



# YEAR REPORT

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# 2020



EUROPEAN FEDERATION  
FOR LIVING



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The year 2020 was a strange and, at times, trying period. Until the beginning of March, all was still normal. In addition to several Topic Group-led events, and our early March Co-Creation event, plans for an expanded range of activities were being developed in collaboration with members and partners. The line-up for 2020 included the exhibition *Bruno Taut: Beyond Fantasy* with EFL member 1892 and the Museum Het Schip; our Spring conference to be hosted in Glasgow by Wheatley Group on ‘Using the power of Housing Associations to transform lives; our summer school for young professionals on ‘Climate Resilience homes and communities for Europe: working together for a just transition’; a study visit to Portugal; and our Autumn conference in Stuttgart, which was in the early stages of development with the host Flüwo.**

Then, completely out of the blue, the whole world changed. COVID-19 arrived, and things came to a standstill. Countries closed their borders, imposed lockdowns and the streets of once bustling cities and towns became empty. The sudden lockdown of countries and societies forced us to change all of our in-person plans. The new reality was, and still is, digital and we adapted our complete service provision to this as of March 2020. We introduced MS Teams as a major communication tool and started redeveloping our website to keep up with the “new normal”. Physical meetings were cancelled, webinars replaced topic group meetings and we examined the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on our members via several surveys and (online) events.

By digitalising most of the network's activities, we have happily been able to continue offering our all-important collaborations and knowledge exchanges. In this sense, EFL has been able to support housing organisations getting through the crisis in solidarity with one another. Video conferences and webinars have become the new norm - not only for EFL, but for the whole world. With several new EFL co-creation projects now underway and events still regularly happening, despite the outbreak, the network is as busy and collaborative as ever. As we've moved into 2021, EFL's digital interface continues to be rebuilt to support stronger collaboration, more value-added services and an expanded range of online events for members and associates.



## 1. EFL IN 2020 IN NUMBERS



## 2. EFL Events Calendar 2020

### FEBRUARY

#### 6 February: TG Finance Meeting: Berlin

Chaired by Topic Leader Hendrik Cornehl, this TG Finance meeting gave participants the opportunity to share experiences and learn from Gewobag's digitization journey and experience with using new business models. The meeting concluded with two concrete project ideas, which are still in the process of being rolled out: a) Achieving Climate Goals for Housing Companies: Sharing the Cost Burden (see page X) and b) New business models for housing companies (see page X).

#### 13 – 14 February: CHARM Conference Belgium

Representatives from various EFL member organisations and other CHARM participants came together for two days - February 13th and 14th 2020 - in Belgium to discuss the progress of the CHARM project(s) underway related to circular construction. The second day, organised as an expert panel, included presentations and discussions with external partners interested in sharing innovations and expertise from the broader field of sustainable and circular development.

#### 27 – 28 February: TG Construction meeting in Oxford: Offsite Construction

The Topic Group on Construction had a fantastic two days in Oxford, UK on 27th- 28th February exploring the topic of Offsite/Modular Construction with a number of EFL members. The meeting was organized by our member L&Q. More details about the site visit and offsite construction in Europe can found in the EFL brochure here.

**Speakers: Andrew Waugh, Waugh Architects, Wayne Hill, L&Q, Pascal Chazal, Independent Offsite Construction Expert.**

### MARCH

#### 5 - 6 March: EFL Co-Creation Days 2020

The EFL Co-Creation Days in Amsterdam represented the official kick-off of this year's new challenges and priorities. More than thirty members and associates participated in the EFL Co-creation days. The event was organised as a response to the priorities expressed by members in the 2019 member survey; its central purpose was to get great minds together to discuss the future of our project agenda.

### APRIL

#### 20 – 21 April: European Digitisation Group (EDG) online meeting

The originally planned meeting of the European Digitisation Group in Amsterdam and Zaanstad, to be hosted by Parteon and Eigen Haard, had to be cancelled due to the crisis. Instead, topic group leaders Oliver Falk Becker and Roman Riebow managed to change the two-day meeting into a two-day webinar. A highly interesting line up of prop tech start-ups presented new solutions for housing industry services. Other elements of this well-attended meeting included updates about Gewobag's setting up of a customer service centre and their marketplace for new services and business.

#### 24 April: EFL Webinar #1: The immediate impact of the coronavirus pandemic on European housing associations: a discussion among CEOs

EFL hosted a webinar for CEO's on Friday 24 April to discuss the results of a survey conducted in March 2020 about the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on members. The webinar also explored the results of a similar CEO survey carried out by EFL member Campbell Tickell in the UK and Ireland. This webinar offered great opportunities to exchange experiences of dealing with the crisis between EFL members in different European countries.



## 2. EFL Events Calendar 2020

### MAY

#### 14 May: EFL Webinar #2: Offsite Construction

As housing associations are at the frontline when it comes to tackling the affordable housing crisis but face a huge challenge trying to close the gap with limited time and money, this webinar explored how some housing providers are turning to innovative new construction methods and processes, like offsite construction, to produce more affordable, sustainable housing quicker.

**Speakers:** Wayne Hill, Production Strategy Director at L&Q Housing, Pascal Chazal, leading French expert in offsite construction, and Eric Danesse - Deputy Director of Design & International Relations at Vilogia

#### 26 May: EFL Webinar #3: Climate targets and building energy performance: solutions for cost-efficient portfolio

This webinar provided insights into the progress of the TG Finance & Investments project about decarbonising EFL members building stock.

**Speakers:** York Ostermeyer from Chalmers University of Technology and Corne Koppelaar from Places for People

### JUNE

#### 4 June: EFL Online Summer Conference

EFL held its first very successful Online Summer Meeting in June 2020, including the EFL General Assembly and a series of side-webinars on hot-topics related to housing. EFL members gained insights into EU Policies from Sorcha Edwards, Secretary General of Housing Europe and funding

schemes for housing and the expanded role of the European Investment Bank from Frank Lee, EIB, Head of Division, EIB Advisory Services Department (European Investment Bank). Seven members of the EFL community, both commercial associates and housing association members, from across Europe also shared their experiences of the COVID-19 crisis and their post-crisis strategic thinking.

#### 4 June: Online CHARM Project Progress Webinar

The partners of Interreg NWE project CHARM gathered online to talk about the progress of the project, and especially to evaluate the specifications for circularity in new construction and renovation projects. The social housing organisations Accord, Paris Habitat, Woonbedrijf and Zonnige Kempen presented the current situation of the demonstration exemplars. EFL hosted the online meeting, which was chaired by TU Delft.

#### 30 June: EFL Webinar #5: Using Digital Innovation to Support Older Tenants: Smart Technology, Trust and Participation

With expert speakers from across the European housing sector, this webinar provided a platform for a fruitful discussion on using digital innovations to assist older tenants with support needs. New innovations were explored that can be used in the home.

**Speakers:** Deborah Andrews, London South Bank University, Marc Padiolleau & Clara Latimier, Paris Habitat, Anton Zahneisen of Joseph Stiftung, and Dr Oliver Falk Becker, Gewobag.





## 2. EFL Events Calendar 2020

### JULY

#### 2 July: TG Social Domain Meeting

The TG Social steering group had their first online meeting at the beginning of July via MS Teams. TG Leader John Stevens, of Clarion Housing Group, UK, led and moderated the meeting, with a brief background introduction from Joost Nieuwenhuijzen, Managing Director of EFL about the topic group and its current interests – the integration of migrants and measuring social returns. Alessandro Cesale from Eurohnet's Social Integration Topic Group talked about their recent co-operative work with EFL on refugee housing and integration. Natalie Jones, Head of New Initiatives for Accord Housing, covered key points about the impact of COVID on the housing sector. Kathy Ellis spoke about the Social Index and John then led a group discussion on potential new topics.

#### 3 July: EFL Webinar #6: Opening Doors to EU Funding

This webinar focused on EU Funding with speakers from across the network and beyond. It provided valuable information about how to access EU funding and gave participants the chance to get involved in pan-European EFL projects.

**Speakers:** Helen Wilsen, Clarion Housing, Rolf Bastiaanssen, Bax & Co and York Ostermeyer, Chalmers University of Technology.

### AUGUST

#### 12 August: EFL Webinar #7: Affordable landlords and the COVID-19 crisis: are the risks insurable?

This webinar explored the impacts of the recent pandemic on the insurance industry and risk management for (housing) companies. The webinar was hosted by Funk Gruppe, a new EFL associated partner in 2020 and Germany's largest owner-based international insurance broker and risk consultant.

**Speakers:** Raoul Krebs, Nadine Benkel and Fabian Konopka, Funk Gruppe, Risk Management and Insurance Management.

### SEPTEMBER

#### 16 September: EFL Webinar #8: Living together (and apart): urban co-living beyond 2020

This webinar brought together experts in cooperative and cohousing from Amsterdam, Milan and Berlin to discuss how municipalities can support community-led projects that employ co-living principles to help people support each other? What has each city learned from practice? And what can academic experts/ community led practitioners tell us, based on their research/experience?

**Speakers:** Federico Savini, University of Amsterdam/ De Nieuwe Meent, Marije Raap, City of Amsterdam, Dirk Loennecker, 1892/'Living in Metropolises' (LiM), Chiara Rizzica, City of Milan

#### 23 September 2020: EFL Webinar #9: Bridging the Digital Divide

This webinar looked into how housing associations can improve the digital skills of their residents, in particular the more vulnerable ones (such as: elderly, minority groups), and the importance of creating diversity in setting up a digital approach. Speakers talked about how their organisations are providing training courses for residents, including to help them increase their job prospects, and also providing the necessary hardware (loaning tablets, for example).

**Speakers:** Megan Fitt and Kenne Amissah, Clarion Housing Group Futures, Ketra Elliott, L&Q and Richard Denver, Digital Unite.



## 2. EFL Events Calendar 2020

### OCTOBER

#### 1 October: TG Social Domain meeting

The Topic Group Social Domain and Eurhonet's Topic Group Social Integration gathered online to discuss various topics, themed around the question: 'How are housing providers adapting their services and support for vulnerable residents during the COVID 19 pandemic and what are the longer-term challenges providers face due to uncertainty regarding potential further restrictions and community lockdowns?'

#### 21 - 22 October: TG Finance & Investment Meeting

This meeting was centred around working on the TG's 2 core projects **"decarbonizing of stock"** and **"digital business models in the housing sector"**. Part of the event took place **jointly with Topic Group Digitization**.

#### 22 – 23 October 2020: EFL Autumn Conference

EFL held its Autumn conference online on 22 – 23 October 2020, with participants from across the continent tuning in via MS Teams. On Day 1, there was a particular focus on digital solutions in the field of assisted living for elderly people. Experts shared experiences from Berlin, in particular from our member Gewobag, Gesobau (housing company owned by the State of Berlin), and SOPHIA (provider of digital care services). On Day 2, Prof. Dr. Peter Boelhouwer (Delft

University of Technology) gave a keynote speech about the present and future challenges for the housing sector in Europe, followed by reflections from Ulrik Brock Hoffmeyer (Bo-Vest, Denmark) and David Williams (Campbell-Tickell, UK). The EFL general assembly then took place, including presentations by the network's Topic Group leaders and new members: the Irish Housing Agency (Ireland), Chill Services (Germany), One4All (Finland), Redo SGR (Italy) and the Hogeschool van Amsterdam (HvA) (The Netherlands).

#### 28 October: EFL Webinar #10: Closing the Data Gap for Decarbonisation

During the latest EFL webinar on 28 October, Dr. York Ostermeyer (Chalmers University, Chill Services) introduced us to a new tool that could help housing companies to gather the right data in order to optimise their energy usage and efficiently decarbonise their building stock: **Chill Services' BuildingAgent app**.

**Speakers: York Ostermeyer, Chill Services.**

### NOVEMBER

#### 4 November: EFL Webinar #11: Design for all: accessible and adaptable housing and communities for older people

This webinar explored successful strategies to support tenants ageing at home, looking into measures developed





## 2. EFL Events Calendar 2020

during projects that the participants had implemented. It also examined the kinds of digital barriers faced by housing organisations with respect to providing accessible and adaptable housing and services and the solutions to these barriers.

**Speakers:** Dr. Eveline Althaus, ETH Wohnforum – Centre for Research on Architecture, Society and the Built Environment, Zürich, Camille Loftus, Head of Policy and Practice in The Housing Agency, Ireland and Sanna Mäkinen, Exec Director Lahti Foundation of Housing and Services for the Elderly.

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### **26 November: EFL Webinar #12: Rebuilding social resilience: exploring the neighbourhood perspective for affordable housing communities**

As they prepare for the year 2021, social and affordable housing providers in Europe's cities were challenged to support tenants experiencing heightened social and economic vulnerability by helping to rebuild their collective social resilience. This session asks experts in Dutch social housing and neighbourhood development to share, show and explore new neighbourhood pathways to improving social resilience.

**Speakers:** Professor Frank Suurenbroek HvA (Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences): Buurtdragers, Henrike Klok, Steersman at Rochdale Housing Association, and Paul Wessels, Board Member, Blue Building Institute.

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### **DECEMBER**

#### **2 December: EFL Webinar #13: Virtually Plastic Free Houses and the Social Impact of Circular Economy**

Dr Anita Blessing chaired this webinar on Virtually Plastic Free Houses and the Social Impact of Circular Economy. Peter Hoogeweg (EFL) updated the EFL community about the Interreg NWE funded CHARM project, Carl Taylor presented Accord Housing's unique project, based in Redditch (UK), that will deliver twelve affordable new built homes using plastic free alternatives to reduce environmental impact, and Dr Halima Sacranie discussed the social impact of circular housing and the role of tenants.

**Speakers:** Peter Hoogeweg, EFL, Carl Taylor, Assistant Director of New Businesses at Accord Housing Association, Dr Halima Sacranie is a research fellow and group lead of the Housing and Communities Research Group (HCRG) at the University of Birmingham.



## 2. EFL Events Calendar 2020

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<p><b>6 FEBRUARY:</b> TG Finance Meeting: Berlin</p> <p><b>13 – 14 FEBRUARY:</b> CHARM Conference Belgium</p> <p><b>27 – 28 FEBRUARY:</b> TG Construction meeting in Oxford: Offsite Construction</p>	<b>JULY</b>	<p><b>2 JULY:</b> TG Social Domain Meeting</p> <p><b>3 JULY:</b> EFL Webinar #6: Opening Doors to EU Funding</p>
<b>MARCH</b>	<p><b>5 - 6 MARCH:</b> EFL Co-Creation Days 2020</p>	<b>AUGUST</b>	<p><b>12 AUGUST:</b> EFL Webinar #7: Affordable landlords and the COVID-19 crisis: are the risks insurable?</p>
<b>APRIL</b>	<p><b>20 – 21 APRIL:</b> European Digitisation Group (EDG) online meeting</p> <p><b>24 APRIL:</b> EFL Webinar #1: The immediate impact of the coronavirus pandemic on European housing associations: a discussion among CEOs</p>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<p><b>16 SEPTEMBER:</b> EFL Webinar #8: Living together (and apart): urban co-living beyond 2020</p> <p><b>23 SEPTEMBER 2020:</b> EFL Webinar #9: Bridging the Digital Divide</p>
<b>MAY</b>	<p><b>14 MAY:</b> EFL Webinar #2: Offsite Construction</p> <p><b>26 MAY:</b> EFL Webinar #3: Climate targets and building energy performance: solutions for cost-efficient portfolio</p>	<b>OCTOBER</b>	<p><b>1 OCTOBER:</b> TG Social Domain meeting</p> <p><b>21 - 22 OCTOBER:</b> TG Finance &amp; Investment Meeting</p> <p><b>22 – 23 OCTOBER 2020:</b> EFL Autumn Conference</p> <p><b>28 OCTOBER:</b> EFL Webinar #10: Closing the Data Gap for Decarbonisation</p>
<b>JUNE</b>	<p><b>4 JUNE:</b> EFL Online Summer Conference</p> <p><b>4 JUNE:</b> Online CHARM Project Progress Webinar</p> <p><b>30 JUNE:</b> EFL Webinar #5: Using Digital Innovation to Support Older Tenants: Smart Technology, Trust and Participation</p>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<p><b>4 NOVEMBER:</b> EFL Webinar #11: Design for all: accessible and adaptable housing and communities for older people</p> <p><b>26 NOVEMBER:</b> EFL Webinar #12: Rebuilding social resilience: exploring the neighbourhood perspective for affordable housing communities</p>
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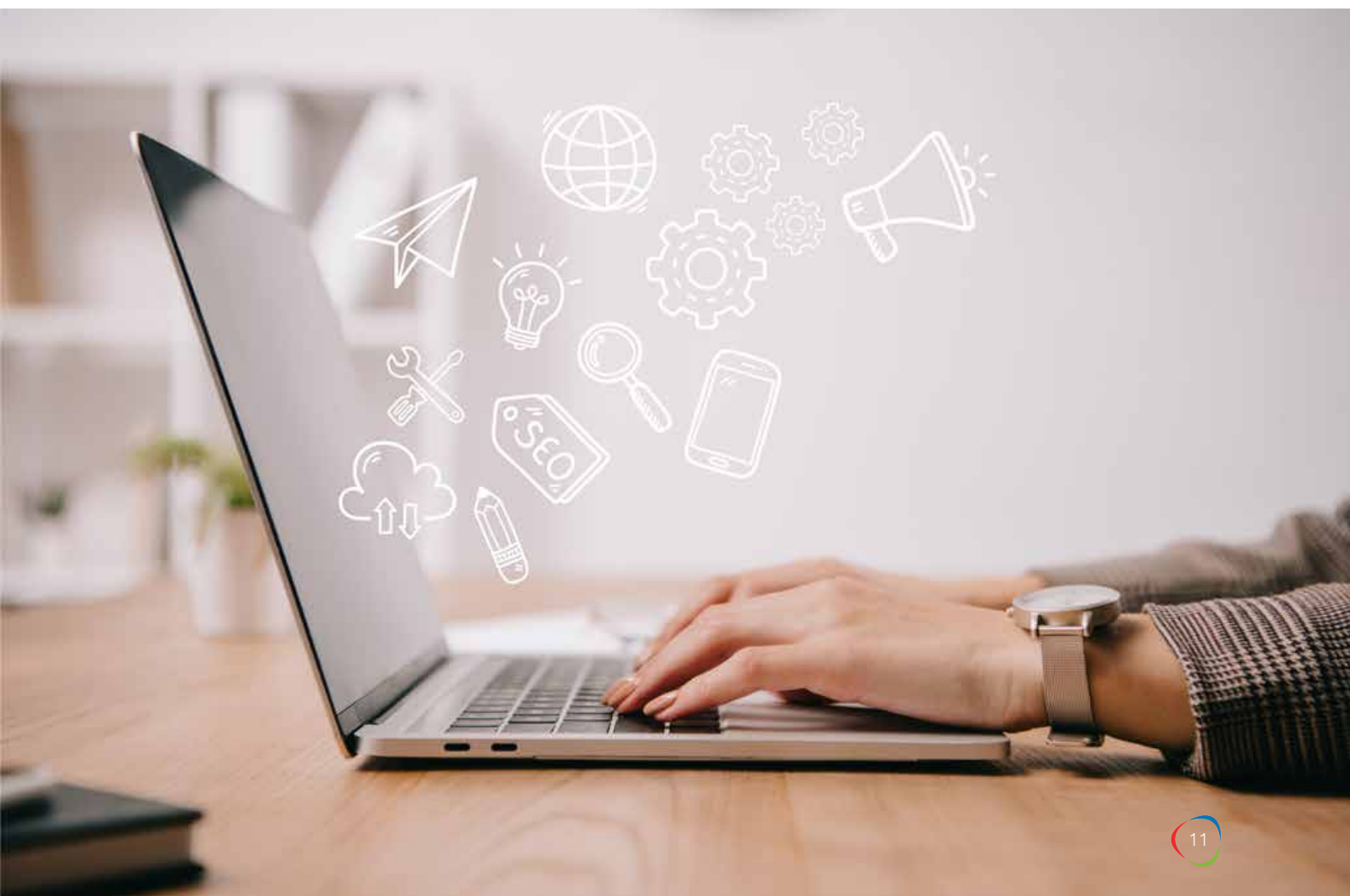
### 3. EFL Digital Communication Activities in 2020

**In 2020, EFL went fully digital. We built upon and expanded our digital infrastructure to make sure all of our members and associates could engage with the network's activities, despite the physical distance.**

- **Newsletter:** a bi-monthly newsletter covering all planned activities, news from the members, news from across the housing sector in general and our partners.
- **Website:** we developed a new, updated and more user-friendly website in 2020, which was launched in the Autumn. The website not only has a new, easier-to-navigate structure but also contains a new member's area, featuring exclusive services like the EFL Academy (see page X for more information).
- **Social media:** EFL increased its presence on social media via posts on LinkedIn and Twitter in 2020. We stopped using Facebook, as it was decided it was no longer a useful platform for professional communications. We saw our efforts rewarded by a steady growth of followers across all of our channels.

We hope to further grow our social media presence and engage more with members and the wider housing sector in 2021.

- **MS Teams:** we launched MS Teams both for internal staff communications and for the wider EFL community in 2020. EFL now uses Teams for all staff communications, alongside emails, and it is used by members to communicate about specific topic groups, projects and other events and themes. All EFL webinars and conferences now take place via MS Teams.
- **Active Campaign:** in 2020, EFL invested in a contact management system for the first time, allowing us to better manage our contacts in one place and send community-wide emails about upcoming events, EU funding calls, and so on.





## 4. EFL PROJECTS IN 2020

### 1. Affordable Housing Design Competition

Led by Oliver Scheifinger (Tafkaoo Architects and Village Co-Living) in cooperation with Anita Blessing (EFL) and Lily Maxwell (EFL).

In 2020, the design competition calling on teams of students to submit a proposal for a real-life site that will developed in the North-eastern part of the city of Helsinki, Finland, was launched. Student groups will be challenged in 2021 to create a concrete design vision for a sustainable and future proof building, where elements of co-housing will be combined with requirements in the field of affordability and sustainability. A jury, including members such as the Vice-Mayor of Helsinki, will be formed in September 2021 to evaluate the submissions and select the best design. The awards ceremony will take place online in October 2021. This competition is organised in collaboration with Village Co-Living, Living in Metropolises (LiM), the City of Helsinki, The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA), London South Bank University LSBU, TU Tampere and GloBLD. It is sponsored by EFL and The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA).

### 2. Mapping the impacts of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the European Housing Sector

EFL has been mapping the impacts of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic on the European Housing Sector via a number of surveys and webinars/Topic Group meetings on this topic. Across 2020, 3 surveys were conducted among members and associates, which received a very high response rate, allowing us to create 2 central reports about how the pandemic was affecting the EFL community, and what this signified for the rest of the housing sector. This information was also used for an International Housing Finance Journal article written by Saskia van Balen and Joost Nieuwenhuijzen, which was published in July 2020, on this very topic. In 2021, this project is being developed further via the Social Domain topic group and will result in a joint report with Eurhonet to be published in June 2021.



### 3. European Social Index

**Led by Kathy Ellis and John Stevens from Clarion Housing Group.**

Pitched during the Amsterdam Co-Creation Days in 2020, housing association Clarion Housing Group is leading a project to scale up their yearly resident survey to the European level. Each year, Clarion carries out a poll to investigate the well-being of their tenants, their lifestyles and needs. Based on the results of this survey, Clarion adopts and improves their services and client strategies. With the aim of learning from other housing associations in Europe and benchmarking results, Clarion proposed to scale up their survey approach via cooperating with EFL members. The project is currently underway and further opportunities for external funding are also being explored. It is being developed by the TG Social Domain.

### 4. Employee and Intern Placement

**Led by Anita Blessing, EFL, and Gerard van Bortel, TU Delft.**

One of the results of the member survey in 2019 was a marked interest among the EFL community to offer employees the opportunity to gain work experience at another EFL member. Motivated by the aim to improve

their staff's skills and offer them new training opportunities, the project received interest from several members. As well as offering opportunities for staff, another idea is to also offer students the possibility of undertaking an international internship with an EFL member(s). Due to the corona crisis, this project is currently still on hold, as travel restrictions prevent working abroad for the time being.

### 5. Achieving Climate Goals for Housing Companies: Sharing the Cost Burden

**Led by Christian Schmalenbach, Deutsche Wohnen and Corné Koppelaar, Places for People**

Motivated by a desire to contribute to solving the climate crisis, and hit EU targets, this project aims to help members reduce the CO2 emissions of their building stock and make it more energy-efficient by investigating the financial limitations and opportunities to do this. The project team members are collecting the investment portfolio strategies employed by members, analysing them and sharing insights and best practices via a report that is currently being written up. Business and financing strategies will be developed to support the members in realising their climate-related ambitions.



## 4. EFL PROJECTS IN 2020

### 6. Care@Home

**Led by Oliver Falk-Becker, Gewobag**

Initiated by Gewobag, EFL put together a consortium of five EFL members in Summer 2020 for a project to be funded by the European **ESCF programme** (European Social Catalyst Fund). The project aims to test different AAL solutions for elderly people at a number of 'Living Labs' in Europe. AAL solutions, Ambient Assisted Living, are technological tools to improve the conditions for elderly people living in their homes. Telecare, communications technologies, cooperation with care institutions, and other concepts fall under the potential solutions that will be tested via this project. Aside from Gewobag, other participants from EFL include the housing companies Cluid, Woonzorg Nederland and Vilogia. Clarion Housing will "follow" the project but cannot officially be a funded member, as they are based in the UK (and Brexit is happening in December 2020). The Eastern European input is provided via the EFL member IWO, the University of Poznan, Poland and a tech company from Slovenia. The lead partner role will be taken by EFL, thus also making us responsible for dissemination and partner coordination. This project was awarded funding in December 2020.

### 8. Map of Digital Business Models in the European Housing Sector

**Led by Hendrik Cornehl, Dr. Klein Firmenkunden**

This project was originally focused on mapping digitalisation and business models across housing organisations in Europe within the TG Finance & Investments. This project aimed to investigate and identify digital business models in the European Housing Sector, resulting in a Europe-wide map of functioning and (socially or monetarily) profitable digital business models based on housing associations' input, as well as a viable model(s) for participating in PropTechs' growth. After some discussion with the European Digitalisation Group (EDG) about the project, it was decided that Gewobag and Dr.Klein would take this project partly "out" of EFL and develop it with their own funds. Details are still to be confirmed.

### 9. ENHR Strategic Mergers and Alliances Project

The Mergers and Strategic Alliances project was set up in late 2019 as a follow up to the academic book project 'Affordable Housing, Governance and Finance'. This co-production between the Delft University of Technology and EFL inspired several EFL members to dive deeper in the subject of mergers in the social housing sector and how they can learn from peers after a decade of merging processes all across Europe. Furthermore, there was strong interest in how strategic alliances in our sector can improve innovation and cooperation and deliver the benefits of scale to smaller and medium affordable housing providers. These ideas led to a dedicated project approach for a number of EFL members, joining also with other housing actors in Europe, to investigate key areas of interest related to mergers, group structures and strategic alliances in multi stakeholder affordable housing networks. After being impacted by the pandemic, the project is again in progress, and learning events and written reports are expected by the end of 2021.

### 10. Design for People with Dementia.

**Led by Deborah Andrews, London South Bank University New EFL academic partner**

London South Bank University presented a research proposal focused on design solutions for people with dementia during the EFL Co-Creation Days in March 2020. With ageing societies now prevalent across Europe, the need to adapt homes for people who suffer from this disease is growing. Assistive technologies and digital solutions for care will increasingly be developed and used by social housing providers. The first EFL members with interest have already expressed their commitment to the project. This project is on hold.

### 11. Smart Community Matrix

**Led by Graziella Roccella, Planet Smart Living**

The Italian expertise centre and real estate tech company Planet Smart Living offered the EFL members the opportunity to engage in the testing phase of Planet Smart City matrix tool for affordable, sustainable housing communities. This proposal engages innovative urban planning, smart infrastructure and technology, social innovation and technology. Members immediately responded very positively and showed interest to engage. This project is on hold.



## 5. EU-Funded Projects

### CHARM – Interreg NWE

In 2020, EFL continued to participate in the **CHARM** Project, funded by the EU in Interreg NWE, represented by EFL Communications and Network Coordinator Peter Hoogeweg. This project mainly focuses on circular construction and the development of circular tendering processes. Pilot projects are being realized in the Netherlands, Belgium, the UK and France. The role of EFL is mainly to provide communication and dissemination of the projects results. Circular construction is increasingly looked to as a way of saving materials and energy and preventing pollution. When producers of construction materials also recover the used materials, no new resources need to be used. Part of the project goals for 2020 and 2021 is also the design of guidelines for tendering. Based on the need to re-use materials to save the planet, architects, consultants, and contractors need to be briefed about circular design and construction.

### BRAVE – Horizon 2020

In October 2020, EFL and a number of EFL members and associates decided to form a consortium to apply for funding for one of the remaining Horizon 2020 calls: building and renovating in energy and resource-efficient ways. We successfully brought together 34 partners from 12 different countries to develop a vision to develop and scale up the

decarbonisation of 8 building owners' stock. We submitted the application to H2020 in January 2021.

### REDWELL – Horizon 2020

EFL is a partner organisation in the European project RE-DWELL, which is focused on develop a transdisciplinary and holistic approach about housing which cuts across disciplinary boundaries and fields. RE-DWELL's innovative research programme and environment will provide a platform for a holistic analysis of affordability and sustainability of housing through a transdisciplinary perspective.

### EDUCATION

#### EBZ- EFL Summer School 2020

The EBZ-EFL Summer School was postponed until 2021 and will take place online.

#### EFL Academy

EFL created the EFL Academy in 2020 and it was officially launched on the EFL website in the member's area on 11 January 2021. The EFL Academy is a library of online learning courses for housing professionals exclusively by and for EFL members and associates. The online learning environment uses the tool LearnDash and the first video lesson, on Chairing Digital Meetings, by Campbell Tickell was released in January 2021.

## 6. Acquisition: EFL's Growth in 2020

**Over the years, EFL has grown considerably and 2020 was no exception to this. New members and associates to the network in 2020 were:**

#### MEMBERS



Redo SGR, Italy



Catalyst Housing Group, UK



One Manchester, UK

#### COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATES



Drees & Sommer, Germany



One4All, Finland



Chill Services, Germany and Sweden

#### ACADEMIC ASSOCIATES



Hogeschool van Amsterdam (Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences), Netherlands



Technical University of (TU) Eindhoven, Netherlands



Alexander Von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Germany

## 7. EFL IN THE PRESS IN 2020

**Summer School 2021 (5-9 July 2021)**

**International Union for Housing Finance (IUHF)**

**Journal: Decoding a New Reality: What Does Covid-19 Mean for Affordable Housing Finance in Europe?**

**Saskia van Balen and Joost Nieuwenhuijzen**

**July 2020**

This article in the IUHF journal, published in summer 2020, digs deeper into EFL's findings from the COVID-19 2020 network surveys, wider policy implications for the housing field, and the future of housing post-COVID-19. This article is only available to subscribers of the IUHF.



**Die Wohnungswirtschaft (DW): Bezahlbares Wohnen kontra Green Deal (Affordable housing vs. the Green Deal)**

**Joost Nieuwenhuijzen and Peter Hoogeweg**

**November 2020**

On 3 November 2020, DW featured an article in German by EFL Managing Director Joost Nieuwenhuijzen and X about the relationship between the EU Green Deal and the housing sector. Read the article here.



**Wonen we in 2050 in een plastic-vrije woning? (Will we live in plastic-free houses in 2050?)**

**Peter Hoogeweg and Ad Straub**

**October 2020**

As part of the CHARM project, Peter Hoogeweg, EFL CHARM representative and X wrote a publication in October 2020 reflecting on the need to transition the housing sector to a more sustainable state and exploring the CHARM partners' experiences of developing plastic-free housing. Read the report here.



## 8. Looking forward to 2021

As we slowly move beyond the crisis towards a "new normality", we want to ensure that the services we offer to our members and associates are as relevant and useful to you as possible. Check out the [EFL website](#) to find out what's going on in the EFL network in 2021 and discover how you can get involved.











EUROPEAN FEDERATION  
FOR LIVING

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