

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees

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Strategy on Access to Housing

Background

The goal of EU membership is widely recognized as perhaps the single most important objective for Bosnia and Herzegovina's future security and prosperity.

While there is a legal entitlement to social rights, in accordance with Article 31 of the Revised European Social Charter, there is an obligation of a signatory state to provide for an access to the right to housing.

The member countries of the Council of Europe have varying practices and standards for social housing and enabling the access to housing for the most vulnerable groups.

Integrated Approach

There is a strong interdependence between housing policy and other policies concerning access to human rights such as social protection for an example.

Public authorities at all levels are therefore encouraged to promote and develop integrated approaches concerning access to social housing by vulnerable categories of persons.

Many of public policies and legislative matters have direct or indirect impact on supply and demand on the housing market and affect housing production and housing provision.

Policy Guidelines

The Group of Specialists on Access to Housing at the end of 2001 adopted Policy Guidelines on Access to Housing for Vulnerable Categories of Persons.

In general, the guidelines stress that national authorities should have or develop a strategy on access to housing for vulnerable categories of persons with well-defined objectives, standards, procedures for monitoring policy outcomes, and taking into account the interdependence with other policy fields.

In practice, these guidelines are very applicable and an usefull tool in the field of policy, legislation, defining the institutions on various levela, their tasks and standards and means of co-ordinations in a strategy on acces to housing.

Objective

An access to decent housing for all members of a society should be an ultimate objective of such document.

Development of the strategy as a starting point is required to detail and update the various on-going activities, to assess the overall needs, set priorities and prepare alternative proposals and develop ideas and directions for solving various problems related to the demand for housing .

Specific Issues

A strategy on access to housing should particularly address
THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

- **General principles of policies on access to housing**
- **Need of a comprehensive legal framework**
- **Institutional framework and co-operation between public authorities and civil society**
- **Policies aimed at improving the supply and the financing of affordable housing**
- **Importance of area-based housing policies**
- **Reducing the risk and the negative consequences of evictions for vulnerable persons**
- **Dealing with emergency situations**

Sustainability of Results

Strategy needs to be supported by an Action Plan in order to provide for proper, timely and successful implementation.

Regular follow up, monitoring and reporting is the precondition to achieve sustainable results.