



Slovakia

Právo na bývanie

Civic association Right to Housing
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About Right to Housing

From its foundation in 2006 the activities of the Civic Association Right to Housing

have been focused on achieving a durable and just solution of the housing situation of the 'sitting tenants' in Slovakia. These are tenants living in houses which have been handed over to private owners within the denationalization of property after the 1990 or handed over within the process of privatization. Besides following this strategic goal, the association has

also followed and commented the Slovak housing policy.

Positive experiences, and outcomes

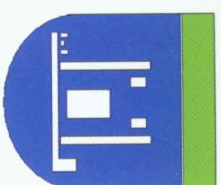
In 2011 the Slovak Parliament adopted legislative Acts which have the ambition to bring a final solution of the 'sitting tenants' problem. The mentioned legal norms were adopted despite the strong disapproval of the people concerned – the 'sitting tenants'.

The Right to Housing which represents the vast majority of the Slovak sitting tenants considers the mentioned acts unjust and discriminatory. Therefore two complaints to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg have been submitted – the first in February 2012, with 201 applicants, and the second one in May 2013, with 55 applicants. These two complaints as well as constant pressure on the official authorities on different levels brought about a dialogue between the governmental institutions and association Right to Housing.

The association Right to Housing has been able to organize people for public meetings, visits to politicians and even despite limited financial resources we managed to issue one edition of the magazine 'Right to Housing'.

All the mentioned activities contributed to the fact that the government keeps up the dialogue with 'sitting tenants'. The politicians have to deal with the problem despite the prevalent tendency throughout the political scene to leave the 'sitting tenants' issue unsolved.

In this context the civic association Right to Housing would like to mention that the membership and cooperation with the IUT – among others the letter of the IUT President and IUT Secretary



General addressed to the Slovak Prime Minister – positively contributed to the respectability of the association in the eyes of the Slovak politicians.

Future challenges for tenants, and for Right to Housing

For the future the strategic goals remains the same – to achieve a fair solution for 'sitting tenants'. Also, tenants' rights are still relatively weak in Slovakia, which is not an acceptable situation.

About rental housing in future Slovakia

Similar to some other post-communist countries, due to a massive and state organized privatization of the public housing stock, rental housing became a marginalised sector in Slovakia. During the last 10 years each government has declared its intentions to develop a rental sector as a priority. Unfortunately those statements have remained only declaratory. The major problem is that the Slovak governmental institutions are unwilling to invest the necessary financial means and rely only on conservative economic attitudes.