

## Contribution to the UN Special Rapporteurs on Adequate Housing and Extreme Poverty on

# The role of Local and Regional Governments in relation to the decriminalization of homelessness and poverty

*Submitted by United Cities and Local Governments through its Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights*

### Summary of local and regional governments' commitments and recommendations

- Acknowledge and address diverse forms of homelessness beyond visible street populations, recognizing housing exclusion and discrimination.
- Prioritize housing as a critical action domain for local action, emphasizing its impact on health, education, justice, and overall well-being.
- Implement integrated approaches to economic and social rights, focusing on non-discrimination, equality, and safety, avoiding punitive measures.
- Adopt a comprehensive policy-cycle approach to homelessness, encompassing prevention, damage-control interventions, structural solutions, legal changes, and emergency housing.
- Invest in permanent access to temporary housing, preventing extended periods of homelessness and facilitating adaptation for long-term homeless people.
- Collaborate with the non-profit sector, utilize their expertise, and establish networks of local and regional governments for knowledge exchange and the promotion of alternative policy approaches.

### Key conditions to enable and strengthen local action

- Review national legal and resource-allocation frameworks to localize the housing agenda: enabling local and regional governments to revisit what local housing policies can entail for social inclusion, environmental, feminist and care approaches.
- Ensure that international discussions about housing justice and ending homelessness actively include different local and regional governments who share their perspectives and experiences, given that the consequences of the global housing crisis differ across cities, have profound local impacts and require local solutions.

## I. INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF THE UCLG COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON HOUSING

1. In July 2018, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) presented the Declaration “Cities for Adequate Housing” at the UN High Level Political Forum in New York. This Declaration was formulated drawing upon the analysis and insights gained from local and regional governments committed to implementing a rights-based approach to housing and recognizing its social function. The Declaration aligned with the principles set forth in The Shift campaign initiated by the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Ms. Leilani Farha. The Declaration was endorsed by over forty local and regional governments worldwide and led to the creation of the UCLG Community of Practice on Housing (from now onwards, the Housing CoP). The Housing CoP serves as a global platform for local and regional governments to engage in discussions and share insights regarding their housing-related challenges, practices, and policies.

2. The municipalist perspective claimed by the Housing CoP upholds the right to adequate housing as a foundational requirement for safeguarding the fundamental human rights for all inhabitants. This vision serves as a guiding principle for local and regional governments willing to create housing systems that can effectively care for and address the needs of all residents, beyond their legal status. The mission of the Housing CoP, under the leadership of its members, is to strengthen the involvement of local and regional governments in shaping a “future of housing justice for all”. It emphasizes that local initiatives are key drivers for bringing about meaningful transformation and improving the living conditions of billions of people around the globe.

3. By fostering collaboration among local and regional governments, the Housing CoP revealed commonalities and shared traits across the contexts and realities of different local governments, demonstrating that the impacts of the global housing crisis on both inhabitants and their territories are widespread and felt locally. As a response, local and regional governments of the CoP on Housing have consistently advocated for the localization of the housing agenda. Meaning revising the role of local and regional governments with respect to the housing agenda, their allocated responsibilities and resources, so that they can effectively address these impacts.

4. Among the consequences of the current global crisis in the access to adequate housing that are felt, and lived at the local level, many cities and regions are witnessing an increasing number of inhabitants experiencing homelessness, living in poverty or situations of vulnerability. These situations are often met with the discrimination and criminalization of these inhabitants, as opposed to promoting human rights-based approaches that tackle the root causes of homelessness and poverty.

5. Consistent with this long-standing commitment, UCLG and its Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CISDPDH), reactivated the Housing CoP by convening a virtual gathering on September 22nd, 2023. The focus of this online meeting

was to exchange realities and experiences on "The Role of Local and Regional Governments in Addressing the Decriminalization of Homelessness and Poverty." The main objective of this event was to facilitate a collaborative contribution from local and regional governments to the international call for inputs issued by the UN Special Rapporteurs on Adequate Housing, Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal, and on Extreme Poverty, Mr. Olivier de Schutter, in preparation for their forthcoming report on this topic, which will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council.

6. The meeting gathered around fifty participants. Representatives from three continents (Americas, Europe, Africa) from eleven countries shared their insights during the consultation:

Ary José Vanazzi; Mayor of **Sao Leopoldo** (Brazil); Bongile Mbingo, Mayor of **Ezulwini** (Eswatini); Daniel Jadue, Mayor of **Recoleta** (Chile); Ana Maria Cortez Vaz, Councillor for Social Action and Social Housing of **Coimbra** (Portugal); Hilary Gough, Councillor for Community Wellbeing and Safety of **Saskatoon** (Canada); Joan Recassens, Deputy to the Housing Commissioner or **Barcelona** (Spain); Maite Arrondo, General Housing Director of **Navarra** (Spain); Luis Durán, General Manager of the Antioquia Housing Company of **Antioquia** (Colombia); Lucrecia Capdevilla, Manager of the Buenos Aires Presente Operation from the **Buenos Aires** City Council (Argentina); Léa Enon-Baron, National Co-Director of the National Association of Welcoming Cities and Territories, ANVITA (France); Fatima Razouki, Assistant to the Secretary General of UCLG Africa; Louise Edwards, OHCHR Consultant on South African municipalities in response to extreme poverty and homelessness (South Africa).

7. Additionally, UCLG received twenty-three written submissions from its members, representing local and regional governments in Portugal, Honduras, Argentina, and Eswatini. These valuable contributions are being integrated into this submission and are also attached to this report. This contribution, which analyzes and aggregates the inputs shared by local and regional governments through the online consultation and the written submissions, reflects the Housing CoP's purpose to highlight the perspectives of local and regional governments within the international call for input from the UN Special Rapporteurs.

## **II. KEY MESSAGES FROM LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS EXPERIENCE REGARDING THE RIGHT TO HOUSING AND THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY**

*«Adequately addressing homelessness requires understanding that homelessness does not only refer to people living in public spaces but to all populations suffering from housing exclusion and other forms of discrimination»*

8. As noted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing, Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal, homelessness is not limited to individuals living on the streets; it encompasses

people in precarious situations such as squatting, pavement welding, residing in unsafe structures, internally displaced populations, often as a result of violence, or individuals living in refugee camps, homeless shelters, or their vehicles. It also includes couchsurfing when individuals are compelled to share housing involuntarily with others due to a lack of their own housing.

9. In their written input, the Social Department from **Valença**, exposed how living in homelessness is not only associated with living in poverty, but also with feelings of rejection, which equally cause suffering. This represents a problem for the society as a whole, as it is related to discrimination and inequalities

10. The Mayor of **Recoleta**, Mr. Daniel Jadue and Ms. Louise Edwards, consultant to the OHCHR, exposed how pathways to homelessness are numerous, complex and can often be traced back to historical inequalities, to the territorialization of discriminatory and colonization-related development patterns, as well as to conflicts, as pointed out by the General Manager of the **Antioquia** Housing Company, Luis Durán. Citing the work of the Special Rapporteur on Poverty, homelessness is both a cause and a consequence of modern-day slavery.

*«Housing is a key action domain for LRGs because it directly impacts the ways in which people can enjoy their human rights in cities and regions»*

12. The mayor of **Sao Leopoldo**, Mr. Ary José Vanazzi, stressed how the topic of housing is a crucially important and significant action domain of LRGs, because it reduces illness and improves health, education and justice for the entirety of the population. He shared how as a local government, they are trying to provide solutions to homelessness based on care, health, employment and other human rights to stand by poor populations who depend on public power and public policies.

13. In their written inputs, representatives from the cities of **Valença**, **Seixal**, and **Esteban Echeverría**, explicitly expressed how it is a local government duty to improve the living conditions of people living in homelessness. Also in their written input, Póvoa de Lanhoso qualified homelessness as a public issue, thus requiring public action.

14. As stated in **Coimbra's** written input, an approach to promoting non-discrimination and equality towards homeless people must be a priority for governments.

*«Homelessness is increasingly pervasive and requires complex solutions at the intersection of local public services»*

16. As noted by Ms. Maite Arrondo, the General Housing Director of **Navarra**, the pace at which the number of people living in homelessness is increasing in cities and regions around the world requires fast tracking the issue of homelessness to the center of public policy agendas.

17. The Councillor for Community Wellbeing and Safety of **Saskatoon**, Ms. Hilary Gough, shared how they are promoting approaches that place people and access to services at the starting point of public intervention. In particular, aspiring to establish good connections between public health, income, social, non-discrimination and housing services, that public officers in charge of first interactions with people living in homelessness can resort to instead of resorting to punitive approaches.

18. These interventions which look at integrated approaches to economic and social rights, as well as safety, have a greater chance of success than punitive approaches, as highlighted by Ms. Louise Edwards.

19. However, as also noted by Ms. Hilary Gough from **Saskatoon**, some public services are lacking, overcapacity, or often out of the competences of local governments, and not adequately coordinated between levels of government. This in turn further complicates public local debates about alternative approaches to addressing homelessness and poverty.

20. Ms. Ainara Fernandez, UCLG Research Officer, notes the importance of taking into consideration the impacts of climate change-induced extreme weather conditions on homeless populations. As the frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions intensifies, local housing policies should incorporate climate sensitive emergency strategies with a dedicated focus on homelessness. Such strategies would benefit from being participatory, inclusive, and respectful of homeless populations' livelihoods, including their pets.

*«Addressing homelessness requires a full policy-cycle approach, from prevention to damage-control interventions, whereby structural solutions and legal changes need to be complemented with emergency housing solutions»*

21. As noted in the written contribution from **Baiao**, services related to prevention, social and psychological support and stable housing access must remain constantly available. Emergency shelter measures must complement, not replace, them.

22. Yet, as reflected in the written input from **Espinhos**, it is critical that local and regional governments invest in ensuring permanent access to temporary housing, so as to allow for people who have been homeless for long periods of time to adapt to being housed; while at the same time, giving the possibility to people who have been homeless for less time to not enter into long periods of homelessness, from which it becomes more difficult to transition out of.

23. Ms. Maite Arrondo, General Housing Director of **Navarra**, Mr. Joan Recasens, the Deputy Commissioner for Housing of **Barcelona**; as well as, Lucrecia Capdevila, Manager of the operative **Buenos Aires Presente**, also raised attention to the importance of homelessness prevention measures, as did the cities of **Amarante**, **Machico**, and **Matosinhos** in their written inputs.

24. Ms. Maite Arrondo called for the need of adopting an integral approach to prevention strategies, sharing a diagnosis between local government departments, including housing, health and social services, among others, and relating to local policies across different sectors.

25. The written input by **Esteban Echeverría** also notes the importance of including empathy in the redefinition of integral approaches to homelessness.

26. Several Portuguese Cities have stressed the importance of national legal frameworks which decriminalizes homelessness, such as the Portuguese Council of Ministers Resolution No. 107/2017, which approved the National Strategy for the Integration of People Experiencing Homelessness 2017-2023 (ENIPSSA 2017 / 2023). The Strategy promotes a human-rights centered approach; quality intervention centered on the person; the recognition and adaptation to the specificities of women and men, as well as the co-responsibility and mobilization of all public and private entities, in a logic of subsidiarity, for an integrated and consistent intervention, in order to guarantee accessibility to existing services, responses and care. Moreover, the national programme “1st Right ” for access to housing, aims to support the promotion of housing solutions for people living in undignified housing conditions who do not have the financial capacity to bear the cost of access to adequate housing.

27. Ms. Léa Enon-Baron, National Co-Director of the National Association of Welcoming Cities and Territories, highlighted the urgent necessity for a structural change with respect to the framework pertaining to human mobility and homelessness. She stressed the interconnectedness between the availability of emergency housing and the regularization of populations’ migratory status, noting how local and regional governments often do not have enough competences nor resources. She called for the institutionalization of dialogue along these lines, establishing communication channels across levels of government and actors in order to make legal changes.

*«Approaches to addressing homelessness need to embrace the needs of the different population groups living in homelessness and poverty from an intersectional perspective»*

30. Ms. Bongile Mbingo, Mayor of **Ezulwini**, brought to the fore the needs of children living in homelessness and poverty. She stressed the commitment of local governments in Eswatini with providing community services in alignment with the national children’s policy, which focuses particularly on children facing compounding vulnerabilities, including living in homelessness. Noting, however, how children are often not aware of their rights.

31. Ms. Arredondo from **Navarra** expressed the necessity for an integrated policy approach to homelessness to take into account the experiences of women and girls and the need to ensure their safety from misogynistic violence, including sexual violence.

32. Mr. Luis Durán, General Manager of the **Antioquia** Housing Company, spotlighted the necessity to address homelessness in situations of internal displacement. He referred

particularly to the case of Colombia, where violence displaced large populations, sharing how, as a regional government, they are working on ensuring these populations can access adequate housing upon their return to the territories where they lived prior to the eruption of conflict.

*«Even when no laws criminalize living in homelessness, local and regional governments need to address cultural stigmatization»*

33. The Mayor of **Recoleta**, Mr. Daniel Jadue, drew attention to the fact that people living in homelessness are constantly stigmatized. He noted how even following the abolition of laws that explicitly criminalized living in homelessness, cultural stigmatization prevails. When there are people living on the streets, neighbors often complain. The Mayor also highlighted the importance of adopting an approach based on residents' rights, as opposed to citizens' rights, to promote a cultural shift based on the equality of rights between all human beings, which can contribute to the culture shift away from the stigmatization of people living in homelessness.

34. Ms. Amanda Fléty, coordinator of UCLG Committee on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights, stresses the importance of local governments remaining vigilant about the portrayal of homelessness in public discourse. Homeless populations are often marginalized and not recognized as full-fledged residents, making it essential to provide them with targeted attention in public policies as well as fostering dialogue and social cohesion with neighbors. However, when discussions surrounding homeless populations become part of the political discourse, it frequently leads to the dissemination of hate speech, potentially resulting in evictions or violent repression by law enforcement.

35. The written input from Espinhos draws attention to the importance of awareness raising within the local community, including children in schools, so that greater knowledge on the topic of homelessness facilitates community cooperation.

*«Local policies seeking to address social tensions around homelessness must seek the active participation of people living in these circumstances, placing mental health, justice, employment, and social inclusion at the forefront»*

36. The Councillor for Social Action and Social Housing of **Coimbra**, Ana Maria Cortez Vaz, stressed the centrality of ensuring rapid access to mental health services for people living in homelessness.

37. People living in homelessness and experiencing mental health issues are particularly likely to carry out activities in public spaces that can lead to sanctions, which if unpaid, can result in imprisonment.

38. Moreover, providing care services to people living in homelessness with mental health or drug-consumption issues also contributes to alleviating tensions with other residents, which as stressed by Ms. Hilary Gough from **Saskatoon**, is often related with perceptions of safety.

39. In turn, easing tensions can also improve residents' reception of local and regional governments' proposals to promote human rights-based approaches to addressing homelessness.

*«Policy coherence and coordination across levels of government are essential because the resources to improve housing depend on investments from different sources, at different levels»*

40. The Mayor of Sao Leopoldo highlighted how reducing the number of people living in homelessness requires investments and policy actions at all levels of government, whose final effectiveness is conditioned by the quality of multilevel governance and the ability to promote policy coherence.

41. The written input from **Grandola** states how local, regional and national governments need to develop a coordinated and participatory approach to address homelessness. Stressing how all the parts involved need to participate in the decision making of any program directed to the community.

42. In particular, the written input from **Algarve-Tavira** also calls for more state funding to be directed towards homelessness prevention and mitigation-related projects, as well as the capacity-building of staff, particularly relating to psychosocial skills.

43. The written input from **Matosinhos** points at the importance of creating institutional conditions that guarantee reinforced measures related to prevention and to combat the stigma associated with homelessness. Pointing at the importance of enabling environments for local action.

*« Collaboration with the non-profit sector and the establishment of networks strengthen the capacities of LRGs to prevent and adequately address homelessness»*

44. As noted by Mr. Joan Recassens from **Barcelona**, entities working in the non-profit housing sector that manage housing units can contribute to the local stock of available social housing, temporary and permanent. When there exists collaboration between them and the LRG, they can support fair housing allocation systems and strengthen the engagement of populations living in homelessness in the design and implementation of alternative housing solutions. Including in the prevention of evictions and situations that can eventually lead to homelessness.



45. They can also help LRGs adopt alternative approaches, such as Housing First approaches, when the financial means allow to do so, or other alternative approaches that suit local contexts.

*«The networked exchange of knowledge and experiences between local and regional governments contributes to promoting alternative local policy approaches to homelessness»*

46. The written input from **Tegucigalpa** points out how the establishment of networks of local and regional governments, whereby knowledge and resources are exchanged, has positive impacts on the capacities of LRGs to prevent and adequately address homelessness.

47. Promoting these kinds of networks at the metropolitan, regional and international levels can yield different positive outcomes at each scale.

### III. POLICIES, ACTIONS, AND STRATEGIES PUT IN PLACE BY LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

#### *«MEASURES TAKEN TO SUPPORT HOMELESS PEOPLE: FROM EMERGENCY SHELTERS TO SPECIFIC INITIATIVES FOR TARGETED GROUPS»*

**Recoleta** has a network of shelters for people and families living on the streets, with priority given to pregnant women and families who, after the pandemic, were unable to recover their income and are living on the streets. In this way they offer alternatives to people living on the street, without forcing them. This policy aims to include the homeless more fully in society. After entering the shelter, they also have access to a health service and a job.

**Barcelona** provides temporary and permanent housing alternatives (although this is more difficult). The number of places in temporary housing (accommodation) is gradually increasing, but we can't keep up with the demand. The priority is the children and their families. There are also day centres, so that people can clean themselves, cover their food needs, have contact with professionals who can help them in their situation, for example if they have a mental illness, etc

**Matinhos** has put in place effective emergency responses in relation to homelessness in the Municipality, which include: Psychosocial Street Team; Social Canteen; Bathhouse; Laundry; Health care; Emergency Accommodation; Shared Apartments; Training Guidance; Employment Guidance. The City also acts to combat the stigma associated with homelessness, in 2023, a Campaign was implemented that aims to raise awareness, information and disseminated among the community in general regarding this problem, as well as the dissemination of information about the referral circuit for homeless people, which exists in the municipality of Matosinhos.

**Algarve - Tavira** and other cities in Portugal have put in place the NPISA - Center for Planning and Intervention Without - Shelter , after the signing of a protocol arising from the National Strategy for the Integration of People in Homeless Situations (2017-2023) which aims to promote, inform , raise awareness and educate about the phenomenon of people in this situation, as well as reinforce their inclusion, by having an Action Plan. NPISA de Tavira operates through a formal coordination group with several local partners, who develop skills in the area and who signal, refer and accompany people experiencing homelessness (PSSA). Moreover, the NPISA of Tavira has developed 3 projects: the “Novas Oportunidades” Overnight Center managed by GATO, where PSSA'S can stay overnight from 9pm to 9am. The “TMN” Project – Tua, Minha, Nossa, managed by MAPS, which is seen as shared residences with psychosocial support, where they can guarantee autonomy in their schedules and meals and have pets. And the LEGOS Project (managed by the Social Problem Support Movement |MAPS and the Drug Addicts Help Group |G.A.T.O) which have Street Teams and which accompany elements that do not intend to join the Tavira NPISA Projects, supporting their social inclusion , ensuring access to psychosocial and therapeutic support, referral to hot meals, clothing and hygiene care, awareness-raising and training actions.

**L'Association Nationale des Villes et Territoires Accueillants (ANVITA)** in France promotes solidarity activities to promote dialogue among different stakeholders working with homelessness and carries out awareness and fundraising actions

**UCLG Africa** and its network of locally elected women, REFELA, launched the Campaign for African Cities without Street Children in November 2018, during the Africities Summit in Marrakesh. More than 60 African Cities have subscribed to this campaign which aims to address the issue of children in street situations in African cities (who have left their family or who have no family) through local elected representatives in collaboration with civil society but also state actors (family, women, etc).

### *«MEASURES TAKEN TO DECRIMINALIZE HOMELESSNESS AND ITS RELATED ACTIVITIES IN STREETS AND PUBLIC SPACES»*

**Several cities in Europe have signed the Homeless Bill of Rights promoted by FEANTSA** in partnership with Abbe Pierre Foundation. Since its launch in 2017, the bill has been adopted by several cities across Europe including Madrid, Móstoles, Santiago de Compostela and Barcelona, in Spain; Maribor, Slovenj, Gradec, Kranj, Murska, Sobota, in Slovenia; Gdansk in Poland; Villeurbanne in France; and Graz in Austria; and over 35 municipalities in Greece- The homeless Bill of Rights declares that everyone has a right to carry out practices necessary to survive within the law, to access basic sanitary facilities to use public space and to move freely within it.

The City of **Tegucigalpa** is fully aware of the economic dependence of the Honduran society on informal economy and employment, and its linkages with homelessness. Therefore, the City refrains from actions that could criminalize or displace people

who are established in public spaces to pursue activities linked to the informal economy and attempts to reconcile subsistence activities and informal commerce with public order.

In the same line, in **Estebán Echeverría**, the informal activities in streets switched from being a contravention to being recognized as a work for the benefit of the environment and the community, and is part of local initiatives for the development of the “social economy”.

### *«MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT AND STOP EVICTIONS»*

**Recoleta** levies rents to the residents at a fair price, whereby people pay part of their monthly income (20 %), if there is no income, they don't pay any rents.

**Strasbourg** has created a framework with the prefecture to have a consultation each time there is an evacuation to find solutions.

In **Newcastle upon Tyne**, a unique partnership with civil society organizations to prevent thousands of citizens becoming homeless. The primary objective is to identify and provide support to individuals at risk of homelessness before they reach a crisis point, rather than offering a response afterward. Newcastle upon Tyne also adopted an Homelessness Reduction Act. Both initiatives are promoting an approach based on everyone's responsibility that supports all residents in achieving a stable life, encompassing housing, income, financial inclusion, and employment opportunities.

### *«MEASURES TAKEN TO MITIGATE HOMELESSNESS AND PRECARIETY OF HOUSING THROUGH RESOURCES ALLOCATION, LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS»*

As per **Eswatini** children's protection and welfare act 2012, local authorities are dedicated to the cause of providing the best services to the community to ensure that children do not end up in the streets. They support orphans and vulnerable children in social centers who end up being street children if uncared for through the provision of at least one nutritious meal a day. The Social Centres get food donations from different organizations, friends and businesses in the different towns. Psychosocial support services are also provided in the schools and the kitchens that support these children. To ensure food security, Social Centre Gardens are used to plant a variety of vegetables which are then used to feed the children.

In **Recoleta**, 1% of the annual municipal budget goes to buying land to design housing projects, form housing committees and accompany people in the process of acquiring state-subsidized housing. This helps the residents avert competitive conditions arising from owned and rental housing market dynamics.

**South African municipalities** are striving to implement public space management measures in ways that support ongoing efforts to address homelessness, as an alternative to its criminalization. Guided by the 2030 National Development Plan and white paper on safety and security, municipal governments exercise mandates to address the specific safety and development needs of their communities. Under the Municipal Systems Act, local governments develop integrated development plans (IDPs), which serve as planning and implementation tools outlining the municipalities' priorities and strategies for economic and social development. While the challenge of homelessness falls under the broader realm of economic and social issues, local governments are increasingly recognising the need to integrate safety and health objectives into IDPs, to identify municipal specific approaches to a well balanced public space management that also improves services and pathways. Complemented by requisite consultative safety audits and other tools, such holistic approaches first help pinpoint the needs and priorities of communities, including homeless people. Secondly, from the budgetary planning and policy perspectives, these approaches help locate responses to those needs within existing, unplanned or new services and interventions at the municipal level.

The **Portuguese penal code** (decree-law 48/95) prevents the exploitation of minors in begging situations, which prevents the precarization of the situations of children living in the streets, and the slavery often linked to homelessness

In **Colombia**, homelessness situations are addressed by the national department in charge of social protection. This allows to ensure that homeless persons benefit from social services and social protection at national and local levels, which prevents other forms of exclusion and discrimination of these populations,

The local Housing Strategy of the Municipality of **Pampilhosa da Serra** aims to support the promotion of housing solutions for people who live in unworthy housing conditions and who do not have the financial capacity to bear the cost of access to adequate housing. The Program is based on a promotional dynamic predominantly directed to the rehabilitation of the building and the lease. It also invests in integrated and participatory approaches that promote social and territorial inclusion, through cooperation between sectoral policies and bodies, between central, regional and local administrations and between the public, private and cooperative sectors.

### *«MEASURES TAKEN TO FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH SOCIAL INCLUSION AND INTERSECTORAL APPROACHES»*

Within the scope of the housing strategy, the Municipality of **Fundão** applied for an urgent and temporary accommodation grant aimed at the integration of homeless people, migrants, human trafficking, victims of domestic violence, among others.

Several Cities such as **Saskatoon, São Leopoldo, Tegucigalpa and Amarante** are promoting the development of a systemic intervention according to problem situations: health, social, housing, security and employment/training.

Similarly, **Navarra** is conducting a shared diagnosis between social and housing services - as well as other area of the local government - to foster transversal approaches to address homelessness and poverty, for example to include dimensions such as physical, mental health and racism in local solutions.

**Buenos Aires** has established roundtables to foster participation of homeless people and dialogue with residents on the challenges they face, with a key role of the third sector for mediation and emergency support.

### *«MEASURES TAKEN TO ENHANCE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER AND MULTILEVEL COOPERATION TO PREVENT AND FIGHT HOMELESSNESS»*

Several Portuguese Municipalities have joined the national “[1st Right](#)” Program and to promote housing for homeless people; and to foster their social inclusion through specific support

In **Esteban Echeverría**, the social development department cooperates with different parts of the municipality and province and nation if necessary. Bars, for example, must allow free access to their sanitary facilities, it is forbidden the right of admission and stay.

In **Amarante**, the Municipality is working to strengthen communication between entities involved in housing and homelessness by defining an “institutional referece”; as well as to reinforce of the local response network through the alignment of local partners, with the guidelines and goals set at national level (ENIPSA national Strategy - see below)

In **Portugal**, the National Strategy for the Integration of People Experiencing Homelessness 2017-2023 (ENIPSSA 2017 / 2023) aims at ensuring that no one is de-institutionalized - from any type of social, health or justice response - without measures and support having been put in place to guarantee a suitable place to live, in close cooperation with local authorities.

The **Antioquia** region has developed integrated policy mechanisms with the Ministry of Interior to link its master plan with the implementation of the Colombian peace agreements to promote the return of the displaced people and ex-soldiers to their rural territories and safeguard their culture and traditions, while fostering socio-economic reintegration.

**Barcelona** works in close collaboration with the non-profit private sector, the third sector and also services, which depend on Social Services, that work to avoid or compensate

for conflicts and to help people get out of homelessness. There are regular counts and organizations also provide temporary housing for homeless people. The city is currently developing their housing first methodology together with these organizations.

In **Grigny**, the municipality has launched legal proceedings against unscrupulous landlords who exploit populations in precarious situations. These landlords rent out deteriorating properties on a per-room basis to multiple families, exacerbating over-occupancy. Thanks to legal interventions, the municipality has achieved over 25 convictions of such landlords since 2011. Taking legal action to address housing issues has not just delivered justice for tenants; it has also built trust between the municipality and the most vulnerable and precarious habitants. The municipality successfully garnered support from other public entities. Presently, the court of justice has instituted special procedures targeting substandard housing, and the police station has assigned a dedicated agent to address issues related to slum landlords.