



Solutions for Sustainability, Affordability and Inclusivity in Housing and the City's Neighbourhoods

Special session organisers

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Abstract

The proposed Special Session is based on the pilot (research and implementation) urban project entitled “Rock-the-Block: Integrated Participatory Roadmaps for Affordable Co-Living”. This project is funded by the European Union, through the European Urban Initiative for Innovation Actions (EUI-IA), and started being implemented in the Municipality of Egaleo (Attica, Greece) in March 2024 with the participation of 10 different expert partners. Against the background of a continuous and severe housing crisis in Greece (see rising rents, over-indebted households, energy poverty, housing deprivation, evictions and auctions etc.), the “Rock-the-Block” project constitutes an effort to create and offer affordable and decent housing through the implementation of (fully subsidized) integrated interventions in a few selected residential buildings. These integrated interventions (green, energy-related, circular, digital, functional and aesthetic) are designed with the active participation of the residents and through the support of two newly founded municipal structures (the “Housing Office” and the “Co-Living Hub”), along with actions to strengthen community bonds, networks of care and solidarity, and neighborhood relationships. The owners of the upgraded apartments and buildings (in return for the fully subsidized interventions in their property) commit themselves to keeping their apartments available in the long-term rental market and maintaining rents at affordable prices for a certain period of time.

The “Rock-the-Block” project presents many common and/or complementary elements with several other on-going or completed projects and, therefore, partners involved would we have a lot to learn from each other. The proposed Special Session aims at bringing relevant projects together and, thus, create the conditions for partners to meet and know each other, present their work and exchange views and experiences, seeking “solutions for sustainability, affordability and inclusivity in housing and the city's neighbourhoods”.