



## FEANTSA NEWS

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### 9th European Research Conference on Homelessness - Register Now!

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[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, abstracts and the list of site visits are available on the event [website](#).

### Country Fiches Updated

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The FEANTSA [Country Fiches for 2014](#) are now available. The fiches provide an overview of the homelessness and homeless policy situation in different Member States from the perspective of FEANTSA members.

### Housing Rights Watch Expert Workshop: Finding Real Solutions to the Housing Crisis - 13 June 2014 Madrid, Spain

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This Housing Rights Watch [event](#) is designed to bring together experts working in housing, including housing economics, law, housing rights, homeless services, social housing, financing and foundations, local governments, academics and other groups and individuals. The programme is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#). Contact [Samara Jones](#) to register.

### FEANTSA Receives Funding to Deliver Online Education Resource on Housing First in Europe

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FEANTSA has received a grant from the [Stavros Niarchos Foundation](#) to develop an online education resource (Massive Online Open Course) on Housing First in Europe. The project will last two years and will begin in the autumn. The steering group for the project will meet for the first time at the 2014 Policy Conference in Bergamo. Contact [Ruth Owen](#) for more information.

### Joint Euractiv Op-Ed with Fondation Abbé Pierre on Housing in Europe

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FEANTSA and *Fondation Abbé Pierre* have written a joint op-ed, featured in the Euractiv newspaper in [English](#) and [French](#), on the need for the next European Commission and the European Parliament to take up the housing issue with ambition and creativity in the interest of jobs and growth, of social justice and financial stability, of all the challenges Europe is faced with.

### First PUSH Europe Workshop: "Integrated Housing and Services for People

## with Support Needs"

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An interactive [PUSH Europe](#) workshop took place on 6 May 2014 in Brussels. It was the opportunity for providers of housing and support working with homeless people, people with disabilities and people with mental health issues. Practical examples of housing and support services from Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK were presented.

## FEANTSA Participates in Event on "Invisible EU Migrants"

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FEANTSA presented the issue of mobile EU citizens who are homeless at a round table event on the expulsion of EEA nationals who are exercising their right to free movement.

## FEANTSA Participates in Social Policy Innovation Conference

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FEANTSA attended a high-level conference on social policy innovation in Brussels on 19-20 May 2014. The conference focused on the role of social policy innovation and social investment in implementing structural reforms at country level and delivering on the Europe 2020 objectives and reported on the experiences of the recent past and examine more in depth how EU countries will be best supported for social policy innovation and social policy experimentation through the new Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). It also explored how EU countries are starting to put in practice the priority given to social policy innovation in the new programming period of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds, in particular the European Social Fund. FEANTSA presented Housing First as an example of social innovation.

## FEANTSA Attends Round Table on Rights of Homeless LGBT Youth

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Along with the European Youth Forum, ILGA, Avvocato di strada, LGBT Youth Scotland and RFSL Ungdom, FEANTSA participated in an ILGYO roundtable on LGBT youth homelessness.

## 38 Leading Organisations Urge European Council to Protect Migrant Children's Rights

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As the European Union is developing its strategic guidelines on the future of Justice and Home Affairs policies, 38 leading organisations in the fields of human rights, health, education and social inclusion, including the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, OHCHR, the European Network for Ombudspersons and FEANTSA, are calling on the European Council to use the opportunity to advance on its achievements and commitments to every child, including migrant children in vulnerable situations, by making children's rights a strategic and actionable priority for Home Affairs policy in the coming years.

## EUROPE NEWS

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## CoR Economic and Social Affairs Commission Calls for a European Homelessness Strategy

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The Economic and Social Affairs Commission (ECOS) of the EU Committee of the Regions has [adopted](#) an opinion calling for an EU Homelessness Strategy. This opinion will go to the Committee of the Regions (CoR) plenary for adoption on 25th June and will be integrated in the key CoR messages to the new European Commission and European Parliament which will start a

new 5-year mandate this Autumn.

The draft opinion [calls](#) on Member States to set up national homelessness strategies, which should clearly identify responsibilities for data collection, monitoring and implementation, and include binding objectives and evaluation models. The opinion also emphasises the importance of prevention, through early identification of risk groups, such as women and young people, and tailor-made support measures including in the areas of education, vocational training, retraining, and lifelong learning. It also advocates more effective use of EU funding instruments, such as the European Social Fund (ESF), in overcoming homelessness, and suggests further integrating homelessness issues into the Europe 2020 strategy implementation process.

## ELOSH Website Online

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European Core Learning Outcomes for Integration of Support and Housing (ELOSH) is a European project that addresses a need for Continuing Vocational Education & Training on the integration of support and housing for vulnerable people. The 2-year project is using innovative training materials developed by FEANTSA member SITRA (UK) as the basis for a common European training pack that will be translated and adapted to 7 different contexts by partners in 7 Member States. The aim is to develop training that supports the integration of support services with housing to deliver personalised, community-based services for homeless people, people with mental health problems and people with disabilities. The project will focus on the coproduction of training with service users. The steering group is composed of SITRA (lead organisation), European Association of Service Providers for People with Disabilities (coordinator), FEANTSA, Mental Health Europe and European Network for Independent Living. The national partner organisations are working with the different target groups in Greece, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Slovenia. For more information, please contact [Ruth Owen](#). The project [website](#) is now online.

## Public Consultation on Europe 2020 Strategy

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The European Commission has launched a public [consultation](#) on the Europe 2020 Strategy, which will be open from 5 May 2014 to 31 October 2014. Organisations and individuals can contribute. FEANTSA will support its members to respond to the consultation by issuing some guidance after the July AC meeting. Please contact Ruth Owen for more information.

## Erasmus+ Projects Submitted on Homelessness

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A number of homeless service providers have submitted project applications under the first call of the new [Erasmus+](#) programme. Project applications covered a wide range of training and education topics from "Housing First" to "Homeless mobile citizens" to "Active inclusion of vulnerable groups". The results should be available this Autumn.

## HABITACT Peer Review – Meeting Report Available

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The latest HABITACT peer review took place in Athens on 10-11 April. It was the fifth peer review in the HABITACT series. The peer review Discussion Paper prepared by Prof Isobel Anderson and the [meeting report](#) are available online.

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS

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### State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Europe

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The latest [report](#) by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Europe highlights problems related to housing and poverty, as well as many issues of discrimination in Europe.

# UN NEWS

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## New UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Adequate Housing

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Raquel Rolnik's mandate as the UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Adequate Housing is ending this month. Canadian lawyer Leilani Farha is the new rapporteur and takes office on the 2nd June.

## MEMBER NEWS

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### Denmark: Fighting an Illegal Practice That Prevents Homeless EU Migrants Access to Publicly-Funded Shelters

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Since 2007, homeless EU-citizens have been denied access to publicly funded shelters in Denmark by the former Danish minister of Welfare Karen Jespersen who claimed that Denmark would otherwise be at risk of becoming EU's shelter for homeless migrants. In June 2013, a working group on legal issues with experts in the field established by FEANTSA member Kompasset Kirkens Korshaer scrutinised the legislation and concluded that it was not only an unethical practice, but also illegal.

The Danish Service Act to which publicly funded shelters adhere states that as long as a person's stay in the country is legal and a person is within the target group of the Service Act (by being socially marginalised and in need of help and support), they must be granted access to temporary shelter. Despite this, the practice remains whereby homeless EU-migrants are denied access based on the claim that their stay in Denmark is illegal merely because they are homeless.

After almost a year of advocacy work, public debates and press coverage, the current Minister of Social Affairs Manu Sareen has now agreed to issue a new orientation which should be released within a couple of weeks.

[More information](#) and from [Benedicte Ohrt Fehler](#).

### France: Shelter Closures Put Hundreds of People Back on the Streets

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FEANTSA member FNARS has [highlighted](#) to the French government the alarming situation flagged up by its local members. In several French cities, including Lyon, Grenoble, Lille, Marseilles, Bordeaux and Toulouse, several hundred people have been returned to the streets following the closure of emergency shelters they were staying in during the winter months. These people, often families will be sleeping rough again and will join the already long list of people waiting for accommodation places and do not get them. FNARS says that these shelter closures lead to the creation of temporary squats and dangerous camps that are unfit for human habitation, a phenomenon that is increasing in large towns and cities.

These closures affect all groups of people, including people with serious health problems and those who are placed in danger by being forced to sleep rough.

In the light of this humanitarian crisis, FNARS asks the government, which as just confirmed the introduction of a five-year anti-poverty plan, to take emergency measures.

### Ireland: Peter McVerry Trust Statement to Government on Housing Demand

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Peter McVerry Trust was invited to participate in a discussion with the Irish government on 'Meeting the Current Housing

Demand'. They made [recommendations](#) on the need for a National Housing Strategy, a Capital Acquisition Scheme, Regulation of the Private Rental Market, Homelessness Prevention and a cross-party Task Force to tackle the housing crisis.

## Ireland: Homelessness Advice Packs for Community Centres

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Focus Ireland is started providing advice packs to community centres in a bid to tackle the growing homelessness crisis. The guidebook is targeted at community groups, citizen information centres and other local support organisations, focusing on communities which have no specialist housing advice centres and information on what to do when at risk of homelessness is not readily available.

## Netherlands: Conference on Improving Responses to Domestic Violence and Women's Shelters

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Dutch FEANTSA member Federatie Opvang recently held a [conference](#) to look back on six years of the Women's Shelter Improvement Plan and welcomed the new definition of a sector in transition: 'from shelter to solution'.

## Finland/Slovakia : Y-Foundation CEO to Present Housing First at TEDxBratislava

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Juha Kaakinen, CEO of Y-Foundation will [present](#) Housing First and the Finnish Housing-First based homelessness strategy at the TEDx conference in Bratislava on the 5th July.

## Spain: Masters Programme in Social Exclusion with Sant Joan de Déu

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The education arm of FEANTSA member Sant Joan de Déu has prepared a Masters Programme in Social Exclusion in cooperation with the Social Exclusion Research Group at the University of Barcelona.

## UK: Private Rented Sector Research Project

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"Sustain" was a partnership [project](#) between FEANTSA members Shelter and Crisis that ran between 2010 and 2014. It explored the long-term outcomes and wellbeing for vulnerable homeless households who moved into the private rented sector (PRS). The [final report](#) presents the findings after the households were in their tenancies for 19 months. It looks at housing conditions, relationships with landlords and general wellbeing and makes made recommendations for how the private rented sector can be improved.

## HEADLINES

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## Denmark: Funds Earmarked for Reducing Youth Homelessness

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The Danish Ministry for Integration and Social Affairs has allocated 51.9 million kroner to reducing homelessness among young people. The fund comes from a budget reserved for special measures to improve conditions for welfare claimants and vulnerable groups in society. Municipalities must apply for the funding by the 20th of June, and the project will run until

September 2017. However, the Danish government also reduced social benefits for youth earlier this year.

## Ireland: New Housing Projects for Homeless Persons and People with Special Needs

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The Irish government has [approved](#) its "Implementation Plan on the State's Response to Homelessness". Over €46 million in funding will be made available for housing projects providing accommodation for people with special housing needs including the elderly, persons with a disability and homeless persons. The selection of projects now being advanced is based on priority afforded by local authorities following a 'Call for Proposals' to approved housing bodies. Of the €46 million, some €19 million has been ring-fenced for the 187 units to be acquired or constructed across the country to accommodate persons and families who are homeless. €10m is also being provided specifically for the acquisition of units by approved housing bodies to address the homeless problem in Dublin.

## Portugal: More Than Five Thousand Homeless People

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A new count of homeless people by FEANTSA member Santa Casa da Misericórdia has combined with the number of homeless people supported by the National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People in Portugal and to conclude that there are more than 5000 homeless people in Portugal, but that this is an under-estimation. The NGO also says that this reality is far from static.

## Spain: Government Will Implement Homelessness Strategy

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The Spanish government has [agreed](#), with two votes short of unanimity, to draw up a National Homelessness Strategy. The federation of FEANTSA members in Spain, fePsh, will support the Ministry responsible for drafting the strategy with its design and implementation.

## UK: New Refugees Risk Homelessness and Poverty

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Individuals who have just been granted refugee status in Britain often face homelessness and destitution due to delays in receiving the paperwork needed to find shelter and work, as the UK Refugee Council has said in a [report](#). Part of the problem is that a person's entitlement to financial support and housing ends 28 days after refugee status is granted - leaving many, who are unfamiliar with the welfare and state systems, very little time to get accommodation and a means of supporting themselves. The report was based on interviews with eight refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Eritrea, Iran and Sri Lanka. The Refugee Council calls for review of the asylum system to stop refugees being forced into homelessness.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### An Evaluation of the Nature and Effectiveness of Supportive Housing Models

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This [research project](#) will evaluate the effectiveness of supportive housing models. Focusing on models with both onsite support and dispersed housing with support provided through outreach, it will examine how different models operate and how support is integrated. It will also capture the experiences, preferences and outcomes for residents.

### Austria Poverty Handbook (New Edition)

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The 2014 [Handbook](#) on Poverty in Austria, "Challenges for Poverty Reduction and the Consequences of the Crisis" describes the risk of poverty that large parts of the population face, now exacerbated by the economic and financial crisis. The book gives a comprehensive and systematic overview of the current state of poverty research in Austria and presents the latest findings on the causes, consequences and fighting poverty.

## Food, Nutrition and Homelessness: Guidance for Practitioners

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The purpose of this [guidance](#) is to help practitioners recognise and screen for nutritional need amongst single homeless and homeless families. This guidance has been designed to raise awareness of the importance of nutrition amongst front line workers working with the homeless population, and to help identify needs that can then be addressed.

## Coming of Age: Reimagining the Response to Youth Homelessness in Canada

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The goal of this [report](#) is to present an argument for approaching how we respond to youth homelessness in a new way. The report achieves this by pulling together key information about youth homelessness, to better inform how we respond to the problem. As a peer-reviewed research document, it draws on an existing base of research in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States, in order to identify effective approaches to youth homelessness policy and practice.

## Welfare Regimes, Social Values and Homelessness: Comparing Responses to Marginalised Groups in Six European Countries

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This [paper](#) examines socially marginalised groups' exposure to homelessness in order to understand better the applicability of, and limits to, welfare regime analysis. A vignette methodology is deployed in six European countries to interrogate and compare responses to marginalised groups at high risk of homelessness, including people with substance misuse problems, ex-offenders, women fleeing domestic violence, young people excluded from the family home and migrants. Evidence suggests that a range of values embedded in national political cultures—including familialism, social cohesion, individuality, personal responsibility and personal liberty, as well as egalitarianism—impact on models of intervention and outcomes for specific marginalised groups in ways which cannot be straightforwardly predicted from conventional welfare regime analysis.

## The Homelessness Monitor Northern Ireland 2011-2015

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The homelessness monitor provides an independent analysis of the impact on homelessness of recent economic and policy developments in Northern Ireland. Key areas of interest are the homelessness consequences of the post-2007 economic recession and the housing market downturn. The other main line of inquiry is the likely impacts of the welfare, housing and other social policy reforms, including cutbacks in public expenditure, being pursued by the UK Government elected in 2010, and the housing, homelessness and other relevant policies being implemented by the Northern Ireland Executive. The [homelessness monitor Northern Ireland](#) is a longitudinal study, and this first year report provides a 'baseline' account of how homelessness stands in Northern Ireland in 2013. It also highlights emerging trends and forecasts some of the likely changes, identifying the developments likely to have the most significant impacts on homelessness.

## Rights at Risk in Housing Crisis

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The Spanish government has taken insufficient action to alleviate the impact of the housing and debt crisis in Spain on vulnerable groups, Human Rights Watch said in a recent report, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Tens of thousands of families have faced, or are currently facing, foreclosure on homes they bought at the height of Spain's economic boom, when irresponsible lending made mortgages easy to come by. The report, based on in-depth interviews with 44 women and men who have experienced or were facing eviction, civil society organizations, and government officials, documents the hardships faced by families who lose their homes after defaulting on mortgage payments amid Spain's economic recession and massive unemployment. Immigrants, women who head households or are victims of economic abuse from a former partner, and children are among the affected groups, Human Rights Watch found.



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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>

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