



## Alternative housing solutions for the elderly and migrants

International Conference in Ljubljana on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Introduction

As European population is aging, the issue of intergenerational solidarity is becoming increasingly important. Current forms of accommodation for the elderly are often not adequate and sufficient. At the same time, Europe is facing migration and many migrants in EU countries live in poor living conditions. The issue of alternative accommodation for different social groups (elderly, migrants, minorities, etc.) is thus becoming more and more relevant.

People over the age of 65 in Slovenia live in conditions that are often not suitable for their age and/or medical conditions (too many stairs, inaccessible rooms etc.). They live in apartments and houses that are too big for them and too expensive to maintain, often far from their children, from essential services, alone and isolated, experiencing a loss of identity and purpose after the “active” phase of their lives has ended. It is blatantly obvious that the overcrowded Slovenian retirement homes are not a suitable solution for a dignified and healthy old age for those who cannot live by themselves or with their extended families. There are some other forms of long-term care solutions and accommodation, but those are mostly inaccessible to the vast majority of seniors. The cost notwithstanding, the capacities currently available are not sufficient for the ageing society. On the other hand, due to the ever-growing urbanization, the younger generation is moving to cities and many villages in Slovenia have become nearly abandoned. With certain adaptations, rural communities could provide the sought-after safe and healthy environment for seniors who no longer need to be close to their workplace, but are still active and more or less independent.

Housing is one of the most fundamental human needs and as such has a major influence on migrants’ successful societal integration. Migrants in Europe often find themselves in a disadvantaged situation compared to the native-born population. They are generally vulnerable on the housing market, disproportionately dependent on private rentals, more likely to be uninformed of their rights and discriminated against. They also face greater obstacles to access public housing or housing benefits and are more likely to live in substandard and poorly connected accommodations, with less space available and at a higher rental cost than the national average.

Successful housing policies play an important role in shaping social policymaking at the local level. This affects future integration. The purpose of the conference will therefore be to discuss alternative accommodation options for different social groups (especially the elderly and migrants), present good practices in this field, look for opportunities to develop new solutions in this area and consider the introduction of accommodation models that promote both intergenerational and intercultural solidarity.

The conference will be held in a hybrid form, live and online.



## Conference Programme

**Venue: Moderna galerija/Museum of Modern Art, Cankarjeva 15, 1000 Ljubljana**

### Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

- 12.00 – 13.00 Arrival and buffet lunch
- 13.00 – 13.45 Introduction to the conference and presentation of the proposal for alternative housing solutions for the elderly and migrants – Tereza Novak, executive directress of Slovene Philanthropy
- 13.45 – 15.00 Presentation of good practices: project CURANT (Elena Hermans and Lisanne Corijn, Avansa Antwerp), Salus Space: a collaborative housing project in Bologna (Inti Bertocchi, Municipality of Bologna)
- 15.00 - 15.15 Coffee break
- 15.15 – 15.40 Presentation of the migrant's own experience: Semi Meliane
- 15.40 – 17.00 Challenges in the field of accommodation of migrants in partner countries / Presentation of good practices by partner organizations – Martin Rozumek (OPU), Herbert Langthaler (Asylkoordination Österreich), Nora Ugarteburu (SOS Arrazakeria Debagoiena), Katarzyna Przybysławska (Centrum Pomocy Prawnej im. Haliny Nieć), Austėja Vakarinitė (Diversity Development Group), Primož Jamšek (Slovene Philanthropy)
- 17.00 – Cultural performances and informal discussion (food made by refugees)

### Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

- 9.00 – 9.10 Introduction to the second day of the conference
- 9.10 – 9.40 Presentation of housing policy and accessibility of housing for various social groups in Slovenia (with emphasis on the elderly and migrants) – Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Affairs (*to be defined*)
- 9.40 – 10.10 My first (shared) home: how can social statuses overcome housing gap – Dr. Simona Zavratnik, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences
- 10.10 – 10.30 Coffee break
- 10.30 – 11.00 Presentation of the alternative forms of living for the elderly (*to be defined*)
- 11.00 – 11.30 Housing policy from national to local level – Urban Jeriha and Marko Peterlin, IPoP-Institute for Spatial Policies



- 11.30 – 12.00 Building new solidarity through housing co-ops – Anja Lazar, IŠSP – Inštitut za študije stanovanj in prostora
- 12.00 – 12.45 Lunch
- 12.45 – 14.30 Discussion on future housing solution for different social groups and recommendations, group work and panel discussion with dr. Simona Zavratnik, Marko Peterlin, Tereza Novak ..., moderated by Ognjen Radivojević, Slovene Philanthropy
- 14.45 Conclusion and Farewell