

## Closing Statement

### **Architects for Future & HouseEurope! — Building European Capacity for Renovation and Reuse**

*With the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) HouseEurope!, **Architects for Future** took on the role of National Organising Member in Germany and contributed to the development of European coordination and exchange structures across countries. What started as a campaign to prioritise renovation and adaptive reuse over demolition became, over time, a broader process of learning, networking, and collective capacity-building within Europe's construction and housing debates.*

*The campaign addressed a widely shared challenge: while the environmental and social impacts of demolition and new construction are significant, public awareness and political prioritisation of renovation and reuse remain limited. Through exhibitions, public events, assemblies, professional exchanges, and transnational coordination, HouseEurope! helped bring these issues into public, professional, and policy-oriented conversations connecting architecture, housing, climate responsibility, and questions of governance.*

*For Architects for Future, this process was as much about **how** we work together across borders as about **what** we advocate for. Coordinating a Europe-wide campaign within a largely volunteer-based movement highlighted both the potential and the limits of decentralised organising. It required continuous adaptation, trust-building, and the development of shared values that enable navigating strategies across very different national, cultural, and institutional contexts. At the same time, it demonstrated the strength of collective learning and the critical role of stable coordination structures in ensuring effective transnational cooperation.*

*A key outcome of the campaign lies beyond formal metrics: new relationships were built between civil society organisations, professional bodies, educators, and activists; European Assemblies created spaces for shared reflection; and a growing network emerged that will continue to work on renovation, reuse, and housing justice beyond the timeframe of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI). These connections form an important foundation for future cooperation and joint action in the building sector.*

*HouseEurope! has shown that shifting policy and practice in the built environment requires more than isolated campaigns. It requires sustained European collaboration, shared infrastructures for exchange, and the willingness to invest in long-term movement-building. For Architects for Future, this experience strengthened our commitment to continue developing resilient European networks that link architecture, urbanism, climate action, and social justice and to support collective processes that enable change over time.*