

## Journey 2 “the Habitat”: Scaling affordable housing through procurement and partnerships

### Practical information

**? Any questions?** Ask the journey referents:  
**Jana**, [jana.cicmanova@energy-cities.eu](mailto:jana.cicmanova@energy-cities.eu)  
**Mélanie**, [melanie.bourgeois@energy-cities.eu](mailto:melanie.bourgeois@energy-cities.eu)



**Personal items**

Can be kept in the venue



**Means of transport**















Bus (25min)



**Clothes**

Comfortable shoes (walk)

### Schedule of the day

 <b>08:30-09:00</b>	Start of the day <i>Teatro Jordão, Av. Dom Afonso Henriques 321</i>	
 <b>09:00-09:30</b>	Local Democracy, the power of doing - plenary session <i>Teatro Jordão, Av. Dom Afonso Henriques 321</i>	
 <b>09:30-10:00</b>	Departure - follow the journey referent with a yellow flag <i>Meeting point: outside the Teatro Jordão</i>	
 <b>10:00-12:30</b>	Site visit <i>AVE Park, Parque de Ciência e Tecnologia, Lugar Da, Gandra, Barco</i>	
 <b>12:30-14:00</b>	Lunch (vegetarian menu) <i>Parque de Ciência e Tecnologia</i>	
 <b>14:00-16:00</b>	Workshop <i>Avepark Auditory</i>	
 <b>16:00-16:30</b>	Return to the main venue <i>Teatro Jordão, Av. Dom Afonso Henriques 321</i>	
 <b>16:30-17:00</b>	Speed networking and Bingo time! <i>Teatro Jordão, Av. Dom Afonso Henriques 321</i>	
 <b>17:00-17:45</b>	Debate “Reviving Local Democracy” <i>Teatro Jordão, Av. Dom Afonso Henriques 321</i>	
 <b>17:45-18:00</b>	Energy Cities’ General Assembly <i>Teatro Jordão, Av. Dom Afonso Henriques 321</i>	
 <b>18:00-19:30</b>	Free time	
 <b>19:30</b>	Gala dinner (no dress code) - <b>Bring your badge</b> <i>Conservatório de Guimarães (Ground floor), R. de Vila Flor, Guimarães</i>	
 <b>22:00</b>	Light and sound experience <i>City centre</i>	

### Topic

At a time when affordable housing is becoming a social emergency across Europe, cities are under increasing pressure to provide homes that are not only affordable, but also sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient. The challenge is particularly visible in university cities, where the demand for affordable student housing often puts additional strain on already limited housing supply and can exacerbate inequalities in access to education and urban life.

This journey explores how cities can respond to these challenges by combining innovative construction models, sustainable design and smarter use of the housing stock.

### Visit agenda

10:10 - 10:30

#### Presentation of the AvePark housing strategy

Explore the technical and construction solutions developed for the project. Walk through the student housing typologies that have been designed, along with the construction approach chosen, whether modular, prefabricated, or based on rehabilitation. Gain insight into construction timelines, cost structures, and the project’s potential for scaling. The session will also show you how the solution supports affordability, including the management model used to keep student rents accessible. Finally, you’ll get an overview of the financing framework and the practical public procurement processes that made the project possible.

10:30 - 12:30

#### Detailed visit of the site

Explore the project on site, with a detailed explanation of the construction techniques, materials used, spatial organisation for student living, and practical considerations such as maintenance, durability, and user comfort.

#### Speakers

- **Joaquim Carvalho**, Municipal Director, Municipality of Guimarães
- **Gonçalo Fernandes**, Site supervision Engineer, Municipality of Guimarães



## Workshop agenda

14:00-14:20

### Introduction: Sufficiency as an affordable housing strategy

Why does sufficiency matter for social and affordable housing?

14:20-15:20

### Presentations and open discussions

- Financing sufficiency

**Álvaro Salamanca**, Project Manager at GNE Finance (ES)

- Vacancy regulation,

**Jamal Belkasm**i, Vacancy regulation specialist, city of Utrecht (NL)

**Kees Verschoor**, Senior strategist, city of Utrecht (NL)

- One-Stop Shop for home energy renovations,

**Jana Cicmanova**, Project Manager, Energy Cities

- Activating underused homes for social value

**Nicole La lacona**, Funding Advisor, City of Mechelen (BE)

- Conversion of vacant offices and public buildings into housing

**João Carvalhosa**, Head of Strategic Planning Office, Gebalis, Lisbon (PT)

15:20-16:00

### Marketplace of solutions

Visit whichever stalls are most relevant to you. No fixed rotations. Closes when conversations naturally wind down.

**Stall 1**  
Sufficiency

**Stall 2**  
Vacancy

**Stall 3**  
Underused homes

### Facilitators:

**Jana Cicmanova**, Project Manager, Energy Cities

**Mélanie Bourgeois**, EU Policy Manager, Energy Cities

This journey is organised in the framework of the Affordable Housing Initiative European Partnership (SHAPE II), funded by the European Union. The Initiative supports cities, housing organisations, public authorities and stakeholders in delivering affordable, inclusive and energy-efficient housing solutions, while contributing to emissions reduction and tackling energy poverty. Through capacity-building, mentorship and knowledge exchange, it promotes innovative and replicable approaches to the renovation and development of sustainable and affordable homes in Europe.