

LYON Policy workshop 1

Preliminary cross-country learnings from COVID-19 period to feed policy recommendations to decision-makers.

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COHOPE Collaborative Housing
in a Pandemic Era

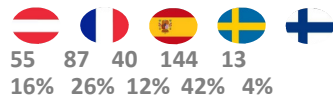
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CO-HOPE Case Studies: 14

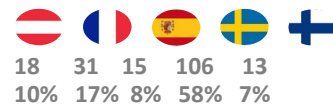
- Field visits, project documentation
- Focus groups, interviews

CO-HOPE survey

N° of respondents
% of the total



N° of respondents 65+
% of the total 65+



CO-HOPE Urban Living Labs

- Meetings, workshops
- Vienna, Lyon, Spain (online), Sweden (hybrid).



General observation

Several key features seen in most Collaborative Housing case studies contributed to improving the experience of their residents during (and potentially after) the COVID-19 restriction periods:

- **Physical space:** existence of shared / common spaces
- **Social interaction based on trust:** activities and meaningful exchanges in day-to-day life
- **Mutual care:** knowledge of other residents' needs, behaviours, social skills and vulnerabilities
- **Internal governance:** collective organisation and experience of decision-making prior to COVID-19, social tools (non-violent communication, sociocracy, etc.)
- **Agreed set of values:** solidarity, mutual support, openness to the neighbourhood, etc.

A. *Collective resilience*

Due to previously established organisation structures, Collaborative Housing groups were able to collectively deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and adapt to the new situation. Their spatial and social resources played a significant role to keep community life.

96%

Respondents consider that living in a Collaborative Housing had benefits to face situations like the COVID-19 pandemic.



87%

Respondents consider living in a Collaborative Housing made it easier to get access to help than in regular housing. 11% consider it made no difference.



81%

Respondents consider living in a Collaborative Housing made it easier to maintain social interaction than in regular housing. 14% consider it made no difference.



B. Health and ageing together

It is common for Collaborative Housing residents to look after and support each other when needed. During COVID-19 restriction periods and when someone got infected or ill, these practices reinforced. This environment enables elderly people to live longer at home, in their collaborative housing, before having to move to a medicalised facility.

57%

Respondents consider living in a Collaborative Housing made it easier to align to national restrictions than in regular housing. 34% consider it made no difference..



64%

Respondents consider living in a Collaborative Housing reduced stress and anxiety caused by the pandemic.



72%

65+ respondents consider their Collaborative Housing feels more at home to them, than any other place they have ever lived in.



C. Social integration

During the COVID-19 restriction periods, social interactions with neighbours and other external actors to the Collaborative Housing was difficult or impossible. Internally, some projects suffered strong tensions around vaccination, as this personal and intimate topic can affect other residents.

Most mentioned reasons in the survey for joining a Collaborative Housing:

1. Availability of common spaces
2. The possibility for mutual support among residents
3. To avoid loneliness and isolation

Reasons for joining a collaborative housing (% of Very Relevant)

< 22 22-36 36-50 50-71 ≥ 71

	Availability of common spaces	The possibility for mutual support among residents	To avoid loneliness and isolation	Quality of housing / apartment unit	Size of housing / apartment unit	The location of the project	Affordable monthly costs for housing, expenses, and services	Living with people of different generations	Environmentally friendly building design	Safe and supportive environment for older adults	Affordable initial cost to join the collaborative housing project	Safe and supportive environment for children	The possibility to live with people with similar background (income, age, ethnic, etc.)	For not being dependent on family members
Austria	88	81	67	60	50	39	51	51	36	40	38	38	31	25
France	79	63	42	65	38	59	28	50	58	23	23	45	7	11
Spain	60	78	65	10	5	13	5	13	33	38	10	50	18	42
Sweden	71	49	60	32	29	46	32	40	15	31	19	19	14	19
Finland	60	80	80	40	33	53	13	7	13	67	21	14	60	47
TOTAL	74	63	58	43	32	45	30	40	32	33	22	31	18	21

D. Affordability

Collaborative Housing projects often express the intention to be affordable for people with different income groups reducing the effect of self-segregation. This is different from a context to another and depends on the types of land tenure arrangement. The COVID-19 and post-pandemic energy crisis and inflation in Europe affected individual economic situations as well as housing costs. Some projects run by an institutional owner faced increase in rent.

67%

Respondents consider that living in a Collaborative Housing community helps making their financial situation more manageable.



71%

65+ respondents consider that living in a Collaborative Housing community helps making their financial situation more manageable.



E. Right to the City

Overall, the pandemic situation raised awareness about benefits of Collaborative Housing among public and media based on the resilience and quality of housing mentioned above.

97%



Respondents participate in the decision-making concerning their Collaborative Housing (general assemblies, board, working groups or commissions, meetings with the city council, volunteering in networking and promotion activities, other volunteering activities).

77%



Respondants participate in working groups or commissions in their Collaborative Housing. And 50% volunteer in promoting Collaborative Housing or in other activities.