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UNECE Housing Migrants Study Preliminary results



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Thank you!

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

StadT  Wien



65.6 million

Number of forcibly displaced people worldwide.

22.5 million

22.5 million refugees and 40.3 million internally displaced.

4.8 million

Refugees in UNECE region.

85 percent of
forcibly displaced
people are
located in this
area



**UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**

19 September 2016 • UN Headquarters




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Focus

The study under preparation examines medium and long term housing solutions for new vulnerable migrants* with a legal status in the early years of their arrival to a host country.

To the extent the data permits the focus is on vulnerable newly arrived migrants from non-ECE countries.



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*There is no universally agreed definition of what constitutes a 'migrant'.




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Aims and Objectives

To examine current challenges in housing migrants in the UNECE region

To identify informative and innovative practices and establish the interactive UNECE Housing Migrants Projects database

To draw lessons and provide policy counsel for the future



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*There is no universally agreed definition of what constitutes a 'migrant'.

There is no universally agreed definition of the term 'migrant'.

Migration experience in the UNECE region is diverse.

Housing systems in the UNECE region are diverse.





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An explorative research

The research is based on:
Mapping innovative medium to long term housing practices (and related services) across tenures in the UNECE region.

Extensive literature review

Interviews with representatives of international organisations, and banks cities, housing providers international banks and civil society.



It is an attempt to provide a comprehensive overview of the innovation in housing migrants by covering a range of housing tenures, options and emerging solutions.



68 informative
practices
in 23 countries
housing migrants

Countries	Number of Initiatives	Scope of Identified Initiatives			
		Local	Regional	National	International
Armenia	1			1	
Austria	3	3			
Belgium	5	2		3	
Canada	4	2		2	
Cz. Republic	1	1			
France	6	2		3	1
Germany	10	9			1
Greece	3	3			
Italy	6	6			
Luxembourg	1			1	
Netherlands	6	3		2	1
Norway	1	1			
Poland	3	3			
Portugal	1				1
Romania	1			1	
Serbia	2	1		1	
Spain	2	1	1		
Sweden	1			1	
Switzerland	1	1			
Turkey	1	1			
UK	6	3	1		2
United States	2	2			
Other	1				1
TOTAL	68	44	2	15	7

Totals

Innovative initiatives are primarily local

68

44

2

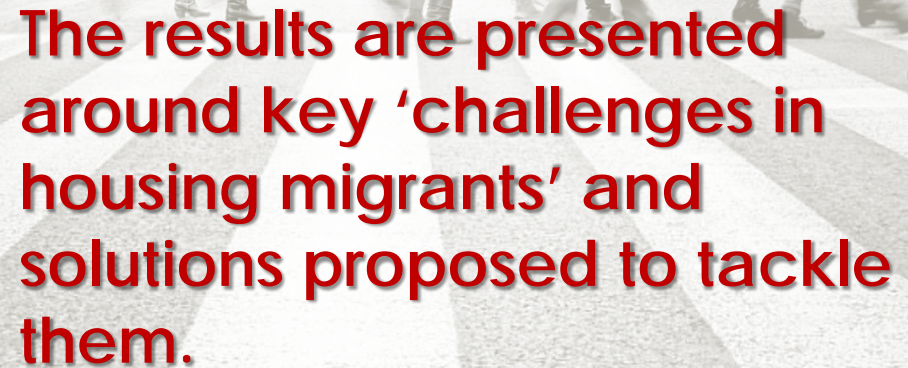
15

7

Innovative international initiatives come from civil society

Structure

1. Challenges and solutions related to specific housing tenures
2. Barriers and solutions for securing independent housing
3. Housing shortages and generating medium- and long-term housing



The results are presented around key 'challenges in housing migrants' and solutions proposed to tackle them.




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1. Challenges and solutions related to specific housing tenures

1.1. Homeownership

1.2. Private rent

1.3. Social housing



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1.1. Homeownership

Challenges:

'Homeownership' is one of the key integration indicators. Research shows that migrants have lower share of home ownership. Access to credit and affordability.

Solutions

- ✓ Preferential mortgage interest rates.
- ✓ Deposit for purchasing a dwelling (eg. Solidarity based savings)
 - ✓ Self-building



1.2. Private rent



Challenges:

Lack of information, affordability, discrimination and quality and size of the properties rented.

Solutions

- ✓ Financial support for rent.
- ✓ Information and mediation services (Info. on anti discrimination laws)
- ✓ Local authority guarantees
- ✓ Integrated services (funding, information, mediation).

1.3. Social Housing

Challenges:

Social housing shortage.
Eligibility, long waiting period.
Lack of information (incl. language),

Solutions

- ✓ Linking supply for local and migrant vulnerable population(Priority lists)
- ✓ Comprehensive information and integration services provided with social housing.



**SOCIAL
HOUSING**




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2. Barriers for securing independent housing

2.1. Information and mediation services

2.2. Financial support

2.3. Transitional housing and combined initiatives



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2.1. Information services

Challenges:
Lack of information (language), lack of knowledge about the operation of the local housing systems and markets.

Solutions

- ✓ Information on local housing options across tenures.
- ✓ Mediation services
- ✓ Integrated information services (eg. language courses, jobs)
- ✓ Available on relevant languages

Kontakt & Information

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ist steuerlich absetzbar!



2.2. Financial support

Challenges:

Limited economic resources in the early years of arrival, legal status transition.

Solutions

Financial support for private rent, social housing, and access to homeownership.



2.3. Transitional housing

Challenges

Deadline for vacating emergency accommodation, lack of access to housing and homelessness.

Solutions

Transitional housing provides short to medium housing solutions. Including comprehensive information, integration and training services and employment opportunities.

SHAREHAUS

inspiration





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3. Housing shortages and generating medium- and long-term housing

3.1. Solidarity housing

3.2. Urban and housing renewal

3.3. Innovative housing supply
methods



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3.1. Solidarity housing

Refugees Welcome

Why shouldn't refugees be able to live in flatshares or houses instead of camps?

We thought so too and found a way to make it happen.

How it works



1 Register your flatshare and provide us basic information about your accommodation.



2 We will put you in touch with a local buddy who will liaise with you and a refugee.



3 We can help you find ways to pay your rent. Keep in mind, you don't have to pay the rent yourself.



Your new flatmate will move in. Of course we will continue to support your flatshare.

Challenges:

Local shortages of emergency housing solutions, challenges in access to regular housing, lack in transitional housing solutions.

Solutions:

- ✓ Web based networks for matching refugees/migrants and individuals willing to host them.
- ✓ Private sponsorship schemes (primarily in North America)

3.2. Urban and housing renewal



Challenges:

Housing shortage for the general population in need. Empty and dilapidated housing and urban areas.

Solutions:

- ✓ Regeneration of shrinking neighbourhoods
- ✓ Refurbishment of empty properties

Engaging refugees in regeneration and refurbishment

Engaging refugees in housing training – enabling self-help and creation of demand informed housing & services

3.3 Innovative supply methods



Challenges:

Housing shortage for the general population in need. Long time needed for traditional construction.

Solutions:

- ✓ Use of industrialised building methods too meet the housing shortage, including prefabricated wood construction.
- ✓ Amendment of the local planning and building regulations.

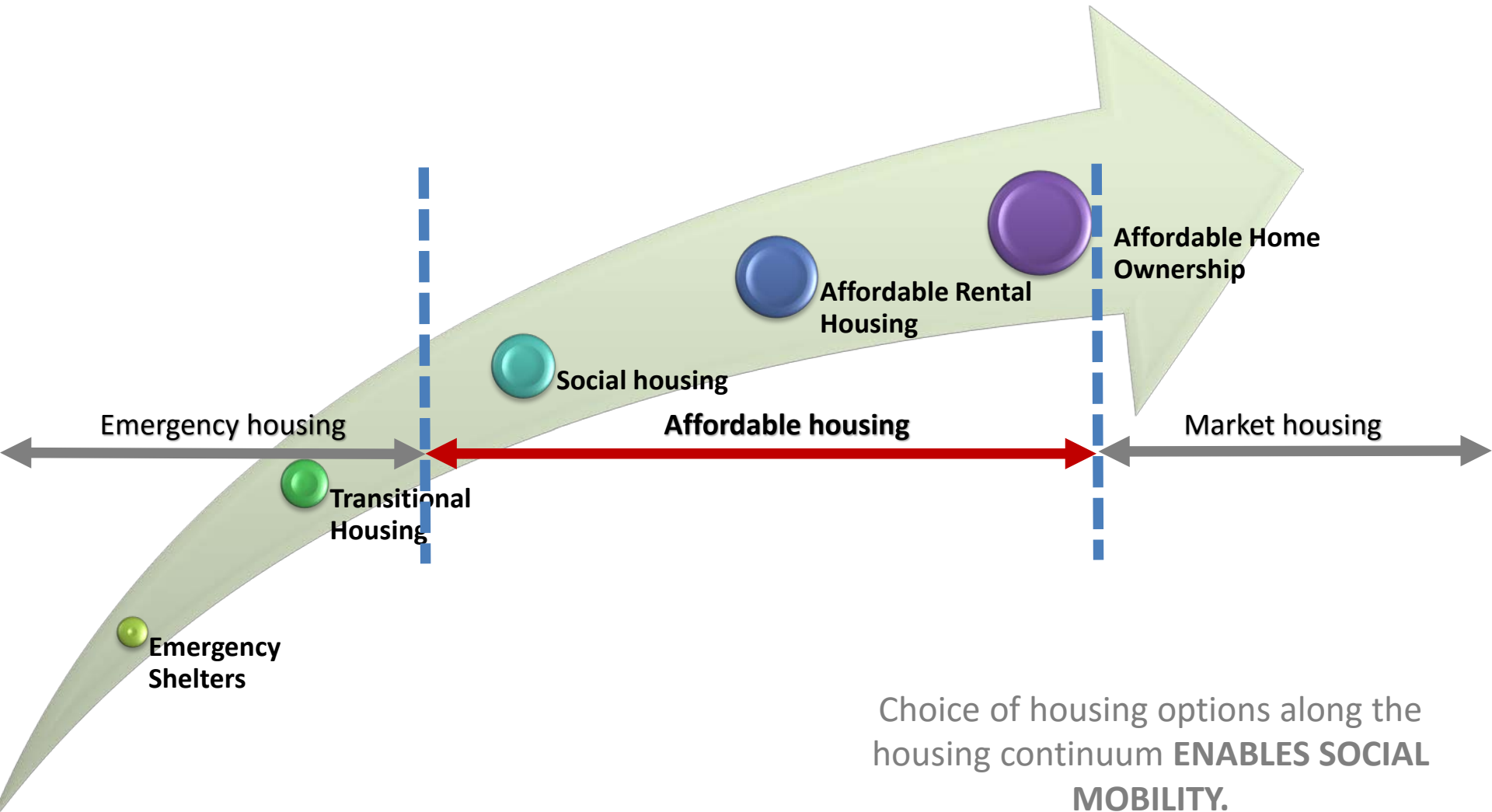
Preliminary lessons learnt and next steps





Housing Continuum

The research shows innovation and creativity along the housing continuum.






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Key message

Provision of the variety of housing options and choices in tenure neutral manner and supporting social mobility of new migrants and local vulnerable groups through the housing continuum approach



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Prevailing challenges



The challenges in all three tenures remain especially because of the housing shortages and lack of affordability.

The services are innovative and beneficial, but not always available in all relevant locations and languages.

While innovative, the majority of practices identified are relatively small scale, short lived and primarily available at a local level.

There is a lack of system for capturing knowledge produced in the process of creation implementation and use of these innovative practices. Consequently, there is a lack of platforms for exchange of practices and policy learning.



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UNECE HOUSING MIGRANT PROJECT DATABASE



Select country in the map or use LOCATION toolbar



LOCATION

- Albania
- Andorra
- Armenia
- **Austria**
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic



HOUSING OPTIONS

- Solidarity
- Social housing
- Affordable housing
- **Private rent**
- Home ownership



HOUSING PROVIDERS

- National government
- Federal/Regional government
- City/Local Authority
- Housing providers
- **Civil society**



HOUSING CHALLENGES

- Improving temporary solutions for housing migrants
- Securing independent accommodation
- **Reinventing social housing**
- Access to private rent
- Access to home ownership



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Thank you!



Dr. Orna Rosenfeld

