

Housing in Practice – Athens

Towards cooperative housing and collective ownership

Expert meeting

Municipality of Athens - Athinas Street 63, 105 52 Athens - Greece

Friday, 11 September 2026, 14:30 – 16:30

Background

Athens, Greece, has become one of Europe's most visible examples of what happens when housing markets are left to financialisation and speculation. Soaring rents have made a home unaffordable for large parts of the population, while energy poverty places the burden on the most vulnerable households. Short-term rentals and financialisation of the housing stock have accelerated displacement, and the absence of social housing leaves many with few alternatives. At the same time, **Greece has a long tradition of community self-organisation and cooperative thinking** that is now finding new expression in collaborative housing models and collective ownership initiatives.

With **the EU Affordable Housing Act** due to be presented on 9 September 2026 and an EU Housing Summit set for November under the Irish Presidency, there is **political momentum** to strengthen the EU's efforts in tackling the housing crisis. To translate these commitments into meaningful change, it is crucial to learn from local examples.

Therefore, *FEPS*, together with *ETERON*, will organise this expert exchange and bring together practitioners, policymakers, and civil society representatives to examine what collaborative housing and collective ownership models, such as those developed by the research-advocacy group [CoHab Athens](#), can offer as responses to the housing crisis. **The discussion will put local, regional and national housing challenges into perspective alongside the EU proposals.**

This expert meeting is a FEPS fringe event at the conference "[Democracy at its roots](#)", co-organised by the *City of Athens* and the *PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions*, in collaboration with *FEPS*, *PES*, *S&D*, *YES*, and *PES Women*. Therefore, **this expert meeting will also be enriched by the experience from other local leaders, from the Young Elected Politicians programme of the European Committee of the Regions.**

It is part of FEPS' "*Housing in Practice*" series, a collaboration with FEPS members and progressive local and regional leaders, which offers a platform for housing actors on the ground, such as urban planners, architects, community land trusts and civil society, to engage and test their ideas with policymakers and experts.



Agenda

14:30 – 14:40

Opening remarks

- **Nicolas Schmit**, President, FEPS

14:40 – 15:30

The situation in Greece

Introduction and presentation of CoHab Athens by

- **Dimitra Siatitsa**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Urban Planning, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)

Followed by Q&A with the participants

15:30 – 16:15

Perspectives from other European cities

Introduction and moderation by

- **Tugdual Le Lay**, City Councillor, Guigamp, France

Inputs from Young Elected Politicians

- **Myrto Korovosi**, Member of Parliament for East Attica, Greece
- **Annalena Wirth**, City Councillor in Mannheim, Germany
- **Maja-Stina Köhler**, City Councillor in Eichenzell, Germany

Followed by Q&A with the participants

16:15 – 16:30

Conclusions

- **François Balate**, Policy Analyst, FEPS
- **Antonis Galanopoulos**, Project Coordinator, Eteron

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