UFM STRATEGIC URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN 2040

Axis of Intervention 1 Housing Action Plan

For inclusive, integrated, and sustainable urban development and regeneration

Executive Summary
Axis of Intervention 1
Housing Action Plan

For inclusive, integrated, and sustainable urban development and regeneration

Executive Summary
UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040
for sustainable, resilient, and inclusive cities and communities in the Mediterranean
Axis of Intervention 1: Affordable and Sustainable Housing
Executive Summary

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Access to dignified housing is recognized in various fundamental human rights texts, and by several national constitutions. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control” (UN, 1948, art. 25). According to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, “The right to housing does not mean that everyone is entitled to a government-provided home immediately. It means governments must ensure that everyone, particularly the most disadvantaged groups, should have access to housing that is adequate. Housing is only adequate if it is affordable, if it has potable water; sanitation facilities, electricity, and other basic services and if it is close to schools, health services and employment opportunities. The right to housing is interdependent with other socio-economic human rights such as rights to health, education, and employment. It is also integrally connected to rights to non-discrimination and equality. And, because adequate housing is crucial to the social conditions necessary for human dignity, it is intimately connected to the right to life” (UN, 2019).

In line with this position, the Council of Europe New Strategy and Action Plan for Social Cohesion aims to “promote the development of social links, networking and solidarity as tools for the creation of decent jobs” and to “promote families’ stability, well-being and autonomy, which are critical for the quality of life and the prevention of poverty”, and aims to “ensure that everyone has access to housing of an adequate standard while helping people in vulnerable situations to avoid excessive debt” (CoE, 2010).

“Comprising over 70 per cent of land use in most cities, housing is evidently central to future cities and urban development (...). The complexity of housing policy is born of various aspects particular to housing itself. These include the fact that unlike any other commodity it is not moveable, and it requires land on which to be built, entailing tenure rights
and land ownership. Furthermore, housing demand cannot be predicted to a high degree of certainty. However, interventions have to be made over the medium- to long-term in order to meet future demand” (UN, 2017, p. 7).

“Housing is central to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11: ‘Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.’ Indeed, SDG 11’s target 11.1 states ‘By 2030, [to] ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.’ It is clear that governments that have a prime role within urban development and government policies will, to a large extent, determine the achievement of SDG 11 and its targets” (UN, 2017, p. 8).

Against this background, the UfM Housing Action Plan regards access to sustainable integrated housing as a central element for the full realization of cities’ and communities’ social functions, and people’s right to a dignified, safe and healthy life, “without discrimination, with universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, as well as equal access for all to public goods and quality services in areas such as food security and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, air quality and livelihoods” (NUA,UN-Habitat, 2016, p. 5). Through access to sustainable, integrated, safe, and affordable housing, citizens can enjoy access to increased life chances and public goods created by society and access to increased life chances, boosting their opportunities to achieve their full human potential. The vital role of housing in ensuring access to core services and public goods has been highlighted by the Covid-19 crisis. This could lead urban planners to rethink urban development and the core relationship between housing and improved access to public services (OECD, 2020).

In this context, the UfM Housing Action Plan recognizes the diversity of housing aspirations across and within UfM countries and supports ongoing efforts to promote access to decent, affordable, and secure housing, across a range of tenures that reflect local cultural aspirations and capacities. Furthermore, the UfM Housing Action Plan recognizes that affordable housing, and particularly social housing, is a form of infrastructure that contributes to social and economic well-being. As with any essential infrastructure, it requires needs-based planning, securing and allocation of funds and the design of appropriate policies and programmes to ensure good implementation in diverse contexts (Lawson, 2019). Stakeholder engagement and public participation are vital and can be inspired by the Charter for Multilevel Governance for Europe (European Committee of the Regions (CoR), 2014) and ideas about public participation contained in the Guidance Document 8 “Public Participation in Relation to the Water Framework Directive” (European Commission, 2003).

A home is not an island but exists in a historical and spatial context. It is part of a wider housing system connected to traditions and norms of housing use, as well as broader land, finance, and labour markets (Lawson, 2010). The UfM Housing Action Plan recognizes the diversity of housing systems across UfM countries, with their own local conditions, which generate their own diverse, local pathways to housing development, and influence the housing opportunities available to different communities. The Housing Action Plan focuses on key relationships that shape capacity, and actions that affect the provision of housing, including land availability, the value, investment and acquisition conditions, and the asset management models.

This axis of intervention lays out thematic policy guidelines, encouraging UfM countries to identify gaps in implementation and financing, and proposing an integrated approach to sustainable urban development that guarantees coherence of housing policy and implementation. Sustainable integrated housing provision should be explicitly addressed in national urban policies (NUPs) and integrated city development strategies (ICDSs) in coordination with the UfM Housing Action Plan for Housing. Sustainable integrated housing projects must therefore be part of wider strategic spatial development plans that enhance integration with other axes of intervention listed in the Strategic Action Plan.
The challenges & objectives

The UfM Thematic Working Group on Affordable and Sustainable Housing identified a wide variety of challenges to the creation of sustainable integrated housing across the region: spatial planning, affordability and finance, insufficient housing supply, ecological sustainability of solutions and deficient legislation. These challenges are summarized in Table 1 (UfM, 2019). They are multidimensional, differ substantially between and within different UfM countries, and significantly affect the prospects for sustainable development in the region.

Given the multidimensional nature of housing challenges in the region, and their impact on many aspects of sustainable development, and following the principles set forth in this Housing Action Plan, this axis of intervention seeks to promote the following objectives, summarized in the diagram below. These objectives are unpacked in each action proposed in this axis of intervention.

(i) COORDINATION and INTEGRATION (METAGOVERNANCE): Integration of housing into strategic territorial planning at regional and local levels, across sectors and levels of government in accordance with this Action Plan. To be achieved in harmony with the Agenda 2030, the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the UfM Urban Agenda, the Pact of Amsterdam, the New Leipzig Charter, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and other policy frameworks to which this Housing Action Plan subscribes.

(ii) COORDINATION and INTEGRATION (HIERARCHIC GOVERNANCE): Coordination and cohesion of housing planning in national urban policies (NUPs), focusing on the alignment of strategic visions and public policies and their instruments, with a view to the creation of national housing policies (NHPs). NHPs should cover all aspects of housing production and provision, including basic definitions of the
right to housing, adequate housing, affordable housing, social housing, and other connected terminology, as well as mechanisms dealing with financing, land supply and value capture, investment and consumption conditions and asset management models.

(iii) **COORDINATION and INTEGRATION (NETWORKED GOVERNANCE):** Integration of national housing policies (NHPs) into integrated city development strategies (ICDSs). Capable, adequately resourced and effective local governments, being as close as possible to citizens, are vital in ensuring the delivery of decent, affordable and accessible housing. Local housing strategies should incorporate an analysis of local housing supply and demand, future demographic, and market trends, as well as recommendations for planning processes, land use plans and development regulations (UNDESA, 2019, 2020; UNEP/MAP, 2020). Special attention should be given to creating liveable places in which housing is spatially integrated with urban services and amenities, providing citizens with easy access to renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, green/blue infrastructures, jobs, and commercial, educational, medical, and cultural facilities. There should be a focus on walkability and slow mobility, and transit-oriented development (TOD) schemes (Guerra & Kirshchen, 2016; Ruijven, Verstraten, & Zwaneveld, 2019; Salat & Olivier, 2017).

(iv) **COORDINATION & INTEGRATION (MARKET GOVERNANCE):** Integration of housing plans with wider strategic development plans with emphasis on governance of land policy, such as: (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.

(v) **COORDINATION & INTEGRATION (TRAN-NATIONAL):** Adoption of a set of shared coherent and relevant key indicators to measure the quality of housing provision, based on the indicators used by Eurostat (EUROSTAT, 2020) and the World Health Organization Housing and Health Guidelines (WHO, 2018).

(vi) **COORDINATION & INTEGRATION (HERITAGE & CULTURE):** Wide adoption of UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape as a benchmark for heritage preservation regarding the existing housing stock, with a focus on heritage with the potential for regeneration, reuse, and development (UNESCO, 2011). Valuation and dissemination of vernacular architecture and traditional building materials as a means to increase cultural embeddedness of solutions, and climate adaptiveness (Nakashima, McLean, Thulstrup, Castillo, & Rubis, 2012).

(vii) **NETWORKED CAPACITY BUILDING & PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING:** Additional capacity (skills and resources) needs to be built up in the implementation of housing policy and governmental leadership in guiding national and local strategies through peer-to-peer learning, city-to-city partnerships, and networked learning. This covers resource management, organizational capacity, industry-specific capacity, networking, political capacity, and monitoring.

(viii) **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION and STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:** Citizen engagement is needed in the development of integrated housing policy, to provide greater housing variety in response to the growing diversity of households, to achieve social mix and to support labour market needs, increasing the social sustainability of solutions. In line with the idea of metagovernance, in which distinctive styles of governance must be coordinated in an agile, pragmatic, and adaptive manner, stakeholder engagement is crucial to the success of this Axis of Intervention. This means bringing together members of the public sector,
the private sector and civil society in diverse arrangements in which distinct perspectives, knowledge, interests, and mandates interact to produce better inputs for sound policymaking.

(ix) **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, and 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).

(x) **BETTER CLIMATE ADAPTATION, URBAN RESILIENCE AND ENERGY TRANSITION:** Planning and design of energy-efficient, thermal-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.

(xi) **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.

(xii) **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. Existing neighbourhoods must be assessed towards adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change and natural hazards.

(xiii) **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, namely (i) affordability, availability, adequacy & access, (ii) effective land policy & land administration, (iii) effective financing & tenure, (iv) sustainable, resilient & accessible design, (v) upgrading of informal urbanization, (vi) upgrading, maintenance & management of existing housing stock. These policy challenges are indicative and must be addressed according to their salience in each UfM Member State, where new policy challenges may appear.

(xiv) **GOOD MONITORING, PEER, AND INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING:** Monitoring and benchmarking of housing provision across the region, accompanied by peer and institutional learning that improves the capacity of governments to respond to housing challenges in informed, networked ways.
**Actions**

**ACTION 1:** TO COORDINATE & ENHANCE COHESION in the provision of sustainable and affordable housing.

**ACTION 2:** TO EDUCATE & STRENGTHEN CAPACITY in the provision of sustainable and affordable housing.

**ACTION 3:** TO ENVISION & GOVERN TOGETHER for the provision of sustainable and affordable housing.

**ACTION 4:** TO INTEGRATE & PROTECT through the provision of sustainable and affordable housing.

**ACTION 5:** TO IMPLEMENT & MANAGE the provision of sustainable and affordable housing.

Action 5 is further subdivided into 6 Policy Challenges:

(i) AFFORDABILITY, AVAILABILITY, ADEQUACY & ACCESS
(ii) EFFECTIVE LAND ADMINISTRATION
(iii) EFFECTIVE FINANCING & TENURE
(iv) SUSTAINABLE, ACCESSIBLE & RESILIENT DESIGN
(v) UPGRAADING OF INFORMAL URBANIZATION
(vi) UPGRAADING, MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING HOUSING STOCK

**ACTION 6:** TO MONITOR & COMMUNICATE on the provision of sustainable and affordable housing.

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*Figure 3: The housing continuum. Adapted from: (European Commission, 2018b). This figure does not address cooperative housing and other innovative forms of housing tenure, which can be understood as affordable housing.*
**MARKET HOUSING**

- **Rental Market**
- **Market Home Ownership**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

- **Affordable Rental Housing**
- **Affordable Home Ownership**

**Affordable Rental Housing**

Includes private rental (housing allowances), social rental, charity housing, beneficial foundations, company housing, regulated market housing, publicity funded private housing, cooperative housing.

**Affordable Home Ownership**

Includes existing privatised public/social housing, subsidized construction and/or renovation; tax breaks. Including shared equity, community land trust, regulated limited profit.

**Social Housing**

Includes municipal, regional and other forms of public housing.

**Affordable Rental Housing**

Includes systems with income-based social rents, cost-based rents covering maintenance and renovation.

**Affordable Home Ownership**

Includes existing privatised public/social housing, subsidized construction and/or renovation; tax breaks. Including shared equity, community land trust, regulated limited profit.
References


Results based programming
UfM Housing Action Plan

Objectives

COORDINATION and INTEGRATION I: Integration of housing into strategic territorial planning at regional and local levels, across sectors and levels of government in accordance with this Action Plan.

COORDINATION and INTEGRATION II: Coordination and cohesion of housing planning in national urban policies (NUPs), focusing on the alignment of strategic visions and public policies and their instruments, with a view to the creation of national housing policies (NHPs). NHPs should cover all aspects of housing production and provision, including basic definitions of the right to housing, adequate housing, affordable housing, social housing and other connected terminology, as well as mechanisms dealing with financing, land supply and value capture, investment and consumption conditions and asset management models.

COORDINATION and INTEGRATION III: Integration of national housing policies (NHPs) into city development strategies (CDSs). Capable, adequately resourced and effective local governments, being as close as possible to citizens, are vital in ensuring the delivery of decent, affordable and accessible housing. Local housing strategies should incorporate an analysis of local housing supply and demand, future demographic and market trends, as well as recommendations for planning processes, land use plans and development regulations. Special attention should be given to creating liveable places in which housing is spatially integrated with urban services and amenities, providing citizens with easy access to renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, green/blue infrastructures, jobs, and commercial, educational, medical and cultural facilities. There should be a focus on walkability and slow mobility, and transit-oriented development (TOD) schemes (Guerra & Kirschen, 2016; Ruijven, Verstraten, & Zwaneveld, 2019; Salat & Olivier, 2017).

REMEDIATION OF REGULATORY & SYSTEMIC BARRIERS: Identifying regulatory and systemic barriers to the production of affordable housing across the region;remedying problems through regulation and incentives to encourage good process and ensure appropriate outcomes, promoting housing systems that rely on mission-focused investment, and that address the growing housing deficit in most countries across the region.

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 affordable housing must tackle high 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 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).

GOOD LAND MANAGEMENT: Land policy is a mechanism for influencing urban development processes. It is potentially a more effective means of promoting affordable and inclusive housing
development (Lawson & Ruanavaara, 2020). More inclusive and more sustainable housing can be delivered in better locations through special land management, innovative zoning, tools to capture land value, progressive land banking, as well as the identification and exploration of alternative forms of tenure, including community land trusts, cooperatives and co-housing.

**REGENERATION & TRANSFORMATION OF DEPRIVED AREAS:** Housing provision, renewal and upgrading are crucial elements for regeneration of neighbourhoods, as outlined in Axis of Intervention 5, in the strategic Action Plan: “Informal settlements and deprived neighbourhoods as focal points for the creation of inclusive cities and communities, and in relation to affordable and sustainable housing provision”.

**INTEGRATION OF INFORMAL HOUSING:** Recognising the civil rights of inhabitants of slums and informal settlements opens paths to legalise and innovate land tenure and slum upgrading strategies, including support for incremental housing and self-build schemes. Self-building schemes are among the main contributors to new housing in many countries of the Mediterranean region. This calls for further analysis and further regulation of this sector, as well as improvement of skills among the service providers in this sector, in line with the Davos Declaration (Swiss Confederation, 2018).

**CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT:** Citizen engagement is needed in the development of integrated housing policy, to provide greater housing variety in response to the growing diversity of households, to achieve social mix and to support labour market needs, increasing the social sustainability of solutions.

**NETWORKED CAPACITY BUILDING & PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING:** Additional capacity (skills and resources) needs to be built up in the implementation of housing policy and governmental leadership in guiding national and local strategies through peer-to-peer learning, city-to-city partnerships and networked learning. This covers resource management, organisational capacity, industry-specific capacity, networking, political capacity and monitoring.

**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). 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).

**ECONOMIC EMBEDDEDNESS:** Planning and designing of housing typologies that respond to the economic needs and aspirations of citizens, in terms of affordability, location, accessibility and available job opportunities, in connection to their livelihoods and economic needs and practices.

**CULTURAL EMBEDDEDNESS:** Planning and designing of culturally embedded housing typologies that respond to the cultural aspirations and needs of citizens, taking into account traditional livelihoods, as well as the heritage of Mediterranean cities. By integrating traditional forms of housing and landholding into public policy, local governments can achieve better results because of the cultural embeddedness of solutions.

**SPATIAL JUSTICE:** Planning and designing of affordable, sustainable and disaster-resilient housing that is spatially just and that caters for all citizens, with emphasis on the most vulnerable; housing that is gender sensitive, child and old people friendly, accessible to people with disabilities, as well as affordable and of good quality.

**GOOD MONITORING, PEER AND INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING:** Monitoring and benchmarking of housing provision across the region, accompanied by peer and institutional learning that improves the capacity of governments to respond to housing challenges in informed, networked ways.
**Objective:** To coordinate and enhance cohesion in provision of sustainable and affordable housing

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**i) Coordination and Integration (Metagovernance):**
- Integration of housing into strategic territorial planning at regional and local levels, across sectors and levels of government in accordance with the Housing Action Plan. Toby achieved harmony in the Agenda 2030, the New Urban Agenda, the UUM Urban Agenda, and other international policy frameworks.
- Housing observatories and adoption of common standards.

**ii) Coordination and Integration (Hierarchic Governance):**
- Coordination and cohesion of housing planning in national urban policies (NUPs) focusing on the alignment of strategic visions and public policies.
- Key objectives: To coordinate and enhance cohesion in provision of sustainable and affordable housing.

**iii) Coordination and Integration (Networked Governance):**
- Integration of national urban policies (NUPs) into integrated city development strategies (ICDSs).
- Capable, adequately resourced and able for development, including progressive taxation and land value capture instruments to generate funds for social housing schemes.

**ii) National Institutional Governance Tool:**
- Encourage National Ministries to establish national “Housing Observatories” and Policy Labs to help define national housing strategies in line with UN-Habitat’s “Practice Guide for Conducting Housing Profiles (UN-Habitat, 2011), in close collaboration with local authorities, housing federations, civil society and private sector, with emphasis on governance of land use, and historic urban landscapes (MULs), including:
  - coordination of land administration, introduction of innovative forms of land tenure (community land, social housing, and rental, etc.),
  - 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, and
  - coordination of policy between relevant National 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.

**iv) National Policy Integration:**
- Encourage Ministries to set up national urban policies (NUPs) to prepare and integrate national housing strategies (NHSs) in close collaboration with local authorities, housing federations, civil society – including popular housing movements, and the private sector, through the organization of partnerships and consultancy.

**Policy Gaps Assessment:**
- Encourage National Ministries to set up housing policy development taskforces to analyze gaps in instruments of housing policy, with emphasis on access to affordable housing for all who need it, healthy housing, climate change adaptation, sustainable and circular reuse of abandoned or underused spaces and buildings, access to water and sanitation, disaster resilience, fire and earthquake safety and connectivity, among other factors.

**Housing Stock Assessment:**
- Encourage National Ministries to assess the state of the existing housing stock, with attention to health and safety standards, with emphasis on access to affordable housing for all who need it, healthy housing, climate change adaptation, sustainable and circular reuse of abandoned or underused spaces and buildings, access to water and sanitation, disaster resilience, fire and earthquake safety and connectivity, among other factors.

**Housing Observatories:**
- Encourage National Ministries to set up Housing Observatories, which should be established in most UMM Member States and have a considerable influence on policy formation at the local level, following internationally agreed policy frameworks and standards, in agreement with the URM Strategic Action Plan and this Axis of Intervention.

**Notes:**
- Housing observatories are established in most UMM Member States and have a considerable influence on policy formation at the local level, following internationally agreed policy frameworks and standards, in agreement with the URM Strategic Action Plan and this Axis of Intervention.
**ACTION 1: TO COORDINATE & ENHANCE COHESION**

Objective: To coordinate and enhance cohesion in provision of sustainable and affordable housing

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<td>(i) <strong>COORDINATION &amp; INTEGRATION (MARKET GOVERNANCE):</strong> Integration of housing plans with wider strategic development plans with emphasis on governance of land policy, such as: (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.</td>
<td>(iv) Integration of ICDSs with National Urban Policies, National Housing Policies, and National Housing Strategies.</td>
<td>(vi) MARKET SHAPING EXERCISES: Integration of NHPs with wider NUPs and ICDSs, with emphasis on (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.</td>
<td>(v) A substantial number of NHPs incorporate innovative land tenure and land administration tools, as well as innovative financing tools that respond to the needs of the most vulnerable citizens in each country. A considerable number of ICDSs address these issues as well.</td>
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<td>(ii) <strong>COORDINATION &amp; INTEGRATION (TRANSNATIONAL):</strong> Adoption of a set of shared, coherent and relevant key indicators to measure the quality of housing provision, based on the indicators used by Eurostat (EUROSTAT, 2020) and the World Health Organization Housing and Health Guidelines (WHO, 2018b).</td>
<td>(v) Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub, with emphasis on mutual learning, and on adoption of common definitions and standards.</td>
<td>(vii) TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL TOOL: Set up a Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub on the model of the European Federation of Public, Cooperative and Social Housing (Housing Europe), in partnership with Housing Europe and its Observatory, and/or OECD, subject to further agreement, in order to facilitate policy transfer and institutional learning (Housing Europe, 2019a, 2019b), and in close collaboration with local authorities, housing federations, civil society (including popular housing movements) and the private sector.</td>
<td>(v) A Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub is set up in one of the UfM Member States.</td>
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<td>(iii) <strong>COORDINATION &amp; INTEGRATION (HERITAGE &amp; CULTURE):</strong> Wide adoption of UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.</td>
<td>(vi) Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub, with emphasis on mutual learning, and on adoption of common definitions and standards.</td>
<td>(viii) HERITAGE CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT: Encourage National Ministries to assess the state of the existing housing stock with a focus on heritage with the potential for regeneration, reuse, and development (UNESCO, 2011). Valuation and dissemination of vernacular architecture and traditional building materials and a means to increase cultural embeddedness of solutions, and climate adaptiveness (Nakashima, McLean, Thulstrup, Castillo, &amp; Rubis, 2012).</td>
<td>(v) A substantial number of NHPs incorporate innovative land tenure and land administration tools, as well as innovative financing tools that respond to the needs of the most vulnerable citizens in each country. A considerable number of ICDSs address these issues as well.</td>
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(iv) Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub, with emphasis on mutual learning, and on adoption of common definitions and standards.
### ACTION 2: TO EDUCATE AND STRENGTHEN CAPACITY

**Objective:** To educate and strengthen capacity in the provision of sustainable and affordable housing

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<th>KEY OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>KEY TOOLS</th>
<th>PROPOSED ACTIONS (2021-2040)</th>
<th>CRITERIA OF SUCCESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NETWORKED CAPACITY BUILDING &amp; PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING:</strong> Additional capacity skills and resources needs to be built up in the implementation of housing policy and environmental leadership in guiding national and local strategies through peer-to-peer learning, city-to-city partnerships, and networked learning. This covers resource management, organizational capacity, industry-specific capacity, networking, political capacity, and monitoring.</td>
<td>(i) Institutional stakeholders' partnerships. (vi) Partnerships: To establish partnerships between the ULM, local and key universities with skills for housing policy and planning, as well as other capacity building organizations across the Euro-Mediterranean region, such as the Housing Europe, the European Federation of National Organizations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UNECE, United Nations’ United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative coordinated by ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat, and others. (v) An MoU for cooperation and mutual learning is signed by partners mentioned. Networking activities are organized.</td>
<td>(ii) Living Labs: The Universities Network and National Ministries set up Living Labs in a small number of pilot cities with the European Network of Living Labs and VNG International. (iii) Management Skills Development: ULM, the Universities Network, Housing Europe, National Ministries and other partners promote short housing skills building workshops and on-the-job courses to increase housing management capacity in the region. (iv) A substantial number of short workshops and on-the-job courses are organized in several cities around the Mediterranean.</td>
<td>(iii) A substantial number of peer-to-peer workshops are organized yearly. Knowledge produced is widely disseminated via websites and publications.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Objective:** To envision and govern together for the provision of sustainable and affordable housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CITIZEN PARTICIPATION and Stakeholder Engagement:</strong></td>
<td>(i) National Urban Policies and Integrated City Development Strategies.</td>
<td>(i) <strong>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:</strong> National urban policies (NUPs) and national housing policies (NHPs) across the region adopt principles of stakeholder engagement and citizen participation in housing policy design and implementation, including principles of participatory housing design.</td>
<td>(i) Civil society organizations, including social movements for housing, are involved in decision-making, implementation, monitoring and reporting. Businesses have their interests represented legitimately and transparency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) <strong>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:</strong> National urban policies (NUPs) and national housing policies (NHPs) across the region adopt principles of stakeholder engagement and citizen participation in housing policy design and implementation, including principles of participatory housing design.</td>
<td>(ii) Living Labs and Housing Urban Design Labs: A number of municipalities set up Living Labs in partnership with local universities, to engage public sector actors, the private sector and civil society around real societal challenges in relation to sustainable housing.</td>
<td>(ii) Living Labs and Housing Urban Design Labs are established in a number of municipalities around the Mediterranean. A Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub is established in one of the partner universities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iii) <strong>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:</strong> National Governments are encouraged to set up Housing Observatories at the national level, and these observatories must disseminate information about quality, affordability, financing, and other issues concerning housing that is easily understandable by citizens, businesses, and other departments in the administration.</td>
<td>(iii) National Housing Observatories.</td>
<td>(iii) A substantial number of housing observatories are set up in UfM Member States and produce periodic reports about the state of housing provision and access in each country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iv) <strong>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:</strong> National Governments are encouraged to set up Housing Observatories at the national level, and these observatories must disseminate information about quality, affordability, financing, and other issues concerning housing that is easily understandable by citizens, businesses, and other departments in the administration.</td>
<td>(iv) The Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub, based on the model of and in partnership with, Housing Europe.</td>
<td>(iv) A Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub is established at one of UfM’s partner universities and starts collecting data, producing, and disseminating knowledge and monitoring the state of housing provision and accessibility around the Mediterranean.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(v) <strong>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:</strong> National Governments are encouraged to set up Housing Observatories at the national level, and these observatories must disseminate information about quality, affordability, financing, and other issues concerning housing that is easily understandable by citizens, businesses, and other departments in the administration.</td>
<td>(v) Citizens’ Assemblies and Stakeholder Assemblies, based on participatory methodology for River Basin Committees (Integrated in NUPs and promoted by local governments).</td>
<td>(v) A substantial number of citizen assemblies are organized in countries around the region and are incorporated into the day-to-day functioning of planning systems around the region.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### ACTION 4: TO INTEGRATE AND PROTECT

**Objective:** To integrate and protect through the provision of sustainable and affordable housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY OBJECTIVES</th>
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<th>PROPOSED ACTIONS (2021-2040)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) AFFORDABLE HOUSING AS INFRASTRUCTURE:</td>
<td>(i) Urban Innovative Actions (UAI) Knowledge Labs (EA, 2019),</td>
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<tr>
<td>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, &amp; Platz, 2016; OECD, 2012).</td>
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<tr>
<td>(ii) BETTER CLIMATE ADAPTATION, URBAN RESILIENCE AND ENERGY TRANSITION:</td>
<td>(i) OECD/Programme on the Circular Economy in Cities and Regions (OECD, 2020c).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning and design of energy-efficient, thermal-ly-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.</td>
<td>(ii) European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (European Commission, 2019b).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(iii) INTEGRATION OF HERITAGE MANAGEMENT and REDEVELOPMENT:</td>
<td>(iv) Houseful project: innovative circular solutions and services for the housing sector (HOUSEFUL, 2020).</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>(v) EcoCities, University of Manchester’s School of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (ECOCECS, 2019).</td>
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<tr>
<td>(iv) DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:</td>
<td>(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).</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>(vii) Green-blue infrastructures and ecosystems-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(v) ASSET-BASED WELFARE STRATEGY:</td>
<td>(viii) 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).</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Ministries review housing policy to include the concept of asset-based welfare strategies, incorporating the idea of social housing as infrastructure.</td>
<td>(ix) Green-blue infrastructures and ecosystems-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</td>
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<td>(vi) HOUSING SECURITY:</td>
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<tr>
<td>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).</td>
<td>(i) OECD Programme on the Circular Economy in Cities and Regions (OECD, 2020c).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(v) Assessment mechanisms incorporate assessment of resilience to climate change and natural hazards.</td>
<td>(ii) OECD Programme on the Circular Economy in Cities and Regions (OECD, 2020c).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(v) Assessment mechanisms incorporate assessment of resilience to climate change and natural hazards.</td>
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<td>(vii) Houseful project: innovative circular solutions and services for the housing sector (HOUSEFUL, 2020).</td>
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<tr>
<td>(vii) Houseful project: innovative circular solutions and services for the housing sector (HOUSEFUL, 2020).</td>
<td>(v) OECD/Programme on the Circular Economy in Cities and Regions (OECD, 2020c).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(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).</td>
<td>(iii) National Ministries review NUPs and NHPs for gaps in heritage reuse and redevelopment, including principles of the Circular Economy.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(vi) National Ministries review NUPs and NHPs for gaps in heritage reuse and redevelopment, including principles of the Circular Economy.</td>
<td>(v) National Ministries review NUPs and NHPs for gaps in heritage reuse and redevelopment, including principles of the Circular Economy.</td>
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**Axis of Intervention 1 Housing Action Plan - Executive Summary**

**Objective:** To integrate and protect through the provision of sustainable and affordable housing

- **(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).

- **(ii) BETTER CLIMATE ADAPTATION, URBAN RESILIENCE AND ENERGY TRANSITION:** Planning and design of energy-efficient, thermal-ly-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.

- **(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.

- **(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.

- **(v) 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.

- **(vi) 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).

- **(vii) Houseful project:** innovative circular solutions and services for the housing sector (HOUSEFUL, 2020).

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**Axis of Intervention 1 Housing Action Plan - Executive Summary**

**Objective:** To integrate and protect through the provision of sustainable and affordable housing
**Key Objectives**

1. Affordability, availability, adequacy & access
2. Effective land policy & land administration
3. Effective financing & tenure
4. Sustainable, resilient & accessible design
5. Inclusive financing & tenure
6. Land management coordination, including introduction of innovative forms of land tenure, e.g., community land trusts, cooperative land tenure, social rent, etc.

**Proposed Actions (2021-2040)**

1. **National Housing Policies (NHPs)**: National housing policies (NHPs) are created or updated to reflect this Housing Action Plan.
2. **NUPs and ICDSs**: NUPs and ICDSs incorporate innovative financing mechanisms.
3. **Land Administration**: National Ministries set up land administration tools.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **Housing Strategies**: Housing strategies address vulnerable groups.
7. **Spatial Justice**: NUPs and ICDSs are updated to address the housing needs of elderly, young, vulnerable, and disabled people. NUPs and a substantial number of ICDSs are updated to address the housing needs of elderly, young, vulnerable, and disabled people.

**Criteria of Success**

1. National Housing Policies are created or updated in all UfM Member States in line with this Axis of Intervention.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION 5: TO IMPLEMENT AND MANAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective: To implement and manage the provision of sustainable and affordable housing</td>
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</table>

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(iv) sustainable, resilient &amp; accessible design, (vi) upgrading, maintenance &amp; management of existing housing stock</td>
<td>(xii) Updating building requirements that address climate change and natural hazards integrated into NUPs and ICDSs.</td>
<td>(vi) 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.</td>
<td>(x) All NUPs and a substantial number of ICDSs are updated to reflect building requirements in earthquake-prone areas and areas where climate action is immediately needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(xiii) Sustainable, resilient &amp; accessible design (vi) upgrading, maintenance &amp; management of existing housing stock</td>
<td>(x) Slum upgrading programmes are set up where they do not exist, in line with this Action Plan, and focusing on spatial justice and citizen engagement and co-design.</td>
<td>(xi) Countries, where informal urbanization is significant, prepare slum upgrading strategies focused on spatial justice and citizen engagement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(xv) Sustainable, resilient &amp; accessible design (vi) upgrading, maintenance &amp; management of existing housing stock</td>
<td>(xiv) House Retrofitting Programmes.</td>
<td>(x) 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).</td>
<td>(xii) Modern housing retrofitting programmes that address both environmental aspects and the 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(xvi) Upgrading, maintenance &amp; management of existing housing stock</td>
<td>(xvi) Updated building requirements that address climate change and natural hazards integrated into NUPs and ICDSs.</td>
<td>(xv) UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.</td>
<td>(v) All NUPs and a substantial number of 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.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: The table continues with similar entries for other objectives and tools, focusing on the implementation and management of sustainable and affordable housing.
Objective: To monitor and communicate on the provision of sustainable and affordable housing

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

**KEY TOOLS**

**PROPOSED ACTIONS (2021-2040)**

**CRITERIA OF SUCCESS**

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**GOOD MONITORING, PEER, AND INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING:**

Monitoring and benchmarking of housing provision across the region, accompanied by peer and institutional learning that improves the capacity of governments to respond to housing challenges in informed, networked ways.

- (i) OECD Affordable Housing Database and the OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH).
- (ii) JRC data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- (iii) Eurostat and OECD affordable housing indicators.
- (iv) UNStats SDG Monitoring and Reporting Toolkit.
- (v) UNICES Working Party on Land Administration.

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**DATA COLLECTION:**

To extend the OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH) to UfM countries not currently covered. QuASH helps to assess the main challenges faced by households in accessing good and affordable housing, and summarizes housing policies in countries. This tool could be extended to other countries to document and track housing policy objectives, measures, and outcomes over time. The OECD may also cooperate with the UfM in knowledge-sharing workshops and conferences, bringing together experts and practitioners from different countries to discuss specific housing affordability data challenges.

- (i) The OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH) is extended to UfM countries not previously covered.

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**DATA MANAGEMENT:**

A possible partnership with the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) on a strategy for data, inspired by the European data strategy (European Commission, 2019c), which aims to empower citizens and other stakeholders in sound decision-making. UfM/JRC/OECD data collection, analysis, and reporting start in 2022, with a tailored list of indicators, commonly agreed definitions and collection methodologies to be further detailed. The UfM Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting Systems will work with national statistical offices (also with JRC/OECD, if possible), to help improve evaluation, monitoring and reporting systems on housing at local level in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It will focus on monitoring adequacy (equality standards), affordability, access to housing opportunities (allocation, standards) and accessibility (land use planning).

- (i) An increasing number of UfM countries can correctly and smartly evaluate their capacity to monitor affordable and sustainable housing conditions and institutionalize the collection of relevant housing and urban indicators and their reporting to inform policy actions.

---

**PROPERTY REGISTRIES:**

To support countries in establishing property registers, cadastre maps, prepare address registers and geographic information, for the purposes of effective land management, including property rights, development control, strategic urban planning and revenue raising (UNECE, 2008b, 2016).

- (ii) An increasing number of UfM countries have evaluated their capacity to monitor affordable and sustainable housing conditions and institutionalized the collection of relevant housing and urban indicators and their reporting to inform policy actions.

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**AFFORDABLE HOUSING INDICATORS:**

To define common housing indicators, following the models set by Eurostat and OECD (Eurostat, 2021; OECD, 2016a, 2016b, 2016c, 2020), as well as indicators for SDG 11-related housing indicators (Eurostat, 2021; UN, 2021; UNStats, 2020), and those further agreed by UfM countries.

- (vi) A Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub is established at a partner university, and it starts collecting data on housing systems systematically from non-EU UfM countries and make data available through one of its existing platforms, in partnership with the UfM, Housing Europe, JRC, OECD.

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**COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION:**

The UfM Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting Systems, in partnership with the Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub and the Universities Network, will also establish a communication and reporting strategy that goes beyond technical reports, and produces materials for a wider range of stakeholders, including citizens, businesses and academia. It will make ample use of digital communication strategies, as well as digital platforms for online policy-focused knowledge-sharing on specific policy challenges and best practices.

- (vi) A shared affordable housing index is established by the Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub.

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**MEDITERRANEAN HOUSING KNOWLEDGE HUB:**

A Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub is set up in a partner university.

- (vii) Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub is created at one of the partner universities, in partnership with Housing Europe, if possible, and produces regular assessments of housing systems in the region, based on criteria listed in this Action Plan.

---

**DATA MANAGEMENT:**

A possible partnership with the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) on a strategy for data, inspired by the European data strategy (European Commission, 2019c), which aims to empower citizens and other stakeholders in sound decision-making. UfM/JRC/OECD data collection, analysis, and reporting start in 2022, with a tailored list of indicators, commonly agreed definitions and collection methodologies to be further detailed. The UfM Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting Systems will work with national statistical offices (also with JRC/OECD, if possible), to help improve evaluation, monitoring and reporting systems on housing at local level in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It will focus on monitoring adequacy (equality standards), affordability, access to housing opportunities (allocation, standards) and accessibility (land use planning).

- (i) An increasing number of UfM countries can correctly and smartly evaluate their capacity to monitor affordable and sustainable housing conditions and institutionalize the collection of relevant housing and urban indicators and their reporting to inform policy actions.

---

**PROPERTY REGISTRIES:**

To support countries in establishing property registers, cadastre maps, prepare address registers and geographic information, for the purposes of effective land management, including property rights, development control, strategic urban planning and revenue raising (UNECE, 2008b, 2016).

- (ii) An increasing number of UfM countries have evaluated their capacity to monitor affordable and sustainable housing conditions and institutionalized the collection of relevant housing and urban indicators and their reporting to inform policy actions.

---

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING INDICATORS:**

To define common housing indicators, following the models set by Eurostat and OECD (Eurostat, 2021; OECD, 2016a, 2016b, 2016c, 2020), as well as indicators for SDG 11-related housing indicators (Eurostat, 2021; UN, 2021; UNStats, 2020), and those further agreed by UfM countries.

- (vi) A Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub is established at a partner university, and it starts collecting data on housing systems systematically from non-EU UfM countries and make data available through one of its existing platforms, in partnership with the UfM, Housing Europe, JRC, OECD.

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**COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION:**

The UfM Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting Systems, in partnership with the Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub and the Universities Network, will also establish a communication and reporting strategy that goes beyond technical reports, and produces materials for a wider range of stakeholders, including citizens, businesses and academia. It will make ample use of digital communication strategies, as well as digital platforms for online policy-focused knowledge-sharing on specific policy challenges and best practices.

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**MEDITERRANEAN HOUSING KNOWLEDGE HUB:**

A Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub is set up in a partner university.

- (vii) Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub is created at one of the partner universities, in partnership with Housing Europe, if possible, and produces regular assessments of housing systems in the region, based on criteria listed in this Action Plan.

---
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.

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.

3. To address housing provision from a multi-dimensional and integrated perspective.

4. POLICY CHALLENGE 1: affordability, availability, adequacy & access

5. POLICY CHALLENGE 2: effective land policy & land administration.

6. POLICY CHALLENGE 3: effective financing and tenure

7. POLICY CHALLENGE 4: sustainable, resilient & accessible design/ POLICY CHALLENGE 6: upgrading, maintenance & management of existing housing stock.

8. POLICY CHALLENGE 5: innovative strategies to address climate change and natural hazards integrated into NHPs and ICDSs.


National Housing Policies are created or updated in all UfM Member States in line with this Axis of Intervention.

National Housing Policies are created or updated to reflect this Housing Action Plan.

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.

To be carried out by National Ministries.

Modem 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.

To be carried out by National Ministries.

A gathering of Mediterranean Housing Cooperatives is organised.

The UfM Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting, UfM-IFIs Urban Development Project Committees and the Mediterranean Housing Knowledge Hub will seek synergies and ensure ongoing exchange on substantive issues, housing and identifying financing gaps and funding opportunities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9. POLICY CHALLENGE 5: upgrading informal urbanisation</th>
<th>10. POLICY CHALLENGE 6: upgrading, maintenance &amp; management of existing housing stock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLICY CHALLENGE 4: sustainable, resilient &amp; accessible design</td>
<td>POLICY CHALLENGE 6: upgrading, maintenance &amp; management of existing housing stock</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11. POLICY CHALLENGE 6: upgrading, maintenance &amp; management of existing housing stock</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(viii) SLUM UPGRADE: 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.

Countries where informal urbanisation is significant have prepared slum upgrading strategies focused on spatial justice and citizen engagement.

(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).

Modern housing retrofitting programmes that address both environmental aspects and 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.

(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.

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.