

Call for papers  
Conference

**Social housing in contemporary Europe:  
Extending the scope of comparative research and addressing most recent changes**



Hosted by the Faculty of Economics and Management  
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano  
Bozen-Bolzano, Italy - 19-21 April 2017

**Aims**

The intention of this conference is to offer an opportunity for a highly qualified discussion on social housing in contemporary Europe, which (1) considers its multiple acceptations and models, (2) integrates countries that are underrepresented in international literature and (3) addresses the most recent changes in social housing policy models, management and financing.

Social housing has multiple acceptations across European countries. They refer to policy model, management and financing strategies, type of property, target groups and prevalence, just to mention a few issues. How social housing is balanced against other policy instruments, notably housing allowances, is also important and varies from country to country.

International comparative research literature offers a good account for many countries in Continental and Northern Europe, notably the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. By contrast, Southern Europe - and a number of other European societies - are rather underrepresented in international literature, due to the fact that both housing policy and housing research are less established in these countries. Moving towards a better integration of Southern Europe, and of the other underrepresented countries, may further contribute to theory and research development in the comparative housing policy domain.

This may also entail considering the wide range of approaches traditionally used in these countries in order to provide social and affordable housing: policies (including non-policy) sustaining access to home ownership by low-income households have been rather important, for instance. Intermediate tenures, and their regulations, are also of great interest: in several Southern European countries they account for family allocation of dwellings (e.g. rent-free, usufruct), as a traditional form of private and intergenerational welfare, and for specific paths to homeownership (e.g. cooperatives).

In several countries, other intermediate tenures are currently discussed and tested as new instruments in the housing policy toolkit.

Finally, in the past decade the Global Financial Crisis has posed several economic, social and political challenges. It has seriously affected households' economic capability and worsened housing affordability situation across Europe. Moreover, it has also further reduced the public spending capacity to be used to combat this problem. Paradoxically, problems are exacerbated in those countries that are suffering the most from the crisis, which also happen to be the ones with reduced capacity in public spending and with low social housing assets. It is therefore of great interest to discuss – extending and updating already existing literature - what are the implications of the GFC for social housing: How the demand for social housing has changed? Can we observe any changes in the role social housing plays in European societies? Are any changes already visible, in the policy and management models that we have been used to? More in general, which sustainable model of social housing can be developed in a period of austerity? What resources can be mobilized?

**Themes:**

We invite the submission of abstracts and papers addressing key areas presented above. Submissions on the following themes are particularly welcome:

1. Social housing in Southern Europe and in other European countries under-represented in international literature.
2. Social/affordable housing 'by other means': legacies from previous policy models (e.g. social homeownership, cooperative housing, etc.), new policy instruments based on intermediate tenures and other new techniques.
3. Main changes in the demand for social housing, in this segment's role and in related policy and management models, after the Global Financial Crisis.
4. Financing social housing: recent shifts, sustainability issues, mobilization of private finance – new trends and already accumulated evidence.
5. The future of social housing in Italy (special session)

**Confirmed Keynote Speakers:**

Dr. Luigi Cuna, Evaluator at the Council of Europe Development Bank

Dr. Lars Gulbrandsen, Researcher, NOVA - Norwegian Social Research, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Science

Prof. Michael Oxley, Director, University of Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning research, UK

Prof. Mark Stephens, Director, The Urban Institute, Heriot-Watt University, Scotland

Prof. Antonio Tosi, former Professor of Sociology and Housing Studies, Milan Polytechnic

**Format:**

The conference represents the concluding scientific event of the research project *Redesigning Social Housing against Poverty in Europe* (RESHAPE), funded by the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano in 2014-2017. It aims to offer the opportunity for a qualified discussion on the themes presented above. It is organized in two days (plus one morning dedicated to a special session on social housing in Italy).

The discussion will consist in a mix of session presentations, roundtables and keynotes. It will include presentations elicited by this call for papers, presentations of the main findings from the RESHAPE project and a number of keynote talks.

**Key dates:**

Deadline for abstract submission:	5 March 2017
Notifications of abstract acceptance:	15 March 2017
Conference registration:	1 February - 31 March 2017

**Conference Scientific Committee**

Massimo Baldini	Martin Lux	Teresio Poggio
Dmitri Boreiko	Juan Antonio Módenes Cabrerizo	Irene Ponzo
Teresa Costa Pinto	Michelle Norris	Kathleen Scanlon
József Hegedüs	Montserrat Pareja Eastaway	Christine Whitehead
Joris Hoekstra		

**More information and instructions for abstract submission:** <http://www.socialhousing.eu>