# Preliminary Report and Best Practices – Slovenia

#### Prepared by external partners to PP10: Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Associations

Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

# 1. Brief overview of housing policy of the country

#### National housing policy strategies

- Implementation of housing reforms 1991 :
- abolishment of the previous system of housing finance
- privatisation of the public housing stock
- introduction of the 'enabling' principle
- Housing care, preparation and implementation of housing policy – competencies of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Physical Planning
- Main goals and priorities in National Housing Programme 2000-2009: gradual increase of new construction to 10,000 dwell. p.a.by the year 2009

# 1. Brief overview of housing policy of the country – cont,

#### Major policy tools

- the provision of housing loans with favourable interest rates,
- the provision of incentives for long-term saving for the purposes of raising equity – National housing savings scheme
- direct investment in new housing construction

#### <u>Achievements</u>

Majority of the housing policy goals determined in the NHP were only partially realised

# 2. Brief description of supply-side subsidies

#### Housing provision loans (1992-2002)

 Loans offered to not-for-profit housing organisations for the construction of not-for-profit rental housing.

# <u>New housing construction subsidy (2001 – )</u>

Housing Fund direct intervention on the market as investor in new housing construction.

# <u>Shared ownership co-financing (2004– )</u>

Implemented by Public Housing Fund of the City of Ljubljana – primarily intended for those participating in the NHSS.

60% by buyer 40% by PHFCL (paid in 15 years)

3.Brief description of demand-side subsidies

#### Long-term housing loans (1992-2002)

 Loans offered for the construction, purchase, conversion or reconstruction of dwellings;priorities

#### National Housing Savings Scheme (1999–2008)

- High interest rates provided by the participating banks supplemented by a state premium
- over 100,000 savings contracts 1999–2008
  <u>Rent subsidy (2003–)</u>
- by local authorities; meant for lowest-income household in rented not-for-profit housing

## <u>Subsidies for young families (2006 – )</u>

by the Housing Fund for first-time buyers/renters

# 4. Housing tenure structure and its change (1990-2011)

## Types of rental tenures (1991 Housing Act)

- social rented housing,
- non-profit rented housing
- employer housing
- profit housing

#### <u>Ownership</u>

- extremely high level of homeownership (92.4%)
- privatisation of public stock significantly contributed to the rise in homeownership (31 vs.69 in 1991, 8 vs.92 in 2001):

no official data on private rental stock

# 5. Housing construction levels (1990–2011)

- introduction of housing reforms was followed by a sharp decline in level of new dwelling construction (e.g. 1989 2.260 new dwell. in public and 6.281 in private sector; in 1994 only 538 and 4.984 )
- decline in new housing construction greater in the the public sector as compared to the private sector
- Boom again in 2008 with 9.971 new units finished; (and 13.679 under construction); minor share in public sector; data uncomparable with earlier
- Total fund 2009 cca 835.000 unites; avg size 77m2; share of 3 rooms 55%; rural larger than urban

# 6. Impact of financial (economic) crisis on housing policy

- house-building industry strongly affected by the financial crisis
- no evidence, as yet, of any serious impact on mortgage takers
- no specific government measures, as yet, intended for the house-building industry or the housing sector, generally

7. Overview of special housing and care policies aimed particularly at the elderly and people with disabilities. 1/3 *Strategic documents:* 

- The strategy of care for the elderly till 2010 Solidarity, good intergenerational relations and quality ageing of the population
- Strategy for high quality ageing, solidarity and intergenerational coexistence in Slovenia 2011 – 2015
- Resolution on the National Social Protection Programme 2006-2010 (NSPP)
- New National Social Protection Programme 2011– 2020, currently under preparation.

# Activities within Priority 4 (working material – Strategy 2011 – 2015)

- support to alternative forms of housing infrastructure for the elderly
- adaptation of to the needs of the elderly and increasing of the non-profit rental housing
- elaboration of a NHP for seniors and empowerment of current
- establishment of a proper data base of units occupied by the elderly
- gradual removal of architectural barriers in existing buildings and open space

7. Overview of special housing and care policies aimed particularly at the elderly and people with disabilities. 2/3

# Types of housing for the elderly

Major forms of housing care for the elderly :

- institutional homes,
- individual homes,
- sheltered housing,
- day-care homes (for day-time accommodation).

7. Overview of special housing and care policies aimed particularly at the elderly and people with disabilities. 3/3

## <u>Other forms of care:</u>

- community care
- home treatment and health care
- cash benefits
- voluntary and private sector services

# **BEST/INNOVATIVE PRACTICES**

difficulties in identifying good practices

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

restricted housing policy – some schemes are not transeferable (for example rent purchase)

# Starejši za starejše (Senior to senior)

- Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Associations, 2004 →
- important initiative for support of the elderly, based on the principle of self-help among the elderly in the local community, wide-spread!
- based on volunteerism and includes a great number of volunteers
- a significant impact in some local communities where the initiative usually provokes interdisciplinary coordination

# Starejši za starejše (Senior to senior)

- identify the needs of the elderly living at home
- find those who cannot/are not able to/do not want to seek assistance
- establish a permanent contact with public services and other non-governmental organizations (Red Cross, Caritas) and provide them information about the needs

# Starejši za starejše (Senior to senior)

- organize support for their peers (service activities, workshops, visits to isolated)
- inform the local community about the quality of life and needs of older people living at home and
- establish a civil society monitoring of the work of all who deal with providing help at home

#### COMMUNITY BUILDING

Svetovalna pisarna za starejše in info točka (Consulting office and information web point for elderly)

- NGO Oreli, 2010/2011
- innovative form of care for elderly at the local level (Kamnik) based on the promotion of volunteering among all generations
- consulting office every Tuesday from 8 to 10 pm and Thursday from 15 to 17
- areas of consulting include law, health, property, housing and also personal conversations

Svetovalna pisarna za starejše in info točka (Consulting office and information web point for elderly)

- information web point/interactive services, sheltered housing, homes for elderly...
- based on intergenerational voluntary work
- designed for specific local environment, applicable
- encompasses information about all services and other possibilities in that specific local area and being available at the consulting office and on the information web point.

#### COMMUNITY BUILDING

- ► NGO Zavod Seniorii.info, 2007
- webpage



European cities 2nd of April 2012, Trieste

- designed for the elderly and all those who recognize its positive performance
- the main goal is the provision of relevant and useful information for satisfying and fulfilling lives, promote lifelong learning and intergenerational relations
- forum with various content enables active participation of the elderly, and information about senior and pensioners associations

- main living areas: legal advices, health, housing (sheltered housing, institutional housing for the elderly), education, help and care services, Intergenerational cooperation and solidarity, pensions and finances, opportunities for paid work
- practical advices: special offers for seniors, spas, vacations and trips, sport, gardening, socializing, cultural events, cooking recipes, other leisure activities

- web page is visited by many older viewers (March 2011 - 72.761 viewers - 63 % for the first time; 91 % viewers are older than 50 years).
- more than 6000 subscribers of weekly news.
- the portal with its broad range of content and advertisements encourages competition among different providers and retailers as they offer various discounts to stay in competition.

#### ACCESS TO INFORMATION/EDUCATION

# Festival for third age

- ▶ governmental initiative, organised in publicprivate partnership, 2000  $\rightarrow$
- Ist 3rd of October
- unique event for the elderly in Slovenia and the biggest festival of the kind in Europe
- offers opportunities to meet, establish cooperation and integration among all generations, for the presentation of government policies, programs, policies and professional views on life and work of elderly

# Festival for third age

- broad range of participants NGOs and enterprises
- promotes intergenerational solidarity
- offers information on housing, on social and health care services, options for the elderly.
- visitors get information on stands, with faceto-face communication.
- Free medical and other examinations and counselling are offered

#### ACCESS TO INFORMATION/EDUCATION

# **IRIS SMART HOME**

- Iocated at the Institute for Rehabilitation, Republic of Slovenia since January 2008
- demonstration apartament and clinical research facility
- fitted with equipment and technical aids, from the simple to the most advanced
- the only smart home in Slovenia, highly recognized at home and abroad

# **IRIS SMART HOME**

Adaptations – architectural solutions (the kitchen is an innovation made in Slovenia. It is designed as an rotating island with height-adjustable elements. All kitchen activities can thus be performed from a wheelchair)



# **IRIS SMART HOME**

- Adaptations Aids and Accessories, Communication and Assistive Technology, Environment Control
- Services Environment Self–Adjusting, Home telecare, »My Reminder« service, »Red Button« service, Health telemonitoring: blood pressure and pulse, Telerehabilitation, E– learning: easy access to education for disabled persons and the elderly

#### HOUSING ACCESSIBILITY

#### SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE

# Thank you for your attention!

Richard Sendi richard.sendi@uirs.si Barbara Černič Mali <u>barbara.cernic@uirs.si</u> Mateja Nagode mateja.nagode@guest.arnes.si