

Call for Special Session

Economic Studies and Policies for Housing Affordability

Chairs: Michael Stierle (Task Force Housing, European Commission) & Christian Oberst (German Economic Institute)

Housing affordability has become a key policy issue in Europe, as a growing share of the population faces difficulties in financing adequate housing. Against this background, the European Commission published the [European Affordable Housing Plan](#) in December 2025.

This special session focuses on the economic determinants of housing affordability and related policy instruments. It welcomes empirical economic studies in housing economics, including micro-, regional-, and macro-economic analyses and provides a forum to present and discuss empirical evidence on the effect of policy implementations.

The session aims to continue the debate at the first edition at the INFER Annual Conference 2025 in Rome. Within the session, a joint panel discussion is planned, where we will engage with the presenters in exploring potential policy measures.

Specific topics may include: Structural shifts in housing demand and supply; Effects of land-use policies and land prices; Brownfield versus greenfield development and urban densification; Determinants of construction costs; Productivity in the construction sector; Rent regulation, rent dynamics and rental supply; Alternative Financing of housing investment; Homeownership and old-age provision; Social and affordable housing policies; Spatial mismatch of housing demand and supply (vacant and under-utilised housing stock); Housing and mobility (commuting patterns); Short-term rental markets; Tax policy instruments in real estate markets; Socio-ecological transformation of the building sector; Decarbonisation strategies in the residential sector; Sustainability standards and certification in real estate; Impact of ESG investment criteria on housing affordability; Housing Construction and the EU Single Market

JEL codes: R12, R20, R21, R30, R31, R39, O18

Keywords: Housing affordability, housing regulation, residential housing markets, housing finance, property studies, tenure choice, rental market regulation, homeownership, construction costs, land use, regional and local housing markets

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Deadline for paper submission: February 28, 2026

For further information, visit the conference website [here](#)!