



## European Federation of National Organisations Working With the Homeless

### Press Release – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012

### For Immediate Release

#### Report Shows Homelessness Remains Significant Problem Throughout Europe

Temperatures are plummeting all over Europe while families are getting ready for Christmas celebrations. It is at this time of year that people become particularly aware of homelessness. FEANTSA's latest report is thus timely: it shows that homelessness remains a significant problem throughout Europe, and is increasing in 15 Member States.

Today, FEANTSA publishes "[On the Way Home?](#)", its 2012 Monitoring Report on Homelessness and Homeless Policies in Europe. This important report focuses on the extent and nature of homelessness in the EU's Member States and analyses policy progress in tackling homelessness over recent years, based on the input of national experts from 21 countries.

The report shows that homelessness remains a problem in all Member States and has increased in 15 Member States in the past 1-5 years. It also demonstrates that many Member States report an increasing proportion of homeless women, families, migrants and young people. In some Member States, homelessness is affecting a larger section of the population as a result of the crisis.

However, in Finland, the Netherlands and Scotland progress is being made on reducing homelessness thanks to ambitious policy frameworks.

A growing number of Member States have developed integrated homelessness strategies to reduce homelessness over the long term. These strategies have been successful in reducing homelessness in some countries and have managed to limit the impact of the crisis on homelessness in some contexts. So far, 10 European countries have developed such strategies at national or regional level.

A growing number of countries are focusing on housing-led homelessness approaches, where immediate access to housing with support where needed is becoming the dominant response to homelessness.

The report concludes with detailed recommendations for national and European policies in order to improve progress in the fight against homelessness. FEANTSA calls for these recommendations to be taken on board in order to improve policies and enhance progress on the fight against homelessness in the European Union.

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#### Notes for editors:

1. FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless. It is an umbrella of not-for-profit organisations which participate in or contribute to the fight against homelessness in Europe. It is the only major European network focusing exclusively on homelessness at European level. [www.feantsa.org](http://www.feantsa.org)
2. Link to "On the Way Home?", 2012 FEANTSA Monitoring Report on Homelessness and Homeless Policies in Europe [http://www.feantsa.org/files/freshstart/Policy%20documents/On\\_the\\_Way\\_Home.pdf](http://www.feantsa.org/files/freshstart/Policy%20documents/On_the_Way_Home.pdf)
3. Various states have developed national homelessness strategies. See a list of them here: <http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/pg.asp?Page=1169>

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