

ACTION 4: TO INTEGRATE AND PROTECT**Objective:** To integrate and protect through the provision of sustainable and affordable housing

KEY OBJECTIVES	KEY TOOLS	PROPOSED ACTIONS (2021-2040)	CRITERIA OF SUCCESS
<p>(i) AFFORDABLE HOUSING AS INFRASTRUCTURE: The recognition of affordable housing as a form of infrastructure that requires needs-based capital investment, allocation of adequate resources and design of appropriate policies and programmes to ensure good implementation and monitoring. Good national policy for sustainable [and] affordable housing must tackle excessive costs all along the value chain, and address bottlenecks, including land, building regulations, construction, mortgages, and administrative costs. Planning laws and building regulations need to adapt to the evolving needs of urban residents, especially following the Covid-19 crisis. Moreover, sustainable [and] affordable housing needs sustainable and flexible financing schemes, tailored both to supply and demand, in which the public sector is an enabler – for instance, with mortgage guarantee schemes and sound public-private partnerships (PPPs) (Burnett, 2018; ECA, 2018; KS, Chowdhury, Sharma, & Platz, 2016; OECD, 2012).</p>	<p>(i) Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) Knowledge Labs (IEA, 2019).</p>	<p>(i) HOUSING SECURITY: National Ministries and/or regional authorities to be supported in including the concept of housing security in national urban policies (NUPs) and national housing policies (NHPs). (ii) ASSET-BASED WELFARE STRATEGY: National Ministries review housing policy to include the concept of asset-based welfare strategies, incorporating the idea of social housing as infrastructure.</p>	<p>(i) National Urban Policies (NUPs) and National Housing Policies (NHPs) incorporate the concept of housing security, and measures are taken to make access to adequate housing by the most vulnerable a priority, with the option to finance social housing schemes as infrastructure.</p>
<p>(ii) BETTER CLIMATE ADAPTATION, URBAN RESILIENCE AND ENERGY TRANSITION: Planning and design of energy-efficient, thermally-adapted housing that is well embedded in natural landscapes and climatic conditions, and the building of which is sensitive to natural systems through the design and implementation of green-blue infrastructures (European Commission, 2018a), and principles of the Circular Economy, including notable principles of circular construction.</p>	<p>(ii) OECD Programme on the Circular Economy in Cities and Regions (OECD, 2020c). (iii) European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (European Commission, 2019b). (iv) EcoCities, University of Manchester's School of Environment and Development (EcoCities, 2019). (v) EU Construction Products Regulation (CPR) (European Commission, 2011). (vi) Climate-fit city (scientific urban climate data and relevant information for public and private end-users operating in cities across a range of different sectors) (Climate-fit-city, 2020). (vii) Houseful project: innovative circular solutions and services for the housing sector (HOUSEFUL, 2020).</p>	<p>(iii) THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY: National Ministries review NUPs and NHPs for gaps in environmental spatial planning in design and implementation of housing development, using concepts of circular economy, aided by REPAIR. National Ministries review NUPs and NHPs for gaps in sustainable building and materials regulation, using concepts of the circular economy.</p>	<p>(ii) NUPs and NHPs are updated to include measures to address climate adaptation, urban resilience, and energy transition, in line with principles of the Circular Economy.</p>
<p>(iii) INTEGRATION OF HERITAGE MANAGEMENT and REDEVELOPMENT with principles of climate adaptation and mitigation, circular economy, and ecosystems-based solutions. Integration of heritage with disaster risk-reduction and disaster risk-management principles.</p>	<p>(viii) UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011).</p>	<p>(iv) HERITAGE & SUSTAINABILITY: National Ministries review NUPs and NHPs for gaps in heritage reuse and redevelopment in connection to sustainability standards, using UNESCO's Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.</p>	<p>(iii) NUPs and NHPs include measures to address heritage preservation, reuse and redevelopment, including principles of circular construction, climate adaptation, energy efficiency and hazard prevention in line with UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach.</p>
<p>(iv) DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Housing and neighbourhood design should address rising temperatures, increasing droughts, and rising sea levels across the region, based on "ecosystem-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and by mainstreaming holistic and data-informed disaster risk reduction and management at all levels to reduce vulnerabilities and risk, especially in risk-prone areas of formal and informal settlements" (article 77, New Urban Agenda -NUA). Special attention should be given to the circularity of construction materials (see also Box 22). Existing neighbourhoods must be assessed towards adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change and natural hazards.</p>	<p>(ix) Green-blue infrastructures and ecosystems-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</p>	<p>(v) ECOSYSTEMS-BASED APPROACHES: Incorporation of ecosystems-based approaches in the design and assessment of housing projects in the Mediterranean region. /Incorporation of disaster risk reduction and management in assessment of new projects.</p>	<p>(iv) A substantial number of housing projects in the region incorporate ecosystems-based approaches that address climate change and natural hazards. (v) Assessment mechanisms incorporate assessment of resilience to climate change and natural hazards.</p>

1. To address housing provision from a multi-dimensional and integrated perspective, in which structural challenges are faced with a metagovernance approach that is tailor-made, adaptive and culturally embedded, through addressing the six key policy challenges listed in this Action Plan.	1. National Housing Policies (NHPs) and National Housing Strategies, as well as integration of NHPs in National Urban Policies./ (ii) Policy coordination between relevant ministries, particularly between those in charge of housing, urban development, land administration, environment, public works, energy, transport, health, education, culture, social policies, and emergency management, through NUPs and ICDSs and this Housing Action Plan. / (i) National housing strategies (NHS) and local housing strategies (LHS) are in line with the UfM Action Plan. According to UN-Habitat (UN-Habitat, 2012), a national housing strategy is a pillar of national urban policy. It incorporates an agreed set of activities over a suitable period (5 to 30 years) to guide policies, planning and the programming of investment, management, and maintenance activities in the areas of housing supply, quality, affordability, and homelessness prevention. Such strategies should also be built on strong legal, administrative and resource capacity. Feasible and agreed sets of activities should be formulated with the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders.	(i) NHPs: National housing policies (NHPs) are created or updated to reflect this Housing Action Plan.	National Housing Policies are created or updated in all UfM Member States in line with this Axis of Intervention.
2. To address housing provision from a multi-dimensional and integrated perspective, in which structural challenges are faced with a metagovernance approach that is tailor-made, adaptive and culturally embedded, through addressing the six key policy challenges listed in this Action Plan.	2. Integrated City Development Strategies./ (ii) Housing strategies, at the national and city levels, are integrated with land-use, investment, and infrastructure strategies, as well as goals of affordability, access, sustainability, and mobility to achieve national and local economic development goals.	(ii) IDENTIFYING GAPS: Local authorities review integrated city development strategies (ICDSs) to identify gaps and integrated NHPs and local housing strategies/ ICDSs integrate innovative land administration, financing, and land tenure mechanisms/ The UfM Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting, UfM-IFIs Urban Development Project Committee and the Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub will seek synergies and ensure ongoing exchange on substantive issues, focusing on identifying financing gaps and funding opportunities.	Integrated City Development Strategies are reviewed by local authorities and aligned with this axis of intervention to include innovative land administration, financing, and land tenure mechanisms. / The UfM Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting, UfM-IFIs Urban Development Project Committee and the Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub publish a report identifying policy gaps in selected UfM Member States.
3. To address housing provision from a multi-dimensional and integrated perspective.	3. Gathering and networking events of key stakeholders.	(iv) MEDITERRANEAN GATHERING OF HOUSING COOPERATIVES: A gathering of Euro-Mediterranean housing cooperatives is organised by UfM with a view to exchange project experiences.	A gathering of Mediterranean Housing Cooperatives is organised.
4. POLICY CHALLENGE 1: affordability, availability, adequacy & access	4. Housing strategies that address vulnerable groups.	(ix) SPATIAL JUSTICE: NUPs and ICDSs are updated to address the housing needs of elderly, young, vulnerable, and disabled people.	NUPs and a significant number of ICDSs is updated to address the housing needs of elderly, young, vulnerable, and disabled people. To be carried out by National Ministries.
5. POLICY CHALLENGE 2: effective land policy & land administration.	5. Land and property administration tools.	(iii) LAND ADMINISTRATION: National Ministries set up land administration systems where these do not exist. Land administration systems are compared, and knowledge is exchanged among UfM Member States.	Modern land administration systems are operational in all UfM Member States./ A report comparing land administration systems across the region is drafted and updated every 3 to 5 years.
6. POLICY CHALLENGE 3: effective financing and tenure	6. Innovative financing mechanisms.	(x) INCLUSIVE FINANCING: NUPs and ICDSs incorporate innovative financing mechanisms, including alternative financing mechanisms that are culturally fit. Social housing may be financed as infrastructure where the market cannot address the demand for housing for the poorest sectors of society.	NUPs and a significant number of ICDSs incorporate innovative financing mechanisms.
7. POLICY CHALLENGE 3: effective financing and tenure	7. (a) land administration coordination, including introduction of innovative forms of land tenure (e.g. community land trusts, cooperative land tenure, social rent, etc.); (b) coordination of fiscal instruments to influence land use and land availability for development, including progressive taxation and land value capture instruments to generate funds for social housing schemes	(xi) INCLUSIVE LAND TENURE: NUPs and ICDSs incorporate land administration coordination, including introduction of innovative forms of land tenure and coordination of fiscal instruments to influence land use and land availability for development.	NUPs and a significant number of ICDSs incorporate innovative land administration mechanisms and innovative forms of land tenure.
8. POLICY CHALLENGE 4: sustainable, resilient & accessible design/ POLICY CHALLENGE 6: upgrading, maintenance & management of existing housing stock	8. Updated building requirements that address climate change and natural hazards integrated into NUPs and ICDSs.	(vii) BUILDING REQUIREMENTS for NATURAL HAZARDS: NUPs and ICDSs are updated to reflect building requirements in earthquake-prone areas and areas where climate action is immediately needed.	All NUPs and a significant number of ICDSs is updated to reflect building requirements in earthquake-prone areas and areas where climate action is immediately needed.

<p>9. POLICY CHALLENGE 5: upgrading informal urbanisation. POLICY CHALLENGE 4: sustainable, resilient & accessible design POLICY CHALLENGE 6: upgrading, maintenance & management of existing housing stock</p>	<p>9. Slum upgrading strategies.</p>	<p>(vi) SLUM UPGRADING: Slum upgrading programmes are set up where they do not exist, in line with this Action Plan, and focussing on spatial justice and citizen engagement and co-design.</p>	<p>Countries where informal urbanisation is significant have prepared slum upgrading strategies focused on spatial justice and citizen engagement.</p>
<p>10. POLICY CHALLENGE 6: upgrading, maintenance & management of existing housing stock/ POLICY CHALLENGE 4: sustainable, resilient & accessible design/</p>	<p>10. House Retrofitting Programmes.</p>	<p>(v) HOUSE RETROFITTING PROGRAMMES: National Ministries and/or local authorities set up house retrofitting programmes where these do not exist, including energy efficiency measures (improvement of building codes, introduction of natural cooling systems, retrofitting and energy renovation programmes, and energy poverty alleviation measures), as well as resilience measures (fire safety and risks related to intense seismic activity).</p>	<p>Modern housig retrofitting programmes that address both environmental aspects and the heritage heritage dimension are operational in all UfM Member States. Building codes, climate adaptation measures, energy efficiency standards and hazards prevention are incorporated in these programmes.</p>
<p>11. POLICY CHALLENGE 6: upgrading, maintenance & management of existing housing stock</p>	<p>11. UNESCO's Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape / National Heritage preservation in the housing sector strategies. / (vii) An assessment of existing historic and heritage values with potential to propel conservation, "reuse renovation" and development.</p>	<p>(viii) HERITAGE and SUSTAINABILITY: NUPs and ICDSs are updated to reflect heritage preservation in the housing sector, including valuing traditional local building materials, methods, and techniques, as well as traditional or informal institutions and ways of living together, including intangible heritage, in line with UNESCO's Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and current ideas on social sustainability. Regional programmes are put in place to support this objective, where applicable.</p>	<p>All NUPs and a significant number of ICDSs is updated to reflect heritage preservation in the housing sector, including valuing traditional local building materials, methods, and techniques, as well as traditional or informal institutions and ways of living together, including intangible heritage, in line with UNESCO's Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape</p>