



Post-Event Brief

The Right to Housing in Times of Crisis: European Experience and Ukrainian Perspectives

Date: 23 January 2026

Location: University of Strasbourg (MISHA, Salle de la Vitrine) / Hybrid format

Organisers: ITI MAKerS (Interdisciplinary Thematic Institute, University of Strasbourg), in cooperation with

- Laboratoire SAGE (UMR 7363, University of Strasbourg)
- Faculty of Law, Palacký University Olomouc (Czech Republic) (within the implementation of the Project "Social Rights of Temporary Protected Persons from Ukraine in the EU Countries: The Evolution and Key Challenges of Further Development" supported by the Czech Scientific Foundation (2025-2027))
- Association 'Étude Académique des Droits de l'Homme et du Constitutionnalisme' (France)

The workshop brought together legal scholars, EU and Council of Europe experts and practitioners to discuss one of the most pressing humanitarian and legal challenges of our time: how to rebuild and modernise Ukraine's housing policy in line with European standards – particularly in relation to the millions of internally displaced persons within Ukraine, as well as the protection of the right to housing for temporary protected Ukrainians in EU States.

What we discussed:

- EU Temporary Protection Directive and its minimum-standard approach, including the scope of the right to housing,
- the French social housing model (logement social) as a potential reference point for Ukrainian reform,
- European housing standards under the European Social Charter,
- current Ukrainian initiatives, including the 2025 pilot project on municipal rental housing and the Law "On the Fundamental Principles of Housing Policy",
- reparations and accountability mechanisms under the Register of Damage for Ukraine

Speakers

- Natalia Mishyna (University of Strasbourg / SAGE)
- Alla Fedorova (Palacký University Olomouc / European Committee of Social Rights)
- Iryna Ostapa (Council of Europe)
- Ondrej Hamuľák, Ph.D. (Palacký University Olomouc)
- Ganna Khrystova (Register of Damage for Ukraine, Kyiv Office)
- Olena Sviatun (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv / Palacký University Olomouc).

During the workshop, Natalia Mishyna highlighted the role of French municipalities in guaranteeing the right to housing, and compared the French approach with the Ukrainian housing system and current realities. Olena Sviatun presented the newly adopted housing policy legislation in Ukraine. Alla Fedorova outlined the minimum obligations that EU States have under EU law to guarantee the right to housing for Ukrainians fleeing the war and emphasized that housing policies in both EU Member States and Ukraine will be decisive in shaping post-war mobility patterns, return decisions, and long-term integration outcomes. Iryna Ostapa provided information about the Council of Europe project “Strengthening the social dimension in Ukraine” and underlined the importance of European standards for the reforming social legislation in Ukraine. Ganna Khrystova (Kyiv Office of the Register of Damage for Ukraine) underlined that the Register of Damage for Ukraine plays a crucial role on the pathway to comprehensive accountability. Depending on particular violations of their housing rights, war-affected people regardless of their current place of residence in or outside Ukraine can submit claims to the Register through the Diia web portal in one or more categories: A3.1 (Damage or Destruction of Residential Immovable Property), A3.3 (Loss of Housing or Residence) and A3.6 (Loss of Access or Control of Immovable Property in the Temporarily Occupied Territories).

Main takeaways & recommendations

- EU Temporary Protection Directive establishes a minimum-standard approach that does not oblige Member States to integrate temporarily protected persons into national social housing systems, nor does it impose long-term housing guarantees. As a result, EU States have adopted diverse national approaches to ensuring the right to housing, leading to significant variation in housing and accommodation arrangements for temporary protected persons from Ukraine.
- Municipalities play a central role in ensuring access to housing for temporary protected people from Ukraine in EU Member States.
- Strengthening and empowering municipalities should be a core crucial element of any further housing policy in Ukraine, as local authorities are best positioned to respond to people’s immediate and long-term needs during and after crises.
- Housing policy should be integrated with employment support and social inclusion programmes, rather than developed in isolation.
- Reforms in housing sector should begin without delay to ensure that effective mechanisms and institutions are in place for large-scale post-war reconstruction.

The seminar was held in a warm, engaged atmosphere, both in the MISHA room with the professors and students, and online. Many thanks to all participants for an open and constructive dialogue. Special thanks to Mélanie Schmitt for her support, participation, and valuable comments.

We believe this discussion has contributed to a better understanding of the right to housing for Ukrainians in EU states and how European experience can help Ukraine build a fair, sustainable and crisis-resilient housing system.