



FEANTSA Flash  
January 2008

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## FEANTSA News

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- ▶ **Housing solutions for people who are homeless: Annual Theme 2008 questionnaire available online**  
[02/07/2008]

The FEANTSA Annual Theme 2008 will be "Housing Solutions for People who are homeless". This questionnaire aims to collect information from FEANTSA members about housing and homelessness in all Member States. The information will serve as the basis for the national reports which will be prepared by the AC member of each country. The information from all national reports will then be drawn together in the FEANTSA European Report 2008 and presented at the FEANTSA European Conference in Cardiff/UK on the 13-14<sup>th</sup> of November 2008.

If you are a FEANTSA member and would like to contribute to the national report from your country, please contact your national AC member. You will find the contact details of all AC members on the different countries webpages.

The questionnaire is available [here](#).

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- ▶ **FEANTSA members' campaign on European Parliament written declaration on ending street homelessness**  
[02/06/2008]

FEANTSA members from across Europe have taken action in order to convince MEPs from their countries to sign the Written Declaration on ending Street Homelessness (see article below).

In order to support its members, FEANTSA has created a webpage with background information and campaigning tools in the members' only section that might help to organise national campaigning activities regarding the written declaration.

If you are involved in this campaign, please let us know about any action you have taken in your country regarding the written declaration and also send us relevant press articles on this topic.

Access [webpage dedicated to the written declaration](#)

For more information, please contact Stefania Del Zotto: [Stefania.delzotto@feantsa.org](mailto:Stefania.delzotto@feantsa.org)

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- ▶ **European Health Policy Update** [07/02/2008]

In recent weeks, there have been several important developments as regards the work of the European Commission on Public Health and related areas. This brief overview is intended to highlight some recent policy developments that may be relevant to FEANTSA members working in different areas. Only a brief introduction and some relevant links are given here, however, for more details you can email: [Dearbhal.murphy@feantsa.org](mailto:Dearbhal.murphy@feantsa.org). This update will briefly highlight the following:

- New European Health Strategy to frame future EU action
- EU Public Health Programme 2008-2013
- Growing Momentum for European Action on TB in 2008
- Planned European Mental Health Strategy becomes a '½Mental Health Pact½'
- New European Strategy on Alcohol and Health
- DAPHNE III: Prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women and to protect victims and groups at risk
- Proposal for an EU Directive on Health Services: An Uncertain Future

The EU Health Policy Update is available [here](#).

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► **Staff changes in FEANTSA** [06/02/2008]

Dearbhal Murphy who has been working as Communications and as Policy Officer in FEANTSA for four years will be leaving the organisation. As from mid-March 2008 she will become Deputy Secretary General for the International Federation of Actors.

Staff responsibilities have therefore shuffled within the FEANTSA team.

- Silke Paasche who is currently Communications Officer will become Policy Officer. She will be responsible for the Employment and the Participation working group.
- Policy Officer Stefania Del Zotto will be responsible for the Housing Rights and the Health and Social Protection working group.
- Policy Officer Liz Gosme will be responsible for the Data Collection working group, the EU strategy on Social Protection and Social Inclusion as well as for the issue of Social Services of General Interest.

FEANTSA is currently recruiting a new Communications Officer (see below).

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► **FEANTSA recruits Communications Officer** [05/02/2008]

**FEANTSA** is currently recruiting a **Communications Officer (full-time)**

The Communications Officer will:

- Produce a triannual magazine and monthly email news flash
- Further develop and maintain FEANTSA's website
- Develop and coordinate FEANTSA's campaigns
- Further develop and manage relations with the press
- Increase FEANTSA's membership
- Develop policy work and lobbying activities of FEANTSA on the issue of migration.

Candidates should have the following skills and qualifications:

- Perfect command of written and spoken English and fluency in French. Any other language would be an asset. (People with insufficient language skills, please refrain from applying)
- Outstanding analytical and drafting skills
- Excellent knowledge of information technologies
- Relevant university education
- Commitment to and understanding of the fight against homelessness
- Knowledge of EU policy in the field of migration would be an advantage

Please send CV and letter of application in English by email to:  
[freek.spinnewijn@feantsa.org](mailto:freek.spinnewijn@feantsa.org)

Closing date for applications is **15 February 2008**. Interviews will take place in late February. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Please explain in your letter to what extent you fulfil the conditions described above. Please also answer the [brief questionnaire](#). Standard application letters will be disregarded.

The job will be based in Brussels and will require regular travel abroad. Salary will be according to prevailing norm in the European NGO sector, plus extra- legal benefits.

FEANTSA is an equal opportunities employer.

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► **EU terms explained - new FEANTSA glossary** [31/01/2008]

FEANTSA offers you a glossary of European terms. It is divided into two parts, a general glossary on social policy of European Union and a glossary focusing on social inclusion terms. These keywords should help improve understanding and interpretation of various reports, documents and research produced by FEANTSA and the European Union. If there are other terms you wish to see in these glossaries, please contact Liz Gosme [liz.gosme@feantsa.org](mailto:liz.gosme@feantsa.org)

You can access the glossaries on the [FEANTSA website](#).

## News from the European Union

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► **New transnational exchange project on homelessness: Mphasis 2008-2009** [02/07/2008]

Mphasis stands for "Mutual Progress on Homelessness through Advancing and Strengthening Information Systems". This is a two-year project mutual learning project on developing homelessness information systems, coordinated by the University of Dundee, and involving 20 countries. Homelessness strategies are currently being developed in most EU member states, and discussions on homelessness measurement are an integral part of this process. Therefore Mphasis will serve to facilitate discussions by providing a European perspective and information on the homelessness measurement methods used in different EU countries.

The project will be launched in Budapest on Friday 14 March. It is divided into two strands. The first strand is the Dissemination strand, which will focus on mutual learning on homelessness measurement and will be implemented through 20 national Mphasis meetings organised in all the countries involved in the project. The second strand is the Research strand, which will examine different measurement methods in depth and feed into national Mphasis meetings.

The results of the Mphasis project and the national Mphasis meetings will be presented at the European closing conference of Mphasis (end 2009), which will be open to all.

For more information about the project and which EU countries are taking part, contact Liz Gosme [liz.gosme@feantsa.org](mailto:liz.gosme@feantsa.org)

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► **European Parliament: Written Declaration on ending Street Homelessness** [02/06/2008]

The cross-party written declaration on ending street homelessness, registered in December 2007 and open for MEP signature until March 2008, had gathered 197 signatures at the end of January.

This encouraging result seems to suggest that there is a genuine interest and commitment among MEPs to end street homelessness in Europe. However, more efforts are needed. In order to be successful, the declaration has to be signed by the majority of MEPs (approx. 400).

FEANTSA would like to take this opportunity to thank MEPs who have signed the written declaration already and encourage other MEPs to do so.

Many initiatives are currently being implemented by FEANTSA, its members and their partners both at national and European level to raise MEP awareness on homelessness, an unacceptable though ongoing violation of fundamental rights. In this context, a photography exhibition titled "Cris silencieux" by Philippe Gabel will be available during the EP February plenary session in Strasbourg,

Further information can be found on FEANTSA's [web page devoted to the declaration](#).

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► **European Parliament's call for ending child homelessness** [02/05/2008]

The European Parliament recently adopted a report on "An EU strategy on the rights of the child" which calls for the EU to set itself the objective of ensuring that there are no homeless children or street children in the EU. The own-initiative report, drafted for the Civil Liberties Committee by Roberta Angellili is the European Parliament's response to the Commission Communication of 4 July 2006 titled "[Towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child](#)".

The report restates the European Parliament's opposition to all forms of violence against children and calls for a specific budget heading for their rights, with which to fund work required by the strategy. Regarding homeless children the report takes the view that the EU should set itself the objective of ensuring that there are no homeless children or street children in the EU.

What is more, the report calls for appropriate and targeted measures to be taken to assist homeless children and street children, since most of them are badly traumatised and socially excluded, do not receive formal education or health care, are particularly vulnerable to becoming the victims of human trafficking (such as prostitution, organ trafficking and illegal adoption), drug addiction and crime or are often forced to beg.

The report as well as other EP reports relevant for homelessness are available on the [FEANTSA website](#).

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► **Employment for people who are homeless: Results of EQUAL projects available online** [02/04/2008]

The aim of the [EQUAL programme](#) has been to promote the employment of people who face disadvantages and discrimination in the labour market. Most of the projects funded by EQUAL have come or will be coming to an end soon. The key outcomes of two transnational partnerships that specifically looked at employment for people who are homeless are now available on their websites. The outcomes include policy papers, research documents, reports and good practice guidelines.

Project website 4 inclusion: [www.4inclusion.org](http://www.4inclusion.org) (Budapest, London, Madrid, Paris)

See [outcomes and documents](#)

Project website Home@Work: [www.home-at-work.org](http://www.home-at-work.org) (Czech Republic, Netherlands, Poland)

See [outcomes and documents](#)

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► **Participation in the 2008-2011 round of national reporting on social inclusion policies** [04/02/2008]

Every 2-3 years, the 27 countries of the EU submit national strategic reports to the European Commission on progress in their national anti-poverty strategies. In September 2008, all countries will submit a national strategic report for 2008-2011. If you would like to get involved in the preparation of the National strategic reports in your country over the next few months to draw attention to homeless policy developments, please do not hesitate to contact the person responsible for the report in your country. The contact details are available on the European Commission [website](#).

For any questions about the national reporting process, please contact the FEANTSA office at [liz.gosme@feantsa.org](mailto:liz.gosme@feantsa.org)

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► **Studies on social inclusion and social protection are underway in 6 candidate countries to the EU** [04/02/2008]

The European Commission has commissioned studies on social protection and social inclusion in a number of candidate countries to provide up-to-date and relevant analysis and information on the structure of the social protection system of each country, the extent and pattern of poverty and social exclusion and the envisaged plans (where appropriate) for reforms of pension and healthcare systems. The countries in question are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia.

See more information on the [FEANTSA website](#).

See more on the [European Commission website](#).

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**► Denmark: Project Udenfor opens shelter for people from Eastern European countries** [02/06/2008]

An increasing number of Eastern Europeans who came to Denmark in order to seek work find themselves living in the streets. In response to this new phenomenon, FEANTSA member projekt UDENFOR - in cooperation with a number of organisations - established a shelter for people from Eastern European countries.

Many Eastern Europeans come to Denmark in order to find work and to look for a better life but not everyone is successful. As many do not wish to go back to their home country, they end up living in the streets. Many are undocumented migrants and therefore authorities will not provide them with the simplest social assistance. This is why project Udenfor and other homeless organisations in Denmark decided to set up a shelter that specifically targets people from Eastern European countries. The shelter opened on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2008.

For more information visit the [Project Udenfor website](#) and view [Danish TV2 programme](#) about the shelter.

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**► FIOpsd urges the Italian Parliament and institutions to take action against homelessness** [06/02/2008]

In January 2008 the Italian FEANTSA member FIOpsd has issued a press release urging the Italian Parliament and institutions to take appropriate measures to combat homelessness.

The press release points out that living on the street is not a choice, that it means being constantly faced with insecurity and exposed to early death all over the year. It highlights that emergency should not be seen as the mere result of winter season conditions, but should rather be linked to the structural lack of appropriate policies to tackle homelessness.

FIOpsd welcomes the recent and encouraging initiatives taken by the Italian Ministry for social solidarity: although still insufficient, they show that the need for further action has been acknowledged. In this context, ISTAT, Caritas Italiana and FIOpsd have been given the task to start a joint research on the profile and number of people who are homeless in Italy.

Also, a draft law has been proposed, which aims at setting up a National Fund to Combat Extreme Poverty. This is a first concrete step, which needs to be now approved by the Italian Parliament. FIOpsd calls therefore the Italian Parliament to adopt the draft law. It also urges other Italian institutions to take appropriate actions to combat homelessness at the different levels.

To read the full text of the press release (in Italian), please click [here](#)

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**► France: Homeless organisations criticise government proposals for people who are homeless** [05/02/2008]

Homeless organisations have criticised the latest proposals of the French government for people who are homeless. The government announced an additional amount of 250 million euros for the housing of people who are homeless. However, homeless organisations have estimated that between 1, 5 and 1, 7 billion euros would be necessary in 2008.

Following consultations with the homeless sector in France, a government report has been prepared by French deputy Etienne Pinte which includes proposals for immediate government action. In addition to an immediate increase of credits by 25 % for the housing of people who are homeless and the rehabilitation of inadequate housing, the report also proposes the creation of a "super-prefet" who would coordinate activities in relation to homelessness.

Homeless organisations highlighted in a common press release that these measures are insufficient in order to tackle homelessness effectively. Inter alia they point out that:

- While the number of inadequate housing is of 600,000, the government will only take measures to rehabilitate 100,000 houses over the next four years.
- While there are several thousand people living in the streets in France, the plan does not intend to create any additional shelter places for people experiencing homelessness.
- While targets regarding the creation of social housing have not been met in 2007, there is no political will to reach the targets for 2008.

Homeless organisations in France have announced a national mobilisation day for the 21st of February 2008.

To read the government report in French, [click here](#).

To read the press release in French, [click here](#).

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▶ **Homelessness in Romania: Interview with Ian Tilling from Casa Ioana** [05/02/2008]

In a recent interview, Ian Tilling, founder of the Casa Ioana Homeless Shelter talks about the worsening problems faced by people experiencing homelessness in Bucharest and the difficulties of securing affordable accommodation in the Romanian capital.

Read the full interview in English [here](#).

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▶ **Klimaka: new information leaflet** [04/02/2008]

Greek FEANTSA member Klimaka has published a new information leaflet on its services. It includes information in English and French.

See information leaflet [here](#).

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▶ **UK: OSW and Cardboard Citizens develop Homeless Customer Charter** [04/02/2008]

User involvement and client feedback is a fundamental part of OSW's programme of service delivery. However, involvement does not necessarily mean empowerment, and research has found that, traditionally seen as clients or service users, people who are homeless are rarely able to directly impact on their services.

Created by homeless customers, the Homeless Customer Charter establishes a baseline of customer expectations. The Homeless Customer Charter is a visible tool for homeless customers and staff, to personalise for particular projects or organisations.

Download [Homeless Customer Charter](#)

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▶ **Homeless Link: New Central and Eastern European Project** [31/01/2008]

The majority of migrants from Central and Eastern Europe successfully obtain employment and accommodation in the UK. However, restrictions on entitlements mean that options are very limited for the significant minority who find themselves homeless. Homeless Link is working to develop an action plan to reduce levels of rough sleeping among people from Central and Eastern Europe.

In 2006 Homeless Link undertook a project to understand better the issues faced by homeless A8 nationals and the agencies responding to their needs. This included a snapshot survey of London day centres, outreach teams and night shelters and follow-on interviews with providers who have developed specialised services.

Funding has now been granted to take forward a policy project around the issues highlighted in that report, to include A8 and also A2 (Romanian and Bulgarian) nationals. The project aims to work with government departments, the homelessness sector and a wide range of other partners to develop an action plan to reduce levels of rough sleeping among people from Central and Eastern Europe.

The project will focus on rough sleeping in London, but it is expected that the solutions identified in the action plan will be relevant to other areas across the country.

For more information please contact Oliver Hilbery [oliver.hilbery@homelesslink.org.uk](mailto:oliver.hilbery@homelesslink.org.uk) and visit the [project website](#).

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▶ **Hungary: Leonardo staff exchange - BMSZKI is looking for partners** [31/01/2008]

BMSZKI (the Budapest Methodological Centre of Social Policy and Its Institutions - [www.bmszki.hu](http://www.bmszki.hu)) is applying for funding for its European staff exchange program under the EU Leonardo da Vinci Life Long Learning Initiative.

BMSZKI is a public organization and the largest homeless service provider in Budapest. We are currently looking for partner organizations to host one or two of our staff for practical training/transnational work experience for a period of 4-10 weeks. We have just finished out first round of such a project, where we sent 8 colleagues to 6 different European cities (Aberdeen, Copenhagen, Dublin, Helsinki, London and Paris) for 9-15 weeks. We believe that it was a mutual learning experience, and both parties gained from these internships.

We are trying to match organizations and services with the best candidates: people who are enthusiastic, who have a few years of work experience in similar Hungarian projects, who have a degree in social work and who have learnt the language of the receiving country (or some third language agreed upon) well enough to be able to communicate with their hosts on the telephone.

More information is available [here](#).

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► **Shelter's publications catalogue 2008 - out now!** [31/01/2008]

Order your FREE copy of Shelter's new publications catalogue, full of essential titles on housing and homelessness, including good practice, policy and research reports, advice guides, legal subscription titles and ROOF magazine. [Click here](#) to order your free copy.

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► **UK: OSW awarded funds to deliver their Ethical, Enterprise and Employment Network** [31/01/2008]

UK FEANTSA member Off the Streets and into Work (OSW) has been awarded a stage two grant by the Big Lottery Fund to deliver their exciting new national programme of work: the Ethical, Enterprise and Employment Network (3xE Network). The project need was identified through a combination of practical experience, pilot work, consultation and research. For over 10 years, OSW has managed and led a partnership of agencies delivering education, training and employment services, including social enterprise and supported employment initiatives.

The project will set up a network group to bring together organisations using social enterprise and/or supported employment models and organisations working with unemployed people who are homeless or at risk: to improve working practice; to develop and share resources; and to increase sustainability by maximising profit and by securing public and corporate funding.

The 3xE Network will operate in three English regions in its first year South West, London and East Midlands - and plans to expand over years two and three, representing all nine English regions by year four. It will target regional infrastructure groups and local/regional employment, training and homelessness organisations.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the project, please contact Linda Butcher: [lindabutcher@osw.org.uk](mailto:lindabutcher@osw.org.uk)

## Homelessness in the Headlines

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► **Czech Republic: Prague to set up police unit against people who are homeless** [02/06/2008]

The Prague City Hall wants to establish a special city police squad to reinforce repression against people who are homeless, Prague deputy mayor Jiri Janecek announced. The aim of this initiative is to make people experiencing homelessness leave Prague or integrate with society. The city said that they would find a job for every homeless person who shows interest in work.

Some social workers, however, say repression will not solve the problem of people who are homeless. Pavel Ondrak, director of the asylum house and social services centre in Prague, said repression will only deepen the problem. "Homeless people know very well that they can work. But the problem has deeper roots. Every client has to be approached individually."

According to last year's census in Prague, there are about 2000 people experiencing homelessness in the capital. Around 1000 are rough sleepers while the other half sleeps in shelters run by homeless organisations.

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► **Estonians face losing homes under property restitution law** [02/06/2008]

Thousands of people in Estonia are facing the prospect of eviction from the homes they thought they owned, as a period of grace for turning property over to pre-World War II owners draws to a close.

Sixteen years ago, newly independent Estonia was faced with the task of untangling the legacy of five decades of communist rule from Moscow. After World War II, tens of thousands of buildings and apartments were confiscated from their pre-war owners, and officers from the Red Army and the KGB, the Soviet-era secret service, moved in. Many former owners were imprisoned or deported to Siberia. But by 1991, many of the homes had new residents who had bought them during the Soviet era. After the restitution law was adopted in 1993, such individuals became so-called "forced tenants" living in properties handed back to pre-1940 owners or their heirs. To give them a buffer, forced tenants received the temporary legal right to stay put, benefiting from low rental agreements. Estonian lawmakers gradually stretched the period of grace to 13 years starting from the date property was returned. For thousands of tenants that time is up, and owners will be entitled to request a market price rent or end the tenancy outright.

Evicted tenants can apply to the state for a one-off relocation aid payment of 5,000 euros but only if they do not move into municipal housing. However, the sum is not very high on Estonia's real estate market. Property prices have spiralled tenfold since Estonian independence, thanks to an economic boom stoked by Estonia's entry into the European Union in 2004.

► **Rough sleepers count in Hungary** [02/06/2008]

The number of rough sleepers in Budapest fell to 700-1,500 from 3,000 three years ago, according to a street count organised by FEANTSA member Menhely Foundation and other homeless organisations in Hungary over the weekend of 2-3 February 2008.

On a single night of Saturday to Sunday, volunteers and social workers registered some 300 rough sleepers in the central districts of Budapest and about 400 beyond the Hungaria ring road, Guraly, employee of Menhely Foundation, said.

Based on the count, Menhely estimates that the number of people living in the streets was in a range of 700 to 1,500. The number fell from 3,000 in the last count taken in the winter of 2005. Guraly said the reason for the decline could be that people experiencing homelessness receive more care from social workers and sleep at one of the shelters in the capital, or that they are hiding out after pressure to keep them off the streets of the more affluent central districts.

Several other Hungarian cities participated in the rough sleepers count. A national estimate puts the total number of rough sleepers at 25,000-30,000.

## Publications

► **Abbé Pierre Foundation: Annual Report on the State of Bad Housing in France now available** [06/02/2008]

The Annual Report of the French Abbé Pierre Foundation "The State of Bad Housing in France" is now available. The Annual Report provides a comprehensive and in-depth analysis on bad housing conditions, the justiciable right to housing and housing policies in France. It is available for download (in French) on the [Abbé Pierre Foundation website](#).



**The FEANTSA Flash is supported by  
the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013).**

This programme was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon 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 and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

To that effect, PROGRESS purports at:

- providing analysis and policy advice on employment, social solidarity and gender equality policy areas;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in employment, social solidarity and gender equality policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

For more information see:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/progress/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.html)