

Committee: Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (GA3)

Topic: Ameliorating ghettoisation in urban Europe

Student Officer: Anna Baranova

Position: Co-chair

Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

My name is Anna Baranova, and at the time of the conference I will be attending Year 11 at Campion School. It is my honor to be serving as the Co-Chair of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee in this year's CSMUN and I hope that this conference will greatly contribute to further developing your passion for MUN. My first conference dates back to 2022, and since then, I have served nine times as a Delegate and four as a Student Officer.

As the Student Officer Team of GA3, we will do everything we can to create a welcoming environment conducive to have a fruitful debate. I can assure you that you will get the best possible experience from actively participating and engaging in both lobbying and debate.

This study guide serves the purpose of introducing you to the second topic of the GA3 agenda. I do, however, strongly advise you to carefully study your topics and your country's stance regarding the issue of: "Ameliorating ghettoisation in urban Europe".

Some links that may be useful for your research are included in the bibliography section at the end of the study guide.

Although this is undoubtedly a lot of work, I promise that the CSMUN2026 will be a significant learning opportunity!

If you have any kind of question, conference or topic-related, feel free to contact me by: abaranova@campion.edu.gr

Yours truly,

Anna Baranova



Topic Introduction

Ghettoization is a major social problem and an urban planning issue since it restricts possibilities for individuals impacted, perpetuates negative perceptions, and exacerbates inequalities. It frequently refers to the concentration of marginalised groups on the outskirts of a city in tiny, frequently remote settlements with below average living conditions. Although ghettos have unique urban features, the phrase is frequently used to disparage individuals and locations. People who live in derogatory neighborhoods, sometimes referred to as "ghettos," are common in urban Europe and are increasingly marginalized because they are perceived as dangerous and socially abnormal.

Their cultural differences are often singled out, which can lead to tension and, at times, open hostility toward the dominant national norms. In some instances, religion quietly plays a role in shaping this opposition. Incidents of violence and deviance in and around these regions are frequently exaggerated or portrayed in an overly dramatic way by the media or public discourse and linked to the supposedly innate sociocultural characteristics of all of its inhabitants. Any marginalised community distributed in a small area or a neighbourhood can easily become a ghetto over the years as people from minority groups continue to be placed in those areas.

If policies regarding marginal areas are to be effectively formulated and implemented, it is crucial to reclaim the term "ghetto" from improper usage and restore its historical and geographical origins, although the problem of ghettoisation still stands.

Considering all the factors that might lead someone to move abroad or immigrate during their lifetime, ameliorating ghettoization is a crucial step towards reaching universal equality. Addressing this issue in Europe would significantly improve the lives of the minority groups living in segregated regions which is the problem this study guide addresses.



Definition of key concepts

Ghettoisation

“The act or process of confining or restricting individuals, groups, or communities to a particular area, activity, or category.”¹

Ghettos

“An area of a city, especially a very poor area, where people of a particular race or religion live closely together and apart from other people.”²

Urbanisation

“The process by which large numbers of people become permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities.”³

Mixed-Income Housing (MIH)

“The outcome of a deliberate effort to build a mixed-income development, usually including a variety of housing typologies, sometimes combined with the goal of creating a mixed-tenure development.”⁴

Social exclusion

“Ways in which individuals may become cut off from full involvement in the wider society.”⁵

Spatial segregation

¹ Collins. “Definition of Ghettoization.” *Collinsdictionary.com*, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, 26 June 2025, www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/ghettoization. Accessed 26 June 2025.

² “GHETTO | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Dictionary.cambridge.org*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ghetto.

³ Augustyn, Adam. “Urbanization | Definition, History, Examples, & Facts.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 20 Mar. 2019, www.britannica.com/topic/urbanization.

⁴ Trillo, Claudia. “Mixed Income Housing (MIH).” *Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*, 1 Jan. 2020, pp. 396–403, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-95717-3_77.

⁵ SOCIOLOGY GUIDE. “Social Exclusion Definition, Poverty and Social Exclusion, Social Exclusion in India, Social Exclusion Theory.” *Sociologyguide.com*, 2010, www.sociologyguide.com/social_inequality_exclusion/social_exclusion.php.



“The visible result of deliberate policies aimed at insulating groups of people away from the rest of society in neighborhoods or whole regions.”⁶

Background Information

Historical Background

The term originates from the ghetto of Venice in the sixteenth century, where Jews were forced to live under the racist and antisemitic laws in force at the time. During the European Middle Ages, Jews also congregated in specific ghettoised areas where they were practically left with barely any to no food and water for days, and extremely bad sanitat. The forced segregation, as seen in these primitive examples, generated an extensive legacy of multiple types of urban segregation. European cities became large urban centres with the industrialisation of the nineteenth century, attracting workers from distant areas. This creates a vicious cycle, as discrimination in the housing market and transportation infrastructure often forces minorities to relocate to distant areas, contributing to even greater segregation.⁷

Modernist housing estates are high-density homes with minimal or no outdoor space, typically used by people with lower incomes, which were sprouted on the outskirts of cities in countries such as France and the UK to address post-war housing needs during the 1950s and '60s. Elevated Housing at Loyer Modéré (HLM) estates in France⁸, The Lawn tower block in Harlow, UK (1951)⁹. Although these projects provided low-income housing, the result over time was to confine growing numbers of poor and migrant populations to socially and spatially segregated zones. By the 1970s and 1980s, large-scale labour migration brought Turks to Germany and North Africans to France. Zoning and urban planning often placed these communities in distant, underserved districts, lacking reliable transportation, schools, and employment opportunities, fostering both spatial and economic marginalisation.

⁶ Pereira, Pascoal. “Spatial Segregation: The Persistent and Structural Features of Exclusionary Policies.” *Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*, 2021, pp. 869–877, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-95960-3_21.

⁷ “History of the Venetian Ghetto.” *Ghetto Venezia*, www.ghettovenezia.com/en/the-history/.

⁸ *The Regeneration of Large-Scale Social Housing Estates Spatial, Territorial, Institutional and Planning Dimensions*, www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/soholab_report1.pdf

⁹ “The Lawn, Harlow, Essex | Educational Images | Historic England.” *Historicengland.org.uk*, 2025, historicengland.org.uk/education/schools-resources/educational-images/the-lawn-harlow-4590.



The March for Equality and Against Racism started on 15 October 1983 in the working-class neighbourhood in Marseille after police violence - this was the first national protest to bring together all these points about racial discrimination, police control and ghettoization in French urban spaces. It put the French banlieues, or suburbs, on the map internationally.¹⁰ The police pursuit and subsequent deaths of two youth in fleeing from the police at Clichy-sous-Bois again inflamed tensions on 30 October 2005 which led to three weeks of rioting, primarily by young men who burned an estimated 9000 cars. The events revealed the profound poverty, unemployment, racism and brutal police practices that constitute an ongoing challenge for many residents of these neighbourhoods.¹¹

Today, ghettoisation in Europe persists amongst the minority and low-income populations fostered by economic disadvantage, housing segregation, media discrimination. There are policies, which aim to integrate refugees into the city life instead of segregating them in ghettos.

Major Causes of Ghettoisation

Economic barriers

The ghettos are usually in the more remote part of large cities in the most affordable areas. Minority group people usually have the least income, because it is the most common reason for wanting to move to a different, often more developed country. They look for the most affordable housing option they can find since they will not have a job or a stable income right away. Over the years, it could turn into a social and economic ghetto district as increasing numbers of others congregate here. For example, as of 2023, in Vienna, 40% of inhabitants are migrants, living only in large ghettos that are far from the city life.¹² Because they have little access to lucrative jobs, minority residents often stay in these wards with no future out of poverty.

Discrimination in housing

¹⁰ "France's Long March against Racism | History Today." *Www.historytoday.com*, www.historytoday.com/archive/history-matters/frances-long-march-against-racism.

¹¹ Salanié, Bernard. "Riots in France." *SSRC Items*, 2024, items.ssrc.org/category/riots-in-france. Accessed 14 Aug. 2025.

¹² Marc Sadurn, Samuel Martin-Gutierrez, Ola Ali, Ana Mar'ia Jaramillo, Rafael Prieto-Curiel, and Fariba Karimi. "Quantifying Urban Socio-Economic Segregation through Co-Residence Network Reconstruction." www.arxiv.org/pdf/2501.1592023 May 2025.



In some European cities, it's even more difficult for people with migrant backgrounds to find housing. Some landowners turn unanswered applications or outright refusals away in favour of applicants from their own nationality, prior to people with migrant backgrounds. Such bias can be steeped in stereotypes about immigrants as dangerous, or of minority neighbourhoods being high crime zones - like ghettos, for instance.

Germany, for example, declared in 2022 that a shocking 62% of immigrant persons with an ethnic background are faced with no response to their attempts to find accommodation.¹³ Consequently, most immigrants can only get access to housing in the same remote areas of large cities. Eventually, this concentration of marginal communities gives way to slum areas where the spiral of underprivileged lives is completed in its isolation from both social and economic mainstreams.

Labour market exclusion

These are the structural obstacles that prevent certain groups, often migrant or minority populations, from gaining access to good and stable jobs. The economic disadvantage results in them living in less expensive neighborhoods, usually with people who share their ethnic origin and similar disadvantaged status, to the formation of ghettos. Concentrated poverty may also in some instances lead to higher levels of crime.

¹³ "Discrimination in Housing: The Other Face of Europe's Habitational Crisis - European Data Journalism Network - EDJNet." *European Data Journalism Network - EDJNet*, 16 Feb. 2025, www.europeandatajournalism.eu/cp_data_news/discrimination-in-housing-the-other-face-of-europes-habitational-crisis/



Unemployment rates by citizenship and sex, people aged 20-64, 2014-2024

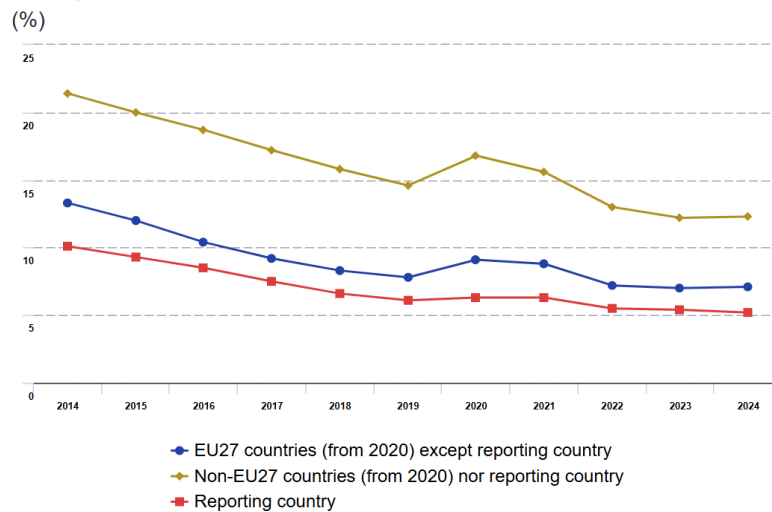


Figure 1: Unemployment rates by citizenship and sex, people aged 20-64, 2014-2024¹⁴

The following graph gives some indication of how the groups (mainly EU27, Non-EU27 and the reporting country) all recorded a slight uptick in unemployment around 2020 (presumably the economic blow of COVID-19). The discrepancy between the groups was also consistent in the post-pandemic years. Although phase shifts had the same direction for all groups, non-EU citizens always showed the highest rates, also suggesting a lack of access to or integration into employment. In general, unemployment declined for all groups over the past decade, but the gap between EU and non-EU citizens persists. This gap is an important cause of ghettoisation via exclusion from the labour market.

While unemployment has dropped across the last decade, it is clear on the chart that there is, and always has been, a large difference between both EU and non-EU citizens.

Consequences

Poverty

People in ghettoised areas tend to be stuck in long-term poverty. In 2023, 45.5% of non-EU country nationals in the EU were at risk of poverty or social exclusion - while the risk rate for EU citizens was

¹⁴ Europa.eu, 2021, ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lfsa_organ/default/table?lang=en.

18.9%.¹⁵ This inequality is the result of a multitude of underlying things, such as lower levels of access to well-paying jobs, and geographical isolation can also further inhibit employment and training opportunities.

These circumstances, in the long run, impact the cycle of intergenerational poverty, resulting in children from families with lower socioeconomic status having academic problems and limited career prospects. People are also ready to work or get educated, but lack the institutional support to pull themselves out of poverty, such as job training, language classes, or social service support. This entrenched economic disadvantage concentrates low-income households within the same districts, reinforcing the spatial segregation that defines ghettoisation.

Lack of Access to Jobs, Education and Healthcare

Job accessibility is the ease with which available jobs can be reached from a residence, as measured in time or distance. It is a fact that rarely will all basic types of public infrastructure be provided in these communities (e.g., schools, hospitals, and supporting services that cater to the needs of a community). Schools are overcrowded, clinics have long lines, and the supplies are incomplete. Without these services, communities do not have access to much-needed resources for self-empowerment and self-care, which means those from minority groups are unable to approach high-paying employment or even fulfill their fundamental needs. This, of course, leads to the chasm between cities and ghettos, where people in ghettoised areas lack necessities and feel more and more abandoned by the state.

Social Stigma

Ghettoised areas are often stigmatised as unsafe by the media and the public, promoting information which are very generalised and often untrue. This creates a negative look on the people with migrant backgrounds that are living in ghettoised areas from the general public view. Such attitudes impact the potentials of qualified individuals such that even the qualified remain marginalised. For example, in a recently published study from Barcelona, 62% of real estate agencies were willing to overtly restrict the housing choices available to foreigners, illustrating the ease with which discrimination is

¹⁵ Eurostat. "Migrant Integration Statistics - at Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion." *Ec.europa.eu*, 2024, ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Migrant_integration_statistics_-_at_risk_of_poverty_and_social_exclusion.

normalised into everyday rental practices.¹⁶ That in turn makes a lot of people embarrassed of the place where they live, or pretend they don't live there at all in an attempt to avoid the stigma, which isolates you even more from wider society.

Positive Impact of Ameliorating Ghettoisation

Better Access to Jobs, Education and Healthcare

Well-integrated, appropriately developed ghettoised neighbourhoods would be more likely to offer good schools, health services and solid job opportunities for their residents. That helps decrease poverty and provides people with more of a shot at improving their quality of life and participating in society.

Economic Growth

More active participation by more people in the economy would help the country develop. When education and jobs are improved, people contribute, instead of living on assistance. That means improved productivity, higher tax take, and a reduced burden on welfare systems. Moreover, people in ghettos would be able to fully economically sustain themselves and have a choice of their place of living.

Inclusion

Making headway on these fronts would make cities in urban Europe more fair and more equitable. It is a preventative measure against social tensions, racism and xenophobia. It is also a way for every citizen, regardless of origin, to feel respected and engaged in the community where they live. Inclusion strengthens democracy and develops enduring social stability.

Challenges

Funding limitations

¹⁶ "Property Agents Accept Ethnic Discrimination When Renting out Homes | Info Barcelona | Barcelona City Council." *Barcelona.cat*, 2024, www.barcelona.cat/infobarcelona/en/tema/inclusion/over-60-of-property-agents-accept-ethnic-discrimination-when-renting-out-homes_1130265.html Accessed 23 July 2025.



Cities often lack the funds to regenerate infrastructure, housing, and services in ghettoized areas, making long-term solutions difficult to sustain. Budget deficits often lead to national governments prioritizing immediate concerns like security or economic growth. Donor money is used for short-term programs, but these often fail to transform the landscape in the long run. Without consistent funding, progress is hindered, leading to half-built housing projects, underresourced schools, and crumbling infrastructure. This cycle can lead to disillusionment among the population and loss of faith in local government and international entities advocating for change.

Balancing integration with cultural autonomy

The challenge of assimilating migrant communities while preserving their cultural identities is complex and can lead to friction or accusations of forced assimilation. Inflexible integrationists may risk individuals viewing integration as a cover for assimilation, causing cultural destruction. This tension can result in resentment and social friction between migrant communities and the host population. Policies relating to language, religious practice, or housing design can inadvertently exclude groups if not treated with appropriate sensitivity. This can lead to a tripling down of trust between communities and the state, eroding cohesion and perpetuating segregation.

Gentrification risks when improving infrastructure

Urban renewal projects, while supposedly aimed at improving quality of life, can also increase property values and attract wealthier residents, leading to exclusion of lower-income residents. This cycle of exclusion perpetuates the cycle of urban renewal, as wealthy residents and investors build up new properties in revitalized neighborhoods, leaving long-term low-income tenants behind. This exclusion pattern continues to perpetuate segregation, as seen in cities like Paris and London. Without protections like rent controls, social housing quotas, or interventionist community ownership models, gentrification threatens to unravel regeneration and exacerbate inequality.

Date	Description of the event
<u>15 October</u> <u>1983</u>	The March for Equality and Against Racism began in Marseille after police violence — the first national protest highlighting racial discrimination, police control, and ghettoisation in French urban spaces.



<u>30 October 2005</u>	Deaths of two youths fleeing police at Clichy-sous-Bois sparked three weeks of riots in France, with an estimated 9,000 cars burned.
<u>2006–2010</u>	Roubaix (France) urban renewal programme carried out with local and European partners, improving housing, services, and community cohesion.
<u>2010</u>	Denmark introduced its annual “Ghetto List,” categorising public housing areas based on crime, employment, and demographics.
<u>30 May 2016</u>	EU Urban Agenda launched via the Pact of Amsterdam, establishing “better regulation, better funding, better knowledge” as guiding pillars.
<u>2016</u>	Launch of the Urban Agenda Partnership for Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees.
<u>2018</u>	Denmark’s “Ghetto Package” adopted, leading to forced evictions, demolitions, and sales of minority housing.
<u>2021</u>	FEANTSA contributed to the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness; member states committed to ending homelessness by 2030.
<u>2021–2027</u>	Urban Agenda Partnership’s Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion adopted, focusing on migrant and refugee inclusion.
<u>2023–2024</u>	PICUM reports highlighted housing exclusion of undocumented migrants in overcrowded or informal settlements.

Case studies

Roubaix (Lille Métropole, France)

One example of successful targeted neighbourhood regeneration is found in Roubaix (Lille Métropole, France). From 2006 to 2010, the city benefited from a large urban renewal programme carried out in partnership with a number of local and European partners. These efforts were linked to new housing and came with better public and community services and amenities, many of which were co-designed with local residents. The impact was improved community cohesion and a reduction in stigma, although ongoing surveillance is required to avoid the risk of gentrification.¹⁷

Livezilor Alley Disadvantaged Area, Romania

The Livezilor Alley Disadvantaged Area in Romania focused on the redevelopment of an informal ghetto. This was a local effort aimed at improving infrastructure by paving roads, installing utilities, and making streets safer. While still small-scale, the project is instructive of how incremental, targeted interventions can dramatically improve quality of life in what were once considered ghettos. The impact of the project was social reintegration by linking the excluded groups to the municipal services.¹⁸

Major countries, organisations and alliances

France

In France, some 1,362 priority neighbourhoods (QPV) that are home to 5.3 million people, have been identified as the most prone to urban exclusion, now benefit from dedicated funding to address housing, employment and services needs under longterm Contrats de Ville.¹⁹ While ANRU aimed to remediate the banlieue's concentrated poverty, it also proceeded to operate its €12 billion Nouveau Programme National de Renouveau Urbain (NPNRU), a plan to renew and renovate housing projects, construct infrastructures and promote inclusion that mandates newly built housing

¹⁷ *MAKING CONNECTIONS: Transforming People and Places in Europe Case Study of ROUBAIX, LILLE (France)*. 2006. www.urbed.coop/sites/default/files/Case%20Study%20of%20Roubaix%20Lille.pdf

¹⁸ Catalin Berescu. *The Ghetto and the Disadvantaged Housing Area (DHA) – Livezilor Alley*. 21 May 2011, www.researchgate.net/publication/333235099_The_Ghetto_and_the_Disadvantaged_Housing_Area_DHA_-_Livezilor_Alley.

¹⁹ "The New Priority Neighbourhoods in Metropolitan France: An Overview - Insee Première - 2008." *Insee.fr*, 2024, www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/8244929. Accessed 20 Aug. 2025.



developments not be organized along ethnic or economic lines.²⁰ However, the progress has been uneven: construction delays, uneven funding, and fighting over increasingly tough security policies have at times slowed the program's impact, and many of the banlieues remain sites of physical isolation and stigma from ghettoisation.

Denmark

Since 2010, Denmark has maintained a yearly "Ghetto List," which classifies public housing areas according to three factors: here are more than 270 criminal prisoners for every 10,000 citizens, having more than 50% of inhabitants with non-Western backgrounds and having more than 40% of residents aged 18-64 who are not in work or education. As of the first list, there are currently 1.125 million people, distributed in 198 areas, or about one-fifth of Denmark's population, living in public housing designated as "ghetto" areas. These categorizations had concrete consequences: municipalities and housing associations must make development plans for a reduction of concentrated public housing in the designated ghettoised areas in order not to exceed an area of social housing larger than 40% by 2030. The principles of urban integration and spatial justice are well-rooted in housing policy through this legislation.²¹

Netherlands

Since 1997, the Dutch government has implemented urban renewal programs in an effort to reduce the level of socioeconomic segregation. They are an attempt to blend housing tenure (social rentals and graded ownership) in deprived communities. This implies that low-rent social housing will be destroyed and replaced with mixed-tenure developments to draw middle- and upper-class residents, with new housing projects typically limited to no more than 30% social-rented units. Researchers can and have found that while mixed-tenure redevelopment can bring in higher-income families and help

²⁰ Kerouault, Bertille. "PUBLIC POLICY MASTER THESIS Evaluating Urban Renewal Policies: The Impacts of the PNRU Program on the Distribution of Income within Deprived Neighborhoods in France." www.sciencespo.fr/ecole-affaires-publiques/sites/sciencespo.fr/ecole-affaires-publiques/files/KEROUAULT-Bertille.pdf.

²¹ Seemann, Anika. "The Danish "Ghetto Initiatives" and the Changing Nature of Social Citizenship, 2004–2018."

Critical Social Policy, vol. 41, no. 4, 13 Dec. 2020, p. 026101832097850, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0261018320978504>.



reduce stigma, it often has unintended effects, such as displacing or pushing out low-income people even as they remain concentrated in other communities. This illustrates how difficult it is to combat ghettoization with mere physical mixing.²²

Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

PICUM is a Brussels-based advocacy network which currently has over 160 member organisations in 32 countries, working for the promotion of fundamental rights and social inclusion of undocumented migrants. Their reports for 2023–24 record how the undocumented are likely to be unlawfully housed in overcrowded or informal settlements and denied housing assistance and are at risk of forced eviction. Through a combination of good-practice publications and advocating at the EU level, PICUM seeks to tackle the structural roots of ghettoisation of migrant communities. Although it has had an impact on housing rights discussions in the EU, its main contribution has been to the development of policy rhetoric rather than actual improvements.²³

European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)

Founded in 1989, FEANTSA is the only European umbrella organisation (NGO) which focuses exclusively on the fight against homelessness and housing exclusion. contains more than 130 member organisations working in approximately 30 countries. The European Observatory on Homelessness operated by FEANTSA provides essential research and policy analysis on housing rights, living conditions and the actions of public authorities. Their yearly themes and toolkits advise EU cities on how to carry out inclusive housing measures—supporting preventive action against ghettoisation by guaranteeing that national strategies are focused on social protection and housing integration.²⁴ For example, by participating in the 2021 European Platform on Combatting Homelessness, where member states committed to ending homelessness by 2030, FEANTSA has

²² Howard, Amber. “Are Rents Affordable in Amsterdam? Not If You Are a Newcomer.” *The Guardian*, The Guardian, 30 June 2025, www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jun/30/rents-amsterdam-affordable-newcomers-social-housing.

²³ PICUM Consultation on HOUSING 2021. www.picum.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2021_consultation-SR-Housing_PICUM.pdf

²⁴ SEVENTH OVERVIEW of HOUSING EXCLUSION in EUROPE. 2022. www.feantsa.org/public/user/Resources/reports/2022/Rapport_Europe_GB_2022_V3_Planches_Corrected.pdf



effectively influenced EU policy in practice, demonstrating that its advocacy has resulted in tangible policy commitments at the EU level.²⁵

Previous attempts to solve the issue

Denmark's "Ghetto Package" (2018)

A 2018 initiative that aims to reduce housing in specific locations in order to change the demographic composition of neighborhoods. Thousands of family houses have been lost as a result of this, including through forced evictions, demolitions, and sales. Targeting ethnic minorities drew harsh condemnation, and it is presently being investigated for violating EU anti-discrimination regulations.²⁶ Overall, it strengthened suspicion among impacted communities and revealed that coercive tactics can exacerbate exclusion rather than lessen it, even while it showed a strong political commitment to address segregation.

Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees (2016)

Launched in 2016, the Urban Agenda Partnership for Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees' 2021–2027 Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion tackles integration issues and encourages multi-level governance. The City of Amsterdam and the DG HOME of the European Commission are in charge of organizing it. The Urban Agenda Partnership's Work Plan on Migrant Inclusion and refugees seeks to address issues with migrant inclusion and integration that are both enduring and new. In European cities, it is seen as a positive, cooperative strategy that fosters structural inclusion over the long run.²⁷ It is useful for creating long-term structures and frameworks for inclusion, but its drawback is that migrants don't immediately feel any benefits, illustrating the disconnect between the design of policies and their actual experiences.

²⁵ "Homelessness." *Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*, 17 June 2024, employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/addressing-poverty-and-supporting-social-inclusion/homelessness_en.

²⁶ Nielsen, Magnus Lund. "EU Top Court to Review Denmark's "Ghetto Law" for Potential Breach of Anti-Discrimination Rules." *Euractiv*, EURACTIV, 30 Sept. 2024, www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/eu-top-court-to-review-denmarks-ghetto-law-for-potential-breach-of-anti-discrimination-rules/.

²⁷ European Commission. "Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees in Cities." *Commission.europa.eu*, commission.europa.eu/eu-regional-and-urban-development/topics/cities-and-urban-development/priority-the-mes-eu-cities/inclusion-migrants-and-refugees-cities_en.



EU Urban Agenda & Policy Response (2016)

The EU's Urban Agenda was founded in 2016 by the Pact of Amsterdam, which was approved by the EU Ministers in charge of urban affairs on May 30. The three pillars of EU policymaking and implementation—better regulation, better funding, and better knowledge—are the focus of the Urban Agenda, which is founded on the concepts of subsidiarity and proportionality. Although others contend that its actual impact depends on national execution, it has altered financing systems and planning at the municipal level.²⁸ This indicates that even while the Agenda was successful in changing the way EU urban policies are debated and financed, it would not be able to effectively halt ghettoization without dedicated local implementation.

Possible solutions

Ensure the accessibility of schools and hospitals in the areas

Under-provision of medical care and educational facilities to minority populations is one of the principal consequences of ghettoisation, the upward mobility of the underprivileged in modern terms being conditional on their availability. Healthcare and education not only give everyone a decent level of quality of life regardless of ethnic background, but can also reduce the intergenerational poverty so common in ghettoised communities. One way to do this is to focus investment on infrastructure zones to ensure that national aid or EU funding is directly spent on services in those marginalised locations. Public transport can be connected to large hospitals and universities in employment zones. In reality, national governments part-fund while local governments plan and build, so this solution requires collaboration. EU institutions coordinate the process via 'cohesion funds' such as health and education ministries commissioning new hospitals and schools. To ensure these service recipients are residents, transportation agencies will expand bus and metro routes in partnership with community organisations.

Introduce quotas to promote mixed housing

²⁸ "Info regio - the Urban Agenda for the EU." *Ec.europa.eu*, ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/themes/urban-development/agenda_en.



The geographic separation of the rich and poor, or of the native born and migrants, is mitigated through quotas, which distribute families around the city. This promotes the social mixing of people, avoids the ghettoization of poverty, and brings different communities into daily contact. Local zoning laws could require this by mandating that a certain percentage of units in any new housing development be set aside for low-income or immigrant households. Meanwhile, it is essential to distribute social housing more fairly across cities rather than having it whitewashed from all but a few beleaguered suburbs as it is now. To implement those measures, local planning authorities must rely on zoning laws and building permits. However, those restrictions could be linked to tax credits or access to public financing so that developers shoulder the cost, too. Best practices could be established and disseminated to steer municipalities, and other regional or EU funds could be earmarked for councils that manage to spread social housing across districts, rather than just moving existing ghettos elsewhere.

Urban planning

Urban planning features mixed-use neighborhoods, where people can live, work, study, and entertain locally, and public spaces that encourage mixing. The solution is changing national urban planning guidelines to reflect anti-segregation ambitions and incentivize developers to meet integration targets. Planners could force the creation of cross-municipal agencies to prevent ghettoisation. Over time, universal planning lessens the disadvantage by giving everyone the same chance to partake in urban life. And that also helps reduce resentment by ensuring no single group feels neglected. When there is room for people to connect rather than divide, social inclusion is woven into the urban fabric. Local governments would be responsible for zoning and design plans, while national governments would handle the legal framework. Zoning could encourage developers to provide affordable housing and communal public areas in exchange for building permits. Local authorities or EU bodies could provide grants or other financial instruments for eligible projects. At the same time, urban planners and community groups work together to guarantee that spaces are attuned to cultural needs and genuinely open to all.

Inspect real estate

Create a governmental body checking that people of multiple ethnicities got the opportunity to buy real estate. This body could be established under the Ministry of Housing or Urban Development and regular inspections should be held to ensure that people of different ethnicities get the opportunity



to live in the same house. It would have the power to monitor public and private housing developments, ensuring opportunities are evenly spread and no particular ethnic group is left out. This would help to work in inclusion and create a sense of community for the minority groups. The provided solution will have a direct impact on ameliorating ghettoisation since ghettos would cease to exist.

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