



Responsible Housing

# Newsletter

January 2014 - #2

Through the ERHIN Project, co-funded by the European Commission (DG Enterprise), CECODHAS, the International Union of Tenants (IUT) and DELPHIS have joined forces to develop CSR in the affordable housing sector.

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## Launch of the European Responsible Housing Awards!

**The Call for Proposals for the first edition is now open!**

The European Responsible Housing Awards reward outstanding CSR practices implemented by not-for-profit, public and cooperative housing providers on a voluntary basis, beyond legal obligations.

All submitted CSR practices will be displayed on ERHIN's Website Toolbox, pre-selected ones will be published in a handbook widely disseminated within the sector and among key stakeholder organisations.

The Awards Ceremony will take place in Brussels under the International Tenant Day / World Habitat Day next October 6th 2014. The ceremony will be held by CECODHAS Housing Europe and the International Union of Tenants and will count with the presence of our Stakeholder Forum members. This ceremony will also gather major players of the social and affordable housing sector, CSR experts as well as EU representatives. This ceremony will be broadcasted on the ERHIN website.

This is a unique opportunity to highlight your CSR commitment and promote your best practices among your peers and partners!

**Download the call for proposals and application from the ERHIN website [www.responsiblehousing.eu](http://www.responsiblehousing.eu).**



## Overview of the Project's progress

The ERHIN Project comprises of 5 main components:

1. A CSR Roadmap to develop CSR in the sector
2. European Responsible Housing Awards
3. A Stakeholder Forum at European level
4. A website dedicated to CSR in the sector
5. Communication and dissemination actions



## CSR management, Tenant involvement, Diversity, Partnerships with suppliers... and much more!

Over 40 documents, good practices and tools have already been collected from housing providers and federations from Denmark, England, France, Germany, Sweden and Wales.

Awareness-raising videos, CSR strategies, evaluation tools, tenant involvement brochures, environmental charters, sustainable procurement policies... All this can be found in the "toolbox" section of the Responsible Housing website.

Find here also useful links to CSR-related websites and tools (CSR self-assessment, handicap & diversity...), as well as contacts of professionals involved in CSR in the housing sector in Europe.

To promote your actions and share relevant information, write us to [contact@responsiblehousing.eu](mailto:contact@responsiblehousing.eu)!



## Stakeholders View on Responsible Housing

*“The European Investment Bank recognises the importance of long-term investment in the housing sector and looks forward to further engagement with the housing sector. Public spending is restricted across Europe and initiatives to enable targeted investment that improves housing, local employment and the quality of life in urban areas are playing an increasingly important role” (Richard Willis, EIB).*

The EIB is one of the 12 members of the European Responsible Housing Stakeholder Forum set-up in the frame of ERHIN and chaired by IUT. On its first meeting, on November 7th, members shared their view and expectations towards Responsible housing and CSR in the sector, such as the Deutsche

Mieterbund e. V., German tenant organisation: *“Tenants’ participation in decision making is crucial, because successful policies are those that take into account the needs of inhabitants”.*

*“There is a clear need for information and support to CSR implementation. There is also a demand for recognition. This is the reason we have created the CEEP-CSR label”,* underlined David Anciaux, representing the CEEP (Centre for Employers and Enterprises providing Public services).

Find in our website [responsiblehousing.eu](https://responsiblehousing.eu) who are the members of the European Responsible Housing Forum!

### Help us develop our CSR Reports Library!

Read the reports collected from Austria, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden and UK and share yours by emailing them to us!

### Next to come on ERHIN...

In the next months, the project partners will focus on:

- The Stakeholder Forum’s working groups to draft a Joint declaration and common CSR Charter
- The European Responsible Housing awards’ selection



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