

WORKSHOP 4 - RISING HOUSING PRICES



Noting that housing is increasingly becoming a “safe haven” for capital, and that households are paying an increasing proportion of their income for housing, ECA members felt it was important to have a discussion on the surge in housing prices across Europe.

Privatisation of the public housing stock, increasing investment in residential property by large landlords, lack of social housing policies, banks taking over housing through unpaid loans, renoeviction, etc. are all phenomena that explain the rise in prices. Moreover, incomes are not increasing.

Rent control was seen as a necessary demand for all participants. It is also necessary to demand more social housing which, in a way, regulates the rental market. Against the financialisation of housing, it is also imperative to insist on its social dimension.

In rural areas, too, prices are rising, but the reasons are a little different. The urban exodus is the main reason for the rise in prices in the countryside.

The workshop ended with open questions: what common actions can we take? In the face of so many reasons for rising prices, what should we focus on in our demands?

