

# How to Reactivate vacant residential Buildings in need of Refurbishment

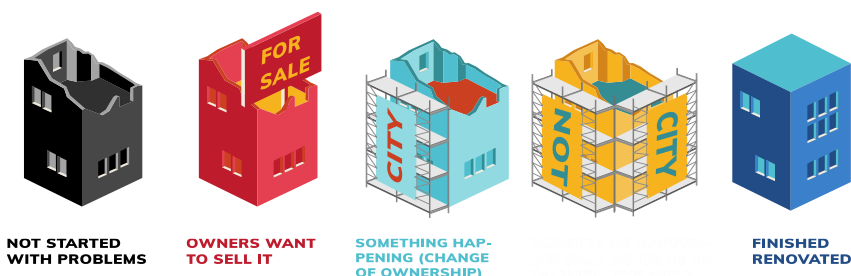
## Capacity Building webinar, 19th April 2021

With the final capacity building webinar “How to Reactivate vacant residential Buildings in need of Refurbishment” that we organised in virtual form on the 19th of April 2021 we concluded the two and half year journey. Interest from participants from all over the world in the webinar was special confirmation of our work.

All presentations and recordings of the webinar are available at the end of this document.

### Shortly about the webinar

The webinar was opened by the Head of the City Planning Department Chemnitz, **Börries Butenop**. Afterwards, **Frank Feuerbach** (City of Chemnitz) and **Martin Neubert** (Housing Agency) briefly described the network and the agency. **Nils Scheffler**, lead expert of the ALT/BAU network, then introduced the topics. In the course of the webinar, he presented the basic tasks and goals for each individual topic.



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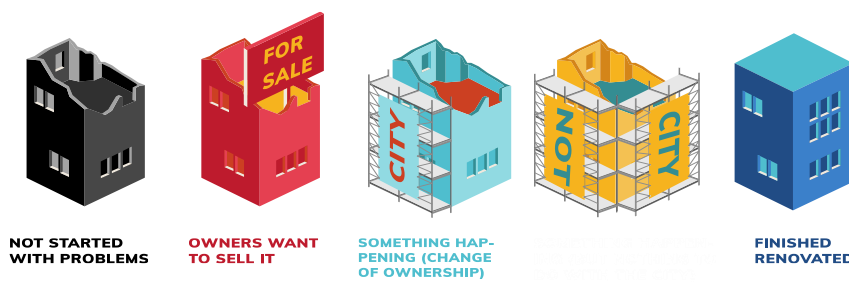
## Central transfer topics and practices

- Introduction and Chemnitz's good practice
- Inventory and monitoring of vacant buildings
- Activating and supporting owners
- Activating and supporting potential investors
- Connecting and coordinating stakeholders

In the five thematic complexes, our ALT/BAU partners from Seraing, Riga, Constanta, Turin and Vilafranca reported on their approaches and creative solutions. The Lead Partner Chemnitz also reported on its experiences.

Thanks to the airmeet platform, it was possible to move freely among the online participants between the individual thematic blocks and "take a seat at various tables" to exchange ideas or also to ask questions of the speakers.

**Céline Ethuin**, URBACT secretariat, gave an outlook on the future of URBACT and **Ivan Tosics**, URBACT Programme expert, looked at the ALT/BAU network in terms of how the EU renovation wave can be used financially and energetically to support the reactivation of vacant buildings and how the reactivation of vacant buildings can be used to address affordability issues with socially motivated actors.



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## What is the webinar about?

Numerous cities in Europa have vacant historical buildings in their city centre and surrounding urban quarters in need of refurbishment. The buildings are often significant for the identity and history of the city, they are worth preserving and bringing back into use! **Maybe you are experiencing the same in your city. But how can your municipality tackle the issue? How to change those complicated ownership structures? How to connect to the owners? How to find potential buyers and new investors? How to integrate alternative approaches for social housing or temporary use?**

After two years of intensive exchange between seven European cities, the URBACT ALT/BAU Transfer Network has developed field-proven answers to those questions based on an URBACT Good Practice from Chemnitz, Germany. Seraing (BE), Vilafranca del Penedès (ES), Turin (IT), Riga (LV), Rybnik (PL) and Constanța (RO) want to share their results and approach of launching Building Activation Units in their municipalities with interested cities and urban practitioners. They share their methods and recommendations from cities to cities, from urban practitioners to urban practitioners.

All presentations are available in the library on the URBACT homepage. And at the end of this document you will find the links to the individual presentations.



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## 09:00 Welcome and Introduction

- Welcome and introduction to the webinar – Nils Scheffler, ALT/BAU Lead Expert
- Introduction to the ALT/BAU network and Chemnitz Good Practice – the ‘Housing agency’– Börries Butenop, Head of the City Planning Department Chemnitz, Martin Neubert / Frank Feuerbach, ALT/BAU Lead Partner

## 09:30 Inventory and monitoring of vacant buildings

- Introduction: Goal and tasks, Nils Scheffler, ALT/BAU Lead Expert  
*Develop an integrated database! Define method(s) for inventory and monitoring of vacant buildings*
- Constanta: Using geographic information system (GIS),  
Diana Lepădatu, City of Constanta
- Riga: Participative online mapping ‘GRAUSTI.RIGA.LV’,  
Viliams Vroblevskis, City of Riga
- Seraing: Field visits – Categorisation – Collaboration,  
Bénédicte Borckmans, ERIGES, Seraing



## 11:00 Activating and supporting owners

- Introduction: Goal and tasks, Nils Scheffler, ALT/BAU Lead Expert
- Chemnitz’s experience of the good practice “Agentur StadtWohnen”,  
Martin Neubert, Agentur StadtWohnen Chemnitz
- Seraing, Bénédicte Borckmans, ERIGES, Seraing



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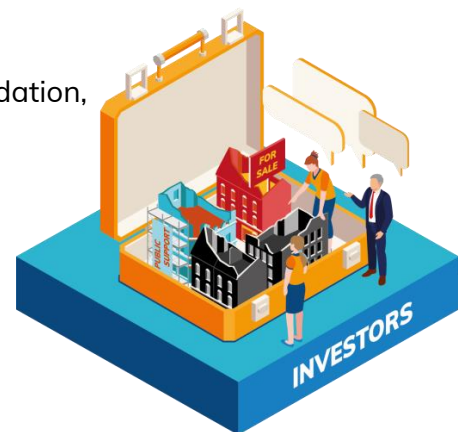
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## 12:00 URBACT - It's time to share

- URBACT Transfer Network concept, key outcomes and programme news  
*Céline Ethuin, URBACT secretariat*

## 13:30 Activating and supporting potential buyers and investors

- Introduction: Goal and tasks, Nils Scheffler, ALT/BAU Lead Expert  
Define “your” investor type! Contact and support investors!
- Chemnitz’s methods, experiences and lessons learnt contacting investors and providing useful services,  
*Martin Neubert, StadtAgentur, Chemnitz*
- Vilafranca: Collaborating with a social housing foundation,  
*Xavier Mauri, Habitat 3 foundation*
- Riga: Social temporary use as co-development tool for large scale illiquid properties,  
*Marcis Rubenis, Free Riga*

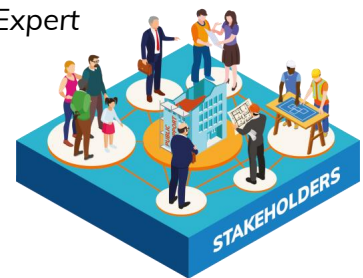


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## 15:00 Connecting and coordinating public and private stakeholders

- Introduction: Goal and tasks, *Nils Scheffler, ALT/BAU Lead Expert*  
Stakeholders to involve! Topics to be coordinated!
- Chemnitz methods, experiences and lessons learnt  
coordinating public and private stakeholders,  
*Frank Feuerbach, Chemnitz*
- Turin's digital platform; *Giulietta Fassino, Torino Urban Lab.*



## 16:30 The ALT/BAU approach and its importance with regard to the most urgent tasks in the post-COVID recovery of urban areas

- External reflection of the ALT/BAU approach, *Ivan Tosics, URBACT Programme expert*  
How the EU Renovation wave can be financially and energetically used to support the reactivation of vacant buildings and how the reactivation of vacant buildings can be used to help to tackle affordability problems with socially motivated stakeholders summarize the environmental/sustainability and social problems of cities under the specific conditions of post-COVID recovery.

## 16:50 Closing of the webinar

- Wrap-up and final information  
*Martin Neubert, Agentur StadtWohnen Chemnitz – ALT/BAU Project Coordinator*

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### Presentations

#### Introduction and Chemnitz's good practice

<https://bit.ly/introaltbau>

#### Inventory and monitoring of vacant buildings

Goals and tasks: <https://bit.ly/2VcsMEq>

Seraing: <https://bit.ly/3AaKbMB>

Constanta: <https://bit.ly/3AaKV4l>

Riga: <https://bit.ly/3A9Wtop>



#### Activating and supporting owners

Goals and tasks: <https://bit.ly/3imlK8U>

Chemnitz: <https://bit.ly/3im5Uee>

Seraing: <https://bit.ly/2VsOMdG>

#### Activation and supporting investors

Goals and Tasks: <https://bit.ly/2VcwcHg>

Riga: <https://bit.ly/3ypV8cG>

Chemnitz: <https://bit.ly/2VjfC8n>

Vilafranca: <https://bit.ly/3C4PDCp>



#### Coordinating stakeholders

Goals and tasks: <https://bit.ly/37hLnRW>

Turin: <https://bit.ly/3iinwrt>

Chemnitz: <https://bit.ly/3A8oyw3>

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## Webinar recordings

Introduction and Chemnitz's good practice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8AT1eYqTY8&t=13s>

Inventory and monitoring of vacant buildings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AZK5L6ATFk&t=9s>

Activating and supporting owners

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3DMQkvXH-8&t=27s>

Activating and supporting potential investors

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3OhV54EiXg&t=19s>

Connecting and coordinating stakeholders

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghqMzhfoOOA>

Contextualisation and wrap-up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHThSNGa1yM>





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