



**Brick by Brick:**

Building Better Housing Policies



## Programme

# OECD High-Level Policy Roundtable on Better Housing for Better Lives

16 June 2021 | 14:00-16:45 CET

## Introduction

Housing is one of the most complex policy challenges facing societies nowadays. More than a home or a shelter, housing is also an item in balance sheets and a physical asset with an imprint on the environment. Rising house prices and rents in many parts of the world are placing an increasingly heavy burden on household budgets, especially among the less affluent social groups. Part of the challenge is that the supply of dwellings, including social housing, has not kept pace with strong demand, notably in the most sought-after cities and metropolitan areas.

At the same time, the COVID-19 crisis has exposed inequalities in housing conditions among population groups. Also, to the extent that changes in working habits and behaviour brought about by the pandemic are here to stay, they will encourage a rethink of urban development programmes, mass urban transport systems, the provision of services and amenities within metropolitan areas, and many other dimensions of housing policies that are at the interface of finance, urban planning, transport and social policies

The OECD has launched a Housing Policy Toolkit to help analysts and policymakers make better housing policies. The Toolkit contains a report entitled *Brick by Brick: Building Better Housing Policies* that summarises the main findings of two years of analysis and evidence on several aspects of housing, including the design of a range of housing-relevant policies. The Toolkit also features a Dashboard of indicators covering outcomes and policy settings, and it is accompanied by Snapshots of the housing sector in different countries.

The Toolkit emphasises three key aspects of housing policies -- inclusiveness, efficiency and sustainability -- and it is the outcome of the joint work and collective experience of several policy communities represented in the OECD Secretariat and committees.

A central policy objective is to ensure inclusive access to quality housing at affordable cost. Recent progress can be charted with new updates to cross-country indicators in the OECD Affordable Housing Database, covering the housing market, housing conditions and affordability, and public policies to facilitate affordable housing in over 40 countries.

The goal of the Roundtable is to provide an opportunity for senior policymakers to exchange views on the key challenges they are facing and policy strategies their country is pursuing in the area of housing in the light of the evidence and insights provided by the Toolkit to inform policy choices and disseminate international experience and good practices.



#### **14.00-14.10 Opening**

Welcome and introductory remarks by Secretary-General Mathias Cormann

#### **14.10-14.20 Keynote speech**

Enrico Giovannini, Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, Italy

Moderated by Luiz de Mello, Director of Policy Studies, OECD Economics Department

#### **14.20-15.35 Mobilising the OECD Housing Policy Toolkit to future-proof housing markets**

Discussion moderated by Åsa Johansson, Assistant-Director, Policy Studies Branch, OECD Economics Department, with:

- Sverre Vatnar, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Norway
- Edmunds Valantis, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy, Latvia
- Lisa Help, Mayor of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
- Kurt Usowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States
- Dimitris Oikonomou, Advisor to the Prime Minister and former Deputy Minister for Spatial Planning, Greece
- Erwin Schwärzer, Head of the Housing Division, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, Germany

For more information please visit [housingpolicytoolkit.oecd.org](https://housingpolicytoolkit.oecd.org)

#### **15.35-16:45 Investing in affordable and social housing to facilitate an inclusive economic recovery**

Presentation of the OECD Affordable Housing Database

Stefano Scarpetta, OECD Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

Discussion moderated by Monika Queisser, Senior Counsellor and Head of the OECD Social Policy Division, with:

- Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic, Director of Social Affairs, Directorate-General for Employment, European Commission
- Bent Madsen, President of Housing Europe, Director of BL - Danish Social Housing
- Patricia Roset-Zuppa, Vice-President of Policy, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

For more information please visit : [Affordable Housing Database - OECD](#)