

# Housing crisis: can the EU act and how?

The European Union is facing a **housing crisis**, characterised by rising prices and rents, exacerbated over the last 5 years by



the COVID19 pandemic,



the war in Ukraine,

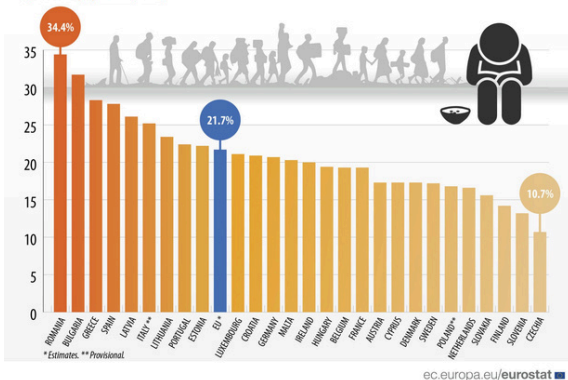


inflation.



According to Eurostat figures, **in 2021, 21.7% of the EU population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion**, including 5.9 million people in households with multiple risk factors.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU Member States (% of total population, 2021)



**Risk of eviction:** 82 million Europeans are burdened with housing costs (Source, 2019).

**Homelessness:** 900 thousand people sleep on the streets throughout the EU (Source, 2024).

**Overcrowded houses:** host 16.8% of the population (Source, 2022).

**Unfit houses:** 14.8% of the population live in houses with heating problems, sanitary conditions, water leaks, cracks in roofs, humidity problems (Source, 2020).

**Housing expenses:** 17.6% of total family expenses are for housing (Source, 2022).

## The EU's role in housing policy



Currently, social affairs remain under the jurisdiction of the Member States. However, **the European Union can support the right to decent housing by setting minimum access standards**, enabling the creation of quality non-profit housing and empowering the authorities to regulate the private housing market.

2017

In 2017, the EU adopted the **European Pillar of Social Rights to set a framework and goals for social policy.**

2021

A 2021 action plan aims to advance these objectives, including **reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 15 million by 2030.**



The new European Commission, which takes office in December 2024, includes for the first time a **commissioner (Dan Jørgensen) specifically dedicated to the issue of housing.**