

HOUSE  IN

PRACTICE PARTNER PROFILES

Project Coordination

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www.ufz.de/house-in

About the project

Given the context of increased heterogeneous immigration to European cities, HOUSE-IN will discuss existing research findings with respect to a common understanding of a Housing-Integration-Nexus. The project will identify knowledge and implementation gaps towards integrative housing strategies in European cities, while the focus is put on the situation of migrants and refugees. The pivotal question is: How can integration be achieved through inclusive housing strategies in urban neighbourhoods?

To respond to this question, HOUSE-IN will use existing inter-disciplinary and trans-regional knowledge for identifying gaps at the housing-integration intersection, co-create new paradigms of discourse and co-design innovative housing strategies based on a cross-case learning exchange and foster new capacities for policy and action through building a comprehensive methodology for transfer of knowledge. To reach this, HOUSE-IN will set up Urban Living Labs in the case studies Riga, Vienna, Leipzig and Helsingborg/Lund. This approach can be understood as inter- and transdisciplinary action-oriented/applied research endeavour of iterative learning in order to co-create tailored solutions to real life problems. We intend to bring together the perspectives of scientists, policy-makers, local associations, stakeholders and activists and affected inhabitants in order to identify and jointly address gaps at the intersections of housing and social inclusion.

This collection of **Practice Partner Profiles** should give an overview on the partners involved and their activities related to the Nexus of Housing and Integration.

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Case Study Leipzig



Kontaktstelle Wohnen / *Contact Point Housing*

Activities related to Housing-Integration-Nexus	<p>KW consults and supports refugees in Leipzig with finding a living space since 2016 (also region around Leipzig and Northern Saxony).</p> <p>The team offers weekly consultation-hours in order to register the housing demand and to inform about self-organised housing seeking process.</p> <p>Additionally, they daily scan the housing offers in order to directly facilitate housing and also support communication with landlords and housing formalia, join housing seeking refugees for apartment inspections and moving in.</p> <p>For those having moved to an own living space, they offer housing consultation. So far, they successfully supported around 300 persons per year with moving into their own living space.</p>
Team and funding	<p>12 part-time team members</p> <p>Supporting association: Zusammen e.V. (registered association) which has the aim to fight for adequate housing and solidaric neighbourhoods and, besides running KW, also is in charge of the neighbourhood management in Leipzig-Grünau (Quartiersmanagement Grünau)</p> <p>funding: City of Leipzig, State of Saxony, BAMF - German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (until 10/21), private donation</p>
Current situation	<p>The housing market development in Leipzig makes it harder to find flats according to the limits of social welfare for recipients that are within the asylum procedure or acknowledged refugees without an income. So far there are more than 800 households on the waiting list for housing, among those 150 severe cases (such as illness, pregnancy, crowded housing, threat of homelessness)</p>
Web	<p>https://kontaktstelle-wohnen.de</p>
Contact person for HOUSE-IN	<p>Richard Werban</p> <p>richard.werban@kontaktstelle-wohnen.de</p> <p>Tel. 049-176-45862670</p>





**Activities
related to
Housing and
Integration**

IF wishes for encounter and dialogue between women of different cultures and origin and wants to foster the understanding of different ways of living and thinking. The team supports self-initiative and personal development of women and organize cultural events (such as lectures, seminars, musical and country-specific evenings). They support, consult and accompany women with or without a migration history in their daily life and especially aim at breaking the isolation and support self-confidence of long-term unemployed women. The team offers consultation regarding various daily life issues, support with welfare applications, paperwork for authorities and translation. They have three offices in the Eastern Leipzig districts Volkmarsdorf and Schönefeld. At every local office, the team organises open meetings for women and men, as well as events and workshops. For larger events the three offices work together and support each other. The Office in Volkmarsdorf is also one of 6 consultation offices for refugees that live in so-called decentral accommodation (not in camps).

**Team and
funding**

12 part-time team members with 9 languages spoken (Arabic, German, English, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Kurdish and Vietnamese); Project-based funding, e.g. from the European Social Fund, Office for Social Affairs/City of Leipzig, and the State of Saxony.

**Current
situation**

Due to the Covid-19-pandemic, the municipal authorities have been closed to public, so that application procedures and the overall communication was complicated. Except the lockdown phases, IF almost continuously offered personal advice during pandemic times while taking security measures within their office spaces. The association faces a lack of funding for up-to-date technical devices necessary for assuring digital communication formats. The issue of racism affects the work of the team in various ways (individually and experiences of clients).

Web

<https://if-leipzig.de/>

**Contact
person for
HOUSE-IN**

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**Activities
related to
Housing and
Integration**

The Department for Migration and Integration of the City of Leipzig (ReMI) is in charge of all issues related to inter-cultural life and integration support within the municipality of Leipzig. It aims at enabling and supporting the integration and access to societal life for people with a migrant biography and to work against discrimination. It forms the interface between administration and stakeholders of integration work, thus is part of expert panels and municipal working groups and supports networking and cooperation among different actors. It also runs the information websites on migration and integration and is the main organizer of a citywide event series on interculturalism. ReMi is also in charge of compiling, evaluating and enhancing the municipal concept on integration.

The ReMI also runs the City of Leipzig's **Welcome Centre**, an advice centre for all people with a migration background - regardless of their residence status - who have newly moved to Leipzig or already live in the city. The center offers orientation and counselling sessions in English as part of the Citizens' Office Services, multilingual initial and referral counselling as well as referral to the relevant offices on all important questions of daily life. Visitors receive a list of housing cooperatives, real estate managements, internet portals and shared flats. One is given suggestion to certain companies or websites where we know from experience that people with a migration biography have a better chance of being able to rent a property as well as information about the necessary documents that are usually required by landlords in order to rent a property. The regular and free information events deal, among other things, with the topics of finding a flat and the aspects of renting, as well as about conclusion of a rental agreement and operating costs (incidental costs).

**Team and
funding**

14 (full- and part-time) team members with various languages spoken (e. g. German, English, Turkish, Spanish, Arab, Japanese, Italian, Romanian) Funding: municipal budget, state budget, third-party funds

**Current
situation**

All staff members are able to work in the office or home office. Counselling is possible via telephone and online tools, events and further meetings take place via online tools, too. The Welcome Centre is open on two days a week, questions are also answered via E-Mail and telephone.

Web

<http://www.leipzig.de/integration>
[Welcome Center](#) (English language)

**Contact
person for
HOUSE-IN**

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Case Study Riga

Patvērums „Drošā māja“ / *Shelter Safe House*



Activities related to Housing and Integration	PDM offers advise services to asylum seekers, refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection status that often includes assistance in finding and securing housing. PDM offers a flat that can be used by clients as transitional housing after residing in asylum center.
Team and funding	52 team members (4 full time, others hour time) Funding: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the EU; Erasmus+; private donation
Current situation	PDM continues its programmes and projects during the pandemic, most of the consultation work is moved online.
Web	https://www.patverums-dm.lv/en/home
Contact person for HOUSE-IN	Gunta Vīksne gunta.viksne@gmail.com Tel. +371 2918 0450



Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem / *I want to help refugees*



Activities related to Housing and Integration

GPB gives practical, immediate and voluntary assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and persons with alternative status in integrating economically, socially and culturally based on the identified needs. GPB assists in finding accommodation and covers urgent expenses to refugees in difficulty, including the initial utility payments and rent before a person can receive financial aid from municipality. In the past GPB also has provided rental assurance to landlords.

Team and funding

2 full-time team members, 30 volunteers
Private donations, an UNHCR project

Current situation

GPB assists in finding housing amidst Covid-19 conditions and finding quarantine spaces for refugees who are returned from other countries.

Web

<https://gribupalidzetbegliem.lv/>
<https://www.facebook.com/GPBegliem/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.gribupalidzetbegliem.lv/about/>

Contact person for HOUSE-IN

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Activities related to Housing and Integration	WD oversees municipal social policy, administers financial (rent) support for refugees and persons with alternative status, and manages social housing requests. WD also oversees shelters and social services to third country nationals in-risk-of-poverty.
Team and funding	69 full-time team members Funding (rent support): Ministry of Welfare
Current situation	Due to Covid-19 pandemic WD has increased housing space in shelters to reduce the risk of outbreaks. There are plans to use the European Recovery and Resilience Facility to improve quality of social housing stock. Budget for 2021 includes funds for the renovation of three municipal social buildings that combine more than 200 flats.
Web	https://ld.riga.lv/lv/
Contact person for HOUSE-IN	Aldis Strapcāns Aldis.Strapcans@riga.lv Tel. +371 67105373



Case Study Vienna

Stadt Wien – Wiener Wohnen /
City of Vienna – Housing Vienna



Activities related to Housing and Integration	<p>Wiener Wohnen is a subsidiary of the City of Vienna. With approx. 220,000 flats, it is the largest municipal property management company in Europe. Wiener Wohnen manages, renovates and operates Vienna's municipal housing estates, called "Gemeindewohnungen" (community flats).</p> <p>Gemeindewohnungen are characterised by affordable rents and open-ended tenancy agreements. In addition, no commission and, for the most part, no personal funds are required. The flats are allocated according to personal status. This means that a maximum of one apartment may be allocated per eligible person.</p> <p>However, in order to be entitled to a Gemeindewohnung, one must have had one's main residence in Vienna for at least 2 years and be an Austrian citizen (or a citizen of an EU/EEA country/Switzerland, or have a status as a recognised refugee).</p>
Team and funding	<p>Wiener Wohnen, as an undertaking of the City of Vienna, is not a commercial enterprise, but an operationally managed service; it employs employees of the City of Vienna and its budget appears in the municipalities budget. It employs 4500 people.</p>
Current situation	<p>Due to the pandemic, Wiener Wohnen offers its tenants who are in financial difficulties to pay their rent in part instalments.</p>
Web	<p>https://www.wienerwohnen.at/</p>
Contact person for HOUSE-IN	<p>Dr. Julia Girardi-Hoog julia.girardi-hoog@wien.gv.at</p>

Wohnpartner / *Housing Partner*



Activities related to Housing and Integration

Wohnpartner was founded in 2010 as part of Wohnservice Wien (a subsidiary of the City of Vienna). The organisation helps Vienna's municipal housing (Gemeindebau) with social work to improve housing quality, promote active participation in the residents' living environment and provides professional support on issues of living together. They emphasise inclusiveness, participation, empowerment and diversity.

The services offered by wohnpartner include community work, conflict mediation and networking. The offers of wohnpartner are to be taken up voluntarily by the residents. In this sense, it is not about providing or finding a solution from outside, but about promoting personal responsibility and supporting residents to contribute to solving their problems and implementing their interests themselves.

wohnpartner engages in intensive networking with various cooperation partners - first and foremost with Wiener Wohnen. The organisation also networks with other social institutions. Furthermore, it communicates with the City of Vienna as a client and with supra-regional cooperation partners, such as educational institutions.

Team and funding

Wohnpartner employees over 150 employees.

Current situation

Due to Covid-19, the wohnpartner locations are currently closed for personal consultations. However, counselling is still possible by phone and staff members are also working on site.

Web

<https://wohnpartner-wien.at>

Contact person for HOUSE-IN

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Activities related to Housing and Integration

Wohnbund:consult exists as a research and consulting agency for innovative housing, social planning and urban development.

Wohnbund work on current urban and housing issues within the framework of applied research, development and planning.

They design and accompany housing policy initiatives, innovative housing projects and urban development processes with expert knowledge. Among other things, they develop innovative housing programmes, positioning ideas, utilisation concepts, concepts for social infrastructure and target group identification. They accompany participation processes and conduct research.

Team and funding

7 team members.

Since 2019, wohnbund:consult has been a registered cooperative

Current situation

There are no known major restrictions due to Covid-19. Services are still available in person or via online meeting.

Web

<https://wohnbund.at>

Contact person for HOUSE-IN

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01/5220119



Wonderland



Activities related to Housing and Integration

Wonderland provides a communication and exchange platform between European practitioners. The network conducts research, realises co-creation workshops, publishes findings and results, organises public screenings, discussions and other events to involve non-professionals and to stimulate discourse.

For House-In, Wonderland would take on the role of communication & dissemination partner. With their public film screenings "Movies in Wonderland", Wonderland brings architectural and urban planning topics to the public.

Team and funding

Wonderland is an independent NGO established in 2004. Association members come from many different European countries. Their backgrounds are contemporary architecture and urbanism, culture, arts, politics, economy, science and other practice backgrounds.

Current situation

There are no known major restrictions due to Covid-19, though many in person activities were canceled or taken online.

Web

<https://wonderland.cx/>

Contact person for HOUSE-IN

Marlene Rutzendorfer

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Case Study Helsingborg/Lund

Helsingborgshem /
Municipal Housing Company of the City of Helsingborg



**Activities
related to
Housing and
Integration**

Helsingborgshem is a public housing corporation owned by the City of Helsingborg. With more than 12,000 rental apartments in 31 residential areas, they are the main player in the Helsingborg housing market. Approximately one in every five residents of Helsingborg lives in one of the properties. Helsingborgshem offers a wide range of homes for customers with different preferences and needs. They have ordinary apartments of various sizes and designs, townhouses, student rooms, senior housing and collective housing. In addition to homes, they also rent out premises that can contain anything from health centres and businesses to preschools and companies.

Project SÄLLBO “Less loneliness, more integration”: Known as SällBo, from the Swedish words sällskap (companionship) and bo (living), this unique, social living project brings senior citizens and young adults together to reduce loneliness and promote integration across generations and cultural backgrounds. Residents in 31 of the 51 apartments at Brigadgatan 4A are senior citizens over 70 years old. The rest are young adults between the ages of 18 and 25, half of whom have recently arrived in Sweden, without their parents. Some of the residents live alone after having lost their partners to old age. And while they each have their own private apartments, they have all chosen to live here for the chance to share quality time with their neighbours. They also organise regular activities in the generous common areas which include e.g. a shared living room, four shared kitchens, an arts and crafts studio, a library, a yoga room and outdoor social areas. [VIDEO on SÄLLBÖ \(youtube, 5 min.\)](#)

**Team/
funding**

Team for SällBo companion housing: 2 members - 1 host working 100% in the house and 1 project manager of the concept.

**Current
situation**

The situation in SällBo is at a normal level (2 February 2022), regarding socialisation between the tenants and their use of the common spaces but there are still restrictions for outside visits as, study visits, media, etc.

Web

General Information: <https://www.helsingborgshem.se/om-oss/about-us>

Information: <https://h22.se/en/initiators/helsingborgshem/>

Information on Access to Housing and Rental policy:
<https://www.helsingborgshem.se/sok-ledigt/in-english>

**Contact
person for
HOUSE-IN**

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Activities related to Housing and Integration

The Housing Department within City of Lund has collaborated with different stakeholders to develop new housing projects whilst supporting integration of newly arrived refugees through collaboration with civil society associations.

New housing projects for refugees include temporal modular housing in Linero, Dalby, Veberöd och Väster composed by 24 apartment units each. The 96 units for around 300 inhabitants were built by LKF, the municipal housing company of the City of Lund. The permanent housing project Ängsladan in Dalby (100 apartments) was built by the private company OBOs Sverige. The permanent housing project in Genarp (duplex housing, 32 apartment units) was built by the housing cooperative Riksbyggen. Different associations from civil society collaborate with the municipality to connect cultural and sports associations with refugees through activities carried out in the respective housing areas built for refugees.

Team/funding

The Housing Department was established at the Service Committee of the City of Lund with the task of meeting the municipality's need for housing for social purposes and for the target group of new arrivals since the autumn 2018.

Current situation

The COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing. The network of Language Cafés in Lund has suspended its activities (2 February 2022). Conversely, integration activities within Project Prisma carried out by the association EOS Cares in different premises are ongoing.

Web

<https://skr.se/skr/tjanster/larandeexempel/allalarandeexempel/etthallbartlivskonceptfornyanlandasomborimodulbostader.50775.html>

<https://lund.se/nyheter/beslut-i-korthet/2022-01-25-servicenamnden---aktuella-beslut-januari-2022>

Contact person for HOUSE-IN

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