



## An E-Newsletter from Europe and Central Asia

February 2011

The new year has started. At Habitat for Humanity in Europe and Central Asia we are doing everything we can to ensure that as many families as possible enjoy simple and decent homes in 2011. Just like the Karapetyan family from Armenia who had finished renovating their home shortly before the New Year and celebrated the holidays in their clean and warm flat. Their lives and the lives of their children are forever changed.

But we want to continue these changes throughout the year. As always, this will largely be made possible by the dedication and passion of our supporters. It does not matter whether you've volunteered on a build in the past, have made a donation to one of Habitat for Humanity's programs or relief efforts, or simply receive our Newsletters into your inboxes. Because you are interested in and support Habitat's work, you are helping us along the road to achieving our mission.

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### Thanks from Armenia

Habitat is grateful to all its supporters who answered the December appeal and made donations for families in Armenia so that next year more couples in Spitak can have a warm and cozy home. All the collected money will go towards home improvement projects. [Read more.](#)



### Housing should be an opportunity, not a hindrance

Since January 2011, the rotation presidency of the European Union has been held by Hungary. The goals of the 6-months leadership of the EU include higher employment rates for the unskilled, better social inclusion, poverty reduction and development of a viable Roma strategy. All [these issues](#), however, are impossible to solve without considering their housing component.



### Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum 2011

The countdown has begun for the first Housing Forum Europe and Central Asia. Unlike other conferences, the Housing Forum's content and program are participant-driven. Register to [attend the event](#) and submit your ideas for presentations, sessions and round-table discussions as soon as possible.



### Habitat welcomes international volunteers to Romania

Habitat for Humanity Romania aims to help over 200 families this year. Volunteer support is the key to make all this come true. Six affiliates in Romania are ready to accept local and international volunteers in 2011: Beius, Comanesti, Cluj, Pitesti and Radauti. [Read more and find out how you can join.](#)

## News in Brief

### Improving access to housing for Roma

The conference, organized under the Czech Presidency of the [Decade of Roma Inclusion](#), aims to present local and international contexts of improvement of Roma access to housing, and to identify key measures which should be taken by the Decade countries' governments in this area. It takes place in Prague on February 4, 2011.

### Miller Road project, Banbury, UK

The new [multi-agency project](#) in Miller Road, Banbury, involving Habitat for Humanity, will provide housing for local young people and training opportunities for young people currently not in education, employment or training.

### Social media news

Download [Habitat web banners](#) for the Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum 2011. Become a supporting partner of the event. Get exposure for your organization and discounts on registration.

### Photo galleries

Meet the homeowners we partner with in Europe and Central Asia. [View our Portraits photo gallery section](#).

### Get Involved with Habitat

The Global Village is a great opportunity to travel, learn about another country and make a difference in the global fight against poverty housing. Visit our [Global Village](#) section now! Organize a team of volunteers from among your friends, co-workers, school or other groups, or join one of our featured trips.

- Trip to Romania: Easter Build in Romania from 16-23 April, 2011. Sign up for the trip by sending us an [email](#).

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*Habitat for Humanity International is a Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its foundation in 1976, Habitat has built and renovated more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for 1.75 million people.*

*In Europe and Central Asia Habitat for Humanity International works in 20 countries, building and repairing houses, offering housing microfinance services, improving water and sanitation, working on disaster mitigation and response and advocating for affordable housing. In this region, Habitat has served more than 11,000 families together with volunteers and homeowners.*

Find out more at [www.habitateurope.org](http://www.habitateurope.org)

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