



FEANTSA NEWS

Registration Open - 9th European Research Conference on Homelessness

[Registration](#) is open for the 9th European Research Conference on Homelessness, "[Homelessness in Times of Crisis](#)" taking place in Warsaw on the 19th September. The programme, speakers' biographies, abstracts and the list of site visits are available on [the event website](#).

Registration Open - 2014 FEANTSA Policy Conference

[Registration](#) is now open for the FEANTSA policy [conference](#) "Confronting homelessness in the EU: Seeking out the next generation of best practices". The conference will take place in Bergamo (Italy) on 24th-25th October 2014. The programme, speakers' biographies and workshop and hotspot programme are now [online](#).

Policy Paper: Mobile Health and Homelessness

The use of mobile technology for health (mHealth) is a rapidly growing field which attracts a lot of promises and enthusiasm from across the globe. This [paper](#) looks whether it has the potential to play a part in improving the health care for homeless people.

"Homeless in Europe" Magazine on Social Work and Homelessness

The Summer 2014 edition of *Homeless in Europe*, "Social Work in Services with Homeless People in a Changing European Social and Political Context" is now [available online](#).

FEANTSA AC Members Meet MEPs

On the 9th July, members of FEANTSA's Administrative Council (AC) members and policy staff recently met new and existing Members of the newly-elected European Parliament (MEPs) to discuss priorities with regards to homelessness. They were welcomed by Karima Delli MEP, who explained the achievements of the last Parliament and upcoming challenges. They visited the statue "Man on Bench" by Danish artist Jens Galschiot, which featured in the campaign 'Ending Homelessness is Possible' and is now part of the Parliament's art collection. Many MEPs demonstrated their strong interest in homelessness and commitment to fighting poverty and promoting the social inclusion of homeless people. FEANTSA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with the EP during this mandate.

FEANTSA and Fondation Abbé Pierre Congratulate Mr Juncker on His Appointment as President of the European Commission

FEANTSA and Fondation Abbé Pierre sent a [joint letter](#) to Jean-Claude Juncker to congratulate him on his appointment as President of the European Commission and highlight the possibilities for making progress towards ending homelessness in Europe, as well as offering information, research and advice on the topic, and the opportunity to visit one of the many services for people living in homelessness which benefit from European funds.

FEANTSA Contributes to the Organisation of "Participation of Homeless Service Users: European Viewpoints and French Possibilities"

This [workshop](#), hosted by Dihal (French Government department on shelter and access to housing) and coorganised by the Conseil consultatif des personnes accueillies (Service User Council) and FEANTSA, brought together a majority of service users, but also social workers and NGO and State service representatives to discuss the theme of the participation of homeless service users.

EUROPEAN NEWS

European Council Nominates Jean-Claude Juncker as New European Commission President

The nomination by the 28 heads of State and Government of Luxembourg centre-right politician Jean-Claude Juncker for the position of President of the European Commission, approved by most European Union countries has been approved by the European Parliament. His term of office will start at the end of this year.

Chair of the European Parliament Employment and Social Affairs Committee

MEPs in the European Parliament Employment and Social Affairs Committee have nominated Thomas Hädel (GUE/NGL, DE) as Chair and Marita ULVSKOG (S&D, SE), Danuta JAZŁOWIECKA (EPP, PL), Ulla TØRNÆS (ALDE, DK) and Agnes JONGERIUS (S&D, NL) as vice chairs.

Consultation on "The Urban Dimension of EU policies – Key Features of an EU Urban Agenda"

Europe continues to be faced with challenges related to the economy, the climate, the environment, and society at large. Most

of these challenges have a strong urban dimension. But although cities' role for economic, social and cultural development, and their potential for a more resource efficient habitat have long been recognised, the policy response at European and national level has been slow and piecemeal. A growing number of voices argue that cities need to be better involved in the design and implementation of EU policies, and that EU policies need to be better adapted to the urban realities where they will be implemented. This is expressed by calls for an EU urban agenda coming from a range of stakeholders at the EU, national and local level. The purpose of this [consultation](#), running from 18 July to 26 September 2014, is to widen debate to all stakeholders and to reach relevant stakeholders and to gather their ideas and further clarifying the need for an EU urban agenda, what its objectives should be and how it could function.

Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2013: An EU-Wide Review - Main Findings

This year's Employment and Social Developments in Europe [review](#) offers an in-depth and wide-ranging analysis of key labour market and social challenges facing the EU as it slowly emerges from recession.

Structural Funds Partnership Agreements

The European Commission and European Union Member States are currently negotiating their [partnership agreements](#) for the use of the [European Structural and Investment Funds](#) from 2014-2020. A few have been adopted (Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia) and are available [online](#).

Eurofound 2013 Yearbook: Living and Working in Europe

Eurofound's [yearbook](#), *Living and Working in Europe*, describes developments in the EU in the wake of the crisis, focusing on major topic areas including changes in labour markets and employment, efforts to tackle youth unemployment, innovation in workplaces and public trust in institutions.

MEMBER NEWS

Denmark: 'Defensive Architecture' Present in Denmark Too

The furore surrounding the 'homeless spikes' issue in the UK, where it became apparent that architecture and urban design is sometimes used to keep certain groups, such as homeless people, out of public space has sparked thought on the issue in a number of other places. Danish FEANTSA member, projekt UDENFOR, has published an analysis of the situation in Denmark where, they say, there is nothing as outright as spikes on the pavement but that other, more subtle design elements are being used: 'obvious' places where homeless people sleep have been modified so they are no longer flat, benches are being made shorter and impossible to lie down on by the presence of arm rests or are being removed altogether and public toilets are becoming more expensive and in some cases are only accessible to smartphone users or consumers.

projekt UDENFOR says that it should be made clear that homeless people, poor or disadvantaged people, substance users and others, have as much right to public space as everyone else. It is not possible to fight homelessness by making it more difficult to live on the street than it already is. On the contrary, it can lead to frustration and conflict because homeless people are thus obligated to satisfy basic needs or engage in social interaction in other parts of the urban space. The fact that there are some people who are forced to live on the street means that our cities are not adapted to all citizens and therefore need to

be changed, they say.

France: Combating Exclusion in Rural Areas

FNARS and the Association des Maires Ruraux de France (French Rural Area Mayors' Association), with the Mutualité Sociale Agricole (Social Insurance Fund for Agricultural Workers in France), have published a [document](#) addressed to the newly-elected parliament in order to help them provide solutions for people in need in rural areas. The document answers questions such as: How is it possible, in a context where funding is being cut to social services - which makes it difficult to carry out this work in the proper conditions - to help people not to feel treated like second-class citizens, isolated and vulnerable because of fragile social and relationship ties? How can we help people gain the confidence to ask for help, fill in request forms and receive support from a social worker?

Ireland: Focus Ireland Campaigns

The Focus Ireland [Annual Report](#) 2013, released recently, shows that the charity supported over 10,000 people last year – a sharp increase of 25% on 2012 when figures were at 8,000. According to the report, one family a day becomes homeless in Dublin alone. The charity says the Irish government must take action to stop the growing crisis.

The charity also recently [called on](#) the Government to invest €500 Million in the 2015 Budget to help deliver over 3,000 new homes (not just emergency accommodation) to help tackle the homeless and housing crisis.

Italy: Istat Research e-Book and Update for End of Year

A free e-book on the national [research](#) on homeless people, carried out in partnership with FEANTSA member fio.PSD, is available [online](#) on the Italian Statistical Institute, Istat, website. Istat is to update its research by the end of 2014. Fio.PSD has already begun the survey of street outreach units and will interview around 250 units over the next few weeks.

Poland: "Community Standard for Getting Out of Homelessness" Manual

The "Community Standard for Getting Out of Homelessness" manual is available for download [on the PFWB website](#). The manual is the work of more than 100 experts from across Poland. The paper version will be available in August.

UK: Crisis Backs Ban on B&Bs for Young Care Leavers

The UK government Education Select Committee has released a report calling for a ban on the use of bed-and-breakfast accommodation to house young adults leaving care. FEANTSA UK member, Crisis, has [agreed with the report](#), saying "It is completely unacceptable that young people should be placed in unregulated, unsuitable and unsafe accommodation such as B&Bs. It is little wonder that so many vulnerable care leavers end up on the streets – our research shows that one in four homeless people have been in care as children...More must be done to ensure the safety and well-being of young people in care, including that they are housed safely and securely. Young people should not be forced to leave care before they're ready and must be properly supported to make the transition into adulthood."

UK: The Unhealthy State of Homelessness: Health Audit Results 2014

The Unhealthy State of Homelessness, a [report](#) produced by Homeless Link, explores the health and wellbeing of homeless

people in England and the support that is available to them. It looks at how homeless people's health and the support available have changed since Homeless Link first published national data looking at the health of homeless people in England in 2010. Based on 2,590 responses from people using services in 19 areas across England, the latest research highlights the extent to which homeless people experience some of the worst health problems in society.

HEADLINES

France: Report on Poverty in France 2013-14

The eighth *Observatoire National de la Pauvreté et de l'Exclusion Sociale* (National Observatory on Poverty and Social Exclusion) [report](#) outlines the changes to and characteristics of poverty in France according to the most recent (2012) data. It also contains an in-depth analysis of poverty and social exclusion in Europe, in particular in view of the Europe 2020 strategy, of which it is known that it will not meet its objectives on poverty reduction. The Observatory hopes the European Union in its new setup will be more involved in fighting poverty.

Poland: Audit Commission Report on State Support for Homeless People

The Polish Audit Commission has produced a [report](#) on support for homeless people in Poland. It concludes that help for homeless people is mainly provided on an ad hoc basis. The Audit Commission says that this should be changed and that the State should guarantee a continuous system of support for homeless people.

Spain: The Homelessness Strategy Takes Shape

The Spanish Ministry for Health, Social Services and Equality has submitted a plan of action to the Autonomous Communities, with a view to implementing a national strategy for homeless people in early 2015. The strategy will look for transitional housing solutions and holistic support for homeless people. [More information](#).

Sweden: Homeless Coordinator Final Report – English Summary

An [English summary](#) of the Swedish Homeless Coordinator's final report is available. For more information, please contact [Maria Boustedt Hedvall](#).

UK: New Regulations to Help People on Job-Seekers Allowance who Are Homeless

New [regulations](#) are being implemented to help someone who is 'recently homeless' and is currently in a 'domestic emergency' when they are claiming Job-Seekers Allowance. Usually, a claimant must be: actively seeking work, available to take up work immediately and prepared to take up a job that means working over or under 40 hours a week if required. However, from 21st July 'easements' can now be applied for 'recently homeless' people. This is in addition to the [easement](#) for claimants who have been affected by domestic violence that came into place [some months ago](#). There are some dangers that the reforms will not benefit everyone, such as hidden homeless people and in particular those sofa surfing, as [highlighted](#) by Homeless Action Scotland. They are working with the government Department for Work and Pensions to see how Work Coaches' knowledge

and understanding around what homelessness is and who it affects can be improved.

UK: Fear of Homelessness Biggest Worry for People Leaving Care

According to a [report](#) by UK children's charity Barnardo's, among young people leaving State care, the biggest fear is homelessness. Most young people make the transition to independent living happens with the support of their parents. But those leaving State childcare, who do not have that support, often end up in unsafe or insecure accommodation. Some face the risk of eviction, sofa-surfing or sleeping rough.

There are substantial safeguards in legislation regarding care leavers' accommodation. The 'staying put' reforms (which Barnardo's jointly lobbied for) have now been made law – so more young people can stay in supportive foster homes until they feel better prepared to leave and fend for themselves. Nonetheless, new problems such as the 'bedroom tax', a lack of one bedroom properties and cuts to local housing allowance rates mean that it is increasingly difficult for young people – and care leavers in particular – to find and stay in suitable housing. More action is needed, [say the charity](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Biggest Ever German Study into Homelessness – Mental and Physical Health Data

The SEEWOLF (*Seelische Erkrankungsrate in den Einrichtungen der Wohnungslosenhilfe im Großraum München* (Prevalence of Mental Health Problems in Homeless Services in the Greater Munich Area)) [study](#), begun in 2011, looked at the frequency, nature and severity of mental and physical health issues experienced by Munich homeless people, as well as the cognitive capacity of this group. People's life trajectories as well as the issues or events leading up to their respective health issues were also recorded.

Sleeping With One Eye Open: How Homelessness Can Lead To Psychosis

Personal wellness depends on at least seven or more hours of restful sleep per night. There are correlations between insufficient sleep and deterioration of physical and emotional health. There is [evidence](#) that short sleep durations have negative physiological and neurobehavioral consequences and can cause dysfunction in the brain. Those dysfunctions may contribute to emotional difficulties and psychiatric conditions, such as psychosis. Housing provides a safe and private place for homeless people to relax and sleep and thus helps prevent the psychosis sleep deprivation can cause. For those already coping with mental illness, housing is an effective treatment for the positive symptom of insomnia. Homeless people must sleep with one eye open as part of their survival. Only housing can break this cycle.

Homelessness and Health in Canada

This free [book](#) is the first in Canada to explore how social, structural and environmental factors shape the health of the nation's homeless populations. As an open source publication, the entire book can be accessed online for free. It links new research findings with reviews of existing research to create a blueprint for improving homeless people's health from youth to end-of-life.

Obesity in Women Using Food Aid: Social Dimension

and Related Health Problems

Obesity is not only a biomedical issue, rather it can be a social indicator. It is four times more prevalent among the lowest income population groups than among the more well-off. This situation is extremely worrying as obesity is at the root of several chronic diseases and is a cause of discrimination and. This [series](#) of articles documents the recent results of the Abena (Diet and Nutritional Status of People Receiving Food Aid) study on the situation of women using food aid in six French cities in 2011-12, with results on obesity, oral health status and short sleep duration in particular.

Policies Addressing Family Homelessness: A Look at Four Capital Cities

Students from the "Centre d'Etudes Européennes" at Sciences Po University, Paris have collected some data on family homelessness in four cities: the case studies were Paris, Brussels, London and Madrid. They have published four summaries and full [reports](#) for each city:

- Homeless families in Brussels: between emergency and structural action
- Homeless families in London: a policy of restriction
- Homeless families in Madrid: scarce public action and various informal strategies
- Homeless families in Paris: social hotels and financing patterns

Key Steps Towards A European Union Homelessness Policy

This is an article written by Liz Gosme for the Journal of European Social Policy, [July 2014 issue](#). This article explores the impact of the European Union (EU) on homelessness policy-making. Homelessness policy has undoubtedly been influenced at different levels, but the main framework for working on homelessness at the EU level in a targeted way over the last 10 years has been the social Open Method of Coordination (OMC). The article examines the emergence, through the social OMC, of the foundations of an EU homelessness policy by looking at key mechanisms through which homelessness emerged on the EU agenda, and the first signs of EU impact on homelessness policy dynamics. The interconnection between local actions, national measures and the EU policy arena on homelessness is becoming increasingly clear, to the extent that the EU is now in a position to support Member States to address homelessness.

Housing and Children's Development and Wellbeing

This [research](#) built on a recent scoping study on child development to understand whether housing factors play an important role in child development and wellbeing.

When Dignity Becomes a Commodity

This [book](#), aimed at teachers and students of social, educational and political science as well as homeless sector workers and politicians in the German-speaking world, discusses the difficulties of access to the housing market and homelessness, which means not only to be deprived of basic rights, but also to have to resist a variety of prejudices.

Hygiene and Health Issues Among Homeless People

Homeless people suffer from a wide range of health problems and are predisposed to infections given their fragile physical state and the barriers to maintaining hygiene that they come up against. For some commentators, skin problems are the most

common health problem homeless people experience. A recent [study](#) by the *Samu social de Paris* shows, in addition to this, that people living outside are at a higher risk of catching some skin disorders than people in emergency shelters.

Psychiatric Disorder Prevalence Among Homeless Young People

Vulnerable young people have a higher occurrence of psychiatric disorders and there is a vital need for better uptake of long-term treatment services, a [study](#) has found. The [research](#) examined the prevalence of conditions including substance misuse, eating disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder among young homeless people. It also investigated the relationship between psychiatric conditions and different types of health service use.



This publication is supported by the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS (2007-2013). This programme is implemented by the European Commission. It was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment, social affairs and equal opportunities area, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy goals in these fields.

The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

For more information see: <http://ec.europa.eu/progress>

The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission

FEANTSA works with the European Commission, the contracting authority for the four-year partnership agreement under which this publication has received funding.

Copyright © 2011 · FEANTSA · All rights reserved

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)