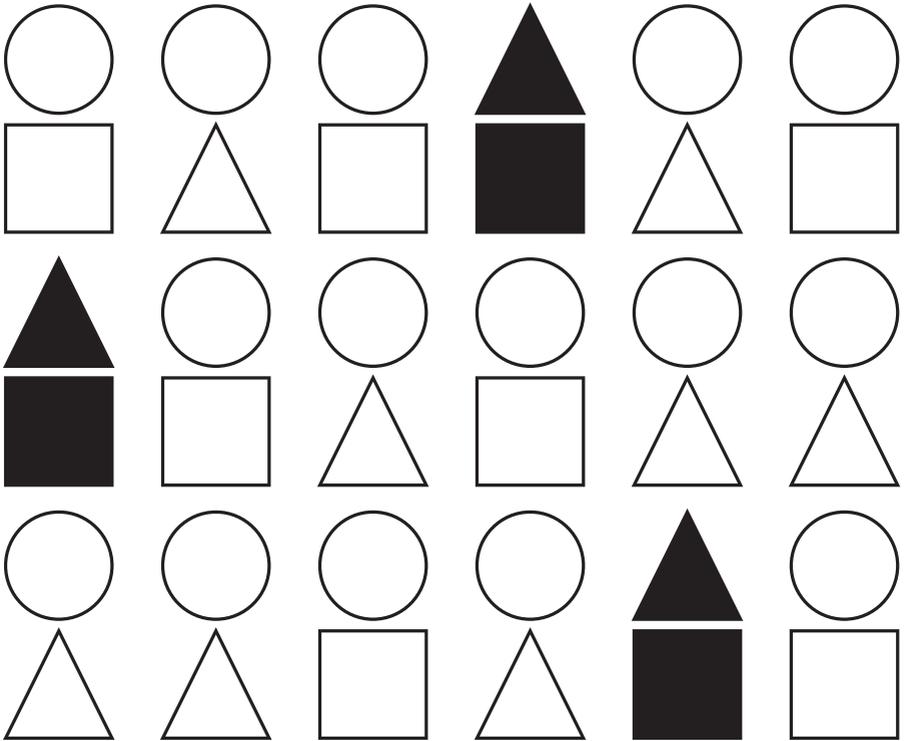


The Housing Policies of Our Future



How to Make Them Work

International Conference

Palais Des Nations | Geneva | 15 September 2016

#housing4all

WELCOME NOTE

By **Marc Calon**,
Housing Europe President

Many countries in Europe are at the crossroads of reforming their housing systems. The new reality that has been shaped over the last years does not leave a lot of space for manoeuvre and experimentation. Adequate solutions to changing needs should be generated at a much faster pace than usual. The migration issue goes far beyond the refugee crisis and changes the social dynamics in many countries of the Union; of a Union that experiences an existential crisis that has been triggered following the referendum in the United Kingdom. This result was the expression, among other things, of an anti-immigrant sentiment but also a demonstration against the inadequate responses of those responsible to complicated issues such as housing.

In more and more countries it's becoming evident that more affordable homes are needed. Affordable housing of high quality that will be the first step towards the integration of the mobile populations and that will serve as a safety net against social tensions. Provision of an adequate roof can revamp the welcome culture in Europe and get the continent a step closer to its founding values of dignity and prosperity for all.

But housing is just the beginning. The collaboration between housing associations, employers, social service providers, (language) schools, municipalities and regions should be intensified, so that we can jointly create a fair environment for people who are trying to build a future for their children. The contribution of cities is vital, in terms of resources and jobs.

The sooner we accept the new reality and we start acting with it in mind in a collective manner the more chances we have to come up with the right mix of inclusive housing policies of our future.

Thank you for your valuable contributions to a capacity building conference that aims to deliver a roadmap of suggestions for the housing policies of our future in Europe and beyond.

THE AGENDA

The Housing Policies of Our Future - How to Make Them Work International Conference

15 September 2016, 10:00 - 18:00

UN Headquarters, Palais des Nations, Conference Room XVI, Geneva

09:00 REGISTRATION & WELCOME

10:00 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- **Elena Szolgayová**, Director General, DG Housing Policy and Urban Development, Chair of the UNECE Committee for Housing and Land Management
- **Marc Calon**, President, Housing Europe
- **Nicholas Gazzard**, President, Cooperative Housing International

Keynote speaker: Peter Cachola Schmal, Curator German Pavillon, Venice Biennale: *Making Heimat. Germany, Arrival Country*

10:30 - 11:45 SESSION I: HOUSING AND SOCIETY

Moderated by **Eddy Adams**, Urbact Programme Expert

- **Natalia Rogaczewska**, Chief Advisor & Head of European Affairs, BL - Danish Federation of Housing Associations: *Skandia Model on measuring impact of investment*
- **Stuart Ropke**, Group Chief Executive, Community Housing Cymru: *Measuring the Economic Impact of Housing Associations in Wales*
- **Anders Lago**, Chair, HSB - Swedish Housing Cooperatives: *Investment in housing and jobs strengthen the economy*
- **Francis Deplace**, Delphis - French Social Housing Association: *Social impact of social housing*
- **Yves-Laurent Sapoval**, Senior Advisor for the Directorate for Housing, Urban Development and Landscapes, France: *The importance of Housing in achieving the goals of Habitat III & Cop21*

Q & A session

11.45 - 12.00 COFFEE BREAK

12.00 - 13.00 PECHA KUCHA I (20 IMAGES X 20 SECONDS) SESSION: EMERGING RESPONSES TO HOUSING NEEDS

- **Bea Varnai**, urbaMonde: *Community led housing*
- **Joanna Charlton**, Shepherds Bush Housing Association: *Improving local communities*
- **FEANTSA** *Tackling the challenge of empty homes*
- **Juha Kaakinen**, Y Foundation: *The Housing First way out of homelessness*
- **Marc Uhry**, Foundation Abbé Pierre & **Gabriel Sibille**, Est Métropole Habitat: *"L'autre soie" - how to avoid social segregation*

— 13.00 - 14.00 LUNCH BREAK

— 14.00 - 14.45 PECHA KUCHA II (20 IMAGES X 20 SECONDS) SESSION: CITIES FOR ALL IN TIMES OF CRISIS

- **Maria Stratigaki**, Vice Mayor for Solidarity and Social Inclusion, Athens
- **Javier Buron Cuadrado**, Head of Housing Policy, Barcelona
- **Vladimir Šokman**, Chairman City Council, Tartu
- **Michaela Kauer**, Vienna (EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership)
- **Pasquale Talerico**, Kalkbreite Cooperative, Zurich

— 14.45 - 15.00 WARM-UP SESSION: BEST PRACTICES: A VIDEO COLLECTION

- *The Housing First* example from Ontario, Canada
- *Increasing poverty, inequality & segregation in European Cities* by Segregation Europe
- *The Housing for All campaign* by Housing Europe
- *Achieving scale in energy positive renovation*, The Transition Zero initiative

— 15.00 - 16:15 SESSION II: BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCE

Moderated by **Eddy Adams**, Urbact Programme Expert

- **Christian Lieberknecht**, Vice-President, GdW Germany - German Housing Association & Johanna Ode, SABO, The Swedish Association of Public Housing Companies: *Construction in Germany: Making investor's life easier; Lowering the housing construction cost via efficient public procurement: The Kombohus scheme*
- **Andrea Colantonio**, Senior Urban Specialist, European Investment Bank (EIB): *Driving change through innovative finance: the success stories of the EIB*
- **Elena Szolgayová**, Director General, DG Housing Policy and Urban Development, Chair of the UN ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management: *The State Housing Fund in Slovakia*
- **Doris Andoni**, General Director, National Housing Agency of Albania: *Energy efficiency in low income housing*

Q & A session

— 16.15 - 16.30 STRETCHING OUT BREAK

— 16.30 - 17:45 SESSION III: URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Moderated by **Eddy Adams**, Urbact Programme Expert

- **Blase Lambert**, Chief Officer, Confederation of Cooperative Housing & Dermot Sellars, Communications and Policy Manager, Cooperative Housing Ireland: *How Cooperatives enrich the Housing mix and what they need to flourish*

- **Luigi Cuna**, Evaluator & Samir Kulenovic, Technical Programme Manager, Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB): *Unlocking finance for social development*

- **Sven Bergenstråhle**, President of the International Union of Tenants (IUT): *Diversifying Tenure: a bottom-up approach*

- **Raquel Cortes Herrera**, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General Employment and Social Affairs, European Commission: *Protection of the right to housing and homelessness prevention*

Q & A session

— 17.45 - 18:00 WRAP UP SESSION: WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- **David Orr**, NHF - UK National Housing Federation

THE CONTENT

— THE KEYNOTE SPEECH: MAKING HEIMAT. GERMANY, ARRIVAL COUNTRY

The **Curator of the German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture** is the keynote speaker at the International Conference on the Housing Policies of the future organised jointly by Housing Europe, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), The Slovak Presidency of the EU and Cooperative Housing International.

"We don't have a refugee crisis, we have a housing crisis," said Peter Cachola Schmal in an interview with Reuters, setting the tone for the approach behind the German pavilion's at the Venice Biennale of Architecture. The Director of the Deutsches Architekturmuseum in Frankfurt shared his hope that the exhibition would inspire a revival of well-designed social housing across Europe. Rather than temporary shelters, governments should build large-scale quality homes for both refugees and citizens alike, he said.

Germany's entry in the Biennale this year has taken an out-of-the-box angle, focusing on simple shelters used to house asylum seekers. The structures, designed and developed to deal with the influx of migrants into Europe from Africa and the Middle East, provide a direct contrast to Germany's 2014 submission – a scale replica of the former German Chancellor's residence.

"If nothing is done, the right wing will grow, and (public) opinion against refugees will grow. The first thing to do is build more affordable housing:", continued Mr. Schmal.

— SESSION I: HOUSING AND SOCIETY

Good quality, affordable housing is one of main drivers of change towards a better society. Public, cooperative and social housing providers have a multifaceted and measurable impact in the wider community.

Numerous best practices of dealing with challenges such as migration, homelessness and social exclusion in general can be identified across Europe. How can successful models be multiplied and adopted from the local to the national as well as to the international level in times of tight public budgets?

- **Natalia Rogaczewska**, Chief Advisor & Head of European Affairs, BL - Danish Federation of Housing Associations: *Skandia Model on measuring impact of investment*
- **Stuart Ropke**, Group Chief Executive, Community Housing Cymru: *Measuring the Economic Impact of Housing Associations in Wales*
- **Anders Lago**, Chair, HSB - Swedish Housing Cooperatives: *Investment in housing and jobs strengthen the economy*
- **Francis Deplace**, Delphis - French Social Housing Association: *Social impact of social housing*
- **Yves-Laurent Sapoval**, Senior Advisor for the Directorate for Housing, Urban Development and Landscapes, France: *The importance of Housing in achieving the goals of Habitat III & Cop21*

SESSION II: BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCE

The world is changing faster than the ways we provide housing. Climate change, drought, the economic osmosis, demographics and imponderables such as emerging warzones shape a new reality both for the housing sector and for the local and national authorities. Innovation in construction is now needed more than ever to address the demanding request for better homes both at faster pace and at a lower cost. What is the right mix between ground-breaking solutions, access to finance and policies to guarantee a resilient future for housing?

- **Christian Lieberknecht**, Vice-President, GdW Germany - German Housing Association & Johanna Ode, SABO, The Swedish Association of Public Housing Companies: *Construction in Germany: Making investor's life easier; Lowering the housing construction cost via efficient public procurement: The Kombohus scheme*
- **Andrea Colantonio**, Senior Urban Specialist, European Investment Bank (EIB): *Driving change through innovative finance: the success stories of the EIB*
- **Elena Szolgayová**, Director General, DG Housing Policy and Urban Development, Chair of the UN ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management: *The State Housing Fund in Slovakia*
- **Doris Andoni**, General Director, National Housing Agency of Albania: *Energy efficiency in low income housing*

SESSION III: URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Socio-spatial segregation is the major challenge in the modern urban environment. Inequalities generate a number of issues that are linked with exclusion from decent, affordable housing, lack of education, unemployment and even radicalisation. This explosive mix has a direct effect on the communities we live in. Tackling the challenge may seem complicated but actually it only takes four steps to produce a response: mixing the housing options, offering adequate financing, empowering tenants and getting support from the EU can serve the vision of liveable communities. But is this enough?

- **Blase Lambert**, Chief Officer, Confederation of Cooperative Housing & Dermot Sellars, Communications and Policy Manager, Co-operative Housing Ireland: *How Cooperatives enrich the Housing mix and what they need to flourish*
- **Luigi Cuna**, Evaluator & Samir Kulenovic, Technical Programme Manager, Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB): *Unlocking finance for social development*
- **Sven Bergensträhle**, President of the International Union of Tenants (IUT): *Diversifying Tenure: a bottom-up approach*
- **Raquel Cortes Herrera**, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General Employment and Social Affairs, European Commission: *Protection of the right to housing and homelessness prevention*

PECHA KUCHA I: EMERGING RESPONSES TO HOUSING NEEDS

More and more communities or groups of people come together to create their own housing solutions. Housing associations work harder to improve the overall

quality of life of their tenants. Civil society and local authorities make the case against the “scandal of 11 million empty homes in Europe”. The “Housing First” model re-sets the priorities when it comes to addressing extreme forms of social exclusion.

May it be community-led housing, improvement of the local communities, making use of empty homes or paving a “housing first” way out of homelessness more and more responses have been emerging for years that now seem to be gaining a share of the housing policy agenda.

- **Bea Varnai**, urbaMonde: *Community led housing*
- **Joanna Charlton**, Shepherds Bush Housing Association: *Improving local communities*
- **Samara Jones**, FEANTSA; *Tackling the challenge of empty homes*
- **Juha Kaakinen**, Y Foundation, *The Housing First way out of homelessness*
- **Marc Uhry**, Foundation Abbé Pierre Gabrielle Sibille, Est Métropole Habitat *“L’autre soie” - how to avoid social segregation*

— PECHA KUCHA II: CITIES FOR ALL IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Most people in Europe live in cities or aim to move to a city today. Therefore, the urban environment absorbs all effects of the societal and economic changes that happen across the continent. The new dynamics that are being shaped in the cities call for new approaches regarding the way we all live together today. It’s not just about housing but a new concept for a holistic approach of urban living. Cities have to have enough homes, have to be inclusive, have to overcome burdens linked with the lack of resources etc. This is why depending on the context, local authorities work together with all kinds of stakeholders and come up with a variety of creative responses to the challenges of our times.

- **Maria Stratigaki**, Vice Mayor for Solidarity and Social Inclusion, Athens
- **Javier Buron Cuadrado**, Head of Housing Policy, Barcelona
- **Vladimir Šokman**, Chairman City Council, Tartu
- **Michaela Kauer**, Vienna (EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership)
- **Pasquale Talerico**, Kalkbreite Cooperative, Zurich

THE SPEAKERS' LINE-UP

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Peter Cachola Schmal

Architect, Director of the German Architecture Museum (DAM), Curator of the German Pavilion at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia

Peter Cachola Schmal, born 1960, is a trained architect, curator, architectural publicist and director of the Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) in Frankfurt. He was chosen as this year's curator of the German pavilion at the International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia. Being half German, half Philippino himself, he addressed the immigration issue with the show called "Making Heimat. Germany, Arrival Country".

SESSION I: HOUSING AND SOCIETY



Natalia Rogaczewska

Chief Advisor & Head of European Affairs, BL Denmark - the Federation of Social Housing in Denmark

Natalia Rogaczewska is Chief Advisor & Head of European Affairs at BL, the Federation of Social Housing in Denmark, and holds a Master of European Business and Law.

In 2007, she was appointed to the Danish Government State Aid Board and in 2009, she became responsible for preparing the Danish Presidency of the Council in 2012 in the Danish Ministry of Business and Growth. Apart from engaging in national policy development, she has had special focus on the European Semester, bringing that experience into her position as Vice Chair for Housing Europe's Committee on Finance, Economy and Internal Market. Denmark has a strong tradition for social housing that is sustainable from an economic, environmental and social angle. This approach manifests itself in socio-economic benefits for society in a broader context.



Yves-Laurent Sapoval

Senior Advisor for the Directorate for Housing, Urban Development and Landscapes, France

Yves-Laurent Sapoval is Senior Advisor for the Directorate for Housing, Urban Development and Landscapes in France. After working as an Architect for ten years, he was selected for the state body of civil architects and city planners and joined housing departments in the national state administration of districts in Ile de France region. Advisor and deputy chief of staff for ministers in charge of housing, and urban development he became in 2006 "Délégué interministériel à la ville" and head of the national administration in charge of deprived areas. After 2009 he was successively responsible for developing sustainable urban development in the Union for the

Mediterranean and working on major urban projects in the "Grand Paris" area.



Stuart Ropke

Group Chief Executive, Community Housing Cymru, Wales

Stuart Ropke is the Chief Executive of Community Housing Cymru (CHC), the representative body for housing associations in Wales. Prior to joining CHC in October 2014, Stuart worked for the National Housing Federation for almost 10 years, latterly as Assistant Director of Policy and Research.



Anders Lago

Chair of the board, HSB - Swedish Cooperative Housing Association

Anders Lago is chair of the board of HSB, Sweden's largest co-operative housing association. HSB develops, builds and manages housing for over one million people, all over Sweden. Prior to his position as chair of HSB, Mr Lago was mayor of Södertälje, a town south of Stockholm, where he had a profound engagement in issues regarding migration and the labour market.



Francis Deplace

General Manager, DELPHIS - French Private Social Housing Association

Francis Deplace, born in 1956, PhD in Philosophy and M.B.A., is since 1995 general manager of DELPHIS, a research and development association grouping 24 French private social housing companies managing more than 250.000 dwellings all over France. Since 2005, DELPHIS has promoted and stimulated the C.S.R. reporting in the European social housing sector. With the support of the "Union Social pour l'Habitat" and the "Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations", starting in 2010, DELPHIS has developed a method to measure the social and local value of the activities led by the social landlords on their territories.

PECHA KUCHA I: EMERGING RESPONSES TO HOUSING NEEDS



Juha Kaakinen

Chief Executive Officer, Y-Foundation

Juha Kaakinen is Chief Executive Officer of Y-Foundation, the biggest Finnish NGO acquiring flats from the private market for homeless people and providing social housing. From 2008 - 2012, he worked for the Finnish Ministry of the Environment as Programme Leader of the National Programme to reduce long-term homelessness 2008-2012. He is a member of the Administrative Council of FEANTSA. He has written over 50 research papers, articles and evaluation reports on social services, employment projects and policies as well as homelessness issues.



Bea Varnai

Project Manager, urbaMonde-France

Bea Varnai is passionate about community-driven processes shaping contemporary city-making: community-led housing models, cooperative financing strategies, innovative partnerships in area development and civic participation and cooperation. Her personal and professional background has provided her with valuable insights into innovative, sustainable and inclusive habitat solutions across Europe and Latin America. Bea Varnai holds an MA in International Development (Graduate Institute Geneva) and coordinates the European Community-led Housing Platform on behalf of the non-profit organisation urbaMonde-France.



Marc Uhry

Coordinator European Affairs, Fondation Abbé Pierre, France

Marc Uhry is the Coordinator for European Affairs at Fondation Abbé Pierre, a French charity focused on housing rights and housing exclusion. He has been working for 20 years on housing as an activist, a social worker, a researcher, a lobbyist, a money maker... - exploring all types of piracy to improve housing rights, at local, national and European level.



Gabriel Sibille

Architect & Urbanist, EST Métropole Habitat

Gabriel Sibille is engaged on urban projects that seek to insert social and affordable housing in the heart of the city. With the GIE Est Habitat they are working in Lyon city on new and unusual ways to acquire land properties. The team also works on innovative development projects to rehabilitate brownfield site and large housing developments from the second part of the 20th century.



Joanna Charlton

Communications Manager, Shepherds Bush Housing Group

Joanna Charlton has been Shepherds Bush Housing Group's (SBHG) group communications manager since 2008. Prior to this she was communications manager for Transport for London. Joanna is responsible for developing and managing SBHG's corporate communication strategy and maximising public awareness about SBHG's work. She has visited a number of housing organisations in Europe to share ideas and best practise. Joanna forges and maintains strong external and internal communication links and acts as a source of communications expertise.

PECHA KUCHA II: CITIES FOR ALL IN TIMES OF CRISIS



Maria Stratigaki

Vice Mayor for Social Solidarity, Welfare and Equality, Athens

Maria Stratigaki is the Vice Mayor of Athens for Social Solidarity, Welfare & Equality since September 2014. Moreover, she is Associate Professor at the Department of Social Policy of Panteion University teaching on gender, social policy and gender equality policies. She served as the Secretary General for Gender Equality at the Hellenic Ministry of Interior (2009-2012). From 1991 to 1999, she worked at the European Commission's Unit on equal opportunities between women and men (DG EMPL). Furthermore, during her professional career she has also been the General Director of the Research Centre of Gender Equality- KETHI (1999-2002) and the Centre for Gender Studies of Panteion University (2007-2009).



Javier Buron Cuadrado

Manager of Housing in the Barcelona City Council

Javier Buron Cuadrado is Manager of Housing in the Barcelona City Council. He has been partner at Urbania ZH Gestion, a company dedicated to the provision of management services, consultancy and training to public sector entities, cooperatives and social economy, with the aim of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of public, cooperative and non-profit services. Until 2009 he has been the Vice Counsellor of Housing after serving as Director for Planning and Operative Housing Processes at the Basque Government. Former member of Izquierda Unida political party and Ezker Batua served as advisor at National Parliament and the Basque Parliament.



Michaela Kauer

Director of the Liaison Office of the City of Vienna, Brussels

Michaela Kauer, born 1966 in Vienna, has more than 20 years work experience with the City of Vienna, where she occupied different posts and managed some major organisational change processes. Since 2009, she is the director of the Liaison Office of the City of Vienna in Brussels. She is an expert on public services and urban policy. Her academic background is in international public management; she regularly publishes, gives lectures and is a teacher in European Public Management at Professional Business School Burgenland.



Vladimir Šokman

Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the City Council of Tartu, Estonia

Vladimir Šokman is Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the City Council of Tartu. He has extensive experience in the local authorities of the second largest Estonian city, having been Deputy Mayor from

2001 to 2011. Prior to his time in the Municipality he had been for 18 years the Head of the Tartu Vocational School.



Pasquale Talerico

Kalkbreite Cooperative, Zurich

Pasquale Talerico is an architect and a founding member of the cooperative “Kalkbreite” in Zurich. On behalf of the cooperative, he has worked on project management and currently also resides in the building in Zurich. Founded in 2007, the cooperative planned its building in a participatory process in close cooperation with the city of Zurich and its public transport provider. Having built a residential and commercial building above a tram depot, the cooperative also attracted attention for providing affordable housing in an expensive city with a saturated housing market. Fostering social mix, communal living as well as low energy consumption are essential for the cooperative.

SESSION II: BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCE



Andrea Colantonio

Urban & Regional Development Economist, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Andrea Colantonio is a senior economist at the European Investment Bank, responsible for the financing of urban and regional development projects. Prior to this, Andrea was at the London School of Economics, leading projects for major European cities on integrated urban development and institutional governance, sustainability policy, planning and evaluation methods. He holds a PhD in Economic Geography and is the main author of *Transforming Urban Economies: Policy Lessons from European and Asian Cities* (2013); *Urban Regeneration and Social Sustainability: Best Practice from European Cities* (2010); and *Urban Tourism and Development in the Socialist State: Havana during the Special Period* (2006).



Elena Szolgayová

Director General, DG Housing Policy and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Slovakia

Elena Szolgayová, an architect and urban planner with long-standing research experience, has been advising state and municipal housing policy makers since the early 1990s. In 1999 she joined the state administration. She has been involved in numerous UNECE and EU activities targeted at housing and urban development. Since 2013 she acts as Chair of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and since 2015 as a member of the Preparatory Bureau for the Habitat III conference.



Doris Andoni

Executive Director of National Housing Agency, Albania

Doris Andoni studied architecture and urban planning and had several specializations and trainings in the field of housing, urban planning and project management. She worked as architect for several years and consultant in different international funded projects. Between 2012 and 2014, she worked as senior housing expert for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Housing and Land Management Unit in Geneva. Currently, she is the Executive Director of National Housing Agency, a state owned enterprise that is responsible for developing and implementing social programmes for housing.



Christian Lieberknecht

Vice-President GdW, the Federal Union of German Housing and Real Estate Associations

Dr. Christian Lieberknecht, born in 1963, is the Vice-President of Housing Europe and the Managing Director of the GdW, the Federal Union of German Housing and Real Estate Associations. Since 2003, he is a member of the board and responsible for advocacy, coordination of policy consultancy, national as well as international policy issues.



Johanna Ode

Head of International Affairs, SABO Sweden – Swedish Association of Public Housing Companies

Johanna Ode is Head of International Affairs at SABO (the Swedish Association of Public Housing Companies). In her position, she is covering and lobbying the EU institutions. In 2014, she was elected Chair for Housing Europe's Committee on Energy, Construction and Standardisation. She is also member of the board of Housing Nordic. Previously she worked as a civil servant with the Swedish Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Sustainable Development. Her educational background includes a Master's degree in Political Science and Government and EU-studies.

SESSION III: URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION



Blase Lambert

Chief Officer, Confederation of Co-operative Housing

Blase Lambert has been a leading player in the UK co-operative housing sector for the last 19 years and is currently the Chief Officer of the Confederation of Co-operative Housing (CCH). Blase Lambert led the development of the CCH / NHF Code of Governance for Housing Co-operatives, Accreditation Frameworks, Centre of Excellence training programme and leads the CCH support and advice service. Blase Lambert is a Board member of Co-operative Housing International and the Co-operative Housing Finance Society.



Dermot Sellars

Policy and Communications Manager with Co-operative Housing Ireland

Dermot Sellars is Policy and Communications Manager with Co-operative Housing Ireland, the national federation representing and developing co-operative housing in Ireland since 1973.

He represents the federation in a number of national and international forums and is a member of the National Homeless Consultative Committee. He previously worked with Dublin City Council and in the UK with the Homes and Communities Agency and with English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency.



Samir Kulenovic

Technical Programme Manager, Regional Housing Programme of the Council of Europe Development Bank, Directorate General for Loans and Social Development

Samir Kulenovic is a civil engineer with over 20 years of experience in implementation of social infrastructure projects. He has worked with international engineering consulting companies and multilateral institutions on the projects based in Europe, USA, and Asia.

Samir approaches projects in a holistic way, focusing on sustainability and policy measures that ensure social return of investments. Currently, he works for the Council of Europe Development Bank as Technical Programme Manager for a housing programme for refugees and displaced persons in the Western Balkans. Samir has a master's degree from Cornell University (USA) and is registered Chartered Engineer in Ireland and the USA.



Luigi Cuna

Evaluator, Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)

Luigi Cuna is an economist with extensive experience in international development operations and in the evaluation of social and economic development programmes. He has worked with several multilateral development organizations, including international financial institutions, covering a range of countries and various sectors. Currently employed at the Council of Europe Development Bank, over last five years, Luigi Cuna has been leading a cycle of independent evaluations dealing with housing operations targeting selected vulnerable groups in Europe (migrants, Roma and refugees). He has a PhD from the University of Bologna.



Sven Bergenstråhle

President, International Union of Tenants

Sven Bergenstråhle is president of the International Union of Tenants (IUT) since 2010 and a consultant with his own firm. Before, he worked for the Swedish Union of Tenants with research and studies on rent setting, housing policy, housing and welfare,

IT in housing, housing for young and elderly as the main areas. He has also run studies on the needs and attitudes towards housing qualities and different tenures in the Institution of Sociology, University of Gothenburg and on the residential and office space from a user perspective within the Council for Building Quality. Earlier he had been working for the National Statistics Authority in Sweden and the Institution of Sociology in the University of Stockholm.



Raquel Cortés Herrera

Deputy Head of Unit in Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Raquel Cortés Herrera is a lawyer working for the European Commission since 2003. She is currently Deputy Head of Unit in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, and she worked previously in the Secretariat-General (2009-2016) and in DG Competition (2003-2009). Before joining the Commission, she worked four years as assistant professor of International Public Law, International Economic Law and European Union Law at the Balearic Islands University (Mallorca, Spain). She is fluent in Catalan, Spanish, English and French and has basic knowledge of Italian and German.



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