



Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe

Session 3: Harnessing Geospatial Data for Sustainable Housing & Land Management - 23 June 2026 16:30 – 17:30

Housing Policy in Europe: Land, Tenure and Geospatial Evidence for Inclusive and Affordable Housing

Concept Note

1. Context and Rationale

Across Europe, housing affordability has become a critical policy challenge. Housing costs have risen much faster than incomes, with 8 - 9% of the EU population experiencing severe housing cost overburden (spending 40%+ of disposable income on housing). The UNECE region reports that over one-third of households in the bottom 40% income distribution experience housing stress. This reflects decades of under-investment in public and social housing alongside a shift towards treating housing as an investment commodity rather than as a social necessity.

Housing is a human right, a development accelerator, and a central pillar of sustainable urbanisation (SDG 11). It cuts across multiple policy domains: land tenure, urban planning, finance, social protection, and environmental sustainability. No single institution can resolve Europe's housing challenges in isolation, housing governance is inherently multi-level and multi-sectoral.

Geospatial information and integrated land administration systems can play a critical enabling role by:

- Supporting evidence-based affordability analysis and monitoring
- Strengthening tenure security and housing rights
- Informing inclusive urban development and land-use planning
- Enabling monitoring of SDG 11 and related policy objectives

2. Purpose

This session will create a shared strategic understanding among European and UN stakeholders of:

- Housing as a cross-cutting policy challenge in Europe
- Housing as a human right and SDG priority
- How geospatial information, land administration and statistical integration can support housing policy



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3. Session Objectives

- Connect European housing challenges to UN-GGIM frameworks (UN-IGIF, FELA) and the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (EG-LAM)
- Strengthen dialogue and alignment between UN-GGIM: Europe, Eurostat, UNECE (WPLA and Urban Housing) and Member States
- Identify priority areas where geospatial information and land administration can support housing policy and identify gaps:
 - Data and evidence gaps (e.g., affordability indicators, tenure information)
 - Institutional coordination gaps (housing, land, geospatial, statistical)
 - Application gaps (how to operationalise geospatial frameworks for housing)
- Establish a basis for future collaboration, knowledge exchange and follow-up within UN-GGIM: Europe

4. Session Structure and Timing

5 min	Opening / Framing	Darko Vucetic - UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee Member/ Bureau of the Working Party on Land Administration Member
10 min	Presentation 1: Housing in Europe	Ms. Maïke Salize, UNECE: Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management
10 min	Presentation 2: Land Administration Framework	Paula Dijkstra, co-Chair UN-GGIM: Expert Group on Land Administration and Management
10 min	Presentation 3: Geospatial Evidence for Housing	Marta Nagy-Rothengass, Eurostat
25 min	Panel Discussion & Q&A	All speakers + audience

5. Guiding Questions for Discussion

- How can geospatial information, integrated land data and statistics support Europe's progress on SDG 11 (affordable housing, secure tenure, inclusive cities)?
- What are the main coordination gaps between housing, land, statistical and geospatial institutions preventing better SDG 11 monitoring and housing policy-making across Europe?



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- What are the priority opportunities for collaboration within UN-GGIM: Europe on housing and land administration?

6. Expected Outcomes

- A clear framing of how geospatial information, integrated land data and statistics support housing policies and relevant SDGs
- Increased awareness of how geospatial and land administration frameworks support housing outcomes
- Clearer understanding of how EG-LAM and FELA frameworks strengthen tenure security and support housing outcomes
- Identification of priority themes for continued engagement within UN-GGIM: Europe