

EU CITY LAB ON HOUSING



15-16 October 2026



perspective.brussels
rue de Namur 59
Brussels (BE)

Language interpretation to/from French and Dutch

Moderators: Levente Polyak, Orna Rosenfeld

Thursday 15 October	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration & coffee
09:00 – 09:20	Welcome and opening Welcome by the Masters of Ceremonies and the Host City.
09:20 – 09:40	European keynote address Keynote speech framing affordable housing within the European Affordable Housing Plan. <i>Guest speaker: Matthew Baldwin</i> , Head of Housing Task Force and Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission
09:40 – 10:40	Affordable housing in the European and European cities context Panel discussion between European Commission's representatives and selected cities. The discussion will focus on: 1) operational pathways and next steps for implementation of the EU Affordable Housing Plan; 2) the role of cities and regions as primary delivery actors; 3) challenges and opportunities for successful local implementation and impact. <i>Guest speakers:</i> Matthew Baldwin , Head of Housing Task Force and Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission Marc Chovino , Head of Unit State aid Post and other services, State aid for Critical Medicines and Affordable Housing, Directorate-General for Competition, European Commission Mar Jiménez Carreté , Commissioner for European Affairs, Municipality of Barcelona David Van Vooren , Director General of Brussels Housing
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:00	Focus on Brussels: Regulatory tools and local action Discussion with key Brussels stakeholders, highlighting concrete regulatory instruments and their transferability to other European contexts, including EUI and URBACT practices. Key topics: 1) Rent regulation and excessive rents (Joint Rent Commission); 2) Vacancy and public management rights; 3) Lessons for other European cities. <i>Guest city: Brussels (BE)</i>
12:00 – 12:10	Next steps on the agenda Presentation of afternoon sessions.
12:10 – 13:15	Lunch

	<p>Innovation through renovation, reuse, and urban transformation This workshop explores how renovation, energy renovation, adaptive reuse, reconversion, and refurbishment of existing buildings can deliver affordable and sustainable housing solutions at scale, with strong links to urban planning at neighbourhood, city, and metropolitan levels.</p> <p><i>Guest cities:</i> Brussels (BE), Egaleo (GR), Fuenlabrada (ES), Garges-lès-Gonesse (FR), Tallinn (EE)</p>	
13:15 – 14:45	<p>Regulatory frameworks enabling public authorities to act: state aid and beyond This workshop will focus on the new State aid rules published in December 2025 and officially adopted by the European Commission in March 2026, with particular emphasis on their scope, detailed provisions, and practical application at Member State, regional, and city levels. The discussion will address implementation challenges, opportunities for public authorities, and implications for the design and financing of affordable housing interventions.</p> <p><i>Guest speaker:</i> Marc Chovino, Head of Unit State aid Post and other services, State aid for Critical Medicines and Affordable Housing, Directorate-General for Competition, European Commission</p>	
14:45 – 15:00	Practical briefing	
15:00 – 18:30	City visits	
19:00 – 21:00	Dinner (<i>external location to be confirmed</i>)	
Friday 16 October		
08:30 - 09:00	Registration & coffee	
09:00 - 09:40	<p>EUI and URBACT cities exhibition Some good practices showcase themselves in posters.</p>	
09:40 - 10:40	<p>Scaling and transferring innovative housing solutions Round table with 4–5 representatives from European cities, focusing on scaling up innovative housing solutions; transferability through EUI and URBACT; links between financing mechanisms and land acquisition strategies.</p> <p><i>Guest cities:</i> Brussels (BE), Getafe (ES), Józsefváros - 8th district of Budapest (HU), Thessaloniki (GR)</p>	
10:40 - 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 - 12:30	<p>Regulating short-term rentals and market pressures Focus on limits to short-term rentals, regulatory enforcement, and balancing housing markets.</p> <p><i>Guest cities:</i> Amsterdam (NL), Barcelona (ES), Paris (FR)</p>	
	<p>Financing affordable housing: public value and investment choices Focus on ensuring that financial resources are channelled towards public and mission-driven actors, prioritising long-term affordability and social outcomes.</p> <p><i>Guest cities:</i> City of Paris Real-estate Company (FR), Thessaloniki (GR), Vienna (AT), Community Land Trust Brussels (CLT) (BE)</p>	
12:30 - 12:45	Next funding and networking opportunities from EUI and URBACT	
12:45 – 14:00	Goodbye lunch	