



FEANTSA NEWS

Warsaw Research Conference

The [9th European Research Conference on Homelessness](#), which took place in Warsaw on the 19th September, was a success. Over 100 research professionals came together to discuss homelessness in times of crisis. The conference presentations will be online shortly.

Call for Papers: European Journal of Homelessness - Volume 9 Issue 1

The Editorial Team of the European Journal of Homelessness is pleased to announce publication of the [Call for Papers](#) for Volume 9, Issue 1 of the [European Journal of Homelessness](#), "Homelessness in Times of Crisis". Please send abstracts to [Professor Eoin O'Sullivan](#) by the 2nd January 2015.

New FEANTSA Project Officer

[María J. Aldanas](#) joined the FEANTSA team in September as a Project Officer. María previously worked for Spanish FEANTSA Member Provivienda. She is a lawyer, has a Masters in Migrations and has wide experience in projects aiming to facilitate access to adequate housing for disadvantaged groups, including homeless people. From September 2006 she represented Provivienda in the FEANTSA Housing Working Group.

European Journal of Homelessness: Volume 8, Issue 1

Volume 8, Issue 1 of the [European Journal of Homelessness](#), 'Housing Homeless People in Europe' is now [online](#) and in print. To order a copy, please contact the [FEANTSA office](#).

ENHW Newsletter

The Summer 2014 issue of the European Network of Homeless Health Workers newsletter is now [online](#).

Bergamo Policy Conference – Registration Deadline

Registration for the FEANTSA [Policy Conference](#), taking place in Bergamo on the 24th and 25th October, closes on the 10th October. Workshops and hotspots are filling up quickly - [book now](#) to avoid disappointment.

FEANTSA Message to Commissioners-Designate

FEANTSA welcomed the new Juncker Commission with a [message](#): "Let's show citizens what Social Europe means by tackling homelessness together".

Youth Resources

We have updated our [webpage](#) on Youth Homelessness and launched a new [database](#) on Youth Homeless Prevention resources. Information about the [FEANTSA Youth Network](#) is also now on our website.

Erasmus+ Project on Migration

FEANTSA and partners have been awarded an Erasmus+ project under the 'Cooperation and Innovation for Good Practices' call Strategic Partnerships for adult education field to create a European Homeless and Mobile Citizens Network. The project will be led by FEANTSA member Caritas Vilnius (Lithuania) and will involve Copenhagen Homeless Unit (Denmark), FEANTSA member Casa Ioana Association (Romania), Caritas Kielce (Poland), FEANTSA member Monar Association (Poland), Cyrenians Cymru (UK), FEANTSA member PRAKSIS (Greece) and FEANTSA. The project will be linked to the FEANTSA migration working group and will lead to the drafting of a toolkit on how to deal with destitute EU mobile citizens through integration centres and "responsible reconnection".

Erasmus+ Project on Ways Out of Homelessness

FEANTSA and partners have been awarded a 2-year Erasmus+ project under the 'Cooperation and Innovation for Good Practices' call Strategic Partnerships for adult education field to create vocational training for staff working with homeless people in Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic. The project aim is to encourage the use of evidence-based practice to support pathways out of homelessness in specific local policy contexts. The project will be led by the Budapest Methodological Centre of Social Policy and Its Institutions (BMSZKI) and will involve project partners FEANTSA member SAD (CZ), FEANTSA member Camillian Mission for Social Assistance (PL), FEANTSA member Casa Ioana (RO), Habitat for Humanity (HU) and FEANTSA. The first project meeting will take place in mid-November in Budapest.

FEANTSA Attends Sixth Cohesion Forum

FEANTSA recently attended the [Sixth Cohesion Forum](#), a European Commission annual conference where stakeholders working on EU cohesion policy met to take stock and discuss priorities for the future.

FEANTSA Attends Paris Homelessness Strategy Launch

The new Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, has pledged to make the fight against homelessness ("grande exclusion") one of the key priorities of her mandate. She [launched](#) this formally on Thursday 18th September. A FEANTSA representative was present to provide some EU context and examples of homelessness strategies in other EU cities.

FEANTSA Attends 13th European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty

The 13th [European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty](#) took place from the 22nd to the 24th of September 2014 in Brussels. Several FEANTSA representatives were present and facilitated a workshop on homelessness with Glasgow

FEANTSA Attends BSHF Peer Exchange on 100k Homes

FEANTSA and members from Denmark – Projet Udenfor and the UK – Thames Reach and Crisis, participated in an international exchange organized by [BSHF](#) (Building and Social Housing Foundation, UK) and hosted by [Community Solutions](#) in Los Angeles, USA. The four day exchange focused on the development, implementation and evaluation of the **100,000 Homes Campaign** which Community Solutions coordinated in 186 communities across the USA and which ended in July 2014.

The campaign, which won a [UN Habitat Award](#) in 2014, succeeded in supporting 186 communities to house just over 100,000 homeless people by motivating local communities and organizations to better understand the needs of homeless people in vulnerable health and to better connect them to housing options as quickly as possible. Communities organized Registry weeks during which service providers and volunteers met with homeless people sleeping rough, assessed their health needs, and then worked to find solutions, ideally, housing, for an increasing number of homeless people. Using Housing First principles as a starting point, the campaign served as a catalyst for local communities take action to house homeless people. As a result, communities used centralized entry systems for information which led to quicker and more appropriate housing placements for many people.

Over the course of the four-day international exchange, peers from around the world had the chance to learn about the origins of the campaign, the challenges of trying to innovate and do things differently, the motivational power of goals and targets, even for housing homeless people, and the importance of building useful coalitions at local level to get things done.

For more information, visit the 100,000 Homes website, where you can also find more information about Community Solutions' next campaign: Zero2016 <http://100khomes.org/> Twitter: #100khomes

For more information about the UN Habitat Awards, check out: www.worldhabitatawards.org and www.bshf.org

EUROPEAN NEWS

New Commission Announced

The names of the new European Commissioners were announced on the 9th September. Marianne Thyssen (BE) is the new Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. Read the [official press release](#). All portfolios are [here](#).

Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) – Homelessness and Migration

National governments are now preparing their FEAD operational programmes (OPs), deciding on the key priorities for the next 5 years. See, for instance, [information](#) about the French OP. Some OPs are likely to focus explicitly on supporting the fight against homelessness, including homeless EU migrants.

HABITACT Website Revised – New Presentation of Network

Partners

HABITACT has updated the [section](#) presenting the network on its website. Five years after its launch in 2009, the network has extended across most countries. The network makes a distinction between the core authorities and the wider network of contacts, and communicates this clearly through the relevant HABITACT webpages.

Paper about HABITACT at ENHR 2014 Conference

In early July, the European Network for Housing Research hosted its 2014 conference in the city of Edinburgh. At the conference, Professor Isobel Anderson presented a paper which took a closer look at the 2014 HABITACT peer review hosted by Athens city. The paper is entitled "International Learning From Local-Level Policy Making? Responding To 'New Homelessness' In Post-Crisis Athens". See page 152 of the conference [book of abstracts](#).

New HABITACT Bulletin

Issue 20 of the HABITACT e-bulletin is now [online](#).

Semester Alliance publishes Toolkit for Engaging in Europe 2020 and the European Semester

The [EU Alliance for a Democratic, Social and Sustainable European Semester \(Semester Alliance\)](#) has published a [Toolkit](#) for Engaging in Europe 2020 and the European Semester. Intended for use by the national members of the European organisations which make up the Semester Alliance, it is designed to support them in engaging with Europe 2020 and the European Semester, including the forthcoming Mid-Term Review.

Annual Convention of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion

The Annual Convention of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion will take place on the 20-21 November 2014. This is the key annual event of the European Commission in the field of poverty and social exclusion. FEANTSA will be present, and there will be a workshop on housing exclusion and prevention of evictions.

MEMBER NEWS

Denmark: Kompasset Kirkens Korshær Position Paper on Preventing Destitution of Homeless Migrants in Denmark

Kompasset Kirkens Korshær is an independent advisory service for homeless migrants without registration in Denmark. Kompasset was established by Kirkens Korshær in 2012 to help relieve and support Copenhagen's existing shelters, which have experienced a growing demand from an increasing number of homeless migrants. This [position paper](#), produced by Kompasset, is aimed at raising awareness about homeless migrants' rights and living conditions in Denmark by providing facts, rather than myths. The paper presents an overview of the current situation for homeless unregistered migrants in Denmark, an

analysis of how current policies and practices impact the group and recommendations for future action addressed to national and European level decision makers.

France: Solutions for Homeless People Scarcest in Summer

The results of the FNARS summer (1st July-31st August) monitoring of responses to homeless people's calls to the emergency response number show that solutions available to homeless people are at their lowest in the summer. Homeless people face a lack of shelter spaces, shelter closure and a reduction in staff/volunteer numbers. This is the other side of the 'thermometer governed' response to homelessness which sees shelter places opening when temperatures drop and closing in springtime, say FNARS in a [press release](#). They stress, however, that the number of deaths among homeless people is as high in summer as it is in winter.

Another striking figure revealed in the report is that homeless people are allocated hotel rooms at a much higher rate than before – 85% more than in summer 2013 and 11% more than in winter 2013-2014. This shows the inadequacy of government response to homelessness, say FNARS. Using hotels is not only costly, it is above all inappropriate because even though people are inside, they do not receive any social support. A hotel room is never an appropriate place to provide families with long-term accommodation, say FNARS.

France: Information Day and Press Conference

At a time when the French government is debating the 2015 budget, the Collective of United NGOs, to which several FEANTSA members belong, will present its worries about the coming winter and alternative accommodation solutions for homeless people during an information day that will kick off with a press conference on Thursday 2nd October at 9am, at Place Edouard Herriot in Paris, France.

Ireland: Call for Rent Controls to Curb Homelessness

Fr Peter McVerry of the Peter McVerry Trust has said that increasing rents are the leading cause of homelessness in Ireland and has called for the Irish Government to introduce emergency rent controls to help combat homelessness. Speaking at a public meeting organised by the IMPACT trade union, Fr McVerry said that the rent supplement provided to those living in urban areas was 'totally inadequate' and should be substantially increased. He said the failure to provide security of tenure to those in rented accommodation was also increasing homelessness. He said that landlords evicted tenants unnecessarily and without a reasonable period of notice.

Spain: OHSJD to Study Homeless People's Spiritual Needs

Through a number of interviews with users of homelessness services in Murcia, Valencia and Barcelona, Orden Hospitalaria de Sant Joan de Deu will [carry out research](#) into the spiritual needs of homeless people in their daily life. The multidisciplinary research team includes social workers from the three hostels involved and from OHSJD's teaching branch and local religious figures.

Spain: Practical Guide to Legal Issues Encountered By Roofless People

As part of its EXEQUO project, the Fernando Pombo Foundation has [published](#) a [guide](#) to legal assistance for homeless people. It is a basic explanatory guide that can be used practically to solve the most recurrent legal problems people sleeping rough come up against. The problems were identified by social workers at FEANTSA member organisation RAIS Foundation. Legal professionals volunteered their time to help draft the guide. The guide includes themes that come up a lot, such as registering residency in an area, questions around nationality, administrative sanctions, social services or access to justice free of charge.

Spain: Grundtvig Project on Housing Shortage and Crisis

The Grundtvig [Project](#) entitled "Dealing with Changes Generated by the Housing Shortage and Social Exclusion in Times of Economic Crisis" intends to improve the skills of social workers and support staff in homelessness services through sharing the experience and work of four centres run by FEANTSA member Orden Hospitalaria San Juan de Dios. The consortium taking part in the project recently [met](#) in Marseilles, France, where 20 videos of statements from homeless people in four cities in four EU Member States (Barcelona, Spain, Brescia, Italy, London, UK and Marseilles, France) were shown.

UK: Education and Employment Services

An independent [report](#) has praised Crisis UK as a world leader in providing education and employment support for homeless people. The University of York report says that Crisis has made "one of the most advanced and comprehensive attempts" at helping homeless people re-enter society.

HEADLINES

Finland: Government Reviewing Homelessness Strategy and Planning Next One

An international research evaluation of the current (2012 – 2015) Finnish homelessness strategy (PAAVO) is underway. Evaluation materials are available [online](#). An international [peer review](#) on the first period of PAAVO, the program to reduce long-term homeless in Finland (2008-2011) was carried out in 2010.

France: Report on Deaths of Homeless People in 2013

454 homeless people died in France in 2013, according to the "Count and Describe" [report](#) published by the 'Street Deaths' Collective. An increasing number of those who die are minors. The figure represents a 16% increase since 2012. The causes documented are primarily violence (attack, accident, suicide) and illness (cancer, cardiovascular diseases). The average age of adults who die is 55 years, compared to the national average of 77 years.

Hungary: Housing Poverty in Hungary - Annual Report 2013

[Habitat for Humanity Hungary](#) publishes a yearly report on housing poverty in the country. With this report, they want to keep housing on the national agenda and provide a truthful picture of the state of housing poverty and discuss how housing policy decisions made that year have affected the situation. Since their first report in 2011 there has not been much improvement, the 2013 report says. The number of those affected by housing poverty and insecure housing has been increasing as well as the number of those living in inadequate housing. The report (a comprehensive English summary is available [here](#)) concludes that the major social policy decisions of 2013 did not provide adequate answers to the problems of those living in housing poverty. The report mentions the criminalization of rough sleeping, while declaring that 25% of homeless people lost their homes because of financial reasons. They call for complex national programmes and policy that address prevention of losing one's home and a coordinated approach targeting the neediest groups of the population. [More information](#).

Hungary: Costs of the Persecution of Rough Sleeping

Since 2013, it is possible to treat rough sleeping as a criminal offence in Hungary, and people sleeping rough can be punished

through enforced community service, fines, or, in case of failure to comply with these penalties, or for "repeat offenders" (those sentenced for the third time within 6 months for the same petty crime), imprisonment. Budapest and its 23 districts were the first to pass a local decree about the areas where they wish to criminalise rough sleeping. In December 2013, a separate Government Bureau was set up, open 24 hours a day, with two civil servants examining cases of rough sleeping. A special police squad of 16 police officers was set up to patrol the streets of Budapest and ask homeless people "occupying public space for living purposes" in forbidden zones to leave those areas. If someone refused to move when requested, they were taken to the above mentioned Bureau. The Bureau consisted of an office for the civil servants, a warming centre for those waiting for their hearing, and, if the homeless person wished to stay and spend the night there, a night shelter, offering very basic accommodation for the night. The [City is For All](#), a grassroots organization fighting for "an egalitarian and just society", including housing rights and the rights of homeless people, has published data about the costs of the criminalisation of rough sleeping since December 2013. [Read more](#).

Spain: Request for Investigation into Death of Homeless Person in Homeless Service

The [Andalucian Pro-Human Rights Association \(Apdha\)](#) has asked for an investigation to be carried out into the death of Piotr Piskozub, a homeless person who died of malnutrition in a homeless service in Sevilla. The Association criticises the "non-existent" resources available to local social services for looking after homeless people who are unwell and ask for an investigation into whether the protocols in place for assisting people at risk of social exclusion and the emergency services "triggered" the death of Piotr Piskozub, since the autopsy report points to possible negligence on the part of services responsible for the young homeless person. The report says that he should have been hospitalised because of his severely malnourished state. The victim's family's barrister says that it is not clear whether his death was caused by general malpractice owing to inefficient protocols and cuts to health services or by errors by the doctors treating him.

United Kingdom: Homeless Jobseekers Allowed Time to Find a Place to Live

The UK government has changed the rules for homeless Jobseeker's Allowance claimants to allow them more time to look for a place to live. These changes are in response to concerns from the social sectors that sanctions (such as the allowance being stopped) are being unfairly imposed on some claimants because there is a lack of understanding of how homelessness can affect their ability to find work. As a result, the government amended the [regulations](#) to allow some recently homeless claimants time out from the requirement to prove that they are looking for a job in exchange for a monetary allowance so they can focus on finding a place to live.

United Kingdom: Cabinet Reshuffle Prompts Fears Homelessness Will be Sidelined

The removal of homelessness from the UK housing minister's portfolio has prompted concerns that the government intends to 'sideline' the issue in the run-up to next year's general election. The new housing minister will not be responsible for tackling homelessness. The former housing minister, now a more junior local government minister will take on homelessness and other issues such as adult social care, wind farm planning and community pubs, reflecting the 'importance of the issue', the UK Government said. However, commentators say that there is a risk that homelessness be sidelined and that splitting homelessness and housing could limit ministers' abilities to tackle the problem in the long-term.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASPD Annual Conference 2014 "A Home For All" in Oslo

On the 9th – 10th October, the EASPD Annual conference "[A Home for All: Housing and Services for People with Support Needs](#)" will take place in Oslo. FEANTSA has supported the organization of the conference in the framework of PUSH Europe (Practice and Understanding in Supported Housing). PUSH is an emerging network of practitioners that want to engage at EU level to strengthen capacity for personalized, community based services that enable people with support needs to live independently and be included in society. It is a joint initiative by EASPD, FEANTSA, CECODHAS and Mental Health Europe. PUSH has also developed [ELOSH](#) (European Core Learning Outcomes for the Integration of Support and Housing) – a project focusing on innovative training for housing and support services in the EU.

Bend Not Break: Adapting to Changes in Benefits Provision

A seminar entitled "Bend Not Break: Adapting to Changes in Benefits Provision", organised in association with Homeless Link, will take place on 2nd October in London. It will give an overview of changes to the UK benefit system to date, ask what impact these changes are having on vulnerable people, give an overview of the new system, Universal Credit and discuss how to develop sustainable partnerships locally. The programme and registration are available [online](#).

The Next Level: Homeless Action Scotland Annual Conference

The Homeless Action Scotland Annual [Conference](#) will take place on the 6th November 2014 and will focus on Housing First & Homelessness Services, Preventing Homelessness & Reoffending, Aspiration and Inspiration, Mental Health & Welfare Reform and breakout sessions on Coping with Legal Highs, Accessing Work/Study in Temporary Accommodation, Preventing Homelessness, Private Rented Sector Tenancy. Early bird booking until 30th September.

Dublin City Collecting Information on Rough Sleeping In EU Cities - Questionnaire

In Dublin, a 'Rough Sleeper Count' is organised twice a year by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE). These counts provide a 'point in time' view of the number of persons sleeping rough in Dublin City. In the most recent counts, November 2013 and April 2014, 139 and 127 persons respectively were found sleeping rough. These figures represent the highest number of persons confirmed to be sleeping rough in Dublin, since the first Rough Sleeper Count took place in 2007. In light of these findings, the DRHE aims to identify what rough sleeping trends are occurring elsewhere across Europe, through a [questionnaire](#). They wish to know whether persons sleeping rough are counted in towns and cities around Europe and, if so, which methodology is used to do so. The short questionnaire should take approximately ten minutes to complete. All survey participants will have access to the results. Deadline for taking part: 7th October 2014.

NGOs Use Non-Food Items to Combat Exclusion

The NGO, [Goods To Give](#) collects surplus non-food supplies from industry in order to redistribute them to people at risk of exclusion in Belgium through its contacts with social services. To do so, they use a working warehouse and an online catalogue that NGOs can order from.

Women Rough Sleepers Conference

The [final conference](#) of the [Women Rough Sleepers II](#) project, targeting EU networks and policy makers, will be held in the European Parliament on 9th October (16.00-18.00). Speakers will include Claude Moraes MEP, Tanja Fajon MEP, Professor Kate Moss and a FEANTSA representative. The conference aims to increase awareness of issues to do with women who sleep rough and experience violence and to support further development work in this field. Please register no later than 1st October

PUBLICATIONS

People with Mental Health Issues Risk Returning to Homelessness

People with mental health issues are at risk of being stuck in a "revolving door" in and out of homelessness without support to help them keep their public housing, [research](#) has found. A study released by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre in Australia found a lack of support for people with mental illness has resulted in many slipping back into homelessness. The report said many people who took part in the study felt that the "lack of support and lack of sensitivity" by government housing officers and private real-estate agents had robbed them of dignity and self-worth.

Importance of Innovative Approaches to Addressing Homelessness

Mission Australia's [MISHA project](#) connected chronically homeless rough sleepers to long term housing and intensive support services. Michael's Intensive Supported Housing Accord (MISHA) is a philanthropically funded initiative that provided long-term stable accommodation while supporting the men to build the lives they would like to live. The MISHA Project used a Housing First approach. The project provided housing support and wrap around services to a group of 74 men who, prior to entering the project, were chronically homeless. The accompanying [study](#) examines housing outcomes, and the costs and benefits associated with achieving these outcomes using the Housing First Mode as well as outlining the savings and costs associated with tenancy support. The full report is available [here](#).

Homeless LGBTQ Youth

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning (LGBTQ) youth are over-represented among the homeless youth population. Researchers and practitioners are working to improve data on homeless youth, especially LGBTQ youth, across the USA. This [briefing](#) summarises the findings on LGBTQ homeless youth counted during the 2013 YouthCount!, a USA-wide interagency initiative that aims to improve counts of unaccompanied homeless youth. The brief also shares best practices on how to improve counts of LGBTQ homeless youth, and areas where policymakers can act to improve LGBTQ youth outcomes.

Homeless People Using Mobile Technology

People experiencing homelessness in Sydney and Melbourne have a higher rate of mobile phone use than average Australians, new University of Sydney research shows. While 92% of Australians own a mobile phone, an even higher proportion – 95% - of the adults, youth and families surveyed had one. More than three quarters (77%) of these have a smartphone, compared to around two thirds (64%) of the general population. The survey found wide variation in the models and ages of the phones owned by the respondents. Almost half (41%) reported that their phone was a gift, second-hand, stolen or borrowed. The [research](#), involving 95 users of specialist homelessness services across inner and outer metropolitan Sydney and Melbourne, found that mobile phones are essential for survival and safety, job prospects and for moving out of homelessness.

Law Enforcement No Solution to Homelessness - Report

This [report](#) presents 10 recommendations for a better informed, more effective, more efficient response to people experiencing

homelessness in public spaces than criminalisation. It is [informed](#) by the insights, expertise and practical experience of over 60 experts from over 40 organisations in the US, Canada and Europe, as well as the evidence-base from Homeless Law's provision of direct legal services to approximately 200 clients with fines and charges for conduct directly related to homelessness each year.

Trauma and Homelessness Initiative Reports

The Trauma and Homelessness Initiative was a collaboration of four Australian agencies that provide homelessness and mental health services in the community. The aim of the project was to achieve better outcomes for people who are long-term homeless and have experienced trauma. The agencies commissioned the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health (ACPMH) at the University of Melbourne to look at the nature between the relationships of traumatic events in people's lives and their state of homelessness. Based on their research, ACPMH has produced a [framework](#) for trauma-informed practice together with a worker guidebook.



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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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