



H:OUSE
Housing: to Overcome Unstable Situations in Europe
Project n°: 101140923

NEWSLETTER #3 (June 2025)

In February, the H:OUSE project partnership held a four-day international meeting in Ioannina, Greece, hosted by our project partner, Second Tree. Ioannina is located by Lake Pamvotis and is overlooked by the Epirus mountain range. The city also hosts two refugee camps, Katsikas and Agia Eleni, which accommodate around 1,500 asylum seekers. Second Tree is a humanitarian organisation based in Ioannina committed to improving the lives of refugees and local community members.

The international meeting commenced on 4 February with a partners' session. It continued with an international seminar covering topics such as the housing situation of migrants and refugees, as well as community sponsorship practices across Europe. We received valuable input from all partner regions and discussed best practices and experiences shared by invited stakeholders, such as the Municipality of Ravenna. The third and fourth days were dedicated to training sessions developed and led by Second Tree. These two training days focused on key areas relevant to developing the H:OUSE project: community engagement training for sponsors and training for diaspora community leaders in cultural mediation. Overall, the international meeting was a success, fostering stronger collaboration among participating organisations and invited attendees.

In the months following the February meeting, the partnership concentrated on disseminating information about the project, **raising awareness of systemic issues concerning housing migrants and refugees**, and recruiting sponsors. Partner organisations held local seminars in their respective regions, where they presented the project's core themes to the public. To enhance public understanding of the need for collective action in addressing housing and integration challenges, the partnership launched an awareness campaign throughout April and May. As part of this campaign, an [informative video](#) was produced, highlighting key topics such as the housing crisis, community sponsorship, and opportunities for public involvement in the project's activities.

In May, the project partnership focused on implementing training programmes based on the curriculum developed by Second Tree. Each partner organisation conducted two training sessions in their region: one for community sponsors—local individuals or organisations supporting newcomers in their integration process—and another for community leaders—leading members of migrant-led organisations or individuals who play key roles within their communities. Partners translated the curriculum into their respective languages and used the insights gained during the Ioannina meeting to inform participants and further develop local models of community sponsorship through these training sessions.

With insights from the international meeting and local trainings, and by drawing on newly established connections, the partnership plans to form multi-stakeholder groups in the coming months in each of the territories. These groups will serve as the foundation for future pilot projects addressing urgent challenges such as housing, labour market integration, and the overall social inclusion of migrants and refugees across Europe.



International seminar in Ioannina hosted by Second Tree (5 February 2025).



Training for Community Sponsors organized by ZRC SAZU in Ljubljana (22th of May 2025).

For more about H:OUSE project, visit our web page at <https://house-project.org/> or follow the project updates through [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).