

Brussels, 13 November 2018

COST 118/18

## DECISION

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Subject: **Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of the COST Action “European Middle Class Mass Housing” (MCMH-EU) CA18137**

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The COST Member Countries and/or the COST Cooperating State will find attached the Memorandum of Understanding for the COST Action European Middle Class Mass Housing approved by the Committee of Senior Officials through written procedure on 13 November 2018.

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## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

For the implementation of a COST Action designated as

### **COST Action CA18137 EUROPEAN MIDDLE CLASS MASS HOUSING (MCMH-EU)**

The COST Member Countries and/or the COST Cooperating State, accepting the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) wish to undertake joint activities of mutual interest and declare their common intention to participate in the COST Action (the Action), referred to above and described in the Technical Annex of this MoU.

The Action will be carried out in accordance with the set of COST Implementation Rules approved by the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), or any new document amending or replacing them:

- a. "Rules for Participation in and Implementation of COST Activities" (COST 132/14 REV2);
- b. "COST Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval" (COST 133/14 REV);
- c. "COST Action Management, Monitoring and Final Assessment" (COST 134/14 REV2);
- d. "COST International Cooperation and Specific Organisations Participation" (COST 135/14 REV).

The main aim and objective of the Action is to create a transnational network that gathers European researchers carrying studies on Middle-Class Mass Housing built in Europe since the 1950s and to develop new scientific approaches by discussing, testing and assessing diverse case studies and their different methodologies and perspectives.. This will be achieved through the specific objectives detailed in the Technical Annex.

The economic dimension of the activities carried out under the Action has been estimated, on the basis of information available during the planning of the Action, at EUR 32 million in 2018.

The MoU will enter into force once at least seven (7) COST Member Countries and/or COST Cooperating State have accepted it, and the corresponding Management Committee Members have been appointed, as described in the CSO Decision COST 134/14 REV2.

The COST Action will start from the date of the first Management Committee meeting and shall be implemented for a period of four (4) years, unless an extension is approved by the CSO following the procedure described in the CSO Decision COST 134/14 REV2.

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**OVERVIEW**

**Summary**

The main challenge of this Cost Action is to create a transnational network that gathers European researchers carrying studies on Middle-Class Mass Housing (MCMH) built in Europe since the 1950s. This network will allow the development new scientific approaches by discussing, testing and assessing case studies and their different methodologies and perspectives. MCMH has been generally underestimated in urban and architectural studies and there is still a lack of comparative analysis and global perspectives. The number of transnational publications and scientific meetings has also been scarce. By crossing different approaches focus on Architecture, Urbanism, Planning, Public Policies, History, Sociology new concepts and methodologies will arise. Therefore, the Action aims to produce a wider understanding of MCMH sprawl, deepening on-going researches and focussing on the existing case studies. The current methodologies, surveys, catalogue and contextualization allow an initial mapping of relevant case studies, their diverse degrees of resilience and how they have been adapted to current (urban and social) conditions. It is intended to develop the knowledge of the interaction between spatial forms, behaviours and satisfaction and to combine methodologies of architectural and social analyses. The Action will be developed by three Working Groups, coordinated by a Core Group: Documenting the MCMH; Development of a specific set of (new) concepts for MCMH analyses; Leverage contemporary architecture interventions and Public Policies. In the Action will be involved researchers related to Mass Housing, MCMH Architecture and Urbanism, Planning and Public Policies, Sociological studies, Architecture History and Modern Heritage.

<p><b>Areas of Expertise Relevant for the Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Arts: History of art and history of architecture</li> </ul>	<p><b>Keywords</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Middle Class</li> <li>● Mass Housing</li> <li>● Twentieth Century Architecture</li> <li>● European City</li> <li>● Middle Class, Mass Housing, Twentieth Century Architecture, European City</li> </ul>
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**Specific Objectives**

To achieve the main objective described in this MoU, the following specific objectives shall be accomplished:

Research Coordination

- To develop a common critical understanding of the MCMH phenomenon and a more precise understanding of its different expressions and premises.
- To coordinate working groups that will gather existing information and data, in order to create a comprehensive mapping.
- To compare and assess different narratives on MCMH and to question the main methodological approaches, underlying theoretical frameworks, and general expectations.
- To achieve a specific set of concepts and definitions derived from specific cases and applicable to a wider range of situations.
- To evaluate the input of stakeholders – housing public policies and local residents communities – in the different partner countries and their effectiveness.
- To create the ground for future architecture interventions, and the development of public policies.
- To disseminate existing research results in the scientific community, and within policymakers, stakeholders and the general public, including the creation of the Action Website.

Capacity Building

- Facing the main goals, the general capacity-building objectives rely on two main levels: 1) Academic field;

and 2) Working teams.

- 1) Academic field ii) Creating bridges between Architecture, Urbanism, Planning, Public Policies, History, Sociology and other social sciences to achieve ground-breaking knowledge resulting from an interdisciplinary approach to the MCMH studies
- 1) Academic field iii) Acting as a transnational practice community aiming to achieve a positive impact on the action of policymakers and stakeholders such as private investors and local communities.
- 1) Academic field iv) Bringing a new comprehension of the Mass Housing concept in order to allow new frameworks for contemporary interventions.
- 1) Academic field v) Promoting the existing research on MCMH.
- 1) Academic field vi) Developing a set of critical concepts for the understanding of the MCMH phenomenon in Europe.
- 1) Academic field vii) Sharing, producing and disseminating knowledge through the MCMH website.
- 2) Working teams i) Connecting newly established research groups.
- 2) Working teams ii) Challenging researchers in their early stage career (Master and PhD. levels).
- 2) Working teams iii) Constituting balanced teams in terms of under-represented gender and extending the network to four ITC countries in order to strengthen scientific production.

## TECHNICAL ANNEX

### 1. S&T EXCELLENCE

#### 1.1. CHALLENGE

##### 1.1.1. DESCRIPTION OF THE CHALLENGE (MAIN AIM)

The main challenge of this Cost Action is to create a transnational network that gathers European researchers carrying studies on Middle-Class Mass Housing (MCMH) built in Europe since the 1950s and to develop new scientific approaches by discussing, testing and assessing diverse case studies and their different methodologies and perspectives. Although being one of the main aspects of the urban fabric in Europe, MCMH has been generally underestimated in urban and architectural studies. By crossing the different approaches focused on Architecture, Urbanism, Planning, Public Policies, History, Sociology – as well as other social sciences such as Geography, Anthropology and Demography – new concepts and methodological approaches will arise, as well as a more critical look into the existing ones. Therefore, the Action aims to produce a wider understanding of MCMH spread in Europe and beyond, not only by deepening on-going research and focussing on the existing case studies, but also by introducing new ones. The current methodologies, surveys, catalogue and contextualization allow an initial mapping of several relevant case studies, their diverse degrees of resilience and how they have been adapted to the current (urban and social) conditions. To accomplish these objectives, the Action relies on European partners but also on further collaboration with non-European researchers. The target groups of the Action include three levels of end users:

- i) Academic/scientific working groups;
- ii) Institutional stakeholders and policymakers;
- iii) Local communities.

One of the major Action's tasks is sharing and crossing the available sources and studies since most information is still dispersed or gathered under different criteria. The Action aims to provide, as a major outcome, a platform for future developments by establishing an open digital database that will allow creating an MCMH Atlas. This output will remain as a future research tool, as well as a contribution to new working methodologies based on shared knowledge.

##### 1.1.2. RELEVANCE AND TIMELINESS

The Middle-Class Mass Housing (MCMH) studies carried out so far have been sporadic and mainly focused on specific case studies (usually sited in a specific European context or country and/or in former colonial territories), lacking comparative analysis and more global perspectives. The number of transnational publications and scientific meetings is still scarce. However, since the "Middle Class in Perspective International Symposium" (held in Politecnico di Milano, Milan, 2012), there has been a growing interest in the subject and it has assumed a more international scope.

The present time is a pivotal one as the study of this phenomenon is crucial for the future of the European cities in general. Most of the European MCMH ensembles are now reaching new historical, social, economic and cultural cycles that can be characterised in general terms by:

- 1) Their relevance in the construction and definition of the present European city fringes;
- 2) The changing nature of the real estate market pressure resulting from social and economic dynamics as migration, tourism, ageing and gentrification;

- 3) The physical state of the buildings and urban spaces, such as the changes of the surroundings, after decades of use;
- 4) A presence of a new human geography featured by the confluence of aged inhabitants with new generations of residents;
- 5) A dynamic context of migrations in and to Europe.

From a scientific perspective, the present time can represent a turning point opportunity since most of the existing research addresses local, regional and national case studies, with limited scientific debate and international dissemination. Therefore, the Action will allow strengthening the existing national research teams, by creating new working dynamics through the interaction between different groups and the development of an international network that increases dialectic perspectives on MCMH.

Taking into account the present political, economic and social context in Europe concerning housing – particularly regarding Middle-Class –, this is a crucial moment to combine the academic fields of Architecture, Urbanism, Planning, Public Policies, History, Sociology, as well as other social sciences, with the action of policymakers, institutional actors, local communities and stakeholders. The knowledge and the conclusions achieved within the academic circles will be expected to be put forward, therefore contributing to the awareness on the MCMH issue as well as providing new outputs that can drive and deepen the current scientific research.

## 1.2. OBJECTIVES

### 1.2.1. RESEARCH COORDINATION OBJECTIVES

The overall coordination objectives are the distribution of tasks, knowledge and know-how sharing, and the creation of synergies among Action Participants to achieve specific outputs. These activities are expected to generate a decisive impulse to turn the existing scattered groups into a transnational network, thus boosting the already existing research. The specific coordination's objectives will be:

- 1) To develop a common critical understanding of the MCMH phenomenon and a more precise understanding of its different expressions and premises;
- 2) To coordinate working groups that will gather existing information and data, in order to create a comprehensive mapping;
- 3) To compare and assess different narratives on MCMH and to question the main methodological approaches, underlying theoretical frameworks, and general expectations;
- 4) To achieve a specific set of concepts and definitions derived from specific cases and applicable to a wider range of situations;
- 5) To evaluate the input of stakeholders – housing public policies and local residents communities – in the different partner countries and their effectiveness;
- 6) To create the ground for future architecture interventions, and the development of public policies;
- 7) To disseminate existing research results in the scientific community, and within policymakers, stakeholders and the general public, including the creation of the Action Website.

### 1.2.2. CAPACITY-BUILDING OBJECTIVES

The Action is expected to build a critical mass that will leverage scientific progress and will strengthen the European research on the MCMH studies. Facing these main goals, the general capacity-building objectives rely on two main levels: 1) Academic field; and 2) Working teams.

- 1) Academic field:
  - i) Fostering exchange and development of knowledge on MCMH as a common ground research agenda, since it is one of the cores of the socio-economic transformations of European metropolitan areas, since the 1950s;
  - ii) Creating bridges between Architecture, Urbanism, Planning, Public Policies, History, Sociology and other social sciences to achieve ground-breaking knowledge resulting from an interdisciplinary approach to the MCMH studies;
  - iii) Acting as a transnational practice community aiming to achieve a positive impact on the action of policymakers and stakeholders such as private investors and local communities;
  - iv) Bringing a new comprehension of the Mass Housing concept in order to allow new frameworks for contemporary interventions;
  - v) Promoting the existing research on MCMH;
  - vi) Developing a set of critical concepts for the understanding of the MCMH phenomenon in Europe;
  - vii) Sharing, producing and disseminating knowledge through the MCMH website.

2) Working teams:

- i) Connecting newly established research groups;
- ii) Challenging researchers in their early stage career (Master and PhD. levels);
- iii) Constituting balanced teams in terms of under-represented gender and extending the network to four ITC countries in order to strengthen scientific production.

## **1.3. PROGRESS BEYOND THE STATE-OF-THE-ART AND INNOVATION POTENTIAL**

### **1.3.1. DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART**

The main source of knowledge on MCMH is centred on bibliography produced in the context of national research, ranging from systematic case studies to some more random prospects. The scientific scope of each existing research is also diverse and focused mainly on the fields of either typological, morphological, historical or sociological studies.

The research on MCMH conditions, promotion and satisfaction are still marginal in European and American studies, and almost inexistent in other academic contexts. However, the existent achievements can be summed up in three main points of interest:

- 1) The survey and mapping of the existing cases studies;
- 2) Comprehensive analyses of the residential typologies;
- 3) The social resilience and the sociological assessment.

From a disciplinary point of view, those approaches have a common ground, which is crossing the architectural perspective with issues related to national history, colonial history, anthropology or sociology. However, under this generic common approach, different methodologies are currently used:

- i) Spatial forms are currently assessed by general surveys, fieldwork and by archival or bibliographical sources;
- ii) Sociological analysis is usually focused on social behaviour/satisfaction alternating with the individual or family uses of space (also, the methodology varies from qualitative work to a stricter analysis of quantitative data).

Reinforcing the MCMH as an autonomous field of research and putting different research groups in contact is an important achievement on the subject, which follows the current tendency that highlights the specificity of this social group concerning housing, namely comparing with lower income classes. The success and interest showed by the community and academic realms also justify it. Several case studies have been analysed and resulted in a detailed bibliography that allows comparing new case studies and new geographies, crossing work methodologies and proposing readings that are more comprehensive.

From the architectural point of view, the approach ranges from the study of typological issues of the dwellings to the formal and aesthetic analysis of the buildings and to the overall urban form. This is even more evident when cases switched from almost anonyms designs to others with a much more prominent role within the architectural culture.

From a sociological perspective, studies have focused on the relationship between changes in demographics, domesticity, and ownership. Studies on spatial conflicts involving immigrant communities have also started to be developed. These studies allowed to understand the residents' history and profile, as well as to make some interesting observations: the 'ghetto' aspect of some MCMH ensembles in the townscape is an identity factor that contributes to great levels of satisfaction (frequently above 70% and rising to 85%-90% in several cases). These results are opposite to previous studies in lower income classes where those numbers are usually much lower (therefore reinforcing the MCMH as an autonomous field of research).

Since the Italian Symposium that took place in Milan, in 2012, the scientific achievements and the overall success and interest shown by local and national communities prove that plenty of issues remain unexplored. Despite the description above, the Action takes into account that different countries don't share the same level of knowledge on the various aspects of MCMH.

### **1.3.2. PROGRESS BEYOND THE STATE-OF-THE-ART**

It is intended to develop the knowledge of the interaction between spatial forms, behaviours and satisfaction and to combine methodologies of architectural and social analyses with the studies that privilege field surveys. Although MCMH is already a research topic in several European countries, there

has been little detailed scientific exchange and debate. The following major gaps can be pointed to the current state-of-the-art:

- 1) Lack of debate on the historical, theoretical, sociological and architectural conservation premises of the different studies;
- 2) The existence of only exploratory approaches of cross-studies between sociology and architecture, despite being a seminal relationship;
- 3) The same applies to MCMH within the metropolitan areas;
- 4) Different levels of development in different national states-of-the-art;
- 5) The studies remain at local and national levels, therefore there is little work developed in a systematic and transnational manner;
- 6) Lack of interaction between scientific researchers and other agents such as policymakers, private investors and local communities.

The Action will address these lacunae by putting in contact, in a systematic way, researchers with different scientific backgrounds, different geographical locations, and different institutional affiliations. This confrontation will allow an unprecedented scientific debate and analysis on:

- i) Different promotion standards (public or private) and its consequences in terms of the inhabitants' resilience;
- ii) Different conceptions, both qualitative and quantitative, of the Middle-Class in different countries and ethnicities;
- iii) Different occupations (considering aspects such as inhabitant profile and events such as migrations, social changes, tourism, ageing and gentrification). Special attention will be given to the historical/social process, benefiting from the already existing research.

From the objectives already mentioned, significant progress and new achievements will allow to:

- i) Retrace the existing research and mapping it in the European context;
- ii) Explain and clarify the main key premises under which each research has evolved;
- iii) Compare and assess the central arguments resulting from each research;
- iv) Critically re-evaluate every single research.

The above-mentioned achievements will also have a permanent platform to allow sharing, producing and dissemination of studies through the website.

Some of the progress beyond the state-of-the-art will be achieved with an integrated dissemination strategy, namely:

- i) By making the different case studies and research available through the transnational network, and by presenting new ones in an international context;
- ii) By encouraging publications of currently unpublished research;
- iii) By extending studies to a transcontinental context, through specific missions and scientific meetings, publications, exhibitions and other media;
- iv) By expanding the knowledge network, creating links between MCMH research groups, and revealing the relevance of studying other cases in Europe as well as in other continents.

The previous engagement of several team members in organizing and chairing international conferences, writing scientific articles and book chapters, provides the Action with a very sound starting point. Also, it benefits from the previous experience of several team partners interaction with local and residential communities through seminars, exhibitions and workshops.

### 1.3.3. INNOVATION IN TACKLING THE CHALLENGE

The main contribution of the Action will be to deal with key aspects of MCMH on European cities since the second half of the 20th century, e.g.: i) the degradation of some ensembles after decades of use; ii) the changes in the urban environment; iii) and the migration fluxes in parallel with the ageing of the original inhabitants.

The main innovation of the Action will be the creation of a MCMH transnational network, putting Architecture and Urbanism in interplay with History, Sociology, Planning and public policies, as well as other social sciences.

The Action will work as a mediating tool providing research that can be used by the different countries' main researchers to consolidate knowledge, through three steps:

- i) Encouraging a ground-breaking methodology by crossing different fields of knowledge that currently are not interacting within MCMH studies;
- ii) Deepening existing concepts and developing new ones;
- iii) Developing a systematical framework of analysis.



## **1.4. ADDED VALUE OF NETWORKING**

### **1.4.1. IN RELATION TO THE CHALLENGE**

Since the challenge is to create a transnational platform on MCMH studies, networking is the best approach in face of:

- 1) The complexity of the disciplines involved;
- 2) The ambition of starting a comparative study on European MCMH, given that its complexity, wider scope and geographical dimension is only possible with the creation of an equally complex network of research;
- 3) Given the challenges from European MCMH might be similar, it is from the local differences that a more comprehensive and innovative knowledge might arise;
- 4) The circulation of persons promoted by networking will allow the circulation of knowledge and will leverage new scientific developments.

Through these ideas, confront and scientific debate will proceed on a thematic issue that spreads all-over Europe. Forward-looking approaches are expected to be achieved through the use of the network and the effectiveness it provides, since all researchers can have an immediate outlook on what has been produced in the countries participating in the Action, e.g.:

- Case studies;
- Sources;
- Methodologies;
- Key concepts;
- Disciplinary fields concerned;
- Importance;
- Sociological characteristics of inhabitants;
- Urban and architectural features;
- Scientific conclusions;
- Impact on and beyond the academic sphere.

These elements and data will be available from the beginning of the operation as a result of coordination tasks to be assigned to each working group.

### **1.4.2. IN RELATION TO EXISTING EFFORTS AT EUROPEAN AND/OR INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

European efforts on dissemination of MCMH studies are little and focused on single case studies, missing a comprehensive framework, and lacking comparative studies between different countries and different chronological periods, political systems and demographic conditions.

Along with the reinforcement of individual research, the establishment of the proposed network will allow to consolidate a collective body of research and eventually to extend it to a more public realm. The Action will be built on previous research and international exchanges focused on MCMH, namely two previous international conferences – "Middle Class in Perspective International Symposium", Milan, 2012, and "Optimistic Suburbia – Large housing complexes for the middle-class beyond Europe", Lisbon, 2015 – and from other thematic sessions in other international conferences.

The setting up of an open digital platform that will spread the information among participants in the Action will benefit from on-going developments at national level in which Action's participants would be involved. These architectural archives will create digital repositories of images, printed sources or museum collections, thus reinforcing the network impulse towards an open access policy.

## **2. IMPACT**

### **2.1. EXPECTED IMPACT**

#### **2.1.1. SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND/OR SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS**

Given the characteristics of this Action (described throughout the proposal), it is possible to establish the most revealing short-term and long-term impacts.

In the short-term, the expected impacts are to establish a network that allows:

- i) The mobility of researchers and, consequently, of knowledge;
- ii) The continuous interaction between research teams;
- iii) The building of an European Atlas through an online digital collaborative platform open to future developments; this networking tool will be a valuable contribution for all researchers on housing.

In the long-term, the expected impacts are:

- i) Establishing the analytical concepts that could remain as references in future studies;
- ii) Improving future public policies in MCMH;
- iii) Contributing to improvements in strategies interventions in MCMH ensembles.

## **2.2. MEASURES TO MAXIMISE IMPACT**

### **2.2.1. PLAN FOR INVOLVING THE MOST RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS**

Involving relevant stakeholders requires the development of a scientific platform, gathering existent networks such as local Docomomo organizations, European Network for Housing Research, I&D centres, universities, municipalities, local communities and residential associations, policymakers, etc. The Action plan is expected to be accomplished through specific activities and missions implying the mobility of researchers:

- 1) Field trip guided missions to specific case studies, including Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM);
- 2) Master-classes on specific themes regarding MCMH;
- 3) Meetings with local/national research groups;
- 4) Seminars;
- 5) Training Schools;
- 6) Workshops, exhibitions and joint publications.

### **2.2.2. DISSEMINATION AND/OR EXPLOITATION PLAN**

The main media for dissemination will be the organisation of an International Conference on MCMH from which the expected outputs are a common framework of analysis encompassing an established set of concepts and methodologies. From the Conference, a set of relevant studies will be published and disseminated, also allowing further expansion of the network to new researchers. Thereafter, it will be possible to establish further collaborations with non-European researchers, e.g., former colonial countries.

Other media to be used will be local seminars, workshops, master-classes, exhibitions and a website.

Relevant, innovative unpublished research and joint studies will also be published.

All researchers involved will have a working papers section on the website.

The digital platform will provide a solid forum for exploitation of current and future developments open to current and future researchers in a collaborative and open digital database that will consist of an MCMH Atlas.

## **2.3. POTENTIAL FOR INNOVATION VERSUS RISK LEVEL**

### **2.3.1. POTENTIAL FOR SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND/OR SOCIOECONOMIC INNOVATION BREAKTHROUGHS**

The innovation potential of the Action is of considerably high value, i) contributing to the development of MCMH studies; ii) creating a stable network of researchers with an interdisciplinary approach, in order to formulate a new approach to Middle-Class housing concepts; iii) improving fieldwork strategies; iv) developing a new framework improving contemporary interventions (conservation, renovation and repurposing) in MCMH ensembles. From a heritage and preservation perspective, it is foreseen the inclusion of post-modern urban structures, in particular Mass Housing complexes, within the agenda of architectural and built landscape preservation.

The Action focus on socially divisive issues in European cities, as a consequence of the occurring changes in the traditional MCMH complexes. It considers phenomena as the real state pressure,

gentrification, ageing, migration fluxes and tourism, which resulted in interactions and conflicts still to be addressed in a comparative manner. Therefore, the implementation risk of this Action is low, depending mainly on the stakeholder's interest in participating in the different stages of the Action. In this regard, the members' previous experiences and involvement with stakeholders outside of the academic world assures a good backup. Even though, for instance, some difficulties concerning the establishment of some main concepts can be foreseen, these will not compromise the overall achievements, since these contingencies will act as dialectical factors on the Action, thus increasing debate and knowledge.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION

### 3.1. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK PLAN

#### 3.1.1. DESCRIPTION OF WORKING GROUPS

The Action will be developed by three Working Groups (WGs), coordinated by the Core Group:

WG1: Documenting the MCMH;

WG2: Development of a specific set of concepts for MCMH analyses;

WG3: Leverage contemporary architecture interventions and Public Policies.

Each WG will be composed of one leader and a vice-leader, and at least by other five members of the partners' countries (assuring the participation of ITC countries and others). Each of the three thematic Working Groups reports to the Core Group on a regular basis, but hold a certain degree of autonomy in setting its own agenda, establishing the main themes of its annual meeting, and managing its organization. Continuous activity between all WGs will be facilitated through diverse digital tools developed in different levels: email, videoconferences, website and digital platform.

Each group will discuss methods, coordinate research carried out at a national level and discuss preliminary results. For each WG meeting, contributions from invited experts will be required. It is at the WG level that researchers will define the range of data that they need to collect and share. First of all, it is important to make existing relevant data accessible.

Despite the specific objectives of each WG, it is possible to define specific tasks that will be achieved by all:

- 1) Assembling and selecting existing research and information, including bibliography, archival material and other studies within their field of expertise;
- 2) Carrying out comparative analyses and critical assessment within each WG;
- 3) Organization of appropriate training initiatives, relevant to the achievement of the main goals of each WG;
- 4) Creation of digital tools to ensure continuous communication among participants of the Action;
- 5) Cooperating and interacting with other research programmes by inviting researchers of such other programs as keynote speakers or discussants for the particular WG meetings, Seminars and Master Classes, Workshops or Final International Congress;
- 6) Publishing of papers in peer-reviewed journals,
- 7) Launching and contributing to the collaborative website;
- 8) Contributing to the digital platform.

The three WGs and the Core Group cover the main disciplinary fields and they are organized as follows:

#### CORE GROUP

Besides the Management Committee organized at the COST level, it will be formed a Core Group, composed by the Action Chair, assisted by the Vice-chair and by the leaders of each WG (assisted, if necessary, by their vice-leaders). The Core Group will be responsible for the general coordination, administration, and dissemination of the Action activities. It includes the Management Committee (MC) members. It will ensure a proper coordination of activities within the Action and stimulate a continuous working flow between the other working groups. The Core Group will meet with the WGs through video conferencing once every trimester and a minimum of two face-to-face meetings between the Core Group and the WGs will take place twice a year. At the end of each year an Annual Meeting will occur.

The Core Group will supervise the following TASKS:

- i) Scientific events (workshops and training initiatives); writing and organizing call for sessions/papers or applications; organization of peer-reviewed selection process for papers or applications and ITC - Conference Grants;
- ii) Management of STSMs and Working Groups' (and MC) meetings; financial and institutional management of corresponding expenses;
- iii) Crossing data of different reports of each WG;
- iv) Organizing Training Schools, increasing the opportunity to bring together the developments of the three WG directly linked with the mentioned above;
- v) Launching and management of a collaborative website;
- vi) Dissemination of results: a) Publications in peer-reviewed journals and series; b) Preparation for sessions and panels at International Conferences and ITC - Conference Grants; c) Editing the several publications across the Action (Publications, Specials issues of each Workshop, Catalogue, etc.); d) Preparation of the Cost Action final assessment (FAD): Final Seminar, Exhibition and Catalogue.

#### MILESTONES:

- First Action Meeting: an opening seminar, will be held in Lisbon and will present the MCMH State-of-the-Art in each partner country;
- WG meeting once every trimester connecting with the Core Group by video conference;
- Eight Core Meetings throughout the Action (minimum two core meetings);
- Six Dissemination Meetings;
- Four Annual Meetings.

#### MAJOR DELIVERABLES:

##### Short-term:

- Project management reports (progress reports, etc.);
- Account reports (Intermediate Financial Report, etc.);
- Website;
- Cross data reports from each WG;
- Training School reports;
- Final Assessment Report and Final Assessment of the Action.

##### Long-term:

- Define, consolidate and extend the contents of Digital platform (MCMH Atlas).

#### WG1: DOCUMENTING THE MCMH

The WG1 evolving agenda aims to study, geo-reference and document the selected built MCMH complexes, using the methodologies and tools of the Geographical Referencing System – GIS – and by redrawing the case studies. It intends to: a) identify, record and document the aggregations of buildings, other structures, and open spaces that are associated with the built complexes selected along the Action, as well as the agents involved in the creation, promotion and construction of these architectural and urban objects; b) promote the knowledge and the public access to consistent technical and scientific data and record these specific architectural and urban heritage on MCMH.

The documentation of MCMH ensembles will be produced at two different levels: the building complex level and the single building level. The data and the documentary sources used will be collected and provided within the background of the different researchers. It aims to put the main elements of the projects of MCMH urban planning and architecture in digital format. The main goal of the digital drawings is to homogenize the information in order to perform comparative analyses. The graphical representations of these elements obey standardization rules so that they are easier to read. All the specific elements, that make architectural drawings only accessible to architectural professionals, are minimized. The resulting database files and the associated digital archival material will be publicly accessible on the website, allowing for effective searches across multiple specialized contents in MCMH.

A dialogue with other scientific disciplines allows comparative analyses and enables analyses of program distribution, spatial uses, functional areas, etc. Through this knowledge, it will be possible to assemble an exhaustive historical description that incorporates the changes of MCMH over time. In the future, this information could be used to assess the problems inherent to conservation and renewal.

The outcome of the working group will be the following: a) A GIS database, containing architectural, engineering, legal, administrative, historical and documentary data; b) Thematic cartography; c)

Collection of digital archival records (photos, drawings, etc.). The leader and vice-leader will provide analyses and architectural systems approaches. The resulting database files and the associated digital archival material will be upload on the website. This WG it will also be responsible for the organization of an event in each country comprised by a Field trip, a Working Seminary and Master Classes, which will be linked to the results of the crossing data carried out by the Core Group.

#### TASKS:

- i) Assembling and selection of existing data;
- ii) Analysis of the state-of-the-art;
- iii) Documentation and Archive;
- iv) Description and creation of a GIS inventory;
- v) Redrawing the selected case studies;
- vi) Analysis of the conservation state;
- vii) Comparative analyses and critical assessment;
- viii) Participate in the dissemination of the Action by publishing summaries and approaches in the interactive website, reporting conclusions and sharing results with peers in conferences or seminars;
- ix) Field trips;
- x) Working Seminaries;
- xi) Master-classes;
- xii) Organization of two STSM (at least one in ITC countries, 1st and last years).

#### MILESTONES:

- WG meeting once every trimester connecting with the Core Group by video conference;
- Eight Core Meetings throughout the Action (minimum two core meetings each Grant year);
- Four Annual Meetings (each one at the end of each Grant Year).

#### MAJOR DELIVERABLES:

##### Short-term:

- Report on the State-of-the-art in each partner country;
- Report architectural design of MCMH;
- A first publication, edited by the Core Group;
- STSM Report;
- Annual report on the main goals of the WG to be presented to the Core Group;
- A second publication – dissemination of experiences and methodologies developed in the Field Trips, Seminaries and Master Classes, and also in the STSM, as well as results obtained with the preliminary tasks.

##### Long-term:

- Contribute to the digital platform (MCMH Atlas).

#### WG2: DEVELOPMENT A SPECIFIC SET OF CONCEPTS FOR MCMH ANALYSES

The main goal of the WG2 is a) launching a common and specific vocabulary related to MCMH; b) consolidate sharing methodology; c) establish a set of concepts; and d) build a key analytical framework. These achievements will be crucial for the adequate indexing of the digital information collected. These skills will be used throughout the Action. It will allow scientific and rigorous comparative studies involving all partner' countries. It is possible that it can be applied in the study of other cases outside the scope of the Action.

The WG2 evolving agenda aims to explore theories of underlying urban-architectural mechanisms associated with MCMH and to specific intervention of social and cultural practices. It will address the impact of social and cultural context upon intervention on MCMH. These sociological approaches will also enlighten the debate on the Middle-Class concept.

It aims to consolidate a theoretical, scientific and methodological body that will carry out comparative analyses and critical assessment. It will also take part in the establishment of a relationship with the community, in order to promote participatory strategies and initiate the preparation of workshops.

Some questions will arise during the research. Core answers will be related to immigration, ageing, tourism and gentrification, and will be debated, whenever possible, in close proximity with the local community through workshops intended to alert inhabitants, architects and others, to the more visible architectural, urban and social problems of MCMH. In particular, four workshops will be offered, dealing

with nowadays residents' hopes and inquiring the possible answers of the architectural form to their expectations. It also produces data for comparative analysis.

The workshops will have both architectural and sociological dimensions and will allow homogenizing approaches to very different cultural, economic and social contexts. Methodologically, they follow the same principles applied in previous research projects developed by some of the participants in this Action, involving the researchers, students and the community. Issues like migration, cultural identity, 'ghettoisation', heritage, building resilience, contemporary needs and construction renewal will be addressed.

The results will clarify the diversity of potentialities and constraints that this specific spaces offer to individuals and families over their life course. These outputs are essential to assess the elements and factors that enable a critical comprehension of the more significant transformations and inhabitants' desires.

#### TASKS:

- i) Assembling and selection of existing data and research with social approaches on MCMH;
- ii) Defining a common methodology;
- iii) Deepening existing concepts and developing new ones;
- iv) Developing a systematic framework of analysis;
- v) Mapping the social approaches on MCMH;
- vi) Analysing the changing views and aged residents;
- vii) Comparing analyses and critical assessment;
- viii) Publishing summaries and approaches in the interactive website and participating in the dissemination of the Action by reporting the successive conclusions and sharing results with peers in conferences or seminars;
- ix) Organization of four Workshops (at least two in ITC countries);
- x) Organization of two STSM (at least one in ITC countries, second and third year).

#### MILESTONES:

- WG meeting once every trimester connecting with the Core Group by video conferencing;
- Eight Core Meetings throughout the Action (minimum two core meetings each Grant year);
- Four Annual Meetings (each one at the end of each Grant Year).

#### MAJOR DELIVERABLES:

##### Short-term:

- Report on social practices and the profile of the population in an MCMH perspective;
- Report on methodologies, deepening concepts, defining new ones, and establish a framework of analysis;
- Comparing analyses and critical assessment;
- Publishing papers in peer-reviewed journals;
- Four special issues about the Workshops;
- STSM Report;
- Annual report on the main goals of the WG will be reported to the Core Group.

##### Long-term:

- Contribute to the digital platform MCMH Atlas.

#### WG3: LEVERAGE CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE INTERVENTIONS AND PUBLIC POLICIES

The WG3 evolving agenda addresses issues related to the public policies applied innovation in successful political strategies, etc. to Mass Housing and whether they exist specifically directed towards the Middle-Class. It aims to identify specific aspects and solutions of a country that can eventually be applied in other geographies.

It aims to develop a series of actions at social, cultural and political levels that will contribute to the definition of new planning strategies. Topics such as metropolitan areas or urban peripheries, for example, will be included in the analyses. The goal is an analysis centred on the production and appropriation of public and private spaces in different times and different political and economic contexts in order to established new renewal strategies. It is intended to explore the differences in the production of each case study and how it is reflected in the contemporary architectural and urban practices (the design, the interveners control, the promoter, the budget, etc.).

It will also be responsible for the organization of four workshops (following an identical schedule to the WG2). Some practices will be tested in the workshops e.g. opening new research lines on MCHM, later introduced in the teaching of Architecture, Urbanism, Sociology and Public Policies, in different countries in Europe and educational levels (Master and PhD). The output will lead to partnerships with different Heritage entities (educational, municipal, conservation, etc.) such as Docomomo, among others, to unify architectural preservation criteria.

#### TASKS:

- i) Assembling, selecting and mapping the existing data and research on MCHM Public Policies;
- ii) Repurposing of existent Planning and Public Policies on Mass Housing for Middle-Class in each of the countries involved, by questioning the relations between housing and residents' quality of life, with special attention to the ITC countries;
- iii) Publishing summaries and approaches in the interactive website; participation in the dissemination of the Action by reporting conclusions and sharing results with peers in conferences or seminars;
- iv) Organization of four Workshops (at least two in ITC countries);
- v) Organization of two STSM (at least one in ITC countries, second and third year).

#### MILESTONES:

- WG meeting once every trimester connecting with the Core Group by video conferencing;
- Eight Core Meetings throughout the Action (minimum two core meetings each Grant year);
- Four Annual Meetings (each one at the end of each Grant Year).

#### MAJOR DELIVERABLES:

##### Short-term:

- Report on comparative analysis for the development of dynamic strategies to improve the conservation and Public Policies in the European MCHM;
- Publishing papers in peer-reviewed journals;
- Special issues about the Workshops;
- STSM Report;
- Annual report of the main goals of the WG will be reported to the Core Group.

##### Long-term:

- Contribute to the digital platform (MCHM Atlas).

### 3.1.2. GANTT DIAGRAM

The Action will be launched by a First Action Meeting, probably held in Lisbon. Each year, a minimum of two face-to-face meetings will be organized between the Core Group, the MC, and the three WGs. Virtual meetings involving the WGs will occur once every trimester. An Annual Meeting will occur at the end of each Grant's period.

The First Action Meeting will allow to release the Action, the MCHM state-of-the-Art, the scope of the topic areas and the building of the website based on the existing research undertaken by Action members.

In the first and second years, the assembly and selection of the existing data will be developed in order to carry on, in the following years, with the Action objectives: documenting the MCHM, deepening existing concepts, developing new ones and rethinking Planning and Public Policies on Mass Housing for Middle-Class.

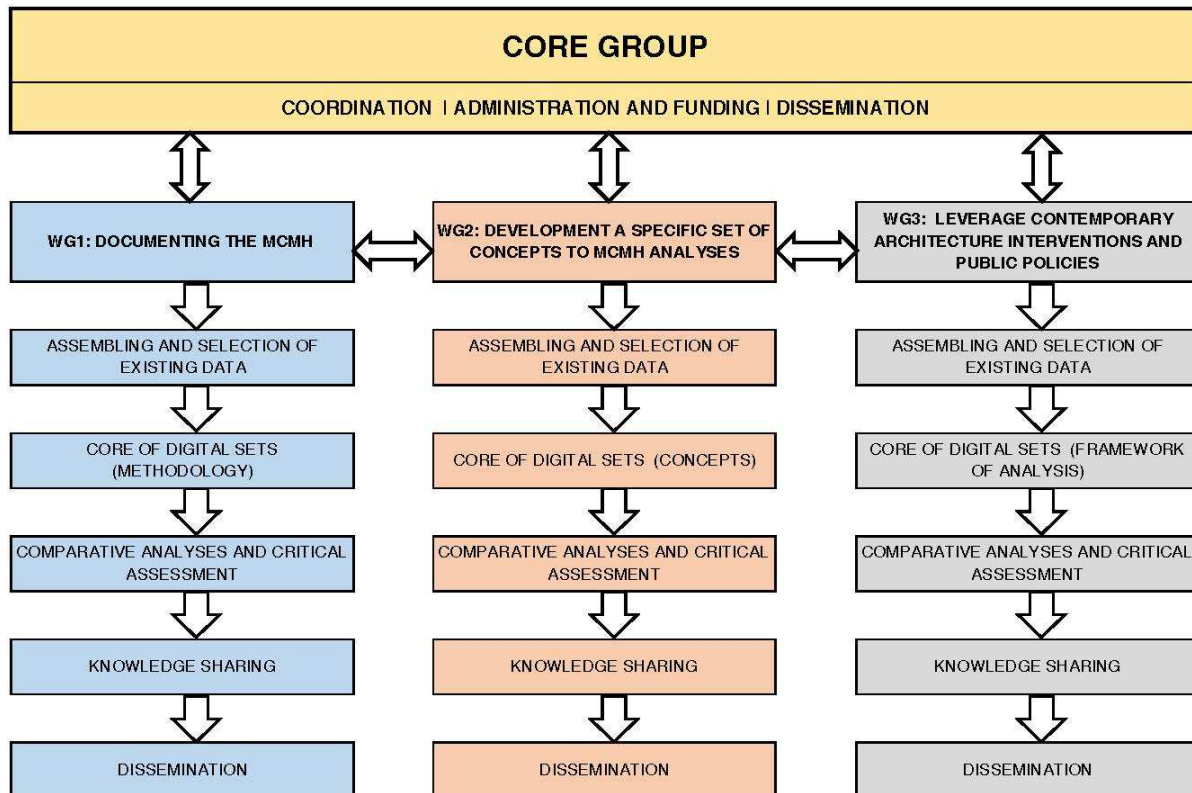
In the third year the Action is expected to produce consolidated results, several outcomes and pursue the main objectives, such as the publication of articles in peer-reviewed journals. In the last year, it is planned a final report, final publications, grant applications and an Action Final Event: Final Seminar, Exhibition and Catalogue.

The progressive development of the data on the website and its continuous update, the consolidation and expansion of the network, the participation in seminars and the publication of working papers will be encouraged throughout the entire duration of the Action.

Two Training Schools and six STSM will be developed each year. Eight Workshops and seven events constituted by a field trip, seminary and Master Classes will be distributed in a correct and coordinated manner throughout the four years of the Action.







### 3.1.4. RISK AND CONTINGENCY PLANS

The main risks of the Action plan are those relating to the interaction with targets and stakeholders outside the academic realm, such as institutional policy-makers, heritage groups, municipalities and other local authorities, local communities and the general public. In the cases described above, the contingency plan relies on implementing the presence of the Action in public realm by reinforcing alternative ways such as (i) exploratory open sessions in universities with external stakeholders as key guests; and (ii) publicizing Action's initiatives.

Whenever some missions reveal to be difficult or impossible, alternatives will be implemented. To that end, each Working Group will propose an extensive list of missions with priorities.

Other risks may concern external reasons such as political and/or social instability that could make unfeasible some missions or the participation of some Action members. Such risk will be addressed as the previous one and by reinforcing other areas of the Action through (i) the integration of younger researchers abroad of concerned countries/regions, and (ii) by incorporating new case studies.

## 3.2. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES

The management of the Action is a specific task of the Core Group, responsible for coordination, administration, and dissemination of the Action activities. The overall management of the Action will be undertaken within Working Groups (WG). The WGs are strictly interrelated, but each one holds a certain degree of autonomy while working under the coordination of the Core Group. The entire Action will be managed using comparative analyses and critical assessment to deepen MCMH knowledge. Every Group will share the Action website related to digital MCMH Data, methodological digital sets, concepts and framework of analysis.

The scheduled meetings will be managed as described above. Regular dissemination meetings between the various members of Core Group will be expected to progressively define the dissemination strategies according to the progress of the Action. It is foreseen that the regularity of such meetings will progressively increase during the course of action in order to carry out the proposed objectives. Continuous activity between WGs will be facilitated through diverse digital tools developed in different levels: 1) email and videoconferences; 2) website; and 3) digital platform. Cooperation and interaction with other research programmes will be accomplished by, for example, inviting external researchers as

keynote speakers or participants (among other possibilities) for specific WGs Meetings, Seminars, Master Classes, Workshops or even to the final International Congress.

The Core Group will also be responsible for the coordination of the Training Schools, directly linked with the crossing data of the WGs, and it aims to develop the necessary tools for the inclusion of young researchers, giving special priority to young researchers from the ITC countries. It provides dissemination opportunities for the Action's activities and will encourage mobility between the different I&D centres, Universities, Municipalities, Local and residential associations, and/or policy makers involved.

The WG1 will carry out the organization of joint actions: 1) Field trip(s); 2) Seminary and Master Classes on MCMH ensembles that will occur at least once in each country. Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are expected in each annual period and will be carried out by the three different WGs. They will preferably be held in the ITC partner's countries (maximum duration of 90 calendar days). The participation of Early Career Investigators (ECI) in STSM will be encouraged and, in that case, the mission must have a maximum duration of 180 calendar days, carried out within an entire length of a single Grant Period. The eight workshops present a more experimental view, looking up through multidisciplinary teams (architects, architectural historians, sociologists, students and residents) to develop fieldwork actions evolving local communities. They will be carried between WG2 and WG3 and at least four of them will occur in ITC partner's countries. The workshops will occur during five working days with the following preliminary schedule: 1) reception, introduction and formation of the working groups (first morning); 2) Working sessions (days 1, 2, 3 and 4); 3) presentation, debate and exhibition of the results (fifth day). The analyses of the results will occur in the open session between participants and also in a working meeting between the researchers.

In the fourth year, the Core Group will be mainly devoted to the organization and preparation of the Final Cost Action assessment (FAD): Final Seminar, Exhibition, and Catalogue carry out by the Core Group and supported by the WGs.

### **3.3. NETWORK AS A WHOLE**

The challenge to map and survey MCMH research for a deepened analysis requires working beyond national frameworks and sources. Thus, COST Action is suitable for fostering comparative work and analysis in an open and flexible way, foreseen as an alternative perspective in face of the current state-of-the-art. Even having national funds for research, local and national research groups often lack international/transnational forums, lacking any structural framework at an European level. Debating and confronting hypotheses, methodologies and results stemming from an array of geographical case studies and scientific backgrounds is precisely what can be achieved through this COST Action. Furthermore, in the scientific realm, existing international forums are changing from highly dominated American-based initiatives to projects based in other continents such as Africa and Asia, where new achievements are developing a strong prominence. Therefore, it is urgent to strengthen European research in this emergent field. The development of networking on MCMH is also highly desirable due to both the spread of relevant sources across Europe and to the geographical extension and diversity of the phenomena.

Such challenge needs new approaches and performances on comparative analysis both on an empirical and theoretical level. Only the critical mass, expertise and geographical distribution of the transnational network will allow addressing this challenge and the foreseen objectives for an innovative research, generating discussion and breaking the relative isolation in which MCMH research is currently made. By combining the existing expertise of national researchers, their complementary skills and disciplinary specificities, and the local contacts in the public realm, one can expect to create an open and dynamic network embodying existing and new knowledge as well as a link to policymakers and local stakeholders, a goal that depends on the critical mass involved with the network. In order to achieve all the proposes of the current Action, In the Action will be involved several researchers related to Mass Housing issues, MCMH Architecture and Urbanism, Planning and Public Policies, Sociological studies, Architecture History and Modern Heritage.