# PRODEC - Protecting the Rights of Destitute EU mobile Citizens

The project will focus on three Member States: Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom.

The project leader is FEANTSA and the partners are Eurodiaconia at EU level, the Belgian Salvation Army, GEBEWO in Germany and St. Mungo’s in the United Kingdom.

**Objectives**

The project aims at:

* assessing how national legislation has an impact on access to social benefits and on the right to reside for destitute mobile EU citizens and whether it is in line with the EU acquis;
* facilitating the EU advocacy work on homelessness among mobile EU citizens so as to create consensus around proposals for revision of the existing framework;
* developing a litigation strategy;
* collecting and transferring expertise to relevant professionals as well as to destitute mobile EU citizens.

**Activities**

The activities include:

* the drafting of a legal guide on the EU acquis related to access to social benefits and expulsions of destitute mobile EU citizens;
* a fitness check of Belgian, British and German legislations with regard to access to social benefits and expulsions of destitute mobile EU citizens;
* 3 partners’ meetings (in Brussels, Berlin and London);
* 3 steering group meetings (in Brussels);
* 2 info sessions for EU stakeholders (in Brussels);
* the drafting of 3 friendly guide for users (BE, DE, UK)
* 3 trainings for professionals – ½ day for social workers, ½ day for lawyers and public authorities (In Brussels, Berlin and London);
* a final event to present the outcomes.

Through these activities we expect: to gather evidence of unlawful restrictions of freedom of movement or of bad implementation of the existing EU acquis and to develop the appropriate litigation strategy that would help countering restrictive interpretations and tackling bad implementation; to provide EU Institutions with concrete and enforceable proposals for revision of the existing framework; to provide professionals with the necessary knowledge on how to support destitute mobile EU citizens; to provide destitute mobile EU citizens with a user-friendly guide that can assist their social inclusion and way out of destitution.

**Methodology**

The first phase of the project is the research and monitoring stage on which the remaining activities will build upon. The drafting of the legal guide by FEANTSA will be the preparatory activity that will steer the work done by national partners, with the help of legal experts, to the monitoring work that will put into effect through the national fitness checks. The legal guide will focus on one target group, which is destitute mobile EU citizens, and will deal with two main issues, namely access to social benefits and expulsions. The guide will be used by FEANTSA and by all stakeholders working on destitution among mobile EU citizens to have a solid basis on which perform national fitness checks (also beyond the three Member States on which we would focus the project’s activities) and better calibrate their lobbying efforts.

The second phase of the project will be structured in three main pillars: 1) EU advocacy; 2) litigation and 3) information.

1. EU advocacy will build on existing work done and on the research and monitoring phase. The objective of this pillar is to create consensus around an effective and durable strategy; it will start with the presentation of the research and monitoring phase and end with proposals for revision of the existing legal framework on free movement. A steering group will be set up to monitor the quality of the project and to support the EU advocacy work.
2. The national fitness checks will also serve as a basis to develop an adequate litigation strategy, which will include activities at EU level, to report repeated bad practices, and at national level, to complaint against individual cases of unlawful deportations or restrictive access to social benefits. The litigation strategy will be coordinated by FEANTSA and will build on the work of the 3 national legal experts who will have also drafted the fitness checks for our national project partners.
3. In this pillar, we aim at disseminating through different tools and as broadly as possible information concerning what destitute mobile EU citizens are entitled to, considering the different situations they might be in (active, former active, first time jobseeker, inactive). 3 user-friendly guides, one per each country, will be drafted by national project’s partners and disseminated among the beneficiaries of homelessness service providers – these guides will help destitute mobile EU citizens to be aware of their rights and find the appropriate support. Each national project partner will develop training modules that will serve as material to organise trainings for professionals working with the target group (social workers but also lawyers and public authorities). These trainings will enable professionals to quickly develop support strategies for destitute mobile EU citizens.

A final event will be organised in Brussels to present the outcomes of each of the three main pillars.