



The Housing Project

Conclusions at project level

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AN URBACT II PROJECT



Integrated Sustainability in Housing: Challenges and Opportunities

› How to integrate the 3 pillars of sustainability in housing?

Sustainable housing should be, at the same time, environmentally sound, economically viable and socially inclusive.

› Common 'traps':

- bias to one of the three aspects (resources, quicker impact, etc.)
- lack of integrated planning cultures and strategies;
- scarce funding to fulfil all three (or at least 2/3) sustainability dimensions;

› Challenges:

Most difficult:

- economic (resource-consuming), environmental (resource-consuming, specialised skills), social (long-term, no quick impact)

'Easiest':

- social short-term (cheap); physical-environmental ('tangible')

Integrated Sustainability in Housing: 6 key principles

1. Sustainable housing: complementarity and synergies

- mutual reinforcement of three pillars
- not necessarily 100% each – but all simultaneously

2. Need to balance short-term pressures with a long-term view

- short-term political pressures vs. long-term vision of sustainability
- continuity and coherence: key success factors
- political leadership + funding + institutional arrangements
- long-term investment pays off
- value of prevention

3. The value of evidence-based policy making

- close collaboration between professionals and politicians
- consequent linkage of programmes and projects with monitoring and evaluation

Integrated Sustainability in Housing: 6 key principles *(con'd)*

4. Integrating policy and actions across territorial scales

- housing should be embedded in holistic urban planning
- new planning cultures: multi-dimensional, cross-sector thinking!

5. Working with enablers and obstacles

- early assessment
- no one-fits-all formula, rather 'cocktails' of enablers

6. The West/East divide: a challenge to transferability

- common to most EU projects / programmes
- constraints (funding, institutional capacity...) but also...
- local potential (energy, creativity, openness...)

Cities and Regions: 10 policy recommendations

- 1. Think 'integrated' from the beginning:**
 - sustainability triangle (economic, social, environmental)
 - across territorial scales (local/urban/regional).
- 2. Focus on one sustainability pillar and link the others to it.**
- 3. Secure local political support and leadership from the onset.**
- 4. Build trust over the long-term.**
- 5. Dare high initial investment:**
 - make a strong case to investors and decision-makers on the expected pay-off.

Cities and regions: **10 policy recommendations** *(con'd)*

6. **Ensure robust institutional agreements.**
7. **Integrate sound evidence and prospective analyses.**
8. **Consider maintenance of physical stock as greatly contributing to sustainability in some case.**
9. **Integrate 'soft measures' (services, empowerment) in physically-driven projects.**
10. **View homelessness policies as integral part of housing policy.**

Grazie Thanks
Danke **Merci** Gracias
Ευχαριστώ multumesc
Takk dziękuję dakujem hvala
Obrigado dziękować
tänan kiitos köszönöm aciu
Tack děkuji paldies
nizžik ħajr dank u wel

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