



Workshop: International Financing of Young Housing Cooperatives in Central and Eastern Europe

When: 7 and 8 December 2023

Where: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Thaer Institute
Invalidenstraße 42, 10115 Berlin, Lecture Hall 4 (H4), first floor (main building)
https://www.agrar.hu-berlin.de/de/institut/standorte/in42-lageplan_a0-endgueltig.pdf

Organisers: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, IWO Housing Initiative Eastern Europe, MOBA Housing SCE, LiM Living in Metropolises SCE, University of Jena

Objective of the Workshop

Housing markets in Central and (South) Eastern Europe (CEE) are characterised by an exceptionally high proportion of homeownership, low renovation rates, and a shortage of affordable rental and social housing. Younger generations suffer most from these tight housing market conditions. In response, new cooperative housing initiatives have been emerging over the past 15 years. One transnational example is MOBA Housing SCE, a young network of cooperative pioneers from Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia. The objective of MOBA SCE is to join forces to implement new housing cooperatives and to develop transnational financing instruments for new cooperative housing providers in CEE. LiM Living in Metropolises SCE is a second recently founded European housing cooperative that aims to strengthen the idea and practice of the cooperative legal form, which is part of UNESCO's intangible world heritage, and to implement it with forward-looking projects. For almost 150 years, housing cooperatives have stood for self-help, self-determination and self-responsibility and have become pioneers in housing reform.

The main objective of this workshop is to kick off new networks and collaborations to support the institutional build-up of MOBA SCE and LiM SCE, as well as other emerging housing cooperatives in CEE. To do so, the event will give insights on current tendencies of housing cooperatives. Together with representatives of housing cooperatives, foundations, NGOs, practitioners related to housing and real estate, municipalities, ministries, and EU entities, among others, we will identify financing models and partnerships to support young housing cooperatives in the region. In particular, we will build on cooperation experiences between Germany and CEE, select good practices and funding programme approaches at European level regarding financing housing in CEE and discuss cooperation opportunities and international (financing) strategies. In the long run, we would wish to sensitise for a European idea of Housing Cooperatives.

PROGRAM

Wednesday, 6 December 2023

From 19:00: Welcome Get Together
Restaurant Goldberg, Reuterstraße 40 Berlin-Neukölln (optional)

Thursday, 7 December 2023

08:30-09:00: Arrival/Opening/Coffee

MORNING PROGRAM: Housing initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe and experiences from German speaking countries to support emerging housing cooperatives

09:00-10:30 Session 1:

Housing challenges in Central and Eastern Europe, and cooperative housing initiatives in this context (presentations and discussion)

- Welcome – Dr. Corinna Hölzl (HU Berlin) and Max Hellriegel (Universität Jena)
- Keynote presentation: Iva Marčetić (Universität Kassel): Why housing cooperatives can be one answer to the current housing crises in CEE
- Pitches of running projects – strategies and challenges
 - o Knut Hoeller: IWO e.V.
 - o Dirk Lönnecker: LiM - Living in Metropolis SCE
 - o Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen: MOBA Housing SCE and MOBA Accelerator

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-13:00 Session 2:

International cooperation for overcoming financial bottlenecks of housing cooperatives in CEE (moderation: Zsuzsanna Pósfai, Bea Varnai, both MOBA SCE)

Roundtable conversation 1: Existing experiences

- Helmut Geißler, Claudia Spiller (Stiftung Umverteilen): The experience of financing a new housing cooperative in Czechia
- Elena Milanovska (Habitat for Humanity International): The experience of setting up a revolving fund for energy efficiency renovations in the Western Balkans
- Alice Pittini (Housing Europe): The possibilities of using European funds for cooperative housing projects - what are the limitations and possibilities?
- Giorgos Melissourgos (Heinrich-Böll Foundation): Cooperative housing initiatives in Greece (online)

Roundtable conversation 2: Future plans and ideas

- Goran Jeras (Cooperative for Ethical Financing, ECHOES): European Ethical Bank as an enabler of rental cooperative housing projects in Europe
- Rolf Novy-Huy (Ko-Operativ eG NRW, formerly Foundation Trias): What are the missing tools and measurements to foster civic projects in all European countries?
- Peter Kämmerling (Mietshäuser Syndikat /Commoning Spaces Network): Establishing a European network of self-managed housing projects

13:00-14:00: Lunch

AFTERNOON PROGRAM: The various elements of a mature and enabling ecosystem for housing cooperatives

14:00-15:00 Session 3:

The cooperative housing landscape in Germany - diversity, challenges and achievements (moderation: Corinna Hölzl, HU Berlin)

Roundtable conversation with:

- Guido Schwarzendahl (Bauverein Halle & Leuna eG and Cooperative Housing International, CHI)
- Caroline Rosenthal (Forum for Cooperatives Berlin and Mietshäuser Syndikat)
- Elke Rauth (Bikes and Rails Vienna/habiTAT Austria): Tools to support the emergence of new housing cooperatives in Vienna
- Jens-Uwe Köhler (Studentendorf Schlachtensee and Bündnis Junge Genossenschaften Berlin)

15:00-16:00 Session 4:

The role of public actors in promoting cooperative housing development (moderation: Caroline Rosenthal, Forum for Cooperatives, Berlin)

Presentations:

- Nicola Müller (Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Construction) tbc: Scope of action at national level in Germany
- Heike Skok (City of Munich / Mitbauzentrale): Consortial Housing Development in Munich
- Melanie Kloth (NRW.Bank Wohnraumförderung): Subsidies for newly founded Cooperative. The public housing funding program in North Rhine-Westphalia
- Arnt v. Bodelschwingh (RegioKontext GmbH)

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-17:30 Session 5:

Supporting cooperative development - through financing and cooperative infrastructure (moderation: Ana Džokić, MOBA SCE)

Online presentations:

- Ulrich Kriese (Edith Maryon Foundation): Pathway and potential of land leases and land foundations for housing cooperatives
- Antonia Proka (Rescoop.eu): Cooperation among energy cooperatives across Europe, tbc
- Ela Kagel (Platform cooperatives Germany): Most-needed inputs and tools for new cooperative development, tbc

In-room conversation and discussion with:

- Michael LaFond (id22)

18:30 Networking Dinner

Papà Pane, Ackerstraße 23-26 Berlin-Mitte

Friday, 8 December 2023

09:00-09:15: Start/Coffee

09:15-11:15 Session 6:

Scaling up LiM, MOBA and other new housing cooperatives in CEE

(moderation: MOBA SCE representatives)

World Café: Based on discussions and findings from Workshop Day 1, in this key session, we would like to focus our discussions on:

- how to bring together common goals and ambitions in the next three years,
- direct and indirect ways of supporting new housing coops in CEE
- other possible points of collaboration

(World café groups will be announced in place)

11:15-11:45 Coffee break

11:45-13:00 Session 7:

Ukraine: What role could Housing Cooperatives play for Recovery (hybrid)

- Knut Höller (IWO): The Ukrainian housing sector and previous IWO experience in Ukraine
- FLÜWO Bauen Wohnen eG, tbc: The experience of FLÜWO Bauen Wohnen eG
- Serhii Komnatnyj (UNECE consultant, Chairman of the State fund for Youth housing): The Ukrainian cooperative housing sector (online)

13:00 Lunch

Restaurant Co Chu, Invalidenstraße 29, Berlin-Mitte (optional)