



Call for Papers

The Future of the Private Rental Sector:

Residual sector or cornerstone of housing provision?

Seminar at the International Meeting Centre of St Marienthal (www.ibz-marienthal.de)

5. – 9. February, 2010

At the suggestion of the Private Rental Sector working group of the European Network of Housing Research and kindly supported by WBG Wohnungsbau-Gesellschaft Görlitz mbH the University of Applied Sciences Zittau / Görlitz and the Federal Institute for Building, Urban and Spatial Research (BBSR) are inviting researchers from around the world to a seminar on the future of the Private Rental Sector.

The importance of the Private Rental Sector differs extremely between countries. On the one hand we have polarised markets with high homeownership rates and also a high proportion of social / public interest housing. At the other end of the spectrum we have housing markets with a low homeownership rate and a central role of private landlords for housing provision (e.g. Switzerland and Germany).

If we compare the group of private landlords (which also includes institutional and financial investors) between countries, there are large differences with respect to target group focus, degree of professionalism, economic situation, the legal and tax framework, investment behaviour, investment motives and public image, to name just a few.

The seminar aims at comparing the roles of the Private Rental Sector in selected countries inside and outside Europe. Based on these comparisons we hope to be able to give some impulses for housing policy: Is there an optimal mix of tenures and an optimal structure of the supply side of the housing market? Which groups of suppliers are best suited to serve the different groups of households?



Particularly welcome are papers on the following topics:

- The particularities of small private landlords as providers of housing.
- The importance of the Private Rental Sector in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.
- The particularities of the financing of the sector and especially the finance of modernisation investments including the energetic modernisation of the housing stock.
- The future role of the Private Rental Sector in Austria, Switzerland and Germany.

Seminar venue: Internationales Begegnungszentrum St. Marienthal, St. Marienthal 10, D-02899 Ostritz-St. Marienthal. The next international airport is Prague. Direct flights are available from Dublin, London Gatwick, Paris, Brussels, Madrid, Rome, Amsterdam and many other cities (see also <http://timetables.oag.com/PRGroutemapper/>). There is a direct bus connection between Prague Cerny most and Liberec. A Shuttle-Service will be provided to bring participants from Liberec to St Marienthal.

Order of events:

- Arrival on 5. February, 2010 until 6:00 p.m. for authors of the special edition of the International Journal of Housing Policy and other participants willing to take part in the discussion of the journal papers
- Arrival on 6. February until 6:00 p.m. for all other participants
- The seminar will close with an afternoon field trip to Görlitz on 8. February, 2010 around 6:00 p.m. The departure of the participants is planned for 9. February, 2010 after breakfast.

Registration: Registration including accomodation is possible between 1. and 30. November, 2009 on the following website: www.hs-zigr.de/prs. A limited number of single rooms is reserved for the participants in the guest houses of the International Meeting Centre.

Conference fee: The conference fee is € 55,00. It has to be paid not later than one week after registration via bank transfer. Cash payment at the conference location is only permitted for participants from outside the Single European Payments Area. The costs for accommodation and catering have to be paid for individually when leaving St Marienthal. For an on-campus single-room with full board the rate for four nights is € 217,00 without cold drinks - € 162,50 for three nights, respectively.

Submission deadlines: Abstracts until 7. Decemeber, 2009 - Full papers until 25. January, 2010 – Presentations until 1. February, 2010 to the following e-mail-adress: S.Kofner@hs-zigr.de. Conference languages are German and English. Simultaneous translation services will be available.