



Bridge Building (BB) Policy reviews in social welfare

Social housing policies to support access to adequate and affordable housing (online)

25-26 June 2025

Virtual in Zoom & Padlet

Objectives

- To discuss participating BB countries' social housing schemes and their main characteristics such as ownership and management, funding, eligibility and allocation criteria etc.;
- To reflect on different social housing policy measures in place in BB and other case countries, and their effectiveness in tackling housing needs and supporting access for people in vulnerable situations;
- To share promising practices and new or alternative housing solutions (including at local, regional levels), and identify opportunities for innovation and improvement.

Participants

About 40 representatives from the relevant ministry/institutions and stakeholders of the host country and from the peer countries.

Time

WED, 25 June 2025, 9.00 – 15.00 (Vienna time)
THU, 26 June 2025, 9.00 – 12.00 (Vienna time)

European Centre Facilitation Team

Magdi BIRTHA, Anette Scoppetta, Sabina Gjylsheni, Eszter Zolyomi,
David Conforti

Policy Review key questions

- *What is the scale of social housing provision in your country and what are its key characteristics (ownership and management structures, type of providers)?*
- *Who are served by social housing in your country and what are the conditions of access (eligibility and priority criteria, targeting and allocation mechanisms)?*
- *How is social housing integrated with other social services to support social housing tenants including those with additional or specific needs?*
- *How has your country addressed the challenge of securing (long-term) funding to maintain and expand the social housing stock and to ensure that social housing remains affordable?*
- *What role do partnerships play at different governance levels and between public and private actors?*
- *What are promising housing solutions and practices (e.g., new forms of housing models, national or local policy initiatives, pilots etc.) to improve access to affordable and social housing in your country?*

Policy Review Programme

Wednesday, 25 June 2025

08:45 Arrival of participants

09:00 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Matthias Posch, Policy Officer, Federal Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Austria

Anette Scoppetta, Deputy Director, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Austria

09:20 **OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL HOUSING POLICIES TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN EUROPE**

Eszter Zolyomi, Researcher, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Austria

09:30 **SOCIAL HOUSING POLICIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES**

Draft of Social Housing Strategic Plan of Armenia: Main Perspectives

Tigran Jrbashyan, Expert for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Reforming Policies for Diversifying Housing Policies in Kosovo: The Program of Adequate Social Housing and Affordable Housing – the Quest for Affordable, Sustainable and Inclusive Housing

Banush Shyqeriu, Leader of the Project Management Unit, Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning, and Infrastructure of the Republic of Kosovo

Merita Dalipi, Senior Official for Architecture and Housing, Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning, and Infrastructure of the Republic of Kosovo

Including Q&A

10:30 Break

10:45 **INCLUSIVE SOLUTIONS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING: EXPERIENCES FROM THE EU**

Social housing policies: a European perspective

Alice Pittini, Research Director, Housing Europe

Vienna's holistic approach in affordable housing policy

Bojan-Ilija Schnabl, Expert, Strategic Projects and international Affairs in City of Vienna, Austria

Including Q&A

12:00 Lunch

13:00 WORKING GROUP

Exchange on BB countries' strategies and policy measures aiming to provide affordable and decent housing for vulnerable groups

14:30 End of first day

Thursday, 26 June 2025

09:00 ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Yevgine Vardanyan, Director, National Institute of Labour and Social Research, Armenia

09:10 PROMISING PRACTICES FROM EUROPE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATION

Inspiring investments in social housing and services with support of EU funds

Grzegorz Gajewski, Policy Officer, Housing Task Force, European Commission

Financing and implementing inclusive housing

Samir Kulenovic, Senior Technical Advisor, Council of Europe Development Bank

Including Q&A

09:55 WORKING GROUP

Exchanges on the promising practices in BB countries and lessons learned

10:45 Break

11:00 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Learnings from day 1 and day 2

11:15 KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

11:45 WRAP UP AND CLOSING

Anette Scoppetta, Deputy Director, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

12:00 End of second day