

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

*(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.*

**!** *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).*

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	<b>Network of Cities for Collaborative Housing (NETCO 2.0)</b>
Participant:	host: UrbaMonde - France
PIC number:	915694648

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	2
Event name:	<b>NETCO European Conference: Collaborative Housing and Cooperative Housing.</b>
Type:	In person gathering, workshops, field visits and public conference
In situ/online:	in situ
Location:	House of International Relations Nelson Mandela, Montpellier, France
Date(s):	27-29 May 2026
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://netcoproject.org/">https://netcoproject.org/</a>
Participants	
Female:	63
Male:	41
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [France]:	71
From country 2 [Poland]	3
From country 3 [Germany]:	1
From country 4 [Italy]:	3

From country 5 [Spain]:	8		
From country 6 [Romania]	2		
From country 7 [Slovakia]	2		
From country 8 [Hungary]:	1		
From country 9 [Sweden]	2		
From country 10 [Croatia]	2		
From country 11 [Belgium]	2		
From country 12 [Greece]	3		
From country 13 [Netherlands]	4		
<b>Total number of participants:</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>From total number of countries:</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Description</b>			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<b>1. Target groups:</b>			
<p>This European-level in-situ event brought together municipalities, housing agencies, citizen-led initiatives, and civil society organisations to exchange knowledge, policies, and practices that promote social and affordable housing solutions.</p> <p>The conference targeted policymakers and public servants from across the European Union through the NETCO partnership, as well as representatives of French national, regional, and local authorities. It also engaged housing practitioners, community activists, researchers, students, collaborative housing residents, and prospective residents from Montpellier and the surrounding region.</p>			
<b>2. Description of the event and its activities/ context.</b>			
<p>The <b>NETCO European Conference: Collaborative and Cooperative Housing</b> constituted the main activity under Work Package 2 (WP2) of the project. Held in Montpellier, France, between 25th and 27th May 2026, the conference provided a platform for sharing European experiences and approaches to collaborative housing among local stakeholders already</p>			

involved in, or interested in, collaborative housing as both a social innovation and a public policy tool.

The public event, hosted at the House of International Relations Nelson Mandela, enabled participants to explore collaborative housing experiences from France, Amsterdam, Brussels, and Barcelona, while also gaining insights into the NETCO framework. The conference was organised by urbaMonde France in partnership with Habitat Participatif France and éCOhabitons<sup>34</sup>.

### **Objectives**

- Explore synergies between collaborative and cooperative housing models.
- Engage local stakeholders, civil society organisations, and the wider public in the co-creation of collaborative housing initiatives.
- Facilitate peer learning and the exchange of best practices in social and affordable housing and collaborative housing development.

The conference programme combined expert meetings, thematic panel discussions, and participatory workshops with study visits to exemplary housing initiatives. It showcased innovative co-housing models, examined strategies for delivering affordable housing, and highlighted both municipal and community-led approaches to housing across Europe.

### **3. Agenda of the event.**

Please see below

### **4. Main take aways/ findings from the event**

Among NETCO's members, certain cities such as Amsterdam, Barcelona, Bologna and Manresa already have substantial experience in this area or are in the process of turning pilot schemes into municipal public policy – or regional policy, in the case of Brussels. Other local authorities such as Chalandri, Cluj-Napoca, Eindhoven, Florence, Onda, Košice, Söderhamn, Thessaloniki and Zagreb still have much to learn and experiment with regarding collaborative housing, sometimes within the context of social housing, sometimes for middle-income groups who are unable to find accommodation on the private market.

Many local governments are approached by older people in distress within the conventional system who are seeking to age well in a caring environment where care flows naturally between neighbours and across generations. Some cities also see participatory housing as a means of including vulnerable groups within these frameworks of living and collective empowerment. Depending on the context, these groups include students, survivors of domestic violence, single parents, migrants, and people with physical or mental disabilities, amongst others. Participants shared both the successes and the challenges encountered in their local areas, thereby strengthening a dynamic of mutual learning at European level.

Whilst many cities are facing a continuous rise in housing costs, the discussions confirmed the growing interest among local authorities in non-speculative, cooperative models driven by the residents themselves. Collaborative housing is increasingly emerging as a practical lever for producing affordable housing, strengthening social ties and building more resilient cities.

In Montpellier, the city started 12 years ago to assign plots of land for collaborative housing projects in each development or redevelopment sector of the Metropolitan area. The development is then done directly by a resident group or in association with a social housing developer (like in Mascobado, Terra Dora and Mellifera projects which were visited by NETCO members). In France, collaborative housing projects can take a large choice of legal forms from social rental to full ownership, collective ownership

Cities from the NETCO group have different levels of development of their collaborative housing strategy some more advance than others.

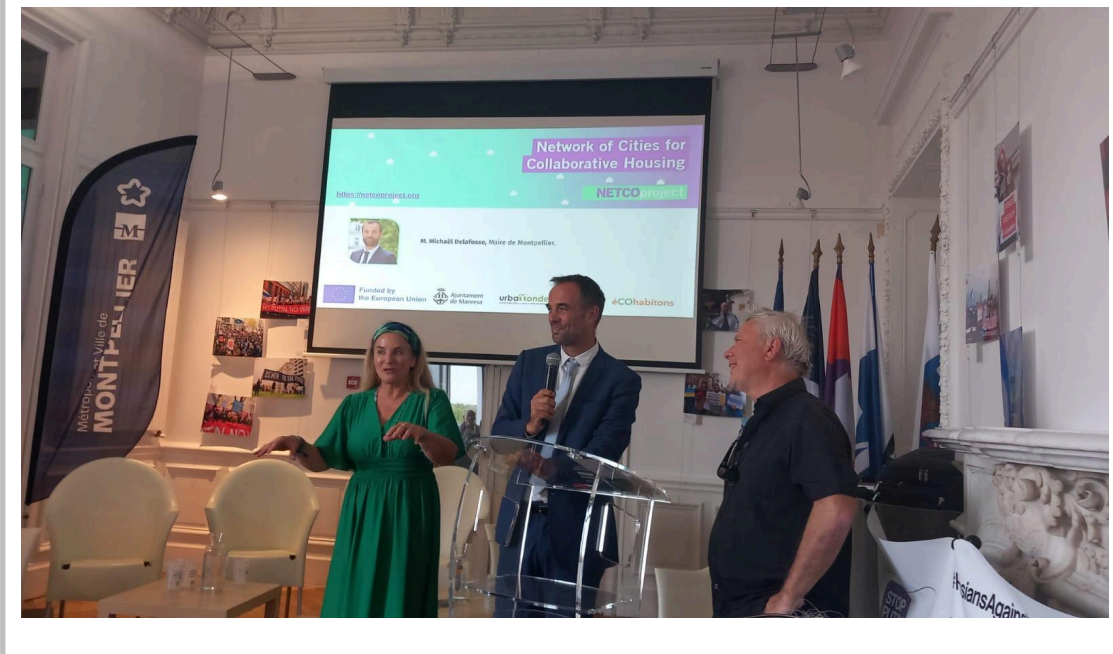
This meeting in Montpellier helped to strengthen ties between the network's members and to continue the collaborative work undertaken as part of the NETCO project. Participants will meet again next October in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, for a new phase of cooperation and the sharing of experiences regarding participatory housing in Europe.

**Deliverables:**

"Brief report of the best cases on CH and cooperative housing": [NETCO WP Montpellier Report Deliverable.pptx - Google Slides](#)

**5. Graphical elements and photos of the event**











## 6. Feedback from participants

The participants who attended the public conference gave positive feedback and were eager to discuss with international guests from NETCO with a refreshment after the

conference. European inspirations and feedback are always important in the field of housing as in other sectors, and especially in collaborative housing which doesn't have a unique model and which strongly depends on the local political will to change practices, experiment, scale up pilot projects and create enabling policies.

NETCO members were very grateful to the local team from urbaMonde - France, Habitat Participatif France and éCOhabitons<sup>34</sup> for the great organisation. 15 participants took the feedback survey and ranked the event with a satisfaction of 4.5/5. According to respondents, the gatherings objectives were met with 4.4 to 4.6/5 Explore synergies between collaborative and cooperative housing models; Engage with local stakeholders, civil society and wider public on CH co-creation; Peer-learning on best practices on social and affordable housing and CH).

Some quotes:

"The organization was very efficient, and the event met my expectations. It offered concrete examples and content. It was interesting to meet the residents and meet with the local authorities."; "The NETCO meeting in Montpellier was extremely valuable. It provided a great opportunity to visit the TerraDora and Mascobado cohousing projects, learn about the ongoing experiences in other partner cities, and observe how the cohousing path has evolved over recent years."; "Deeper understanding of different models in practice and also about affordable construction methods (earthblocks, natural ventilation)"; "What made the meeting truly successful was the direct connection with people working firsthand on collaborative housing. Hearing their experiences provided us with fresh inspiration and concrete ideas to adapt these models to our own ongoing local policies."; "The organization was excellent, I felt part of a team, of a network."

"Peer learning was very effective. There was time to discuss with people involved in the projects we visited. Of course the French social housing system is quite elaborate and complex. Maybe more information and a more schematic analysis would be needed to go further on the question of synergies between cooperative and collaborative (I understand by that the role of local authorities or other actors in collaboration with cooperative legal entities)."

Four respondents considered the first day after arrivals to be too dense, as it started at 9.00 leaving the hotel, and arriving back at 21.00 for dinner. "Thursday was a bit too long, but we are really satisfied with the results of the meeting."

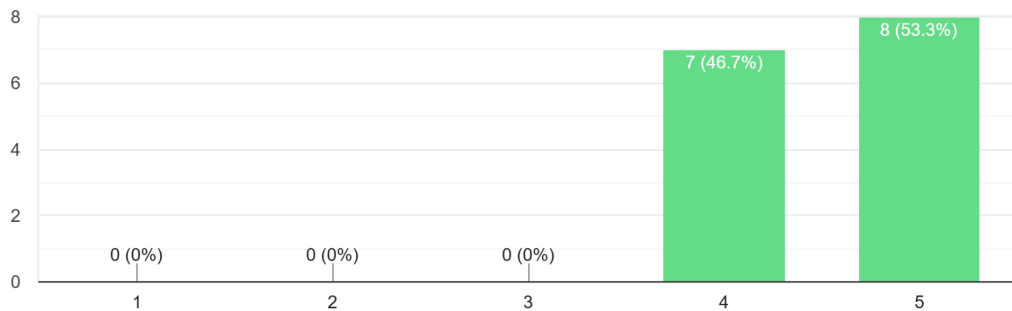
Recommendations from respondents for the next gatherings in Cluj and Kosice:

- "It would be useful to continue to focus on practical implementation topics, especially legal frameworks, financing mechanisms, governance models, and concrete municipal tools for developing collaborative housing." ;

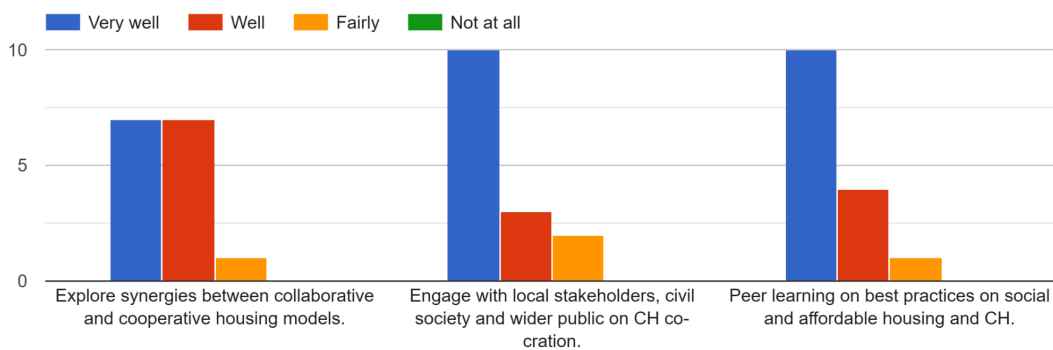
- “Legal and regulatory texts, and the details of financing, costs and ownership/tenure outcomes, are always useful to understand better the different cases, and how/if there can be a transfer/adaptation in other contexts. “ ;
- “More info about social housing and the work with vulnerable groups (if possible).” ;
- “It would be great to focus more on how local governments can support cohousing through dedicated public policies.” ;
- Someone proposes to:
  - “Plan the next conferences with max 8 hrs of attendance.
  - Bring more space for discussion, preferably in small focus-groups - not only to exchange but to enable deeper diving into specific topics
  - Consider bringing some tools for archiving discussed topics on top of ppt's prepared.
  - Consider 'speed-friending' to facilitate diversity in connections between participants - even a 5 minute talk can bring a simple bridge to ignite specific topics later on.”

How satisfied are you with the results of the meeting?

15 responses



How effectively did the meeting reach its objectives?



## Wednesday, May 27th

DAY 1	Activity	Place
from 2:00 p.m.	<b>Check in at the Hotel</b> Aurélie Olivi, Habitat Participatif France, will be at the EKLO Hotel to receive and guide you.	EKLO Hotel 4 Rue Jules Ferry, 34000 Montpellier <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/iPskvriJq2i9LrVT9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/iPskvriJq2i9LrVT9</a>
8:00 p.m.	<b>Informal dinner</b> with people who arrive early enough. On own costs.	Restaurant to be confirmed with participants. Otherwise: plenty of options from snacks to restaurants around the Hotel and Saint-Roch train station.

## Thursday, May 28th

DAY 2	Activity	Place
9:00 a.m.	<b>Departure from the hotel</b> to the collaborative housing Mascobado. <b>Meeting at the lobby of the hotel at 8.50 a.m.</b>	Tram Line 2 towards Saint Jean de Védas --> Sabines stop + 3 min walk: total journey 25 min
9:45 a.m.	<b>Introductory meeting</b> Presentation on collaborative housing in France by Michèle Cauletin co-president of Habitat Participatif France (HPF). Presentation of Mascobado by residents.	Mascobado : 615 Av. de la Régliasse, 34070 Montpellier <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/qwyf3XWqcmScJfRKA">https://maps.app.goo.gl/qwyf3XWqcmScJfRKA</a>
10.20 a.m.	<b>Visits of Mascobado</b> with residents (in two groups). Back in the room, discussion, questions and answers on Mascobado (ownership model, financing, ecoconstruction...)	
12.30 p.m.	Buffet meals and coffee on the terrace or garden at Mascobado	
2:00 p.m.	Travel from Mascobado to the House of International Relations	Tram line 2 - Les Grisettes to Corum
2.30 pm	<b>Introduction to the House of International Relations by the president, Josiane Ricard</b>	<b>House of International Relations</b> (Nelson Mandela): 14 Dsc en Barrat, 34000 Montpellier <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/D4hB292csc6K3bXH9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/D4hB292csc6K3bXH9</a>
3:00 p.m.	<b>NETCO workshop 1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of the baseline survey and Q&amp;A (30 min)</li> <li>• Testimonies from cities in early stages developing Collaborative Housing (45 min) (Maite)</li> <li>• Discussion (Maite)</li> </ul>	<b>House of International Relations</b> (Nelson Mandela): 14 Dsc en Barrat, 34000 Montpellier
5:30 p.m.	Break / Preparation of the public event	<b>House of International Relations</b> (Nelson Mandela): 14 Dsc en Barrat, 34000 Montpellier

6.20 p.m.	<p><b>Public conference: How local governments can promote affordable and inclusive Collaborative Housing?</b></p> <p><i>Facilitated by Pierre Arnold, urbaMonde</i></p> <p><b>Welcoming words</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruno Chichignoud, coordinator of écoHabitons34.</li> </ul> <p><b>Short speeches:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josiane Ricard, President of the House of International Relations, Montpellier</li> <li>• Michaël Delafosse, Mayor of Montpellier</li> <li>• Jesús Alonso Sainz, councilor of the townhall of Manresa (NETCO coordinating city).</li> </ul>	
6.50 p.m.	<p><b>Presentations: Introduction to Collaborative Housing Short presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ludovic Parenty, coordinator of Habitat Participatif France, Collaborative Housing in France: landscape and advocacy work.</li> <li>• Anne Soubira de Bieusse, Head of the Economic planning and requalification service at the Occitanie Region.</li> <li>• Bruno Chichignoud, coordinator of éCOhabitons34, examples of Collaborative Housing in the area of Montpellier.</li> <li>• Maite Arrondo, strategy and content coordinator of NETCO: a European Network of Cities for Collaborative Housing.</li> </ul>	
7.15 p.m.	<p><b>Roundtable : How local authorities can support collaborative housing?</b></p> <p><b>European examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marcel van den Bergh, development project manager, City of Amsterdam</li> <li>• Rebecca Bosch, First Attachée, Brussels Region</li> <li>• Veva Jorba, project lead, Sostre Cívic, Barcelona</li> </ul> <p><b>Respondent:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michèle Cauletin co-president of Habitat Participatif France</li> </ul>	
8.10 p.m.	<b>Informal discussions</b> with audience around a drink	
8.30 p.m.	Walk to the Hotel EKLO's restaurant	15-20 minutes walk
9:00 p.m.	Dinner at the French Kiss restaurant	Eklo Hotel 4 Rue Jules Ferry, 34000 Montpellier

## Friday, May 29th

DAY 3	Activity	Place
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from 6 a.m.	Breakfast at the hotel "Continental buffet" (included in the booking)	Eklo Hotel 4 Rue Jules Ferry, 34000 Montpellier <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/iPskvriJq2i9LrVT9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/iPskvriJq2i9LrVT9</a>
<b>8:40 a.m.</b>	Meeting at the lobby of the hotel at 8.30 Departure from the hotel to Terra Dora Collaborative Housing	Tram Line 5, Gambetta stop, get off at Cité créative Journey
9:00 a.m.	Presentation Mellifera Collaborative Housing project	Terra Dora: 99 rue Dora Maar, Montpellier 34070 <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/quMAfKoroyiP9nneZ">https://maps.app.goo.gl/quMAfKoroyiP9nneZ</a>
9.20 a.m.	<b>Visit of Mellifera construction site with residents</b>	Terra Dora and Mellifera construction site <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/qvSBb7NjkbWn1BvHA">https://maps.app.goo.gl/qvSBb7NjkbWn1BvHA</a>
10.30 a.m.	<b>NETCO Workshop 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review and discussion of NETCO 1 recommendations for cities to start and promote collaborative housing</li> <li>● <b>Next steps of NETCO 2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General overview of the programme</li> <li>○ Next destination: Cluj</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
12.00 p.m	Visit of Terra Dora with residents	
12.30 p.m.	Buffet lunch on the rooftop at Terra Dora	
2:00 p.m.	Free departure to train stations/airports or free activities for people who extend their stay in Montpellier.	

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).