HouseInc, a short intro
Context

10.8% of the EU population living in a household where housing costs represent more than 40% of the disposable income (Eurostat, 2023)

22% of the EU population live at risk of (housing) poverty or social exclusion (Eurostat, 2022)

Reducing housing inequality is key to reducing inequality and poverty overall and is one of the most urgent social, economic and political challenges in the EU.
Context

2. Housing affordability deterioration
3. Increase in energy and transport poverty
4. Changing migration patterns
5. Housing as important factor impacting the economic growth as well as the societal health and well-being
Affordable, sustainable, inclusive housing

Economic factors
(e.g. income and wealth disparities, housing costs, loans & interest rates, utility costs)

Social factors
(e.g. availability and accessibility of health, transport, welfare services and infrastructures)

Ecological factors
(e.g. energy efficiency, building performance/quality, neighborhood design - green spaces etc.)
Affordable, sustainable, and inclusive housing

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Labour mobility

Digital poverty

Energy and fuel poverty

Public health

Socio-demographic characteristics of „at“ risk groups

Geographic scales: proximity/distance

Regulatory context: tenure types and housing policies
HouseInc (2024-2027) investigates how housing inequality is driven and impacted by various dimensions of poverty (such as energy, mobility, and health).
HouseInc, a project funded by the European Horizon programme, focuses its research activities on vulnerable groups living in or having migrated from Eastern Europe.

The aim is to develop (policy) solutions to enable a socially just and equitable green transition that contributes to the development of an inclusive European society.

Diversity and a greater social justice are at the heart of HouseInc and the project's objective to examine poverty interlinkages and their impact on housing to derive high-quality policy recommendations.
Apply a holistic integrated methodological approach (micro-meso-macro) to study interlinkages among dimensions of housing inequalities and socio-demographic characteristics of marginalised communities.

Assess and help policymakers understand economic, social and ecological drivers of and related effects on housing inequalities and examine pathways and impacts of their interaction.

Analyse and assess the effects of different types of tenure and policies on housing inequalities.

Investigate the role of geographic scale and conceptualise proximity/distance regarding fragilities in dimensions of housing inequality.

Map, co-design and scale-up social, economic and ecologic/digital solutions to housing inequalities in the context of marginalised communities.

Derive, co-design and validate empirically based and high-quality policy recommendations to address interlinked dimensions of housing inequality on the local, regional and national level.
Target population

By taking a holistic approach, Houselnc will develop solutions that aim to relieve the burden of housing inequality in four marginalised communities in Europe: Roma communities (in Czech Republic and Romania) as well as Ukrainian refugees (in Italy) and migrants from Eastern Europe (in Germany). The selected case studies put a special focus on Eastern Europe and the impact of Russia’s invasion of the Ukraine.

Over 100 community and policy stakeholders will assess validity and ensure adaptability and acceptance of Houselnc developed policy recommendations.

And further! Houselnc solutions and recommendations will contribute to the development of sustainable and inclusive cities and communities throughout Europe.
Activities

A multinational survey (8,000 participants) across 8 countries to provide a snapshot of the impact of ongoing crises on the different dimensions of housing inequality.

Policy recommendations to provide guidelines for policymakers to increase access to affordable, inclusive and sustainable housing for marginalised groups in society.

Establish multi-stakeholder Living Labs and focus groups to co-design solutions at local and regional levels, across at least 15 countries.
Concrete outputs for policy, business and communities

- Several databases (legislation, projects, research, literature, etc.).
- 4 country snapshots - overview of the housing conditions and the policy setting in each case study country.
- Infographics on drivers and impacts.
- 1 atlas of extant financial, environmental, technical and community-based solutions mapped and characterised covering at least 15 EU countries.
- 10 innovative co-designed, scalable and replicable solutions made available through factsheets translated into national languages to inspire policy recommendations.
- A capacity building toolkit to translate evidence on drivers of housing inequalities into actionable strategies for policy, societal, and business stakeholders interested in addressing interconnected dimensions of poverty in the housing sector.
Partners

Fraunhofer ISI
Liberi Tutti
Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy
DiW Berlin
Mannheim

Institute of Sociology
Czech Academy of Sciences

Umeå
Politeia
EPG Energy Policy Group

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UCL

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