

19th SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

16h00 – 17h30	Plenary Session II (Room: Aula of Leeuwenbergh church) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE
16h00 – 16h30	<p>Pete Mackie, UK: Prioritizing Prevention</p> <p>The importance of homelessness prevention is now widely acknowledged in policy, and practical efforts are advancing globally. However, persistent structural barriers and the continued prioritisation of resources, support, and research towards crisis response hinder our collective responsibility to prevent homelessness. Drawing on a substantial body of research, this presentation argues for a stronger focus on prevention, highlighting key developments, important opportunities, and the challenges that must be overcome to achieve meaningful change.</p>  <p><i>Peter Mackie, UK is a professor in the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University, where his research and advisory work are centred on homelessness prevention. He has been involved in the global expansion of the 'Upstream' homelessness prevention intervention, which focuses on supporting children and young people in schools. Peter is a founding editor of the International Journal on Homelessness and serves as Chair of Llamau, Wales's leading youth homelessness charity.</i></p>
17h00 – 17h30	<p>Gregg Colburn, USA: Homelessness is a Housing Problem</p> <p>In <i>Homelessness is a Housing Problem</i>, Colburn and Aldern seek to explain the substantial regional variation in rates of homelessness across cities in the United States. Using accessible statistics, the authors test a range of conventional beliefs about what drives homelessness in a given city—including mental illness, drug use, poverty, weather, generosity of public assistance, and mobility among low-income households—and find that none explain why Seattle has so much more homelessness than Chicago. Instead, housing market conditions, such as the cost and availability of rental housing, offer a far more convincing explanation.</p>  <p><i>Gregg Colburn, US is an associate professor in the College of Built Environments at the University of Washington in Seattle. He studies housing policy, housing markets, and homelessness and is co-author of the book, Homelessness is a Housing Problem: How Structural Factors Explain U.S. Patterns (University of California Press, 2022). Gregg also serves as a member of the research council of the National Alliance to End Homelessness (U.S.).</i></p> <p>Questions & Closing of the conference</p>