



IFHP x VDM Brussels Convening

Program

15 April 2025

Vereniging Deltametropool
www.deltametropool.nl



International Federation of
Housing and Planning
www.ifhp.org



Huis van de Nederlandse Provincies
www.nl-prov.eu/



Perspective Brussels
www.perspective.brussels



Citydev Brussels
www.citydev.brussels



Regio Randstad
www.nl-prov.eu/regios/regio-randstad/



The Convening

Date: Tuesday, 15 April 2025

Time: 10:00 – 18:30

Location: Trierstraat 59, 1040 Brussel, Belgium

Amidst ongoing crises, rising living costs, climate challenges, and housing shortages, European policymakers are pushing forward with bold new strategies to expand affordable housing. With a €270 billion investment gap and millions struggling to find secure homes, the question is: what solutions can truly transform the future of housing? Join us in Brussels to explore the answers.

This one-day convening is your chance to dive into the big questions: How can State Aid boost housing affordability? Can industrial construction make housing more sustainable? What does a €270 billion investment gap really mean for Europe's housing future? The Brussels Convening is the latest in a series of IFHP & VDM convenings, after Berlin (Oct 2024), Rotterdam (June 2024) and London (Oct 2023). Each convening builds on the last, bringing fresh perspectives and practical solutions.

IFHP x VDM Collaboration

Both organisations employ distinct working methods, making them complementary to each other. IFHP leverages its network to foster the exchange of solutions related to social housing and a healthy city perspective. Complimenting to that, VDM concentrates on local practice and systemic changes within the Netherlands and the Eurodelta megaregion, while also participating and facilitating discussions at a European level. The collaboration facilitates content-focused discussions and activates the existing network of IFHP. For VDM, it benefits from the synergy of working on global agendas.

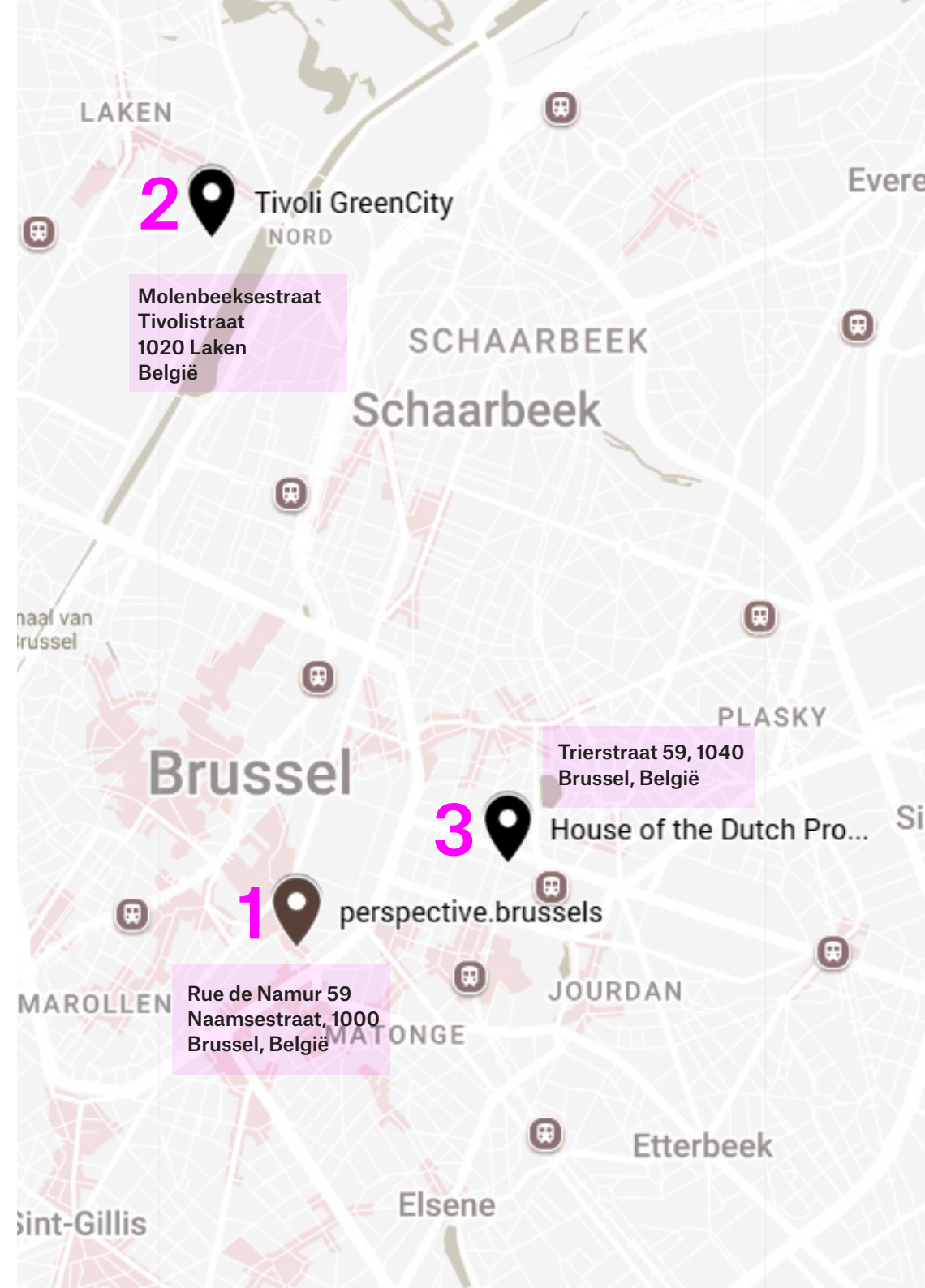
Furthermore, this partnership reimagines Ebenezer Howard's Garden City Movement, pivotal to IFHP's establishment in 1913, presenting a relevant approach in the context of climate change. Today, cities and metropolitan areas must contribute to climate mitigation, aligning with Howard's advocacy on we must think globally and act locally.

Program

Welcome to a dynamic day in Brussels exploring innovative housing and urban planning, with expert talks, site visits, and networking opportunities shaping the future of Europe's housing agenda.

Moderated by Leen Verbeek (Chair, Board of Deltametropool)

- 10:00 **Welcome & Kickoff** - Hosted at Perspective.brussels
Presentations from Alfredo Corbalan | Coordinator European & international affairs
and Yves Van de Castele | Brussels Housing Referent
- 11:00 **Guided Site Visit Tivoli GreenCity** - Brussels' housing & urban planning in action!
Presentation by Benjamin Cadranet | CEO citydev.brussels
Guided tour from Vera Manouilov | citydev.brussels
- 12:45 **Transfer** to Huis van de Nederlandse Provincies
- 13:15 **Lunch & Networking** - Meet fellow housing thinkers & doers
- 13:45 **Panel 1: The European Housing Agenda** — Talks with European Commission, METREX and Housing Europe.
- 14:45 **Coffee Break**
- 15:00 **Panel 2: Best Practices - Sustainable Spatial Planning** - Talks with ISOCARP, LABO RUIMTE, SURE Network, Toekomstbestendig bouwen.
- 16:15 **Panel 3: Best Practices - Design and Construction** - Talks with BPD, KAW, Superuse Studios and NH Bouwstroom.
- 17:15 **Closing Reflections** - By Paul Gerretsen (Vereniging Deltametropool)
- 17:30 **Closing Drinks** - Wrap up with good conversations!



Our Hosts

Perspective Brussels

perspective.brussels is the regional reference centre of expertise for regional and territorial development in Brussels. At the service of the development of the Brussels Region, Perspective produces the expertise necessary for the Region to understand itself, project itself and develop sustainably, with the aim of:

- prompting reflection and public debate;
- meeting the needs and improving the quality of life of the people of Brussels and users of the Region.



Tivoli GreenCity Citydev.brussels

Tivoli Green City, a multiawarded ecodistrict built on a brownfield under the leadership of citydev.brussels (2020) and offering about 400 housing units (social and middle income), public amenities and spaces for economic activities and businesses.



Huis van de Nederlandse Provincies

The Huis van de Nederlandse Provincies (HNP), established in 2000 by the twelve Dutch provinces and the Interprovinciaal Overleg (IPO), serves as a collective representation of provincial interests within the European Union. Located in Brussels, the HNP functions as an intermediary between Dutch provinces and EU institutions, aiming to enhance communication, advocate for regional interests, and provide timely information on European policies.



Thematic Agenda

The housing crisis has become one of the most urgent social challenges facing Europe today. Across the continent, citizens are struggling with rising rents, a limited supply of affordable homes, and increasing pressure on both public and private housing systems. Since 2010, house prices in the European Union have increased dramatically, while rental costs have continued to outpace wages. As a result, more and more European households are spending over 40% of their income on housing, putting pressure on their ability to meet other essential needs.

Despite the fact that housing policy primarily remains a national and local competence, it is clear that it is a topic affecting many Europeans, which is why the European Commission wants to play a more active role in addressing the housing challenge. Housing is increasingly recognised not only as a social issue, but also as a matter that affects economic competitiveness, territorial cohesion, and the broader goals of the European Green Deal. The European Commission has therefore established the first Commissioner for Housing, Dan Jørgensen, and a special task force on affordable housing, tasked with creating a European Affordable Housing Plan.

While the EU's direct competences on housing are limited, the Commission has identified key roles it can play:

— Increasing **European funding** for housing-related developments.

— Making **European legislation** “housing-proof”, by assessing its potential impacts on housing outcomes.

— **Collecting and sharing best practices** from across the Union to inspire and accelerate solutions.

Additionally, the European Parliament established a Special Committee on Housing, and the Committee of the Regions is working on an Opinion on the Affordable Housing Plan. The goal of these initiatives is to advise the European Commission on its work and to bring key experiences from local and regional dimensions. This is also part of the reason why we are coming together in Brussels. As professionals involved in the planning, design, construction and renovation of housing, you bring practical experience and insight to the table.

We therefore want to encourage you to make your voices heard during the panel discussions. Share the barriers you face, the regulations and funding mechanisms that support or hinder your work, and what practical steps you believe the European Commission could take to better enable the development of sustainable and affordable housing across Europe. Your expertise is essential to shape an effective and grounded European housing agenda.



Rotterdam Convening

Panel Members



Tatiana Marquez Uriarte

Cabinet Member of Commissioner Jørgensen, European Commission, Housing Task Force

Tatiana Marquez Uriarte serves in the cabinet of Commissioner Jørgensen, who is responsible for energy and housing. She brings expertise in EU policy coordination and interinstitutional relations. As the Commission begins to focus on housing, she is leading the work on a new Task Force on Housing, set to deliver the European Affordable Housing Plan.



Lucía Caudet Balzer

European Commission, Deputy Head of Cabinet Housing Task Force

Lucía Caudet Balzer is Deputy Head of Cabinet to European Commissioner Thierry Breton. She is also a member of the European Commission's Housing Task Force, contributing to cross-sectoral efforts to address Europe's housing challenges.



Henk Bouwman

Secretary General, METREX

Henk Bouwman is Secretary General of METREX, the network of European metropolitan regions and areas. With a background in urban design and regional planning, he leads the organization's efforts to foster collaboration among Europe's major metros. He provides strategic insight into urban challenges, including the housing crisis, from a cross-national metropolitan perspective.



Sorcha Edwards

**Secretary General,
Housing Europe**

Sorcha Edwards has served as the Secretary General of Housing Europe, the European Federation of Public, Cooperative, and Social Housing, since 2014. Housing Europe represents public, cooperative, and social housing providers managing 25 million homes, delivering over 200,000 new homes and renovations annually. The federation advocates for decent and affordable housing, aiming to influence EU and international policies to improve regulation, knowledge, and financing in the housing sector.



Emiliano Rochetti

**Policy Officer,
International Union
of Tenants**

Emiliano Rochetti represents the International Union of Tenants, which advocates for the rights and interests of tenants across Europe. He plays a key role in shaping policy positions on housing affordability and tenant protection. Recently, he addressed the European Parliament, calling for a 30% minimum social housing quota in new developments and promoting rent limits based on UN-Habitat affordability standards.



Claudio Acioly

**IHS-Institute for
Housing, Erasmus
University Rotterdam**

Claudio Acioly Jr. is an architect and urban planner with over 40 years of international experience in housing, urban development, and policy. A former Senior Advisor at UN-Habitat, he is currently affiliated with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam. He also serves as a board member of the Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa and closely collaborates with the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP).



Maurits Schaafsma

**Urban Planner,
Municipality of
Haarlemmermeer**

Maurits Schaafsma is an urban planner with extensive experience in metropolitan development and airport-related urbanism. Currently serving as an urban planner for the Municipality of Haarlemmermeer, he focuses on integrating spatial planning with sustainable mobility and economic growth. He is also a board member of Vereniging Deltametropool.



Guy Vloebergh

**Senior Urban
Planner, Omgeving
Representative,
ISOCARP**

Guy Vloebergh is a senior urban planner at Omgeving and represents ISOCARP, the global association of professional planners. With extensive experience in both practice and policy, he leads complex planning processes, including the strategic plan for the Port of Antwerp. He brings insights from Flanders on long-term housing demand, spatial frameworks, and planning for demographic and climate resilience.



Julie Mabilde

**Advisor and
Project Leader,
LABO RUIMTE
Team Vlaams
Bouwmeester**

Julie Mabilde is an engineer-architect and advisor at Team Vlaams Bouwmeester, where she leads design research within LABO RUIMTE. This platform explores the impact of societal and long-term transitions on the built environment through collaborative design studies and public debate. She also advises public authorities on spatial and architectural challenges across Flanders.



Erik Pasveer

Director of spatial planning, City of Amsterdam
Head of SURE Network

Erik Pasveer represents the SURE Network, a collaboration of cities and regions advancing sustainable urbanization. At the City of Amsterdam, he serves as a senior urban planner, where he is responsible for long-term spatial strategy and regional coordination. He works at the intersection of urban planning and governance, with a focus on integrated and climate-resilient development.



Stan van den Berg

Toekomstbestendig bouwen

Stan van den Berg is strategic advisor on housing policy and urban development for the Amsterdam Metropolitan Region. His expertise lies particularly in fostering effective public-private partnerships and navigating complex intergovernmental collaborations to achieve sustainable and impactful housing policy or urban development outcomes.



Esther Agricola

Director, BPD (Bouwfonds Property Development)

Esther Agricola is a director at BPD, one of the largest housing developers in the Netherlands. She brings expertise in large-scale urban development and innovation in housing production. Her work focuses on integrating prefabrication and digitalization to meet growing demand, offering insight into both the potential and limitations of industrialized building from a major developer's perspective.



Reimar von Meding

Architect and CEO, KAW Architecten

Reimar von Meding is an architect and CEO of KAW Architecten, known for his strong focus on sustainable, inclusive, and affordable housing. Through design and research, he advances built environments that prioritize social value, climate resilience, and circularity, contributing to the future of urban development in the Netherlands and across Europe.



Floris Schiferli

Architect and Partner, Superuse Studios

Floris Schiferli is an architect and partner at Superuse Studios, recognized as a pioneer in circular construction. His work with the Wolphaertstraat housing cooperative demonstrates how material reuse and collaborative design can challenge conventional housing models. He brings a critical and creative perspective to the role of prefabrication in sustainable building practices.



Charlotte Meulenbelt

NH Bouwstroom

Charlotte Meulenbelt is a Senior Developer in Industrial Construction at the social housing corporation Ymere. She also serves as the Chair of the Day-to-Day Management Team (Kernteam) of the Nieuw Hollandse Bouwstroom. Within the NH Bouwstroom, she specializes in Flexwonen (temporary modular housing) and accelerating the building process.

Our Hosts



**Mees Tesselaar
Ferrari**

Policy Advisor, Regio
Randstad

Mees Tesselaar Ferrari is a Policy Advisor at Regio Randstad, where he works on interregional cooperation and strategic spatial development within the Randstad area. In January 2025, he participated in a delegation to the European Commission to discuss housing solutions and share knowledge on behalf of the MRA and Randstad provinces.



Marieke Kuijer

EU Randstad
Provinces
Coordinator, Regio
Randstad

Marieke Kuijer has been serving as the EU Randstad Coordinator at the Huis van de Nederlandse Provincies (HNP) in Brussels since mid-2024. In this role, she focuses on enhancing collaboration among the Randstad provinces and optimizing the use of available expertise.



Alfredo Corbalan

Expert European,
international and
interregional affairs,
Perspective Brussels

Alfredo Corbalan is an expert in metropolitan governance and European urban policy. He leads EU, international, and interregional affairs at perspective.brussels, the Brussels-Capital Region's urban planning agency. Corbalan chairs the EUROCITIES Working Group on Metropolitan Areas and has experience in territorial development and metropolitan cooperation.



**Yves van de
Castele**

Housing officer,
Perspective Brussels

Yves Van de Castele is a Housing Officer at Perspective Brussels, the Brussels Regional Planning Agency. He works on housing policy from a territorial and strategic planning perspective, contributing to the development of sustainable, inclusive, and affordable housing solutions in the Brussels-Capital Region.



Benjamin Cadranel

CEO
Citydev.brussels

Benjamin Cadranel is the CEO of Citydev.brussels, the regional development agency of the Brussels-Capital Region, which specializes in developing mixed-use, sustainable urban projects, integrating production activities into the urban fabric, and producing affordable housing.



Vera Manouilov

Public facilities unit,
Citydev.brussels

Vera Manouilov is an architect and urban planner at Citydev.brussels, working within the Public Facilities Unit. She focuses on the planning and development of high-quality public infrastructure as part of Citydev's broader mission to create sustainable, inclusive, and multifunctional urban environments in the Brussels-Capital Region.



Leen Verbeek

**Chair of Board,
Deltametropolis
Association**

Leen Verbeek is a Dutch politician and former King's Commissioner of Flevoland (2008–2023). He has served as the President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and chairs the board of Vereniging Deltametropool.



Alankrita Sarkar

**Research Program
Coordinator,
Deltametropolis
Association**

Alankrita Sarkar is a strategic spatial planner serving as Research Program Coordinator at Vereniging Deltametropool, where she leads international and European projects, bridging research and practice in metropolitan development. She is also a PhD candidate at Delft University of Technology, focusing on cross-border relations in the Flemish-Dutch Delta concerning landscape and governance.



Paul Gerretsen

**Director,
Deltametropolis
Association**

As Agent of Vereniging Deltametropool since 2008, Paul Gerretsen leads the association's strategic direction, focusing on metropolitan development in the Netherlands. He oversees the executive agency, fosters collaboration among stakeholders, and frequently advises international governments and institutions on large-scale urban and spatial projects.



Eva Kuiper

**Event Coordinator,
Deltametropolis
Association**

Eva Kuiper graduated in Spatial Design and has been working at Vereniging Deltametropool since 2024. Over the past half year, she has helped organize events and gatherings that bring people together around topics related to spatial planning and design.

Attendees

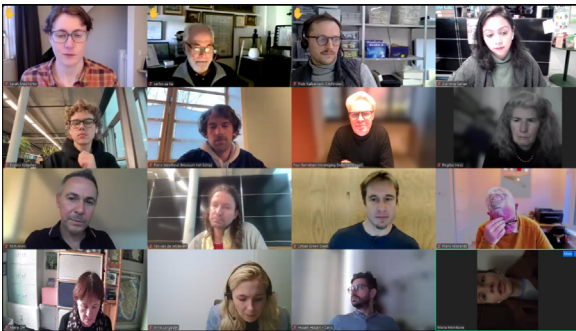
Rene Hogenboom	Altera Vastgoed
Rene Meyboom	Bouwend Nederland
Esther Agricola	BPD (Bouwfonds Gebiedsontwikkeling)
Erik Pasveer	City of Amsterdam/SURE network
Vera Manouilov	Citydev Brussels
Barot Somesh	Citydev Brussels
Benjamin Cadranel	Citydev Brussels
Paul Gerretsen	Deltametropolis Association
Eva Kuiper	Deltametropolis Association
Alankrita Sarkar	Deltametropolis Association
Leen Verbeek	Deltametropolis Association (Chair of Board)
Tatiana Marquez Uriarte	European Commission
Lucía Caudet	European Commission DG GROW
Maurits Schaafsma	Gemeente Haarlemmermeer (Board member VDM)
Sorcha Edwards	Housing Europe
Marieke Kuijer	Randstad Provinces
Mees Tesselaar Ferrari	Randstad Provinces
Claudio Acioly	IHS-Institute Erasmus University
Emiliano Rocchetti	International Union of Tenants
Reimar von Meding	KAW
Sofie Troch	Labo Ruimte/Departement Omgeving
Henk Bouwman	METREX
Tayfun Cinar	Metropolitan Region Amsterdam
Gewa Gieseler	Northrein Westphalia
Guy Vloebergh	Omgeving/ISOCARP
Alfredo Corbalan	Perspective Brussels
Sandrine De Meyer	Perspective Brussels
Yves van de Castele	Perspective Brussels

Frank Dirks	Platform31
Jonas Guignonnat	Platform31
Stan van de Berg	Province Noord Holland
Floris Schiferli	SuperUse Studios
Julie Mabilde	Team Vlaams Bouwmeester
Daniele Zurigo	International Union of Tenants
Marie Hanna Deketeleare	Urbact
Charlotte Meulenbelt	Ymere
Sander Aelboet	ORG Permanent Modality

Learning Labs

The Learning Labs is an online exchange and learning platform between IFHP and Deltametropool members, aiming to foster knowledge exchange and develop practical, scalable solutions that can be implemented across diverse urban contexts. Through a blend of international expertise, case studies, and collaborative discussions, this series will lay the groundwork for innovative urban planning strategies adaptable to cities worldwide.

Notes



Read more here:



Frequency: Monthly sessions (First Wednesday of the month)

Duration: 90 minutes each (14:00 – 15:30 CET)

Format: Online exchange via zoom

Reach us at:

email:

[alankrita.sarkar@
deltametropool.nl](mailto:alankrita.sarkar@deltametropool.nl)

[paul.gerretsen@
deltametropool.nl](mailto:paul.gerretsen@deltametropool.nl)

[eva.kuiper@
deltametropool.nl](mailto:eva.kuiper@deltametropool.nl)

phone:

+31 (0)10 737 0340

website:

deltametropool.nl

Vereniging Deltametropool
Museumpark 25
3015 CB Rotterdam

Postbus 600
3000 AP Rotterdam

+3110 737 0340
www.deltametropool.nl

vereniging
delta —
metropool

IFHP International
Federation for
Housing and
Planning