenda.



Housing Affordability Gap

81.5 million Europeans are housing cost 'overburdened' spending more than 40% of their income on housing. Housing cost overburden is more pressing among the low income population. It is increasingly difficult to enter the housing market. 48% of young adults in Europe live with their parents.



EU UA Housing Partnership

The Housing Partnership aims to create better legal and financial conditions for EU cities who need to invest in new, renewed, affordable housing for their populations on a broad scale. More specifically, 'the focus of the Partnership is on the supply of affordable housing', including: social housing, affordable rental housing and affordable home ownership.



Members of the Housing Partnership at the Vienna Meeting, Dec. 2016

Working Groups

Working group	Topics covered	Lead Partners
State aid	State aid, competition law, definition of social housing in SGEI decision, VAT	Vienna
Finance and funding	Investments and instruments, loans, “golden rule”, European semester, innovative funding	Scottish Cities Alliance
General Housing Policy	<p>Part #1: Land use, building ground, spatial planning, renovation, energy efficiency, anti-speculation</p> <p>Part #2: security of tenure, co-management, co-design, rent stabilisation, support for vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Housing Europe (Part #1)</p> <p>International Union of Tenants (Part #2)</p>

Consulted actions 2017

Better Regulation

Action 1: Guidance on EU regulation and public support for housing

Action 2: Capacity building for application of state aid rules in affordable housing sector at a city level

Action 3: Revision of the 'Services of General Economic Interest' (SGEI) decision with regard to the narrow target group of social housing

Consulted actions 2017

Better Knowledge

Action 1: Affordable Housing Good Practice Database

Action 2: Provide policy guidance for supply of social and affordable housing in Europe

Pact of Amsterdam

The Pact of Amsterdam, highlighted that ‘the Urban Agenda for the EU will contribute to the implementation of the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the global **New Urban Agenda** as a part of Habitat III process’.

The ambitions to endeavour implementation of the EU international commitments have been further expanded in January 2017 to include (where relevant), implementation of the **Paris Climate Agreement COP21** and **Sendai Framework**.

EU UA Housing Partnership

This paper presents an ex-post analysis.

The objective is to explore what aspects HP work have the potential to address selected international commitments.



URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU

WORKING TOGETHER
FOR BETTER CITIES



HOUSING



EU Housing Partnership

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EU Housing Partnership

Establishing the links

The EU Urban Agenda was designed for **cities** to have their say in policy-making.

As such, the **Urban Agenda for the EU** and the **New Urban Agenda** (Habitat III) **share the same vision for balanced, sustainable and integrated urban development**. In the context of the U.N. Habitat III conference, the European Commission commitment itself to meet the New Urban Agenda's global objectives.

In context of **Housing** theme in general, the **EU Urban Agenda presents a key anchor** between the **New Urban Agenda** and other international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (**Agenda 2030**), **Paris Agreement**.

Establishing the links

At this early stage of assessment, the potential to link the work of the Housing Partnership with the international commitments was developed through three level examination (following the methods of delineation and focus of the Housing Partnership work):

- (1) **Geographic focus**
- (2) **Partnership focus:** affordable housing
- (3) **Thematic focus:** focus on specific set of themes

1. Geographic focus: cities

- The shift towards a predominantly urban world makes the process of urbanization one of the most significant global trends of the 21st century (Habitat III, 2016).
- EU Urban Agenda and the Pact of Amsterdam focus on cities.
- Cities are affected by the housing crisis in a specific way. More economically successful cities have higher housing prices (across tenures) and therefore seem to exhibit higher challenges in access to affordable housing.



1. HP Geographic focus: cities

Table 1. Change in total population in member states and cities represented in the Housing Partnership (2002 to 2012) (an illustration only)

Housing Partnership member	Country	Percentage of population change (national)	City (Large/Capital)	Percentage of population change (city)
Vienna (City)	Austria	4%	Vienna	9%
Riga (City)	Latvia	-12%	Riga	-7%
Luxembourg (MS)	Luxembourg	17%	Luxembourg	17%
Netherlands (MS)	Netherlands	4%	Amsterdam	8%
Poznan (City)	Poland	0%	Poznan	5%
Lisbon (City)	Portugal	1%	Lisbon	5%
Slovakia (MS)	Slovakia	1%	Bratislava	2%
Slovenia (MS)	Slovenia	3%	Ljubljana	9%

Sustainable Development Goals



SDG Goal 11: 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'

Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG Goal 11: 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

SDG target 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.

New Urban Agenda

The New Urban Agenda significantly expands the UN member states commitment to housing. **Housing is addressed in 24 out of 175 articles.**

As housing is not the responsibility of the European Union, Housing Partnership presents a unique opportunity to highlight the importance of this issue for the European Cities within the EU Urban Agenda and to advance its implementation.



United Nations



New Urban Agenda

In line with the goals and objectives of the Pact of Amsterdam the EU Urban Agenda work on housing may contribute the implementation of the **NUA Article 31 and NUA Article 105** that stress the development of the housing policy at all levels>

Article 31. *We commit ourselves to **promoting national, subnational and local housing policies** that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living [...]*

Article 105. *We will develop and implement housing policies at all levels, incorporating participatory planning, and **applying the principle of subsidiarity**, as appropriate, in order to ensure coherence among national, sub-national, and local development strategies, land policies and housing supply [...]*

2. Focus on affordable housing

- Housing systems in Europe are rich and diverse.
- The term 'affordable housing' has been interpreted in various ways.
- The Housing Partnership has examined the way HP member interpret the term 'affordable housing'.
- The results of the research have been used to set the focus of the Housing Partnership work.

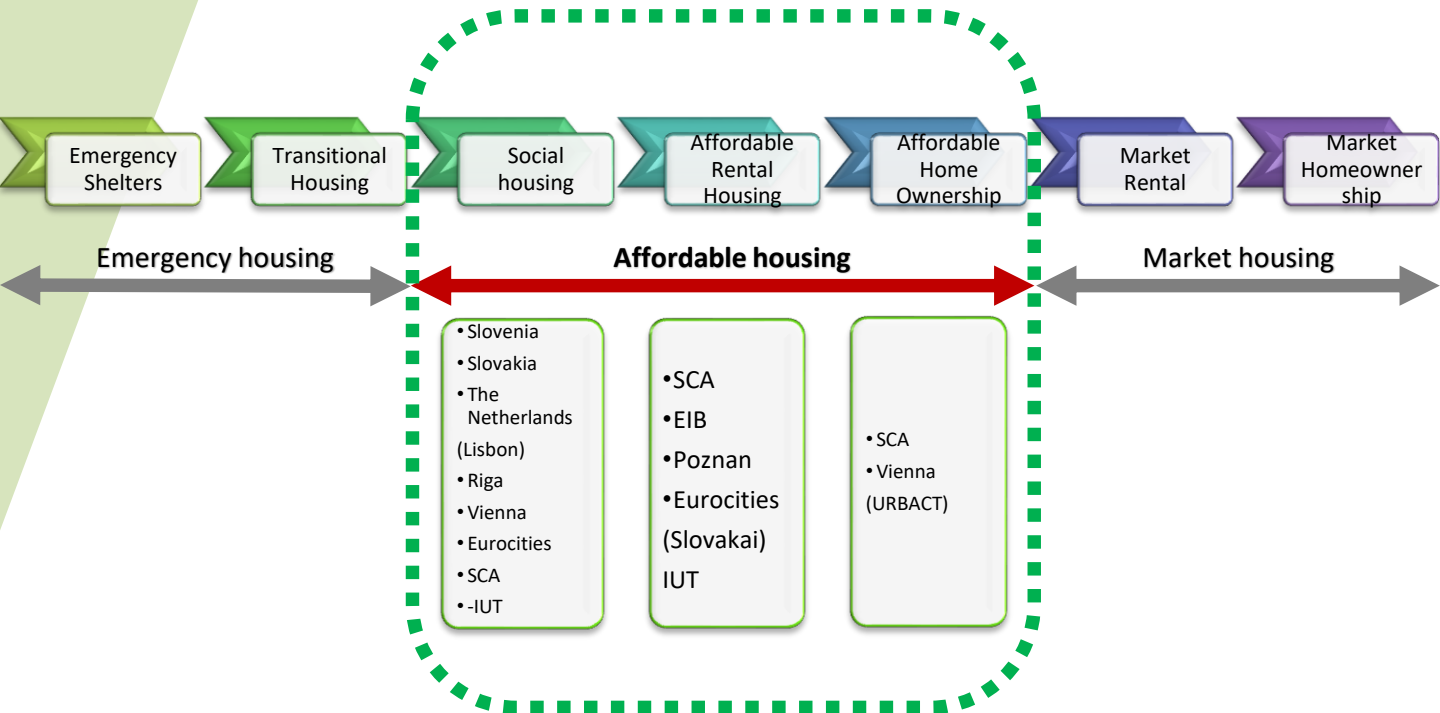
(1) Affordable Housing

(2) Types of affordable housing

(3) supply of affordable housing



Housing Continuum



New Urban Agenda

In general, terms the work of the Housing Partnership wishes to ensure better **supply of housing**, that has been identified as one of the key challenges after Global Financial Crisis. In these terms the work of the Housing Partnership **has the potential to contribute ‘realisation of the right to adequate housing’ within the limits of the Partnerships framework defined by the Pact of Amsterdam.**

If this potential is achieved the Housing Partnership could help contribute the New Urban Agenda (NUA) commitment spelled in **NUA Article 13.**

Article 13. *We envisage cities and human settlements that: (a) fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieve the full realization of the right to adequate housing, as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living [...].*

New Urban Agenda

Considering its focus on affordable housing, the Partnership has a potential to address **NUA**

Article 14 (part a) that refers to: *'Providing equal access to all to physical and social infrastructure and basic services as well as **adequate affordable housing**'.*

In terms of the Partnership focus and commitment to supply of affordable housing, the potential is identified to contribute implementation of the **NUA Article 33**, that emphasises among other issues the importance of **stimulating supply of adequate housing for different income groups of society**:

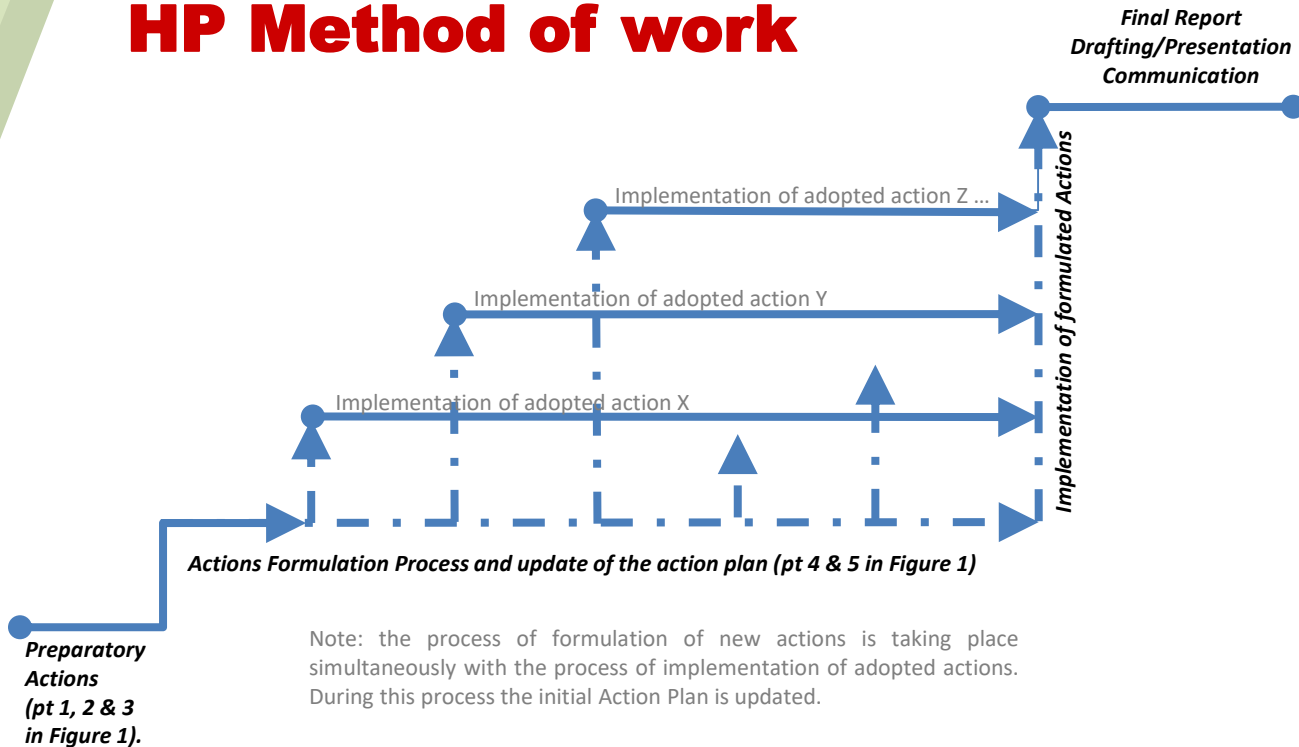
Article 33. *We commit ourselves to **stimulating the supply of a variety of adequate housing options that are safe, affordable and accessible for members of different income groups of society**, taking into consideration the socioeconomic and cultural integration of marginalized communities, homeless persons and those in vulnerable situations and preventing segregation [...].*

New Urban Agenda

The analysis of the Partnership interpretation of the terms affordable housing led to conclusion, that the Housing Partnership refers to different types of affordable housing tenures under that category. The work of the Partnership has a potential to help implementation of one of the crucial commitments noted in the New Urban Agenda – **NUA Article 107**. Article 107 promotes commitment to wide range of affordable, sustainable housing options.

Article 107. We will encourage developing policies, tools, mechanisms, and financing models that promote access to a wide range of affordable, sustainable housing options including rental and other tenure options, as well as cooperative solutions such as co-housing, community land trust, and other forms of collective tenure, that would address the evolving needs of persons and communities, in order to improve the supply of housing [...] This will include support to incremental housing and self-build schemes [...].

HP Method of work



New Urban Agenda

Consulted actions: Better Regulation

The Housing Partnership has taken sustained effort to address the issues related to the improving regulation related to Housing at the EU level. In that regard the partnership has the capacity to help implementing Article 105 among others:

Article 105. We will foster the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living. We will develop and implement housing policies at all levels, incorporating participatory planning and applying the principle of subsidiarity, as appropriate, in order to ensure coherence among national, subnational and local development strategies, land policies and housing supply.

New Urban Agenda

Consulted actions: Better Knowledge

The EU Urban Agenda partnership for housing has an aim to advance knowledge about housing through two actions related to the development of the affordable housing toolkit. In that regard the Housing Partnership has the capacity to address the Article 157.

Article 157. We will support **science, research and innovation**, including a focus on social, technological, digital and nature-based innovation, robust science-policy interfaces in urban and territorial planning and policy formulation and institutionalized mechanisms for **sharing and exchanging information, knowledge and expertise**, including the collection, analysis, standardization and dissemination of geographically based, community-collected, high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national, subnational and local contexts.

Next Steps

The development of further actions and assessment of their potential to address one or more international commitments.

DISCUSSION



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Thank you!

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