

# PROGRAMME





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## European Week of Regions and Cities

### PES Group participatory lab

#### Affordable.Social.Sustainable. Local solutions for housing

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 **Tuesday 11 October 2022**  **9:30 – 11:00 CEST**  
 Room JDE 62, European Committee of the Regions, Brussels  
The entire event will be in English without interpretation  
 #EURRegionsWeek #HousingForAll

### About the event

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#### Background

The **European Week of Regions and Cities** is an annual four-day event during which cities and regions showcase their capacity to create growth and jobs, implement European Union cohesion policy, and prove the importance of the local and regional levels for good European governance. This year, the Week will host more than 300 events.

The **PES Group** in the European Committee of the Regions is organising a **participatory lab on housing**, made of four discussion tables.

The aimed participants of this event are young elected regional and local politicians from all around the EU. They will be joined at the table by some expert participants and supported in the discussion by moderators.

#### General description of the event

Housing is a human right that must be guaranteed to everybody. But today, more than 80 million individuals, among which many young people, are affected by the lack of affordable housing in Europe. The housing emergency is a long-term challenge, but the effects of the recent crises have made this problem an urgent matter that requires progressive responses.

Local and regional authorities must be recognised and supported by the European Union in their crucial role in addressing the housing shortages in a sustainable way despite the lack of financing. To strengthen Europe's cohesion and build a socially just and inclusive recovery, we need to make sure that every citizen benefits from decent, affordable, and sustainable housing. Through this Progressive Local Lab, following the implementation of the [PES Group campaign](#)

[#HousingForAll](#) and in the framework of the European Year of Youth, we want to put forward concrete ideas to support different housing policies in the future.

Participants will be divided into different groups to prepare recommendations on four key topics: social housing, sustainable housing, emergency housing, and youth & housing. With the support of experts and PES Group members, they will develop a joint Declaration to be presented at the forthcoming PES Group meeting on the same day.

## Agenda of the event

**Presenter:** Michaela Kauer



**Michaela Kauer, Co-coordinator of the EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership and Director of the Brussels Liaison Office of the City of Vienna**

Michaela Kauer has strong experience in working in the public policy field, focusing on urban policy, housing, public services, long-term investment and urban policy. Strong business development professional, she also holds an

MBA focused in International Public Management from University of Salzburg.

**🕒 9:30 – 9:40**

### **Opening by the presenter and the PES Group President**

Introduction of the scope of the lab and welcome.



**Christophe Rouillon, President of the PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions and Mayor of Coulaines, France**

Christophe Rouillon is the Mayor of Coulaines, the Second Vice-President of the Le Mans Métropole (responsible for budget and European funds), the Vice-President of the Association of French Mayors (responsible for Europe) and, since October 2019, the President of the PES Group in the European

Committee of the Regions. In 2001, he was elected Mayor of Coulaines, and was reconfirmed in this position in the 2004, 2008, 2011 and 2014 local elections.

**🕒 9:40 – 10:30**

### **Round tables exercise with moderators**

The participants will divide into four tables, following their preference, and will create four chapters of the Declaration that will be the outcome of the participatory lab.

Each table will have a moderator who will give an introduction and some input on the topic discussed and will ensure a high-level discussion.

- Social housing – Michaela Kauer
- Sustainable housing – Kata Tüttö
- Emergency housing – Nawal Ben Hamou
- Youth & housing – Alice Pittini



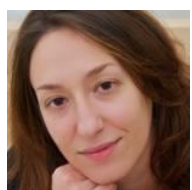
**Kata Tüttö, Deputy-Mayor of Budapest and Vice-President of the PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions**

Kata Tüttö is a Hungarian politician and economist and, since October 2019, Deputy-Mayor of Budapest, responsible for utility management, including, waste, water, streetlights, and public transport. She is also chairing the Operational Group responsible for the city's responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a member of the European Committee of the Regions, she has been a rapporteur on several major opinions concerning climate and circular economy and she is the Chair of the Commission for the environment, climate change and energy. She has been part of the Committee of the Regions' delegation to the COP 26 in Glasgow.



**Nawal Ben Hamou, Secretary of State of the Brussels-Capital Region, responsible for Housing and Equal Opportunities**

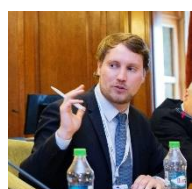
Nawal Ben Hamou has been appointed in July 2019 Secretary of State for Housing and Equal Opportunities becoming in charge of the portfolio of Social Cohesion and Sports. Her two main priorities for this legislature are the right to decent housing and the fight against all forms of discrimination.



**Alice Pittini, Research Director at Housing Europe**

Alice Pittini leads the daily work of the European Social Housing Observatory, coordinating comparative studies, thematic briefings and articles. As the go-to person for facts and figures around housing in Europe, she delivers presentations in various events that try to make a reality check with what happens on the ground. She also works closely with the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Observatory.

**Pre-selected expert participants:**



**Karel Vanderpoorten, Policy officer on social economy at DG GROW, European Commission - *Social housing***

Karel Vanderpoorten works, for more than four years, as a policy officer on social economy at the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs in the European Commission. He is currently working on projects related to the new Affordable housing initiative, part of the Commission's renovation wave strategy for Europe.



**Mikko Aaltonen, Member of Tampere City Council, Finland, and member of the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions - *Emergency housing***

Mikko Aaltonen has wide expertise on housing policies related especially to homelessness, becoming PES Rapporteur on this topic. He also represents the European Committee of the Regions in the Steering Board of the European Platform for Combatting Homelessness (EPOCH).



**Chiara Massarotto, Policy officer at the International Union of Tenants (IUT) – *Youth & housing***

Chiara Massarotto graduated in International and Diplomatic Affairs at the University of Bologna. She is specialized in EU social and environmental policies and has professional experience both at the European and international

levels. By representing tenants, she commits to ensuring an inclusive green transition and a more sustainable and social Europe.

**🕒 10:30 – 10:50**

### **Presentation of the draft Declaration and endorsement**

Each table will select one representative to present to the entire group the outcomes of the brainstorming.

**🕒 10:50 – 11:00**

### **Closing**

The participatory lab will end with a keynote speech by Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights at the European Commission, and a closing speech by the President of the European Committee of the Regions and PES Group member, Vasco Alves Cordeiro.



#### **Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights**

Nicolas Schmit took up office as European Commissioner responsible for Jobs and Social Rights in December 2019. Prior to this, and following a long career of public service in his native Luxembourg, he took up duty as Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the EU in 1998 for a six-year term. In 2004, he was appointed Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Immigration. From 2009 to 2018, he held the position of Minister for Labour and Employment in the Luxembourgish government. He served as a Member of the European Parliament for the social-democratic Lëtzebuerger Sozialistescher Aarbechterpartei following his election in May 2019. Nicolas Schmit holds a Doctorate in International Economic Relations and a Masters in French Literature from the University of Aix-Marseille.



#### **Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of the European Committee of the Regions**

Vasco Cordeiro was President of the Regional Government of the Azores from 2012 until 2020. He has been a member of the European Committee of the Regions since 2013, and First Vice-President of the Committee since 2020. In June 2022, he has been elected as President of the European Committee of the Regions.