

DUBLIN TO HOST INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL HOUSING FESTIVAL 2025

Dublin is set to host the 2025 edition of the International Social Housing Festival (ISHF) in June at the National Convention Centre. This biennial festival – an initiative of Housing Europe (European Federation of Public, Co-operative and Social Housing) - will gather industry experts from around the world to exchange experiences, learnings and shared goals.



The theme of the 2025 festival ‘Storytelling’ will centre on experiences, ideas and voices of all those engaged in housing – from public, co-operative, and social housing providers to tenants, policymakers, and advocates for inclusive homes and neighbourhoods.

This is the fifth edition of the festival, which was previously hosted by Amsterdam (2017), Lyon (2019), Helsinki (held over until 2022 due to Covid) and Barcelona (2023). During these events, the conversation moved away from numbers of ‘units’ towards communities and affordable, inclusive places to live.

These festivals have mobilised activists, housing professionals, community groups, policymakers to focus on what society can gain by pushing for excellence in housing for people and

ABOUT HOUSING EUROPE:

Representing 44 national and regional federations and 16 partner organisations across 31 countries since 1988, Housing Europe oversees around 25m homes, accounting for approximately 11% of Europe’s housing stock. For further information visit www.housingeurope.eu

the planet, bringing hope and creating synergies to put solutions in place for those households and individuals now stuck in limbo.

Hosted by the Irish Council for Social Housing and Co-operative Housing Ireland, in association with Housing Europe, the fifth edition of the festival will bring an estimated 2,000 people together at the National Convention Centre in Dublin from 4-6 June.

The three-day event will feature discussions around international social and affordable housing projects with a focus on affordable homes for young people. It will also feature sessions on climate, energy, and innovation in housing delivery, while delegates will have an opportunity to visit projects around Dublin during the event.

On awarding the hosting of ISHF25 to Ireland, Housing Europe pointed to several factors including existing regeneration projects across Dublin and nationwide. Social housing currently makes up less than 10% of housing in Ireland, while the European average of social affordable housing is 18%.

FOCUS ON PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

The Housing Commission’s report in 2024 pointed towards the need for “a targeted increase in the proportion of social and cost-rental housing to 20% of the national stock, ensuring an appropriate tenure mix”.

Donal McManus, CEO of the Irish Council for Social Housing, noted that “while housing is at a pinch point globally, together we can learn from each other, and this is why ISHF is such a brilliant opportunity.

“Projects such Iveagh Trust, developed through the Guinness Family, were fantastic examples of social housing well over a century ago in developing communities. Increasing supply and providing long-term public housing tenancies would now be major steps forward for our housing sector.”

Sorcha Edwards, Secretary General Housing Europe, said; “While news of the housing crisis dominates, every day at local level in Ireland and around Europe, we also see proof that we can change the housing paradigm to focus on people and communities.

“The festivals in Amsterdam, Lyon, Helsinki, Lyon and Barcelona proved to be a great way to highlight the need for decent housing for all. Some may question the timing of the festival in view of how the housing crisis is impacting lives in Ireland, while we argue that precisely for this reason this is the right time for Dublin to take up the baton.”



To register for ISHF 2025
www.socialhousingfestival.eu/