

EuroGeographics' feedback on the Commission's Call for Evidence for an Impact Assessment on "Affordable Housing Act"

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EuroGeographics is the independent international not-for-profit organisation representing Europe's National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authorities (NMCAs). Our members provide a vast range of geospatial services, expertise, research supporting navigation, emergency response, **reliable and secure land and property market** and many more government and business decisions and services.

We appreciate the Affordable Housing Act initiative, which should establish a coherent, data-driven, clear and predictable EU (legal) framework to allow public authorities **to identify areas under housing stress** and enable them to take measures to protect and promote housing affordability in those areas.

We appreciate the recognition that identifying and developing socio-economic indicators to help determine if an area is under housing stress should be **based on publicly available, high-quality data**, which will be **an important tool in helping public authorities** mitigate both individual and cumulative housing impacts, particularly in areas where pressures are most acute.

We would like to emphasise that **making available authoritative high-quality geospatial data** for use and re-use across all sectors is at the core of EuroGeographics. Our members have a long track record of delivering high-value datasets, including data on buildings, housing, ownership, and other location-related data.

The Open Maps for Europe 2 project (OME2) creates the foundation for a pan-European Spatial Data Infrastructure by solving the complex challenge of delivering usable sovereign data across Europe. This fulfils a long-standing EU requirement for streamlined access to an authoritative cross-border dataset without navigating multiple national portals or complex data integration. OME2 includes the **"Open Cadastral Map" - a map service for European cadastral data**. This is a prototype that comprises four data types: Administrative Units, Cadastral Parcels (and Cadastral Zones), Buildings (and Building Parts) and Addresses. OME2, which currently covers 15 countries, also delivered the pan-European Cadastral Data Strategy defining the stakeholders as well as the technology, processes, resources and best practices required to support the long-term delivery of official high-value data for addresses, cadastral parcels, buildings and administrative units. The OME2 project was co-funded by the European Union.

It was delivered by a consortium comprising: EuroGeographics, the not-for-profit membership association for Europe's National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authorities; National Geographic Institute, Belgium; National Institute of Geographic and Forest Information, France; Hellenic Cadastre; General Directorate for the Cadastre, Spain; and Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency, The Netherlands.

A case study: To determine building density and enable spatial analysis of the status of Europe's residential space ***Eurostat used the Open Cadastral Map to gain an overview of the information available.*** It then followed the link to the national geoportal to download the vector data, which includes the geometry and attributes of every single building.

The data, provided by Europe's National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authorities, allowed Eurostat's GIS experts to distinguish between residential and non-residential properties using 2D geometry, height and number of floors, as well as property type. ***This provides insights for a range of analyses, such as residential buildings in relation to demographic and other pressures.***

More than 18,000 users have downloaded some 15,500 pan-European datasets and carried out 96.4 million web service transactions since Open Maps For Europe 2 (OME2) launched in early 2023.

National Mapping, Cadastral, and Land Registration Authorities (NMCAs) play a crucial role in providing essential data necessary for managing territories and ownership, and for supporting policies with a spatial component. They also maintain close relationships with local and regional authorities. Given their expertise and strong connections, EuroGeographics and its members are willing to support and contribute to the efforts for the successful implementation of the Affordable Housing Act and hope to be closely involved in the process.

The use of publicly available, high-quality, authoritative data from EuroGeographics members will enable Member States to meet some of the key requirements of the Affordable Housing Act, such as identifying areas under housing stress and regularly monitoring housing affordability data on their territory.

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