

## WS-07 Tarragona Report- Social Housing: Institutions, Organisations and Governance

The WS held seven sessions at the conference with three themes:

- Self-help and civil participation in the post-crisis housing market (6 papers)
- Housing Policy: reforms and regimes (10 papers)
- Organisations and governance (9 papers)

There was a total of 25 presentations from 12 countries (Belgium, Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Netherland, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States). This included a video presentation of one paper (a first for this Working Group).

Total individuals attending the workshop was around 50 with a 'hard core' attending most of the sessions. The parallel workshops for the first two sessions were both well attended.

### WHERE TO NOW?

A discussion session was held on the topic '**Where To Now?**' The main action points were:

- It was agreed to propose to the CC that Thomas Knorr-Siedow should replace Darinka Czischke as the fourth working group coordinator joining Anita Blessing, Gerard van Bortel and David Mullins. Nick Falvo volunteered as our 'North America correspondent'. The group passes on best wishes to Darinka in her new job and thanks her for her contributions since 2005 including as last minute discussant in a session in Tarragona!
- Several themes were suggested for the 2014 workshop. The two preferred themes were '**Blurred Boundaries – implications of affordable housing policies for institutions and governance**' (Nick Falvo and Anita Blessing), '**The relationship between research and policy**' (Thomas Knorr-Siedow and Gerard van Bortel)- organisers suggested in brackets to be confirmed.
- The six papers on '**Self-help and civil participation in the post-crisis housing market**' will be developed for a proposal for a special issue of IJHP or book. David Mullins will communicate with the IJHP editors and the six authors with a timetable. He will also seek further contributors based on IJHP editors advice that it is advisable to start with more than the six required papers to allow for drop outs. Thomas Knorr-Siedow will assist David with the editorial work.
- A call for Consortium Partners from Gerard van Bortel (TU Delft) for a project submission to the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) Urban Europe on '**Urban and governance impacts of affordable rental housing provision by private sector actors**' was discussed. A copy of the full call has now been circulated. Interested partners to contact Gerard as soon as possible as submission date for pre-proposal is September 18 2013.
- We discussed the potential to improve theoretical framing of our work through '**Linked in' discussions of key theories and concepts**. Possible areas where this could build on conference exchanges are in relation on Ostrom's theory of the commons (Francesco, Nelle and Rosa) , Baumann's liquid modernity (Thomas) strategic action fields (David) and refining theories of hybridity (Elizabeth, Julie, Bo, Anita and David) and Habermas' life worlds and system worlds (Ton, Gerard and Mark). David to send invites to the WG Linked-In Discussion.
- **The scope of the WG** was discussed and the need to critically reflect on broad trends such as the shifting boundary between social and affordable housing (next conference), multiple layers of analysis of housing institutions from organisational to global, connections with urban planning and nature and role of third sector actors. The distinctiveness of the group will continue to be reflected in its interest in institutions and governance.
- There was a strong interest in the **future of the working group** and several early career researchers are considering deeper participation. This is very encouraging.

## RESULTS

In response to a call from the organisers for workshop conclusions on the conference theme 'Overcoming the Crisis' the following four bullets from WS-07 were included in Sergio Nasarre Aznar's Final Plenary:

- The crisis is defined for us not so much by severity of impact as by the absence of solutions, old models are broken and have not been replaced
- The crisis has created some opportunities for civil society organisations to become more directly involved in housing themselves. These initiatives can make a small but important contribution to solutions
- Large Hybrid housing organisations have found it difficult to develop independent responses to the crisis - they have found the state and market dependencies even stronger
- The crisis has created some short term opportunities for housing organisations to get cheap acquisitions from bankrupt builders and some benefits from early stimulus spending programmes - but in the longer term the foundations of hybrid models of providing social and affordable housing such as cross subsidy and trading have been undermined .

Beyond this the workshop highlighted wide-ranging interests in:

- Policies for social and affordable housing and regeneration across Europe, and in varied political and economic contexts inside and outside Europe (with workshop papers included on South Africa, Ecuador and Bolivia, Canada and US).
- in governance arrangements at several scale levels from the organisational to the global,
- in the interface between citizens and policy actors in fields such as mixed communities, neighbourhood regeneration and organisational customer insight programmes,

There was much common ground and scope for sharing interests and approaches. Inevitably there were disagreements and debates, but all of them carried out in a constructive and supportive fashion. It was a real pleasure and privilege to convene this workshop.

Thanks to Albert, Bo, Claire, Darinka, Hugo and Thomas for carrying out your key roles as chairs and discussants with wisdom and good humour.

**David Mullins and Anita Blessing, Tarragona Workshop Organisers, June 2013**