

civis

Europe's Civic University Alliance

CIVIS Open Labs

Generating shared knowledge on rent regulation




Version 2025-11-05

1. Context & Short Description

Housing rights associations face a paradox: abundant academic research on rent regulation exists, yet practitioners rarely have the time or resources to critically engage with it. Meanwhile, associations develop innovative local approaches and activist methodologies that remain largely invisible in academic literature.

This project bridges that gap. Bringing together researchers from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), the Université de Lausanne (UNIL) and Aix-Marseille Université (AMU) with housing rights associations from Brussels, Lausanne and Marseille, it builds shared knowledge between academic expertise and field experience. Through a two-day workshop hosted at the OpenLab.brussels (ULB), **participants co-produce a critical analysis of common misconceptions about rent control – grounded in both scientific evidence and the lived reality of advocacy work.** The outcome is a publicly accessible summary note and annotated bibliography, designed to strengthen associations' capacity for political advocacy on housing rights.

2. Partners

Partner Name	Type	Bio (2–3 lines)	Website/Link	Photo/Logo
ULB	Academic			
UNIL	Academic			
AMU	Academic			
Réseau Bruxellois pour le droit à l'Habitat	Non-Aca.	The Rassemblement Bruxellois pour le Droit à l'Habitat (RBDH) is a bilingual umbrella organisation of around sixty associations which, each in their own field, advocate for the right to housing and work towards access to quality, affordable homes.	http://rbdh-bbrow.be/idees-recues-sur-la-regulation-des-loyers-discussion-publique/	
Asloca – Association des locataires (Vaud, Suisse)	Non-aca	The association defends tenants' rights through legal support, advocacy and public communication	https://vaud.asloca.ch	
Collectif du 5 novembre	Non-aca	A citizen collective based in the Noailles neighbourhood of Marseille, mobilising around housing rights and conditions in the context of a major building collapse in 2018.	https://collectif5novembre.org	

3. Main Beneficiaries & Social Impact

A. Main Beneficiaries

The project targets housing rights advocates, community workers and researchers active on rent regulation issues.

Participants are drawn from associations and universities across Belgium, Switzerland and France. However, a public discussion is organised to enlarge the debate and include more participants from different stakeholders (NGOs, administrations mostly).

B. Social Impact

Participants gain a critical, evidence-based understanding of rent regulation that directly feeds into their advocacy work. The workshop builds lasting connections between associations and researchers across three countries. The outputs — a summary note and annotated bibliography — give associations concrete tools for political action and public communication.

4. Core Methodology (max 50 words)

Two-day participatory workshop combining expert presentations, collective discussion and collaborative writing. Academics and housing rights practitioners challenge common misconceptions about rent regulation together, drawing on both scientific literature and field experience. Outputs are co-produced by all participants. The workshop is complemented by a public evening discussion open to all.

5. Events in the Project

Event Name	Date(s)	Location	Description (purpose, audience)	Photo/Link
Seminar	16-17/03 /2026	OpenLab.brussels (ULB, Usquare, Brussels)	Expert presentations and group discussions on common misconceptions about rent regulation (Day 1) Collective writing session to co-produce a summary note and annotated bibliography based on the previous day's discussions. (Day 2)	
Public evening discussion	16/03 /2026	Pianocktail, rue Haute, 304 1000 Brussels	Open public event bringing together academics and practitioners to collectively challenge misconceptions about rent regulation from a tenants' perspective. Up to 50 participants.	http://rbdh-bbrow.be/idees-recues-sur-la-regulation-des-loyers-discussion-publique/

6. Deliverables & Resources

Deliverable / Resource	Type (report, video, toolkit...)	Caption / Description
Summary Note	Note	A short note debunking common misconceptions about rent regulation, co-authored by all participants and disseminated through partner networks.
Annotated bibliography	Resource	A curated list of academic and practitioner sources on rent regulation, compiled from resources shared during the workshop.
Infographic	Visual resource	Visual drawings supporting the summary note, designed for online sharing across partner organisations' websites and social media.

7. Contact Point

Name: Maëlys Waiengnier

Email: maelys.waiengnier@ulb.be

Institution / Role: ULB (Coordination)