

**Project name** Towards a cost-effective housing policy for Flanders and Europe

**Coordinator** Agentschap Wonen-Vlaanderen

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**Partners**

- TU Delft
- KU Leuven
- FEANTSA
- CECODHAS - Housing Europe
- Vlaamse Woonraad

**Project description**

The proposed action consist of two main parts. The first part entails the development of a theoretical framework for the comparison of a range of policy instruments addressing housing needs in order to be able to choose the most cost-effective option under different (national) circumstances. First and foremost, the development of this concept is based on theoretical and empirical literature. The second part involves the repeated testing of the concept with policy makers and stakeholders which will lead to adjustments of the concept in order to fine-tune it to respond to the specific experiences of a broad range of stakeholders.

The main question to be addressed is which policy instruments respond most effectively to housing needs in Flanders and elsewhere in Europe, especially the needs of households at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Alternatives to be considered are cash and in-kind benefits. Related questions are whether subsidies should be targeted towards a small or a broad group of recipients, and towards the demand or the supply-side of the housing market. Another fundamental question is how tasks have to be divided between market and non-market organizations.

Economic theory provides the basis for the development of the conceptual framework. Since the late 1990s, a lot of research has been done on the conditions and effects of different housing policy measures in different EU countries. Some comparative studies pool the results of European Member States. For instance Stephens et al. (2010) search for relations between welfare regimes, housing systems and housing outcomes. However, these studies do not address cost-effectiveness in particular and may not have allowed for the results to be appraised by the stakeholders. It is exactly those elements that we want to incorporate.

**Website**

<https://www.wonenvlaanderen.be/woononderzoek-en-statistieken/towards-cost-effective-housing-policy-flanders-and-europe>