



# Press release

6 November 2020

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## **Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU: European conference on housing policy**

### **Study analyses housing policies in EU member states**

The Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community is hosting the European conference on housing policy today. This online conference is the main event in the field of housing policy to be held under the auspices of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The conference focuses on the key results of the research project "Housing Policies in the EU" conducted by the Technical University of Darmstadt and the IWU research institute for housing and environment. The study creates a shared basis of knowledge and offers a better foundation for analysis and decision-making by the EU member states, thereby preparing the way for more intensive interministerial cooperation.

Speaking about the study, Volkmar Vogel, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, said, *"We in the various EU member states are facing the same urgent challenges in the field of housing policy, even if the economic and social conditions vary widely from country to country. These challenges include transitioning to climate-neutral buildings, making sure housing remains affordable especially for low-income households, and managing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on housing and urban development. The results of the study show that housing policy is a prime example of the importance of the subsidiarity principle in the EU and of true diversity."*

Following on the study results, the conference agenda includes a moderated panel discussion of key issues with significance for the entire EU, such as affordable housing, climate change mitigation in the building sector, demographic change and the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to Parliamentary State Secretary Vogel, the high-level panel features Estrella Durá Ferrandis of the European Parliament; Stefan Moser of the European Commission; Emmanuelle Wargon and Edmunds Valantis, state secretaries responsible for housing in France and Latvia, respectively; and Dr Marietta Haffner, member of the study's advisory board.

Dr Claus Michelsen of the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) will speak on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and on housing markets.

## **Background**

The study offers the most comprehensive and detailed comparative overview of housing policy in all EU member states to date. The research project considers important aspects of and developments in European housing policy of all EU member states, from the organisation of housing policy to the structure of housing markets and the composition of housing policy instruments.

The study's key findings:

- All member states are facing the same central housing policy challenges, such as affordable housing and energy-efficient buildings.
- Member states' housing markets and housing policies differ greatly in every area due to different national conditions and historical experience.
- The EU principle of subsidiarity is key. The differences between member states clearly justify national and/or regional policy-making authority.

Following the conference, the study will be available online at <https://www.die-wohnraumoffensive.de/aktivitaeten/veranstaltungen/konferenz-zur-eu-wohnungspolitik/>