

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

Please provide a title that is concise, catchy and reflects the core issues addressed in your side event.

Alternative models for affordable housing

Background and Rationale

Globally, countries face a housing crisis with the increasing lack of social rental stock. For historic and social reasons, in many European regions there aren't well-functioning housing systems. Thus, there is the need to create and invest in alternative models, also as in order to meet the 2023 Agenda and SDG 11.1,

With focus on Central and Eastern Europe and the United Kingdom, the event will present successful strategies in creating affordable housing alternatives. Habitat for Humanity, having the unique added-value of running programs in CEE region and the UK, has identified and piloted alternatives that emerge as opportunities for scaling up:

- 1) Social Rental Agencies: a model well-embedded in Western European housing markets, e.g. in Great Britain, while it still develops in CEE region. In Poland legal regulation on SRAs was implemented in 2021 allowing development of the model.
- 2) Empty Spaces to Homes approach (repurposing of underutilized commercial and business spaces): provide opportunity for energy-efficient, sustainable rehabilitation into affordable housing stock. In Poland almost 12% of apartments remains empty, inspiring debate on how to renovate and/or re-use this stock. Whereas in the UK, an estimated 165k privately-owned commercial and business premises remain empty across Great Britain.

The event proposes a dive into innovative solutions to deliver adequate and affordable housing, taking into consideration housing systems that deal with financial challenges, especially in the face of the emerging energy and environmental crises. By inviting housing experts, the event will also tackle some financing options for the use of these models.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

The event will invite experts coming from different European housing contexts to dwell on the challenges and results arising from these two models which promote innovative affordable housing solutions, intersectoral models involving public, private and civil society actors, the use of private-owned resources for public purposes, involvement of the private sector in innovative housing solutions, and including financing perspectives.

The event hopes to bring as an added value the best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of these two innovative models in the contexts of CEE and UK, thus presenting potential

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solutions to housing systems challenges that could be replicated and incorporated in local and national housing policies.

Organizers

Lead organizers: Habitat for Humanity International

Contributors: Habitat for Humanity Poland and Habitat for Humanity Great Britain

Agenda and Structure

It's a 90-min session

0-5 min: The moderator will introduce the speakers, present Habitat for Humanity and give a general contextualization of the topic.

5-15 min: Emil Angelov – introduction of the topic of alternative models for affordable housing, with focus on Central and Eastern Europe.

15-25 min: Katarzyna Przybylska – presentation of the Polish experience with Social Rental Agency model and Empty Spaces

25-35 min: Tum Kazunga – presentation of the UK experience with Empty Spaces

35-45 Min: Anna Balogi – research on Empty Spaces and good practices in SRA

45-55 min: Elena Milanosvka – financing options opportunities for affordable housing

55-65 min: FEANTSA – presentation of reports on cities action to address vacancies and SRA

65-85 min: Group discussion tackling the following aspects: challenges of implementation of innovative solutions / relevance for SDG 11 / potential of influencing housing markets / impact of the current economic situation on scalability of the models.

85-90 min: Questions from the audience

List of Panellists

Moderator: Tomas Kelley

Tomas Kelley is the Associate Director of Partnerships at Habitat for Humanity International's regional office, responsible for fostering global partnerships with corporations and foundations across Europe and the Middle East – with both financial and non-financial dimensions. He has more than 10 years of experience in designing projects, building alliances, and overseeing a portfolio of partnerships valued at \$25M+ ensuring effective and efficient development projects focused on housing, shelter, WASH, disaster resilience, and housing eco-systems. Tomas has also collaborated with a variety stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive strategies that provide long-term solutions to housing and housing adjacent issues all around the world. Tomas holds an MA degree in Political Science and European Studies from the Comenius University and is a Certified Fundraising Executive.

Speakers:

Emil Angelov

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Programme/project specialist with extensive experience in technical assistance and institutional capacity-building projects aimed at addressing sustainable development, governance and local development issues. He has been involved in developing and implementing strategies and providing thematic advice on national policies and institutional trends as Head of Good governance department in UNDP North Macedonia. After leaving UNDP, Emil switched its professional focus to providing management, coordination and integration services in complex multi-sectoral settings and conducting multifaceted research and analysis. He had several assignments with HFHI in the past few years that included feasibility and impact assessment studies in the microfinance and housing sector and development of project proposals.

Katarzyna Przybylska

Katarzyna Przybylska is Head of Advocacy at Habitat for Humanity Poland. She is specialist in developing and promoting effective legal regulations that improve the quality and accessibility of housing solutions, and an advocate for decent places to live acting on behalf of citizens and entire social groups affected by housing problems. She is a specialist in the development and promotion of effective legislation to improve the quality and accessibility of housing solutions. She has been engaged in development of legal regulation on social rental agencies or strategy for deinstitutionalization of social services on the social side. She encourages decision-makers to take action to ensure the most effective provision of broad access to decent housing. Member of the Committee of Experts on Preventing Homelessness appointed by the Polish Ombudsman.

Anna Balogi

Anna is a sociologist. Her main fields of research are housing poverty, ways out of homelessness and spatial segregation. She has conducted several monitoring and evaluation studies of Housing First and housing-led projects; full-scale social research and needs assessment of segregated areas in several Hungarian cities and developed complex intervention plans in social regeneration projects. She also has extensive experience in designing projects with a focus on housing poverty. She is the author of specific chapters in some volumes the Annual report on housing poverty of Habitat for Humanity Hungary. Lately she has been working for Hungarian NGO From Street to Home Association running a peer support program.

Elena Milanovska

Elena currently held the position of Associate Director – Housing Systems - Habitat for Humanity International, Europe and Middle East. Elena experience in business development has played an essential role in promoting HFHI as the leader in the housing finance sector across the region, securing over billion investments in housing finance portfolios (focusing on climate financing) and over 1 million loans disbursed with over 40 partner institutions in 20 countries. At the same time, she is responsible for the implementation of a regional expansion and capital mobilization strategy with a special focus on partnerships with Financial Institutions, SME's and other investors or investment vehicles.

Tum Kazunga

Tum has worked at Habitat for Humanity Great Britain since May 2016, and been the National Director since 2018. With a background in digital communications and marketing, Tum started in the not-for-profit space working at national deaf blind charity Sense, after which he moved into the international development sector with roles at FARM Africa, and Action Against Hunger, among others. Tum has strong experience in many areas of fundraising and Non-Governmental Organisational strategy and management, and is able to work with teams to identify the best opportunities to drive mission impact and fundraising.

Clotilde Clark-Foulquier

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Clotilde Clark-Foulquier is project manager at FEANTSA. She is coordinating the Housing Solutions Platform, a European cross-sectoral expertise and practice-driven initiative to identify, debate and promote innovative solutions for affordable housing in Europe. It is a joint initiative of FEANTSA, the Fondation Abbé Pierre and Housing Europe. The platform seeks to make a contribution to addressing Europe's housing crises by connecting people, ideas, tools and practices to help generate housing solutions. Clotilde also leads FEANTSA's work on energy poverty, working for a fair balancing of climate and social objectives in the framework of the European Green Deal and Renovation Wave.

Sign-up / Registration Link

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/7de23ba7-458f-4bc6-aad8-daff9b104228@f8b64cf5-1617-4589-8e02-d3a56ee0792a>