



EUROCITIES WG housing meeting ‘Renovation and renewal of neighbourhoods: housing policy towards homeowners and the problems of relocation and gentrification’

20-21 November 2019, Ghent

WG Housing updates

1. Working group housing meeting alongside the International Social Housing Festival

On 6 June, during the week of the International Social Housing Festival in Lyon, members of the working group housing had the opportunity to discuss private rent regulations and affordable housing. This event was part of the European Metropolitan Areas Forum. The main measures explored by cities are zoning of holiday/tourist rentals, introducing licenses for bed and breakfast and shared apartments, creating social housing for middle income groups in newly developed areas and coordinating housing observatories between different levels of government. In the second part of the meeting, the cities have had the opportunity to analyse different local perspectives on rental regulation. New York City and three European cities - Barcelona, Berlin and Vienna, presented how they are addressing rent increases.

2. Survey on the implementation of principle 19 on housing and assistance for the homelessness - European Pillar of Social Rights

On 17 July, we have launched the second survey part of the ‘[Cities delivering social rights](#)’ initiative for SAF members to report on policy initiatives focusing on principle 11- childcare and support to children and **principle 19 - housing and assistance for the homeless**. The aim is to collect data, evidence and good practices on the measures cities are taking in line with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The survey results will feed into an analytical report of EUROCITIES to be published in at the end of the year Furthermore, the results will form the basis for the EUROCITIES upcoming ‘Social Europe’ statement and feed into our upcoming policy and advocacy priorities with the incoming EU institutions. 25 cities have provided data on housing and homelessness. Read more [here](#).

3. Strategic dialogue meeting on housing and homelessness

On 12 September, EUROCITIES took part in a strategic dialogue meeting on housing organised by the European Commission. The aim of the strategic dialogue was to provide structured input from the civil society on the European Pillar of Social Rights consultation stream. The following elements were highlighted during the discussions:

- Stakeholders communicated the need for stronger guidelines from the EU regarding local participation for fighting homelessness.
- The European Commission urged stakeholders the need to put housing on further up on the agenda and to set up an integrated housing approach with close links to education, employment, health and other priority areas under ERDF.
- Interinstitutional negotiations on ERDF are relaunched. The conclusions are expected for the beginning of 2020. For the period 2021-2027, actions taken under ERDF should contribute to desegregation of marginalized communities.
- InvestEU will be the main financial instrument for social inclusion and investment in social housing in the next years.

4. Cities continue to pledge to the EU Pillar of Social Rights

After the official launch of the campaign ‘Inclusive cities for all: Social Rights in my city’ in February at the European Parliament, cities continue to pledge to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights. Bologna, Poznan, Hamburg, Birmingham and Amsterdam are the cities presented new pledges on principles 19 (housing and assistance for the homeless). The pledges will be presented to SAF members and high-level representatives from the European Parliament and the European Commission during the Social Affairs Forum in October in Warsaw. Find all pledges and learn more about how to pledge [here](#).

5. Housing as main topic during the two meetings of WG Roma Inclusion

- **Learning from Toulouse's inspiring practice on how to support Roma to access adequate housing - WG meeting on Homelessness and Roma inclusion in Toulouse**

On 9-10 April, 35 city officers on homelessness and Roma inclusion from 15 European cities addressed the question of housing support for Roma during a policy transfer study visit in Toulouse. Through discussions with local policy-makers, beneficiaries and practitioners, participants discovered how to transfer some inspiring practices from Toulouse's policy to support Roma to move out of camps into adequate housing in the city. With the ambition to "do the impossible for better social inclusion at local level", Toulouse showed their innovative approach which combined housing solutions and integrated social support (including schooling, healthcare, employment, citizen involvement etc.). Four pre-selected 'transfer' cities presented their own challenges with regard to Roma inclusion and already took follow-up actions based on the advices received. Read more [here](#).

- **Highlights from WG Roma in Braga**

On 24-26 September, WG Roma inclusion met in Braga for a Critical Friend Review on 'Developing an effective integrated city plan for Roma inclusion'. To discover the 'Plan for action for disadvantaged communities', 22 local experts from 12 cities joined the meeting. In line with Braga's Integrated Plan of Action for Disadvantaged Communities (PAICD), the municipality has developed a set of actions focusing on three social neighborhoods: 'Santa Tecla', 'Enguardas' and 'Picoto'. Besides the urban and environmental regeneration, activities focus on the overall improvement of the local population's living conditions and social inclusion.

Upcoming meetings and activities:

- **European Commission consultation on the European Social Fund in the 2014-2018 programming period, deadline to complete is 19 December.**

EC has launched a 12-week public consultation to evaluate the support to social inclusion by the ESF. The consultation is available online in all official languages of the EU. The information collected will be used in assessing what has been achieved during the 2014-2018 programming period. It will also help the Commission draw lessons on how to reinforce this support in the future, making it more effective and focused. We invite our members to contribute to this consultation. Find all the information [here](#).



This update has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020). For further information, please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>