## New European Bauhaus - Jour Fixe Österreich 30. November 2023



Analyse zur Übertragung des österreichischen Modells der Wohnungsgemeinnützigkeit auf die Ukraine



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New housing policy



# Orientation towards international good practices in affordable housing policies



# Following the model of ... e.g. Austrian Limited-Profit Housing Associations (LPHA)

## Austrian LPHAs as inspiration

## • Quantity:

- 1 million housing units = 45% of total multi-apartment stock
- New construction of 15-20,000 units p.a. = >40% of total multi-apartment construction in Austria
- Generalistic approach, accessible to almost everyone
- Active in all regions
- Active in all cities and in many places with no market housing supply

## Quality

- Very good cost-benefit ratio
- Effective rehabilitation scheme
- Social and ecological sustainability

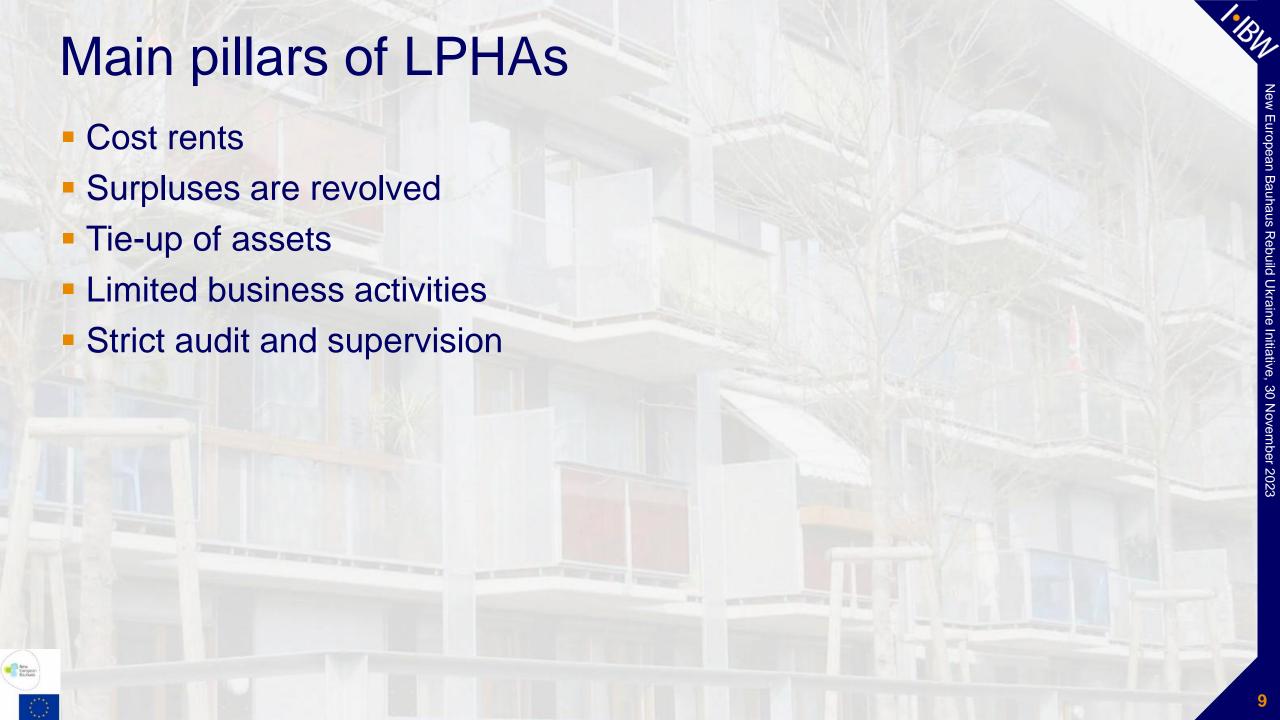
### Finance

- Many LPHAs with high equity ratios
- Commercial banks queue to finance LPHAs due to low risk and excellent credit history
- Housing subsidies in new construction account for only approx. 20% of construction costs in cash value
- Moderate State expenditure on housing of total 0.5% of GDP, which equals to the lowest third of all OECD Countries











## Implementation with a legislative approach

## a model Law on Common Good Housing



- ... following the Austrian "Wohnungsgemeinnützigkeitsgesetz" (Law on Limited-Profit Housing Associations, WGG)
- ... but much shorter

## Common Good Housing Law

- The function of this new sector is explained in 6 Chapters / 18 Articles on 6 pages
- Explanatory Statement
- Chapter 1: General Provisions
- Chapter 2: Conditions for approval
- Chapter 3: Procedure
- Chapter 4: Auditing and supervision
- Chapter 5: Housing subsidies
- Chapter 6: Transitional provision



## Explanatory Statement / General Provisions

- Service of General Economic Interest (SGEI)
- Inclusion also of HAOs for single projects
- CGHE only if licensed under this law
- Limitation of activity
- Inter-generational design
- Tie-up of own capital only to this purpose
- Obligation to underlie provided mechanisms of audit and supervision



## Chapter 2: Conditions for approval

- Art. 2 Legal form and minimum capital
  - Public or private limited company, cooperative, foundation, fund, non-profit organisation, communal or state enterprise, joint stock company, association, society
  - Sufficient economic capacity
- Art. 3 Supervisory Board
- Art. 4 Incompatibilities
  - Independence from political parties, construction and real estate industry
- Art. 5 Admissible restriction of beneficiaries
  - Allocation of dwellings considering objectivity, need for accommodation, size and income of the household
- Art. 6 Limited business activities
  - Construction and management of standard dwellings
  - Connected legal transactions
  - Principle of strict economy concerning construction costs, operating and maintenance costs, however state of the art quality standards
  - Housing management including financing and maintenance procedures, management of construction, management of flats acquired by other means
  - Other activities only with special permission by the competent authority under certain condition



## Chapter 2: Conditions for approval

## Art. 7 Selling prices and rents

- Affordability in providing rental and owner-occupied dwellings
- Adequate safeguards for the interests of tenants, purchasers and freeholders
- Rent and sale prices neither above nor below own costs (incl. appropriate return on equity, formation of reserves etc.)
- Restrictions of price increases in the case of re-sale of buildings or plots of land

### Art. 8 Transfer of shares

- Limited return on equity of the CGHE owner
- Limited revenue in the case of liquidation or sale of shares
- Provisions in the case of liquidation of the ENHE

## Art. 9 Economic efficiency of the business and reliability of the housing management

- Reasonable costs of management and administration
- Accordance to statutes and business ethics
- Integrity of members of the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board



## Chapter 4: Auditing and supervision

- Art. 11 Auditing Association
  - Licensed by the Minister of Finance, provisions in the case of liquidation
- Art. 12 Auditing association by-laws
  - Scope of activity, affiliation of an CGHE to only one auditing association, quality standards, provisions in the case of termination of an auditing association
- Art. 13 Legal status of an Auditing Association
  - Affiliation to an umbrella organization, issuance of guidelines for audits and audit reports
- Art. 14 Audit and supervision
  - Periodic audits of CGHE, conditions of extraordinary audits
  - Range of audits
  - No approval of annual accounts without positive audit
  - Right to inspection of all business transactions and the conduct of business for the competent authority
- Art. 15 Accounting
  - According to guidelines by the umbrella organisation with approval of the Minister of Finance
  - Measures to comply with all objections by the Auditing Association
  - Measures to enforce action



## Chapter 5 / 6: Housing subsidies / Transitional provision

- Art. 16 Tax benefits
  - Exempt from corporate income tax
- Art. 17 Privileged access to housing subsidies for new construction and renovation

