

Cooperative Ownership for Communities project

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Project proposal

The *Cooperative Ownership for Communities* project aims to create a collectively owned, sustainable and socially aware multifunctional space by revitalising a four-story ex-industrial building in the eighth district of Budapest, Hungary.

- ❑ Exemplary renovation of a brownfield site
- ❑ Different functions on 4 floors of a 2700 m² building
 - ▣ Community and work spaces
 - Basement: Food co-operation distribution centre
 - Ground floor: New professional workshop and office space for communities
 - ▣ Living space:
 - 1st floor: Affordable housing for students
 - 2nd floor: Affordable community housing for women and their children
- ❑ Sustainability, nature-based solutions and innovative technologies
- ❑ Collective ownership and democratic management structure

Community Housing – Functions

2nd floor

house women and mothers who need affordable housing after facing trauma (eg. domestic violence, sex trafficking) and help them heal and reintegrate with the help of social workers and a strong and safe community

1st floor

dormitory for the students of an already existing special college which has a strong connection to social movements, mobilising youth from the countryside and using methods of non-formal education

groundfloor

offices of civil society organisations, community spaces – to host educational and community programmes etc., a workshop and art space

basement

a community gym, a workshop and a warehouse and distribution centre for a community-supported agriculture initiative from the countryside

Development timeline

2024: preparatory phase

- financial planning and fundraising
- legal preparation and creating a legal entity,
- finding + cooperating with project partners
- community planning (with future tenants)

2025: design phase

- acquiring the property
- finalising the architectural plans
- acquiring the financial resources

2026: construction phase

- renovation of the building
- phased financing

2027: move-in

2028-: management

- community-based maintenance and management
- continuous developments in the building

2024: Beneficiaries, partners and stakeholders

Beneficiaries:

- ❑ women and mothers experiencing domestic violence
- ❑ young people affected by the housing crisis
- ❑ local community
- ❑ civil society organisations

Our partners:

- ❑ housing experts and architects ([ACRED](#), [Gólya Építők](#), [Co-Housing Budapest](#))
- ❑ women's rights organisations ([NANE Association](#), [EMMA Association](#))
- ❑ sustainability experts ([Solidarity Economy Center](#))

Stakeholders:

- ❑ Municipality of the 8th district
- ❑ Ganz Holding Ltd.
- ❑ social service providers

2024: Legal and financial preparations

- clarifying the legal relations, development of ownership structure
- creating a legal entity and channel in the participating partners
- development of a detailed financial plan
- development of a community investment scheme
- creating a business plan
- negotiation with banks and private investors
- starting a fundraising campaign

2024: Architectural planning

- architectural assessment by the architects from ACRED
- consultation with structural engineers
- preparing a budget for the renovation
- preparing a project brief
- creating detailed construction and implementation plan
- participatory planning with the help of experts from ACRED

Energy efficiency and sustainability

- ❑ modern energy technical design (thermal energy from ground probes, underfloor, wall and ceiling cooling and heating, 3-layer windows, heat pump technology)
- ❑ solar PV-s on the roof
- ❑ healthy and environmentally friendly materials, natural finishes
- ❑ exemplary property in terms of sustainable and innovative design
- ❑ green wall and rain garden in front of the building

Contact Us!

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