



Certified smart and integrated living
environments for ageing well

D5.6 – HOMES4LIFE FINAL EVENT

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1 Introduction

The present document is a short descriptive report of the Homes4Life final event organised on 28 January 2021 online. The final event was the opportunity to open a political debate on housing with EU stakeholders, such as MEP Kim van Sparrentak, rapporteur to the "[Decent and affordable housing for all](#)" report at the European Parliament. The second part of the final event was dedicated to the pilot sites that took part in the testing of the Homes4Life certification scheme. The pilots could share their housing initiative with the EU-wide audience and explain how the Homes4Life certification scheme supported them in either improving their current initiative or comforted them in their way of doing.

2 Final Event

The event was organised online due to the current sanitary situation impeding the team from organising a physical event. R2M possessing a license to organise big events, volunteered to host the final event on the GoToWebinar platform.

The event started to be promoted mid-December through the project website and twitter account. Invitations were sent to the Homes4life Community of Interest and the Advisory Board Members. Moreover, partners promoted the event to their own network. Thanks to the consortium efforts, 163 people registered to the event. On the day of the conference, 99 people connected to listen to the speakers. The audience was made of a wide range of stakeholders from all over Europe including local authorities, architects, research organisations, universities, representatives from the housing sector, networks and associations related to the field of ageing, etc.



Certification for Ageing in Place

Homes4Life Final Conference
28 January 2021
9.30 - 13.00



The HOMES4LIFE project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 626295.

9.30 - 9.35	WELCOME
9.35 - 9.50	HOMES4LIFE AGE-FRIENDLY HOUSING VISION
9.50- 10.10	HOMES4LIFE KEY MESSAGES & CERTIFICATION SCHEME
10.10- 11.10	ROUND TABLE: WHAT'S NEXT?
11.10- 11.20	COFFEE BREAK
11.20- 12.35	AWARD CEREMONY
12.35 - 12.50	Q & A
12.50 - 13.00	CONCLUSION

FIG 1 - HOMES4LIFE FINAL EVENT AGENDA

The conference was organized around 4 different sessions. The first one, "Homes4Life age-friendly housing vision", was presented by Gian Marco Revel (UMP). He set out the scene the consortium imagined in 2040 for age-friendly housing, inviting the audience to download the document for a thorough reading of the vision. The second session, presented by Silvia Urra (TEC), "Homes4Life Key Messages & Certification Scheme", briefly presented the project and the purpose of the Homes4Life certification scheme.

2.1 Round table: what's next?

The third session, "The round table: what's next?", moderated by Menno Hinkema (TNO) welcomed MEP Kim van Sparrentak, rapporteur to the "Decent and affordable housing for all" report at the European Parliament, Catherine Mc Guigan (Age-friendly Ireland) and Roslyn Molloy (Housing Agency). Catherine McGuigan reminded the audience about the importance of directly consulting older people to better understand the challenges and barriers older adults are facing every day. Such understanding is at the very base of their age-friendly strategies for the past 11 years and more particularly of their Policy Statement on Housing Options for Our Ageing Population. For the first time, the Irish housing and health departments are working together to develop a far reaching range of housing options for older people, suited to their individual needs so they can plan ahead and, insofar as possible, choose the right home for them. "If the State is to invest in more support housing, there would be significant savings made. If the government was to invest directly in building 11.400 social housing units, the state would save 900 million euros over the next 30 years.", said Roslyn Molloy, from the Housing Agency. Finally, our last speaker, MEP Kim van Sparrentak, who presented the EP report on affordable housing, insisted on the importance of considering aspects such as accessibility from the very beginning when renovating homes to make them more climate and energy-friendly in the framework of the Next Renovation Wave. This will ensure that the renovation wave truly becomes a social inclusive renovation wave. Moreover, she urged Member States to prioritise housing renovation through the Recovery Programme. This will kick start the economy and improve health.

2.2 Award Ceremony

The fourth session, moderated by Hervé Duret (CER), was dedicated to the pilot sites that took part in the testing of the Homes4Life certification scheme:

- Housing with Supports, Inchicore, Dublin, Ireland
- Pôle Inter-générationnel Méridia, Nice, France
- Résidence kalia, Busy, France
- Alice & Victor, Neuilly-lès-Dijon, France
- Borgo Mazzini Smart Cohousing, Treviso, Italy
- Mimo wieku, Warsaw, Poland
- Multigenerational house, Łódź, Poland
- Brisa Del Cantabrico – Ciudad residencial, Spain

- Etxegoki, Bilbao, Spain
- De Hogeweyk, Weesp, the Netherlands

The pilots alternately presented their housing initiative and their specificities when it comes to age-friendly housing with the EU-wide audience. They were invited to explain the impact of the Homes4Life certification scheme on their work. Did it support them in either improving their current initiative? Did it reassure them in their working methods? Were they missing out on a crucial detail? Some pilot sites shared their impression and lessons drawn from the experience:

- Dublin, St Michael's Inchicore, Ciaran O'Brien: *"Reviewing the Inchicore scheme against the Homes4Life strategic clusters both modified the approach to Age Friendly Housing and the physical design. One of the strongest outcomes has been in the manner in which the stakeholders have been able to communicate and collaborate."*
- Nice, Pôle intergénérationnel Méridia, Camille Torrenti: *"Implementing the Homes4Life evaluation framework is a way for us to benchmark our efforts at the European level" to position ourselves with others cities in Europe - not just in terms of the quality of our services, but also in terms of our social and economic strategy."*
- Treviso, Borgo Mazzini Smart Cohousing, Oscar Zanutto: *"The H4L process has been a powerful tool to look at our project in a more holistic way and we are sure that this is going to be a great support for both providing quality housing services and future initiatives."*
- Łódź, Multigenerational House, Joanna Brzezińska and Anna Kobalczyk: *"Participating in the Homes4Life project confirmed our belief that it is very important to ensure a diverse social structure when settling a renovated tenement house. The certification process made us aware of the importance of good integration between social, physical and economic aspects of senior citizens' housing. Previously, we focused primarily on the socio-psychological factors, while now, we have more knowledge of how all these aspects intersect and influence each other."*

Prior to the final conference, each pilot site received by post their certification award and were asked to send a picture of their team holding the award. It was a way of acknowledging and thanking them for their time and dedication in testing the Homes4Life certification scheme.



FIG. 2. DUBLIN, ST MICHAEL'S INCHICORE



FIG. 3. NICE, PÔLE INTERGÉNÉRATIONNEL MÉRIDIA



FIG. 4. BUSY – RÉSIDENCE KALIA



FIG. 5. NEUILLY-LÈS-DIJON – ALICE & VICTOR



FIG. 6. TREVISO – BORGO MAZZINI SMART COHOUSING



FIG. 7. WARSAW – MIMO WIEKU



FIG. 8. ŁÓDŹ – MULTIGENERATIONAL HOUSE



FIG. 9. BRISA DEL CANTABRICO – CIUDAD RESIDENCIAL



FIG. 10. BILBAO – ETXEGOKI



FIG. 11. WEESP – DE HOGEWYK

2.3 Interactions with the audience

During the whole event, attendees had the possibility to comment or ask questions in a dedicated chat box. A total of 20 questions were asked during the event. Due to limited time, only some of these questions were addressed during the Questions & Answers session at the end of the event.

In reaction to the roundtable, an attendee argued that there was almost no integration of the age-friendly approach into the European "Renovation Wave", which is focusing almost exclusively on energy-related aspects. This is, according to this person, a general problem in the financial perspective of the European Commission.

The panelists agreed that there has been an important economical gap in social housing in Europe, but the European Commission will however invest massively with the recovery programme. It is fundamental to have an integrated approach both at the national and European scale, to create a common future view on age-friendly housing.

Other participants mentioned that the European Bauhaus Initiative will include age-friendliness and that the Renovation Wave will still include notions such as healthy buildings and the risk of accidents (e.g. related to slippery floorings – together with measures to qualify floorings).

A few questions have been raised concerning the pilot sites. For instance, if it is necessary to build new buildings to implement such disruptive models, or if the existing built environment could be adapted. All pilots agreed that new buildings are not a necessity, in particular given that existing facilities already have a relationship with the rest of a city. This existing inclusion into an urban fabric is a factor of success. Besides, it is often preferable not to completely modify the life of residents – in particular those suffering of dementia – but rather to adapt the place where they already live.

The impact of the current sanitary situation was mentioned. Globally, it seems that the pilot sites manage to limit contagions in their communities, thanks to the control they have on

practices and flows of persons, and that they can actually provide a very needed emotional support.

The discussion opened then to possible cooperations between Homes4Life participants and other organisations, such as the [Smart Buildings Alliance](#) regarding the development of city and environmental standards, so as to enable the creation of more effective services (both to the housing manager and to the occupants).

Finally, attendees were interested in hearing about the good practices identified by the Homes4Life partners, so as to fulfill the criteria of the certification. This will be provided in the next project deliverables. Other comments concerned more generally the wish of some participants to exchange about their projects, in order to learn from each other.

The participants received an email the following day, providing them with a link to the [recording](#) of the conference and the PPTs presented ([Part I](#) ; [Part II](#))

3 Conclusion

The conference generated great interest from the audience, demonstrated by the high number of attendees (considering the current weariness of people for online meetings) and the questions voiced during the event.

Different insights were explained, from the experience of the MEP Kim van Sparrentak, rapporteur to the “Decent and affordable housing for all” report at the European Parliament and her emphasis on the importance of considering aspects such as accessibility from the very beginning when renovating homes to make them more climate and energy-friendly in the framework of the Next Renovation Wave, to the approaches of Catherine Mc Guigan (Age-friendly Ireland) and Roslyn Molloy (Housing Agency) that detailed the transversal working flow among the Irish housing and health departments to develop a far reaching range of housing options for older people.

Good examples that reinforce the work carried out during Homes4Life and the vision produced and supported by the partners for 2040: *“Imagine a society where your house is truly your home. A supportive, enabling environment that helps you realize your full personal and social potential. Imagine a society where such houses are within reach for Europeans of all ages, regardless of income, gender, race or ethnic background, sexual orientation, health status, or disability.”*

Homes must be built and renovated to ensure they allow for a life cycle approach and we have to keep in mind that beyond the physical characteristics of a home, the social and economic aspects of the home are key, but often underestimated or overlooked. Let's not repeat the same mistakes for our future homes.

We are on the right track and we have the opportunity to decide where, how and with whom we want to grow old, we have to face the challenge of adapting and creating cities, buildings, environments and communities friendly for all ages and for all abilities.

There is already a large community of people working on this, our own Community of Interest with more than 170 stakeholders, other European funded Projects (TeNDER, SHAFE, Hands-on-SHAFE, NET4AGE-FRIENDLY, AGE'IN, PHArA-ON, SmartWork, Activage, Progressive and others), and many other networks and initiatives like the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing or the Active and Assisted Living Program.

Small and big initiatives, public and private, at the local, regional and national levels and led by different profiles of entities, public administrations, private companies, third sector companies, associations, visionaries and groups of friends work aligned and totally convinced that the future is full of possibilities when you age. It is key to find ways for collaboration between all of us and build a future inclusive society.

Society is changing and we, as researchers, have the responsibility to keep pace and find new models, or innovate in the old ones, so that we have the cities, environments and communities that allow us to realize our full personal fulfilment and social potential, and stay active, participate in society and protect our health.