

No One Left Behind

Web conference #2

UA-URBACT Joint Knowledge Activity - Cities engaging in the right to housing

Moderated by Laura Colini, UIA and URBACT expert



EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

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#Right2Housing

- 10.00-10.05** Welcome and introduction by Laura Colini
- 10.05-10:15** Key findings from FEANTSA & Fondation Abbé Pierre's report on **housing exclusion and homelessness**
- 10:15-10:25** From managing homelessness to eradicating homelessness: lessons from **Ghent** (BE)
- 10:25-10:55** Discussion on tackling homelessness with **Glasgow** (UK), **Odense** (DK), and **Lyon** (Fr) - followed by Q&A session

AGENDA

- 10.55-11:05** Key findings from FEANTSA & Fondation Abbé Pierre's report on **housing exclusion of migrants**
- 11:05-11:15** Empowering refugees and migrants to ignite housing affordability: lessons from **Athens** (EL)
- 11:15-11:50** Discussion on how to address housing exclusion of migrants with **Thessaloniki** (EL), **Antwerp** (BE), and Thomas Lacroix, CNRS - followed by Q&A session
- 11:50-12:00** Concluding remarks

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2020 HOUSING EXCLUSION REPORT

- KEY FINDINGS ON HOMELESSNESS (SLIDES UNDER EVERAGO)

**Chloé Serme-Morin and Sarah Coupechoux,
FEANTSA and Fondation Abbé Pierre**

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From **MANAGING** homelessness to **ERADICATING** homelessness

- LESSONS FROM GENT (BE)

**Patricia Vanderbauwhede,
Lead Partner URBACT ROOF Network**

✓ Please use the **Q&A** for questions 

Patricia.Vanderbauwhede@stad.gent - [@URBACTROOF](https://twitter.com/URBACTROOF)

[@UA_initiative](https://twitter.com/UA_initiative) [@URBACT](https://twitter.com/URBACT)
[#Right2Housing](https://twitter.com/Right2Housing)

gent:

From managing to eradicating homelessness

No One Left Behind
URBACT-UIA webconference

Patricia Vanderbauwhede - City of Ghent
Project Leader URBACT APN ROOF

26 June 2020

A. Europe and its cities joining forces against rising homelessness



=> EU UA Partnerships
Poverty **and Affordable**
Housing

=> Policy Lab 2018 together
with FEANTSA on combatting
homelessness



=> The Shift (UN)

=> The Pledge (European
Pillar of Social Right Principle
19 – Eurocities)

URBACT and Ghent joining forces

ROOF

Ending homelessness



KEY POINTS of ROOF – URBACT APN



Braga
Ghent (LP)
Glasgow
Liège
Odense
Poznan
Timisoara
Thessaloniki
Toulouse
Metropole

Right to housing

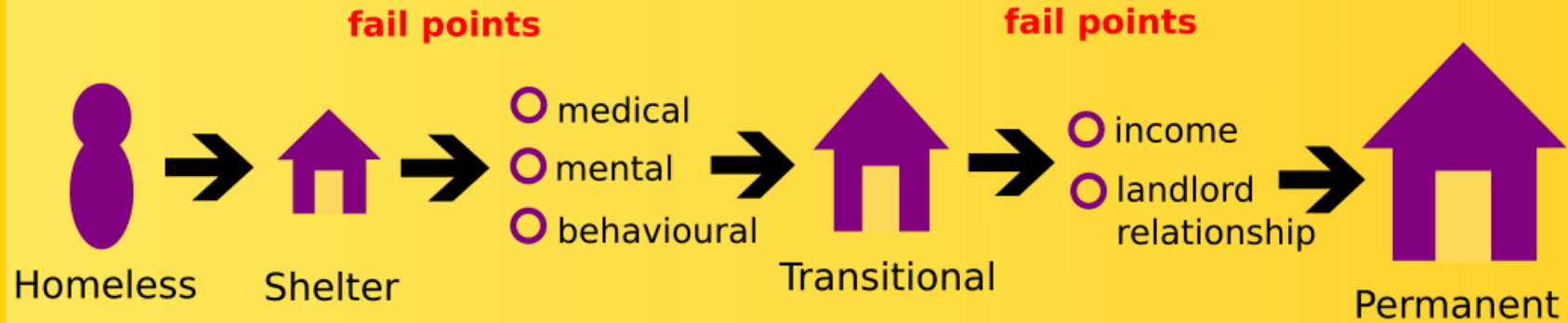
Eradicate homelessness through innovative housing solutions at city level.

→ Exchange knowledge on how to:

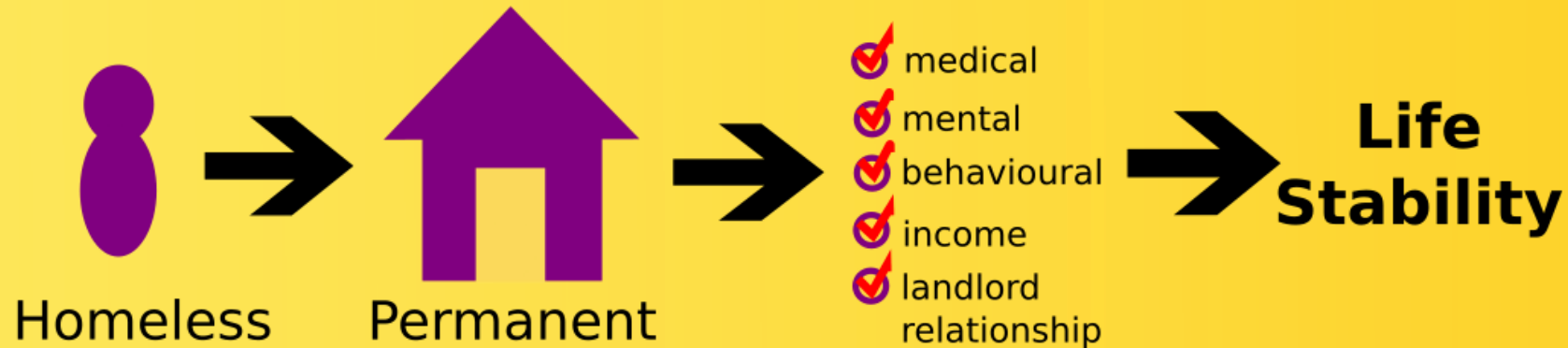
- 1) gather **accurate data**
- 2) make the **shift** from management to the actual ending of homelessness, with Housing First and Housing Led as guidance model

OUTPUT: Produce **integrated local action plans** linked to the **long term strategic goal of Functional Zero** (no structural homelessness)

Housing Readiness



Housing First

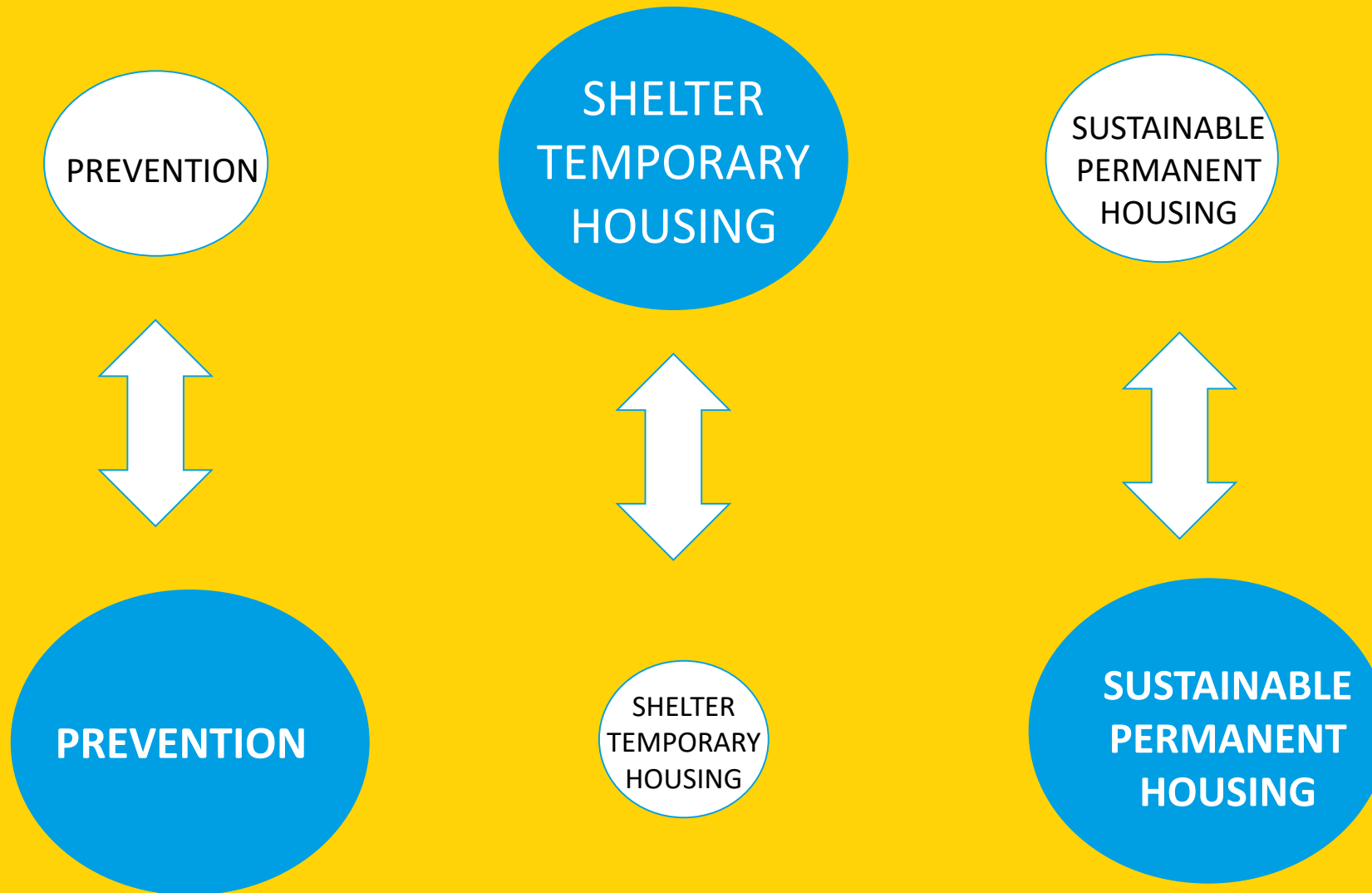


B. Tackling homelessness locally through housing solutions

CHALLENGES FOR GHENT

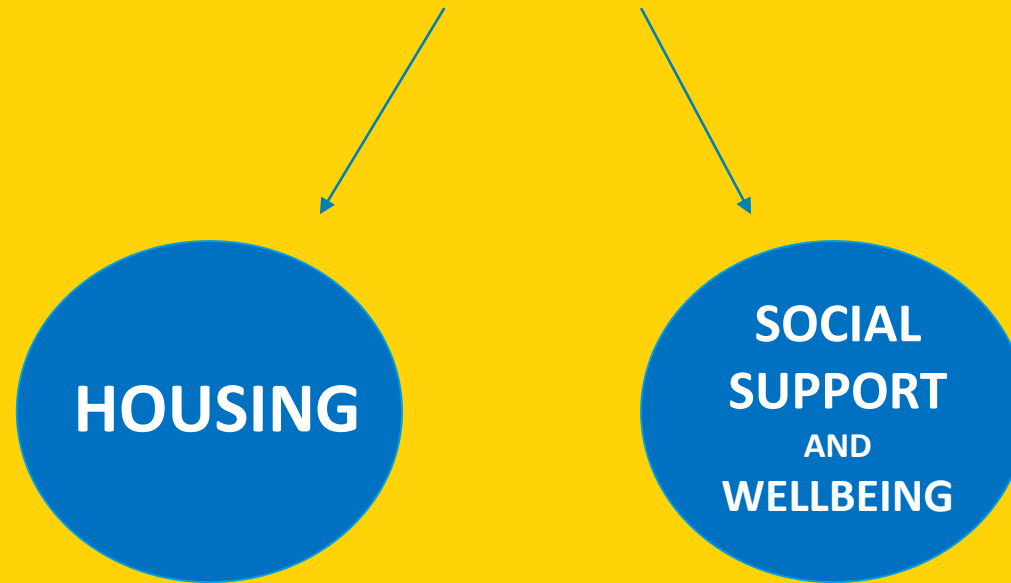
- > Inaccessible and unaffordable housing stock
- > Growing diversity among homeless people
- > ‘Societalisation’ of residential social services (e.g. psychiatry)
- > Migration (different legal status and rights)

From managing homelessness (past policy)...



... to ending homelessness (new policy) ...

... through structural housing solutions



1. Provide prevention

- > Make an integrated Poverty Reduction Plan
- > Provide **rental arrears mediation**
- > Support people at key life moments that are predictive to homelessness

2. Provide more affordable housing stock

- > Make an integrated master plan for social and affordable housing
- > **Gather funds:** 92 million euro for 6 years (use advocacy, covid, HF...)
- > **Focus on structural solutions**
 - **expanding rental housing stock** for lowest income and families with children
 - **improving quality** e.g. renovating of bad-quality housing from poor owners with recurring funds (UIA)

3. Provide more housing (first/led) for vulnerable groups

HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS

- > **Focus on sufficient stock for different groups**
 - Providing 59 Housing First units/year for homeless people Social housing companies
 - Doubling 266 to 532 social rental units for vulnerable groups
 - Building 11 Robust units for the most complexe group (Skaeve Huse)
- > **Gather accurate data using ETHOS Light (ROOF)**

4. Provide sufficient accompanying social support

- > Expand Housing First/Led support along with housing stock
- > Maintain outreaching services

HOUSING FOR
THE HOMELESS

5. Optimise shelter system and temporary housing, also for migrants

- > **Optimise your shelter system**
- > **Provide solutions for migrants**
 - Shelter and orientation system for people without legal documents or with a precarious status
 - Post mobile housing

6. Work on local, national and European level

HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS

- > **Engage all your local stakeholders**
 - Taskforce Housing and Sheltering
 - Action plan housing solutions for homeless people (ROOF)
- > **Advocate on national and European Level to align homelessness and housing policy**
 - Advocacy trajectory ROOF
 - × National strategy is crucial
 - × Use story telling
 - × Use COVID 19 momentum!



Thank you for listening!

Any questions?

Patricia Vanderbauwhede

Project Leader URBACT APN ROOF

Policy advisor - Housing service City of Ghent – Belgium

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Discussion on TACKLING HOMELESSNESS

✓ Please use the Q&A for questions



WITH

**Glasgow (UK), URBACT ROOF Network,
Marie McLelland - @MarieMcLelland@URBACTROOF**

**Odense (DK), URBACT ROOF Network, Tom
Pedersen Rønning**

**Lyon (FR), UIA Home Silk Road, Martine
Chanal - @AutreScie #HomeSilkRoad**

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Access to social housing (2019):

Active requests 70,575

Requests filled 9,883

| Indicators | Individuals | Households |
|--|-------------|------------|
| Declared as homeless or «Winter plan»/emergency shelters | 2,522 | 1,539 |
| Declared as «no fixed residence» | 15,887 | 7,080 |







Q&A session

Ruth Owens, FEANTSA deputy director &
UIA expert

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2020 HOUSING EXCLUSION REPORT

- KEY FINDINGS ON HOUSING EXCLUSION OF MGRANTS (SLIDES UNDER EMBARGO)

**Chloé Serme-Morin and Sarah Coupechoux,
FEANTSA and Fondation Abbé Pierre**

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EMPOWERING refugees and migrants to IGNITE housing affordability

- LESSONS FROM ATHENS (EL)

**Antigone Kotanidi,
UIA Curing the Limbo project manager**

✓ Please use the **Q&A** for questions



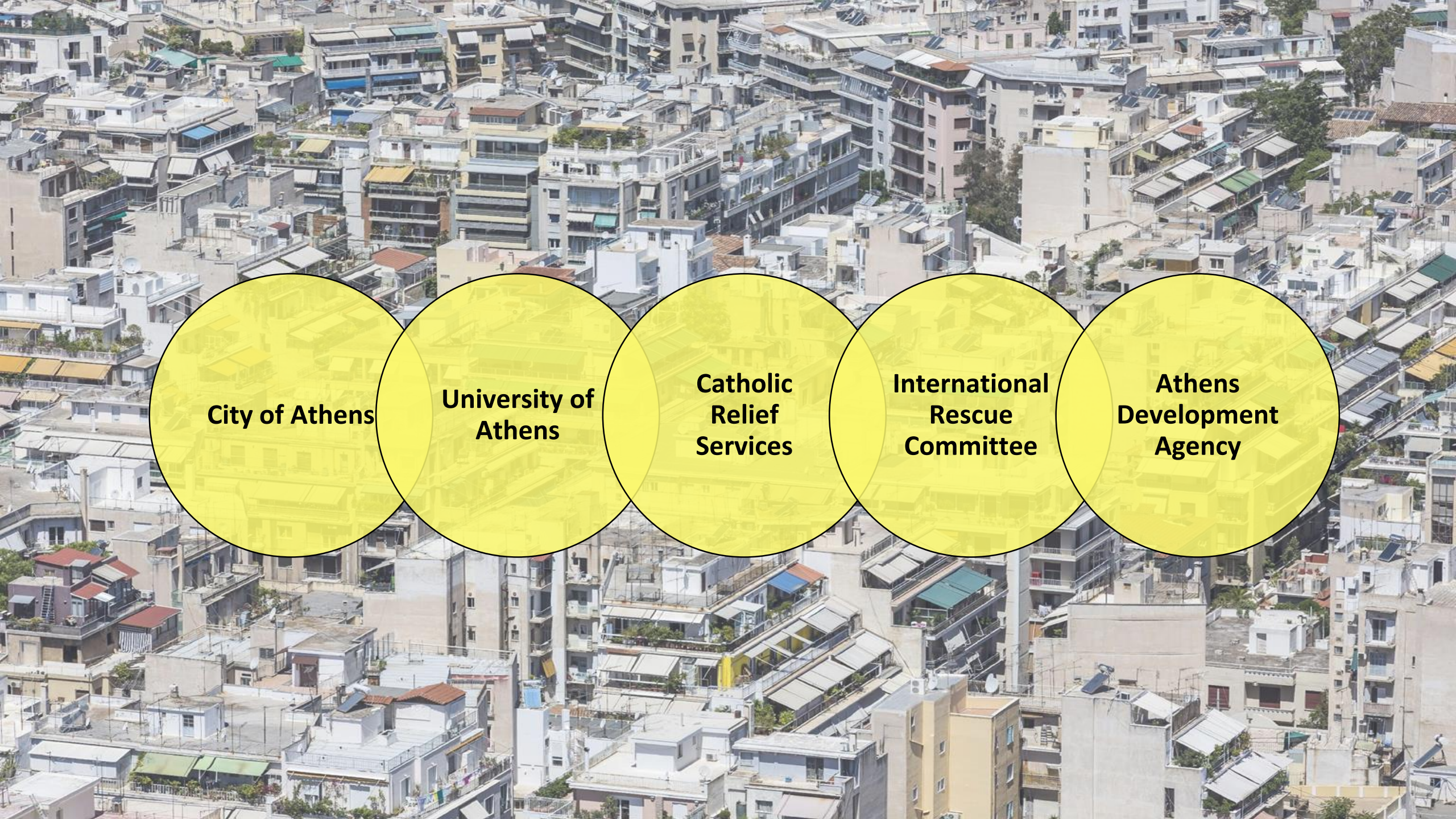
a.kotanidi@athens.gr - @synathina #curingthelimbo

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Curing the limbo



www.curingthelimbo.gr



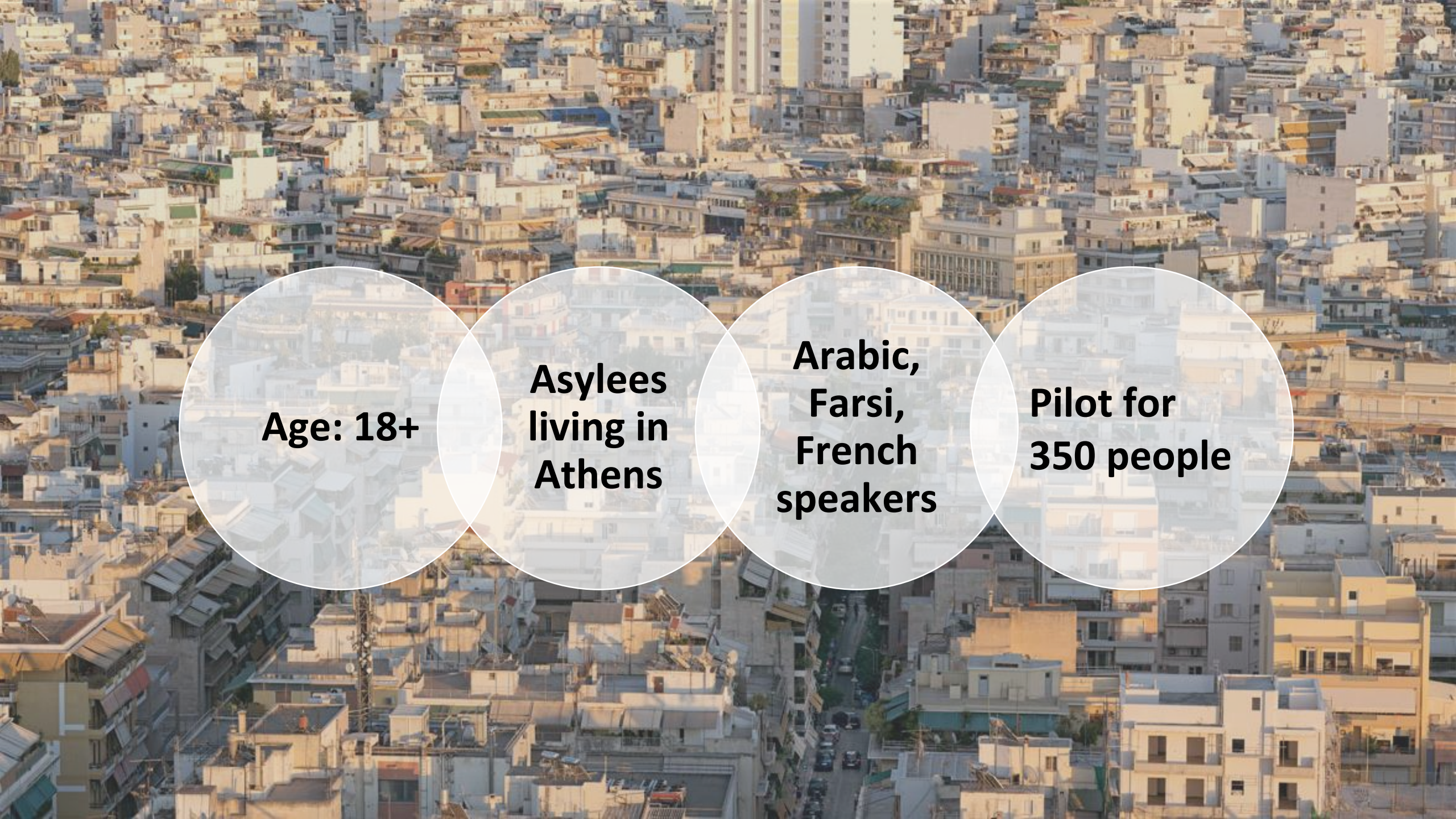
City of Athens

**University of
Athens**

**Catholic
Relief
Services**

**International
Rescue
Committee**

**Athens
Development
Agency**



Age: 18+

**Asylees
living in
Athens**

**Arabic,
Farsi,
French
speakers**

**Pilot for
350 people**

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a blue pencil over a table. The table is covered with various colored sticky notes (green, red, yellow) and a cardboard box. The person is wearing a ring on their finger. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the workspace.

The challenge

- Create a dynamic and holistic integration model
- Help refugees transit from humanitarian aid programs to a life they chose
- Connect refugees with local active citizens
- Support collaborative actions that respond to city needs

The main action pillars



- Training
- **Affordable housing**
- Job counselling
- Connection to city activities



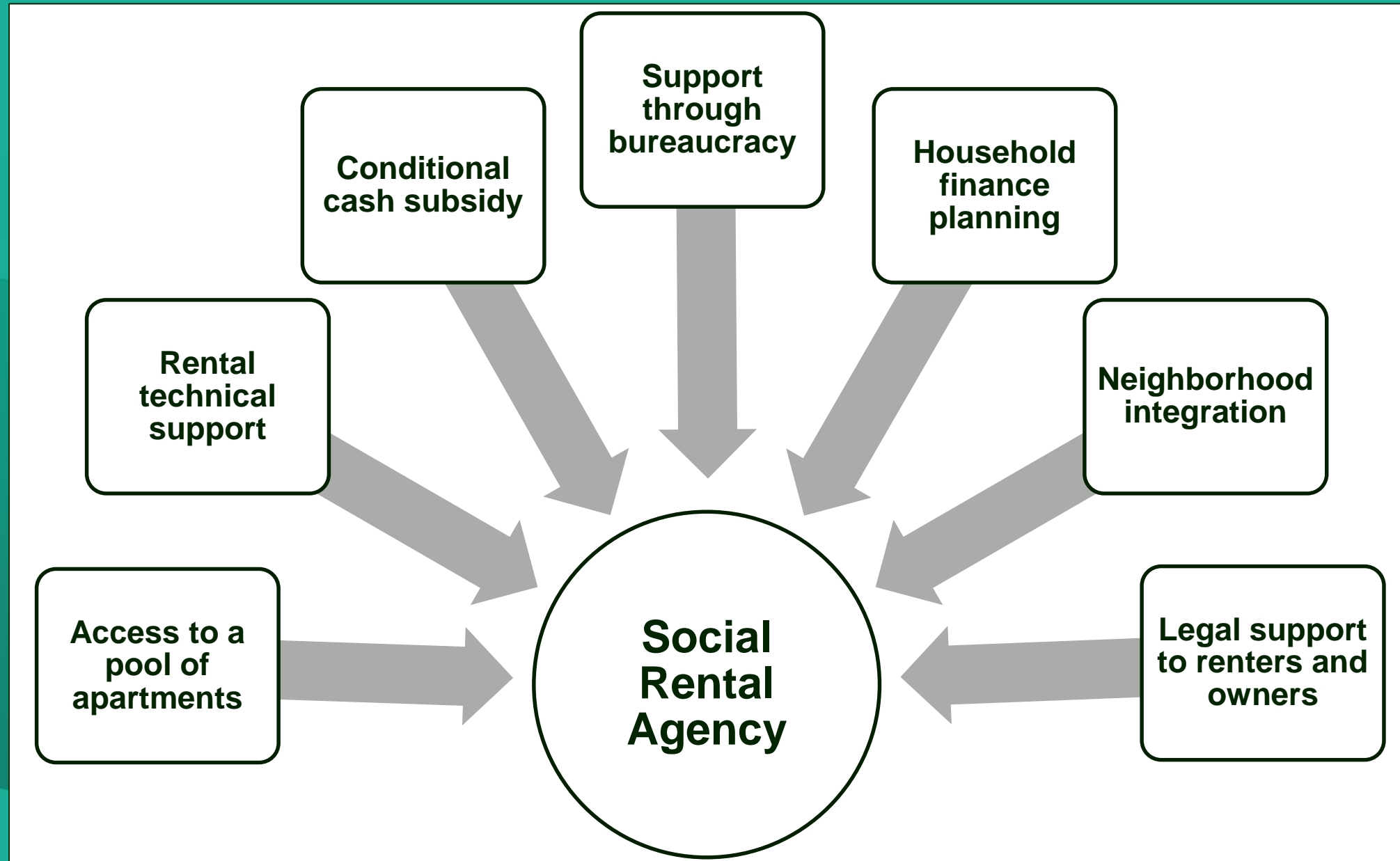
The context

- Following the 2015 crisis, thousands of arrivals in the city → need for quick accommodation solutions.
- Bulk of available housing stock privately owned (apartments, city center).
- Humanitarian programs initially addressed the problem with temporary accommodation approach for people in transit.
- No long-term housing solutions for the people who are granted asylum.
- No long-term social housing policy at national level.

A twofold goal

- How to help refugees transition from emergency to longer term housing solutions? How to best support them to build their life in the new city?
- How to create a sustainable housing model that fits the characteristics of the Athenian housing market? How to give incentives to landlords to participate in this pilot?

Housing Facilitation Unit



Lessons learned so far

- Better understanding of target population → tailoring support to their needs.
- Importance of mediation and support during the transition → build trust.
- Importance of providing rental technical support: participants taking ownership of the solution.
- Program's holistic approach and key linkages with other pillars help monitor participants' engagement and assess their needs for further support.
- Need for more radical incentives to owners.
- Initial learning from Curing the Limbo contributed to the development of the National Integration Program "Helios"

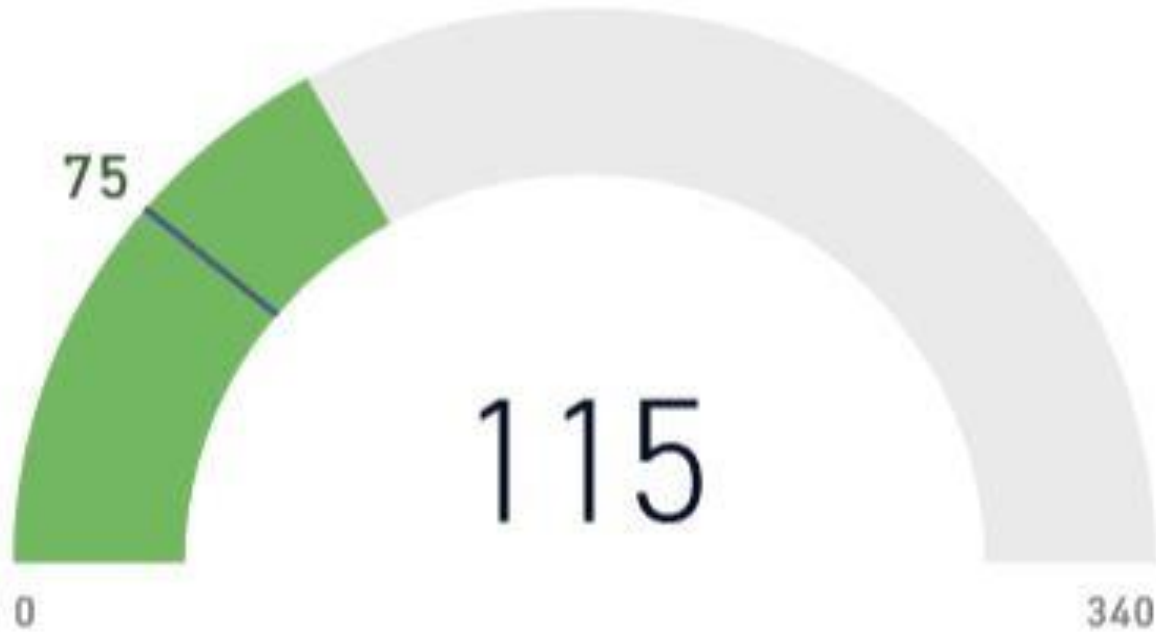
Challenges

A person is walking in the middle of a long, empty city street. The street is lined with parked cars and buildings. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn. The overall mood is quiet and somewhat somber.

- Dependence on private market availability and costs, subject to changes in the housing market
- Failure to collaborate with publicly-owned apartments
- Lack of employment opportunities which contribute to precarious tenancies
- Impact of housing model: will refugees be able to keep their apartment?
- Financial sustainability: still unclear who could incorporate this housing model into their mandate

Key figures

Number of cases who signed leases



The program has supported **115** households which corresponds to **287** individuals.

Based on the ongoing survey for the total population with signed leases

62% of respondents stated that they feel ready to maintain their apartment beyond project support

79% of respondents stated that rental subsidy enabled them to meet their accommodation needs according to their personal choice criteria.

88% of respondents stated that the rental subsidies combined with the accommodation support received allowed them to focus on their priorities.



Antigone Kotanidis
Project Manager
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DISCUSSION ON HOUSING EXCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

✓ Please use the **Q&A** for questions



WITH

**Thessaloniki (EL), URBACT ROOF and Arrival
Cities Networks, Meric Ozgunes - @URBACTROOF**

**Antwerp (BE), UIA CURANT project,
Jolien De Crom**

Thomas Lacroix, CNRS Research Fellow

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From temporary accommodation to housing solutions for asylum seekers and refugees in Thessaloniki



Challenges/housing exclusion factors:

- No social housing stock, policies: primarily subsidy based interventions
- Increasing pressure on affordable housing availability due to increasing rents, red loans, auctions of primary residence, housing costs
- Temporary accommodation for asylum seekers
- Refugees once recognised lose benefits (temporary accommodation + cash assistance)
- Limited durable accommodation options for refugees

Opportunities:

- Action planning through Arrival Cities and ROOF networks
- Establishing social rental agency/house provider
- Baseline study for evidence-based policy making
- Building, managing and providing affordable housing stock at city level



<https://urbact.eu/arrival-cities>

<https://urbact.eu/roof> @URBACTROOF

ozgunes@mdat.gr (ROOF ULG Coordinator)



Unaccompanied
young adult
refugee
(17-22 years)



Together:

- living room
- kitchen
- bathroom



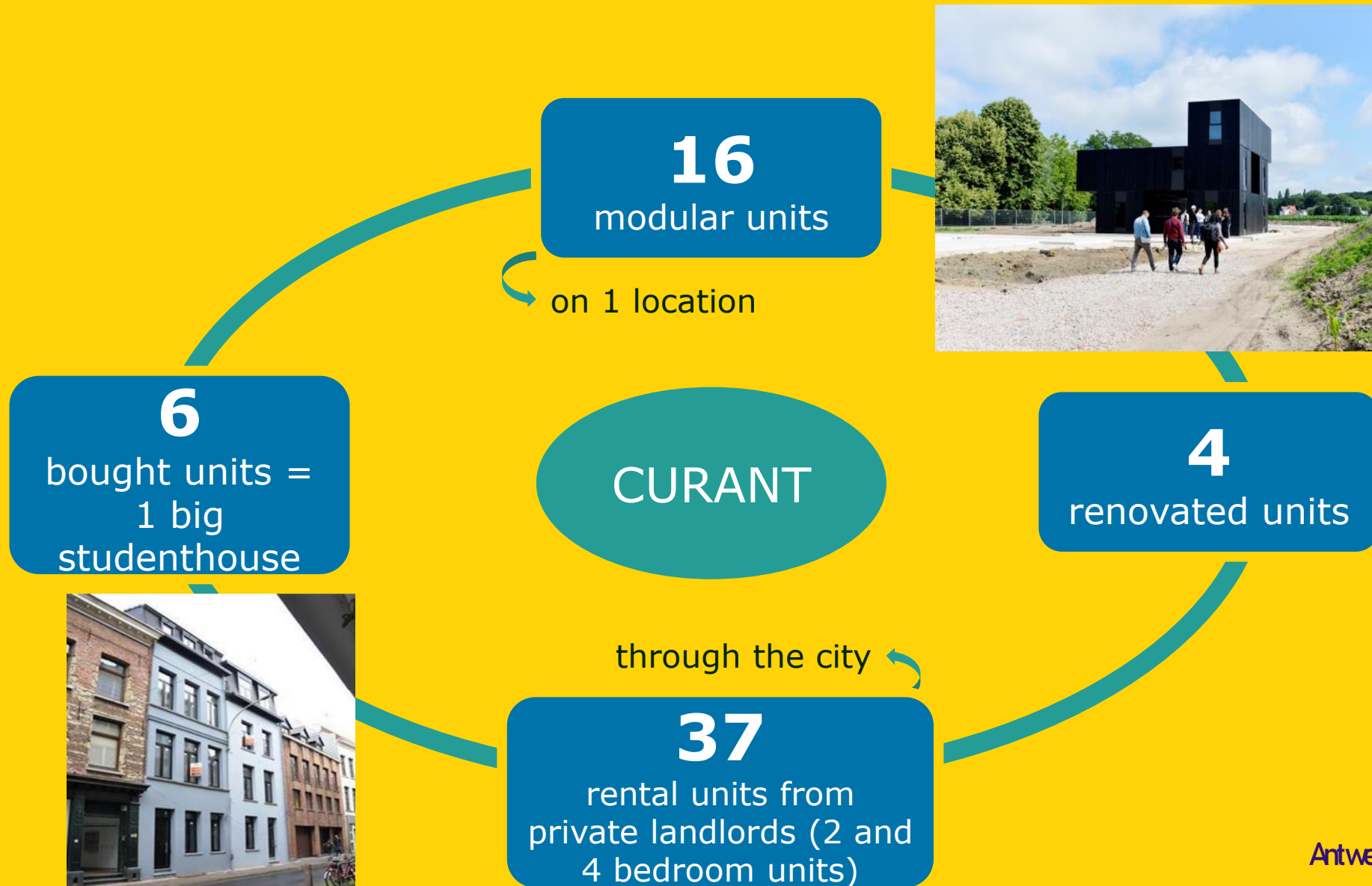
Young (Flemish)
volunteer
(20-30 years)

81 refugees and 77 buddies cohoused in 3 years

**One-2-one
integration**

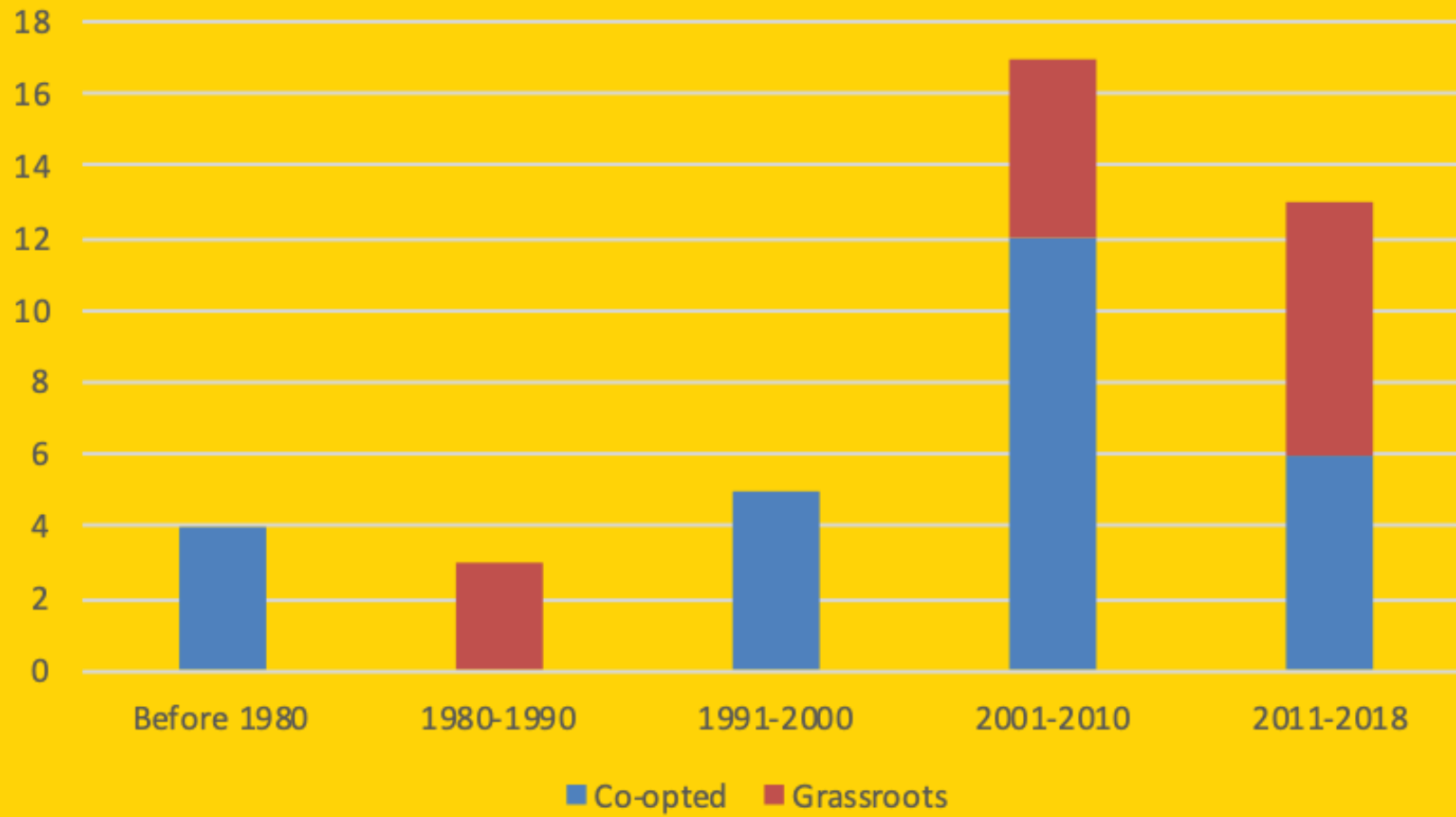
Antwerp, UA CURANT project

Housing by City of Antwerp: 63 duo units





Period of creation of city networks





**Q&A
session**

Ruth Owens, FEANTSA deputy director & UIA expert

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CONCLUDING REMARKS

Ruth Owen, FEANTSA Deputy Director & UIA expert
Laura Colini, UIA and URBACT expert

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What's NEXT?

6 November 2020

Web conference #3

Fair Finance

Municipal strategies protecting housing from speculation

UA-URBACT Joint Knowledge Activity - Cities engaging in the right to housing

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US!



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