



HOUSING FORUM
EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA



HOUSING FORUM EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA 2013

Promoting sustainable housing futures for all

April 22-24, 2013

Palais de Nations, Geneva, Switzerland



Overview

The second Housing Forum Europe and Central Asia (ECA) is an important international platform for the exchange of information, exploration of challenges, and seeking solutions to sub-standard housing in the Europe and Central Asia region among key governmental, non-governmental, private and civil society sector leaders.

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and UN-HABITAT are organizing partners of the event. We recognize that no organization or intergovernmental agency can solve the sub-standard housing problem of 1.6 billion people worldwide alone. It is essential that key leaders in the sector join together to ensure that we scale up the work and impact. The Housing Forum is one way of doing just that.

By providing an opportunity for people and organizations to interface in a meaningful way, the success and impact of the whole sector is increased. In addition to interactive sessions with our featured speakers, our program element, the “HUB” offers at least 24 (4 x 6 parallel) working sessions delivered by experts with practical, academic, financial and political experience in housing and related fields. The working sessions are organized into four tracks:

- Track A: Regulatory Frameworks and Housing
- Track B: Housing Solutions
- Track C: Housing Vulnerabilities
- Track D: Housing and Human Development

Sessions will cover energy efficiency, microfinance, housing for vulnerable people, planning for post-disaster housing, social rental agencies, case studies and best practices in Central European, Balkan and Central Asian countries, advocacy, gender issues and housing, unveiling new housing research, legal issues – and more. This focus on interaction and networking is what sets the Housing Forum ECA apart from other conferences.

On last day of the Housing Forum, the report team will present, verbally and visually, the themes that emerged during the event. They will lead delegates through a guided reflection which will manifest the insights, questions and actions needed that emerged during the Housing Forum into a vision creating a

“Sustainable Housing Futures for All.”



If we are to impact the housing deficit throughout the world, we need to partner with groups and organizations committed to this same vision. The Housing Forum is the ideal way to bring like-minded people and groups together, to share, to dream, and to create ways to address the housing issues facing not only this region, but throughout the world.

- Greg Foster, Area Vice President, Habitat for Humanity International

Sustainable housing is a requirement, not an aspiration, if we are to ensure a future for all.

- Graham Saunders, Head, Shelter & Settlements, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



Program

Monday, April 22

- 08:00 Security and registration
Please arrive as early as possible. Security lines can be long.
- 10:30 Opening and welcome
- Welcome from Virginia Cram-Martos, Director, Division of Trade and Sustainable Land Management, UNECE.
 - Opening remarks by Housing Forum master of ceremonies, David Sanderson, Director, Centre for Development and Emergency Practice, Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment, Oxford Brookes University, and the organizing partners: HFHI, IFRC, UNECE, UNDP and UN-HABITAT
 - Overview and sign-up for the “HUB”, the Housing Forum’s key program element of at least 24 interactive sessions.
- 13:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Framing “Sustainable Housing Futures for All”
A conversation and interactive discussion between a panel of distinguished guests active in the housing and related sectors, including Sven Bergenstrahle, President, International Union of Tenants; Robert Archer, Energy Team Leader for the Europe and Eurasia Bureau, USAID; Kurt Eliasson, President CECODHAS Housing Europe; Claudio Acioly, Head Capacity Development Unit, Housing & Urban Management Expert, UN-HABITAT, and additional leaders of major international housing organizations soon to be announced. Moderated by David Sanderson.
- 18:00 Networking reception at the Vieux Bois restaurant

Tuesday, April 23

- 09:30 HUB kick-off
- 10:00 HUB sessions 1 and 2
- 13:15 Lunch
- 14:45 HUB sessions 3 and 4
- 18:00 HUB Round-up

Wednesday, April 24

- 09:30 General report
Verbal and visual animation summarizing and discussing the main issues, ideas, problems and challenges raised during the Forum
- 10:30 Visioning the future
Making concrete the insights, questions and actions needed which emerged during the Forum by all delegates.
- 11:30 Closing session
Sven Alkalaj, Executive Secretary of UNECE
Organizing partners: HFHI, IFRC, UNECE, UNDP and UN-HABITAT

Event details

Dates:

Monday April 22, 2013
08:00 – 21:00

Tuesday April 23, 2013
09:30 – 19:00

Wednesday, April 24, 2013
09:30 – 12:30

Venue:

Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland



Venue and accommodation

As one of our organizing partners, The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe will host the Housing Forum ECA at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Hotels are available in Geneva and the nearby Ferney-Voltaire, France. Some suggestions can be found on our web www.ecahousingforum.eu.

Who should attend

International NGO's
Governmental agencies for international development
Housing advocacy networks and organizations
Research institutes
Social inclusion advocacy networks and organizations
Financial institutions
Utility service providers
Construction businesses
UN agencies
EU agencies related to housing and social inclusion
Global development agencies
Microfinance institutions
Architects
PhD candidates
Representative from national and local governments
Foundations and other donor institutions
Social innovation centers



Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organization to raise its profile and publicly support the work of Housing Forum Europe and Central Asia.

For further information please contact:

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Organizing partners



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Sponsoring partner



Supporting partners

