



**UN-HABITAT**

## **Resumed Agenda Item 5: Regional trends and Priorities in Western Europe and Other Countries**

# Regional trends

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## Rising housing costs and cost burdens

- Europe: Housing costs increased by an average of 48% (2010-2022), with peaks in Estonia (+192%) and Hungary (+172%).
- North America: 17% of U.S. households and 25% of Canadian households spend over 30% of their income on housing.
- Renters are disproportionately affected.

## Energy poverty

- Europe: 9.3% of the population cannot keep their homes warm, with highest rates in Bulgaria (22.5%) and Greece (18.7%).
- Similar concerns exist in North America, exacerbated by aging infrastructure.

## Underutilised housing stock and urban sprawl

- 33% of Europeans live in under-occupied homes.
- Sustainability concerns arise from new developments outpacing renovations.
- The EU invests €85–90 billion annually in energy efficiency, yet more goes to new construction.

## Homelessness

- Europe: At least 895,000 people experiencing homelessness.
- North America: U.S. recorded 653,104 people experiencing homelessness in 2023, a 12.1% annual increase.

# Housing tenure composition

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## Ownership

- EU: 69% owner-occupied housing; highest in Romania (96%), Slovakia (94%), Croatia, and Hungary (91%).
- Canada: 66.5% owner-occupied.
- U.S.: 65.7% owner-occupied.

## Rental housing

- 31% of EU population in rental housing, led by Germany (52%), Austria (46%), and Denmark (40%).

## Social and cooperative housing

- EU: 11% of total stock (~25 million homes).
  - Netherlands: 32% of overall housing (75% of rentals).
  - Austria: 24% overall (46% in Vienna).
  - Denmark: 20%.
- Canada: 5% of total stock.

# Policy responses

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- **Increasing affordable housing supply**
- **Energy efficiency investments**
- **Homelessness prevention**
- **Urban planning and redistribution**
- **2024: Housing added to the EU agenda for the first time.**

# UN-Habitat's role

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- **Collaboration with UNECE:**
  - Housing2030 (repository of best practices)
  - Inputs to “Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030”
  - UNECE’s Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management
  - Technical cooperation on VLRs and Country Profiles
- UN-Habitat contributes to **housing policy monitoring** through tools like the State of European Cities Reports, with plans for a new edition in 2025.
- **Upcoming expert group meetings on housing indicators** will refine data-driven approaches to policymaking.

# Thank you!

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