

CC-Event „Collaborative Housing and Social Inclusion: Insights, Evidence, and Future Directions”

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025, 13:30-17:30, Room BZ N-B1.2.03, NOI Techpark (unibz Faculty of Engineering) Via Bruno Buozzi, 1, 39100, Bolzano.

English - Background and Objectives

Amid the ongoing housing crisis, collaborative housing, including cooperative models, offer a promising alternative to mainstream housing provision. In various places across Europe, these housing projects have demonstrated their ability to offer affordable and high-quality living spaces while promoting participation and mutual support among residents as well as a resource-conscious lifestyle.

In recent years, the scope of collaborative housing has expanded to foster greater diversity among residents, such as through intergenerational projects, and by addressing needs of a broader range of vulnerable and socio-economically disadvantaged groups, including people with migrant and refugee backgrounds. Yet, this housing field remains largely unfamiliar to the broader public and lacks institutional support.

Against this backdrop, the event will examine the potential of collaborative housing to promote diversity and social inclusion at the neighbourhood level. National and international experts from academia, policy, and practice will share insights from various places and discuss how partnerships and funding programmes can leverage the potential of collaborative housing to advance socially inclusive neighbourhood development and urban regeneration. Following the presentations and panel discussion, the audience will also be invited to take part in the discussion.

The event will be held in English.

Italiano – Contesto ed obiettivi

Le forme abitative collaborative includono sempre di più gruppi diversi e vulnerabili, ma ricevono ancora scarsa attenzione pubblica e un supporto istituzionale insufficiente. Di fronte alla persistente crisi abitativa, le forme di abitare collaborativo, inclusi i modelli cooperativi, rappresentano un'alternativa promettente rispetto all'offerta abitativa convenzionale. In diverse regioni d'Europa, questi progetti abitativi hanno dimostrato la loro capacità di offrire alloggi accessibili e di alta qualità, promuovendo al contempo la partecipazione, il sostegno reciproco tra i residenti e uno stile di vita attento alle risorse. Negli ultimi anni, l'attenzione verso l'abitare collaborativo è progressivamente cresciuta, con l'obiettivo di favorire una maggiore diversità tra i residenti – ad esempio attraverso progetti intergenerazionali – e di rispondere meglio ai bisogni di gruppi vulnerabili e socialmente svantaggiati, incluse persone con esperienze migratorie. Tuttavia, questa tipologia di abitare rimane ancora poco conosciuto al grande pubblico e manca di un adeguato sostegno istituzionale. Alla luce di ciò, l'evento si propone di esaminare il potenziale dell'abitare collaborativo nella promozione della diversità e dell'inclusione sociale a livello di quartiere. Esperti ed esperte nazionali e internazionali provenienti dal mondo accademico, dalla politica e dalla pratica offriranno spunti da diverse regioni e discuteranno su come la cooperazione intersettoriale e i programmi di sostegno pubblico possano valorizzare l'abitare collaborativo come strumento per lo sviluppo inclusivo dei quartieri e per il rinnovamento urbano. Dopo le presentazioni e la tavola rotonda, anche il pubblico sarà invitato a partecipare attivamente alla discussione. L'evento si svolgerà in lingua inglese.

Deutsch - Hintergrund und Ziele

Gemeinschaftliche Wohnformen beziehen zunehmend diverse und vulnerable Gruppen ein, bleiben jedoch öffentlich wenig beachtet und institutionell unzureichend unterstützt. Angesichts der anhaltenden Wohnungskrise stellen gemeinschaftliche Wohnformen, einschließlich genossenschaftlicher Modelle, eine vielversprechende Alternative zur herkömmlichen Wohnraumversorgung dar. In verschiedenen Regionen Europas haben diese Wohnprojekte ihre Fähigkeit unter Beweis gestellt, bezahlbaren und qualitativ hochwertigen Wohnraum zu schaffen und gleichzeitig Partizipation, gegenseitige Unterstützung unter den Bewohner*innen sowie einen ressourcenschonenden Lebensstil zu fördern. In den letzten Jahren hat sich der Fokus gemeinschaftlicher Wohnformen zunehmend erweitert, um mehr Diversität unter den Bewohner*innen zu ermöglichen – etwa durch generationenübergreifende Projekte – und um die Bedürfnisse vulnerabler und sozioökonomisch benachteiligter Gruppen, einschließlich Menschen mit Migrations- und Fluchterfahrungen, stärker zu berücksichtigen. Dennoch ist dieses Wohnfeld in der breiten Öffentlichkeit weitgehend unbekannt und erfährt bislang nur geringe institutionelle Unterstützung. Vor diesem Hintergrund widmet sich die Veranstaltung dem Potenzial gemeinschaftlicher Wohnformen zur Förderung von Diversität und sozialer Inklusion auf Nachbarschaftsebene. Nationale und internationale Expert*innen aus Wissenschaft, Politikgestaltung und Praxis werden Einblicke aus unterschiedlichen Regionen geben und darüber diskutieren, wie intersektorale Kooperationen und öffentliche Förderprogramme das Potenzial gemeinschaftlicher Wohnformen für eine sozial inklusive Quartiersentwicklung und Stadterneuerung nutzen können. Im Anschluss an die Vorträge und die Podiumsdiskussion ist das Publikum eingeladen, sich an der Diskussion zu beteiligen. Die Veranstaltung findet in englischer Sprache statt.

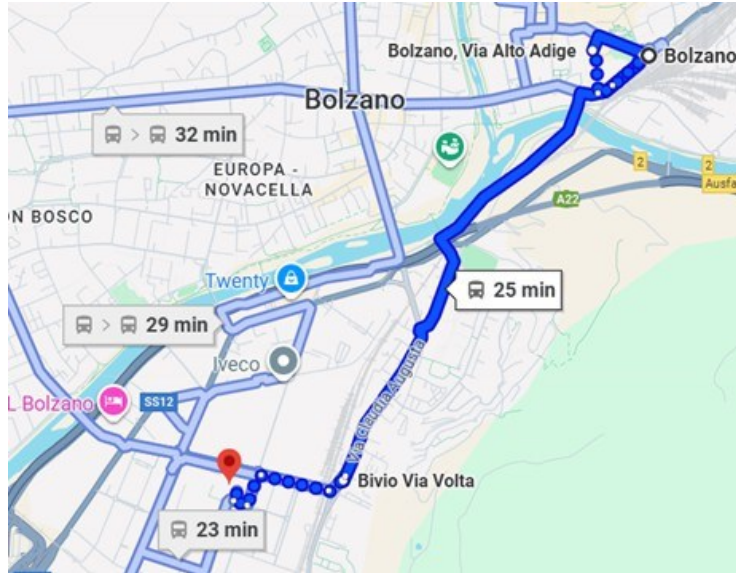
10:00-12:00	Guided Site Visit: Exploring New Collaborative Housing in Bolzano realized by Cooperativa Sole (Optional and Self-funded travel) <i>"A Housing Model For Longevity. A Housing solution for inclusion and social innovation in the province of Bolzano."</i> This is an innovative project promoted by Cooperativa Sole aimed at developing a new collaborative housing model in the city of Bolzano. It addresses social vulnerabilities and housing emergencies through action that foster inclusiveness and community sense. The project involves the activation of five apartments dedicated to students, seniors, single mothers with children, and individuals in socio-economic hardship, creating an environment that fosters intergenerational solidarity, personal empowerment, and collective well-being. The project is grounded in Human 360, a certified operational model recognized internationally for its civil economy principles. It integrates community welfare, assistive technologies, solidarity actions, and co-design processes with local stakeholders. A multidisciplinary professional team and strong collaboration with public institutions, universities, and social enterprises empower systemic and replicable impact on the city and neighborhood. The new housing model in Bolzano is also featured as a case study for inclusive and sustainable social housing within the Horizon Europe research project ASSETS in which Cooperativa Sole and the Competence Centre Management of Cooperatives collaborate with a range of other European partners. ASSETS aims to drive innovation in the Social Economy sector by leveraging cutting-edge technology, improving evaluation tools, and fostering collaboration to support social inclusion, quality jobs, and sustainability. The visit will include: ● 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Welcome ● 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Project Inauguration with Sole Cooperative and political representatives ● 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. Meeting with residents and apartment tour ● 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Light Lunch offered by project residents
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	A meeting point will be organized in the city of Bolzano in front of the train station (https://maps.app.goo.gl/mmasBcQceK5VMsyo6), and participants can travel together to the housing project by bus. You can find further info about the trip options with public transportation at the end of this program.
13:30	Registration NOI Techpark (unibz Faculty of Engineering), Room BZ N-B1.2.03, Via Bruno Buozzi, 1, 39100, Bolzano.
14:00-14:15	Opening Remarks <i>Alessandra Piccoli & Richard Lang</i> (Competence Centre Management of Cooperatives, Free University of Bolzano) <i>Samuele Verucchi</i> (Cooperativa Sole, Bolzano) Nicola Gosso (AGCI Bolzano)
14:15-15:15	Session 1: Research Insights into Collaborative Housing Models and Social Inclusion Collaborative housing and social care <i>Melissa Fernández Arrigoitia</i>, urban sociologist, editor at the Radical Housing Journal and Senior Researcher at the School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol Top-down collaborative housing: an exploratory study across Europe <i>Lucia Chaloin</i>, PhD researcher in urban studies, Institut d'Urbanisme et de Géographie Alpine, Université Grenoble Alpes Unlocking Public Assets for Cooperative Housing: Decommodification and Collective Control <i>Luisa Rossini</i>, post-doc researcher at Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa Moderation: Richard Lang & Alessandra Piccoli
15:15-15:30	Coffee Break
15:30-16:15	Session 2: Advancing Inclusive and Collaborative Living Through Practice and Policy

	Developing Collaborative Housing in Vienna: Innovation and Social Inclusion <i>Ernst Gruber</i>, architect, graphic and communication designer, and a managing director at wohnbund:consult in Vienna Affordable and inclusive housing models: A policy perspective Joost Nieuwenhuijzen, managing director, Federation of Living, Amsterdam Moderation: Richard Lang & Alessandra Piccoli
16:15-17:15	Session 3: Roundtable Dialogues: Bridging Research, Practice and Policy Presenters, local stakeholders, and audience members will come together in small, language-specific groups (one German-speaking, one Italian-speaking, and one English-speaking) to reflect on and discuss the key insights from the presentations. Participants will explore how these inputs could influence housing innovations within the local context and their respective organizations, as well as identify concrete next steps for implementing new ideas. Each group will then share their findings with the plenary for collective discussion. Moderation: <i>Alessandra Piccoli, Samuele Verucchi, Richard Lang</i>
17:15-17:30	Summary und Outlook

Here are some useful info for your travel to the afternoon event (*NOI Techpark - via Bruno Buoizzi, 1*):

- **Leaving from Bolzano main train station:** first take the train direction Merano at 13:05 and get off at the Bolzano Sud stop. You can then take the city bus 10B from Bolzano Sud – Fiera to Bolzano, NOI Campus unibz.
- **Leaving from Bolzano city centre:** take the city bus 10B at 13:17 from Piazza Domenicani to Bolzano, NOI Campus unibz.
- **Leaving from the morning guided tour:** take city bus 10B at 13:09 from Schießstand-Platz to Bolzano NOI Campus.



If you are travelling to the morning guided tour (*Via Aslago 7/3 – Bolzano*):

- **Leaving from Bolzano main train station:** take city bus 7B at 9:00 and get off at Bolzano S. Vigilio. You can then walk 5 minutes to Via Aslago 7/B.
- **Leaving from Bolzano city centre:** take city bus 10B from Piazza Domenicani at 9:17, get off at Schießstand-Platz, then walk 2 minutes to Via Aslago 7/B.

