UNECE Housing Migrants Study
Preliminary results

Dr. Oma Rosenfeld
Project team:
Dr. Maria Psinos, Canterbury Christ Church University, UK.
Naomi Fagla Medegan, Sciences Po, France and Suzanne Spooner, Sciences Po, France, Camila Cattoi, University of Bologna, Italy.

Thank you!

Interview contributions:
Peter Cachola Schmal, Deutsches Architektur Museum, Germany; Andrea Colantonio, EIB, Luxemburg; Beatriz Corredor Sierra, PSOE Spain; Luigi Cuna, CEB, France; Sebastien Gamier, AEDES, Netherlands; Bahram Ghazi, OHCHR, Switzerland; Nino G ventsadze, Ministry of Economy, Georgia; Sabina Kekic, City of Amsterdam, Netherlands; Samir Kulenovic, CEB, France; Christophe Lalande, UN-Habitat, Kenya; Femanda Lonardoni, UN-Habitat, Kenya; Jaana Nevalainen, Ministry of Environment, Finland; Ozgur Oner, GdW Federal Association of German Association and Real Estate Companies, Germany; Haris Piplas, ETH Zurich, Switzerland; Andreas Postner, Vorarlberg Wohnraum, Austria; Christian Schantl, Stadt Wien - Wiener Wohnen, Austria; Guido Schwarzendahl, Bauverein Halle & Leuna, Germany; Marc Uhry, Fondation Abbé Pierre, France.
85 percent of forcibly displaced people are located in this area

65.6 million
Number of forcibly displaced people worldwide.

22.5 million
22.5 million refuges and 40.3 million internally displaced.

4.8 million
Refugees in UNECE region.

UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
19 September 2016 • UN Headquarters
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.

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

*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.
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Number of Initiatives</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Regional</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cz. Republic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Innovative initiatives are primarily local. Innovative international initiatives come from civil society.
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.
1. Challenges and solutions related to specific housing tenures

1.1. Homeownership
1.2. Private rent
1.3. Social housing
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 (e.g. 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.
2. Barriers for securing independent housing

2.1. Information and mediation services
2.2. Financial support
2.3. Transitional housing and combined initiatives
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 (e.g. language courses, jobs)
✓ Available on relevant languages
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.
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
3.1. Solidarity housing

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 to meet the housing shortage, including prefabricated wood construction.
- Amendment of the local planning and building regulations.
Preliminary lessons learnt and next steps
The research shows innovation and creativity along the housing continuum. Choice of housing options along the housing continuum enables social mobility.
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.
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.
Thank you!

Dr. Oma Rosenfeld