



FEANTSA FLASH
June/July 2008

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FEANTSA News

▶ **ENHW Newsletter now online!** [23/07/2008]

The [summer 2008 edition of the ENHW newsletter](#), (FEANTSA's European Network of Homeless Health Workers) is now available online.

▶ **European Research Conference: The Hague, 19th September 2008** [23/07/2008]

Registration is now open for the next European Research Conference, which will be held in The Hague on 19th September 2008 on the theme of: 'Good Governance: the key to effective homelessness policies'.

The Conference is aimed at researchers in the area of homelessness, representatives from homelessness organisations, policy makers and other interested parties. The conference offers a unique opportunity for networking and transnational exchanges on the theme of governance.

Keynote speakers include Dr Judith Wolf, 'Policies and Challenges in reducing Homelessness in the Netherlands', Prof. Denis Culhane 'Overview of the Dynamics of Homelessness in the US', and Bill Edgar, 'Reflections on Homelessness Research in Europe'.

Delegates will have the chance to attend one of four workshops being held in the afternoon:

- Effective strategies to combat homelessness arising from domestic violence
- Participation of people who are homeless
- Prevention of homelessness
- Role of public policy

Additional information is available on the [FEANTSA website](#), or by contacting Christine Lambert at the FEANTSA office (Christine.Lambert@feantsa.org).

▶ **FEANTSA European Conference: People who are Homeless can be Housed, Cardiff, 13-14 November 2008** [23/07/2008]

This year, the FEANTSA European Conference is being organised in cooperation with Welsh FEANTSA member Shelter Cymru and will look at housing solutions for people who are homeless, offering an insight into successful practices from across Europe.

The FEANTSA European Conference will be an opportunity for representatives from homeless organisations, policy makers, housing experts and researchers to discuss key issues in relation to housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness.

Registration for the conference is now open, and full details including fees, the programme and travel to Cardiff are available on the [FEANTSA website](#).

To register, please download the [registration form](#), or contact Christine Lambert in the FEANTSA office (Christine.lambert@feantsa.org)

► **FEANTSA launches consultation of national statistics offices on 2011 population and housing census** [23/07/2008]

The Data collection working group of FEANTSA has launched a consultation of all national statistics offices on the 2011 housing and population census. According to the [EU regulation on population and housing census](#), all statistics offices have to collect information on **Housing arrangements**, namely on 4 categories (see [CES Recommendations](#) pp.136-137):

- people living in conventional dwellings,
- people living in non-conventional dwellings,
- people living in institutions,
- people who have no usual place of residence

FEANTSA is particularly interested in plans to enumerate the fourth category on census night, "people who have no usual place of residence" as this mainly concerns homeless people. Some statistics offices already have clear intentions in this area. The aim of this consultation is to collect information and facilitate exchanges between statistics offices on existing homelessness counting methods. For more information, please contact the FEANTSA office at liz.gosme@feantsa.org

► **FEANTSA sends letter to President Barroso** [23/07/2008]

FEANTSA sent a letter to the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, in response to the key priorities outlined in the [Commission staff working document](#) on a new social vision for the 21st Century Europe (based on the results of the [2007 social realities stocktaking](#) consultation). FEANTSA members across Europe reported back extensively on the re-emergence of extreme forms of poverty like homelessness, and were glad to see that homelessness has been taken into account in proposals for the renewed social agenda under the priority area of "Investing in active inclusion and non-discrimination". However, it appears from the Commission staff working document that "active inclusion" is to replace the poverty/social inclusion agenda which is astonishing given the current European consensus on [social priorities](#) (including homelessness and housing exclusion). FEANTSA therefore called on the European Commission to integrate these social priorities more clearly in the renewed social agenda. FEANTSA also drew attention to the European Parliament's written declaration on ending street homelessness in Europe.

See the FEANTSA letter on the [FEANTSA website](#).

► **Housing Rights: Breakthrough Ruling by the Council of Europe** [23/07/2008]

Last June, the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), the Council of Europe body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the European Social Charter, reached the unanimous decision that France is in violation of the Charter with regards to housing rights. This follows the collective complaint lodged by FEANTSA in November 2006, arguing that despite ambitious laws and policies, France had failed to effectively implement the right to housing for all, especially for the most vulnerable.

The ECSR has ruled that France is not in conformity with Article 31 on six grounds. These include the poor implementation of, or insufficient progress in, existing measures relating to: inadequate housing conditions; preventing evictions; reducing homelessness; providing social housing aimed at the most deprived; social housing allocation; and discrimination against Travellers. In particular, the ECSR found that *"measures currently in place to reduce the number of homeless are insufficient, both in quantitative and qualitative terms"*.

The ruling addresses and clarifies a number of essential elements concerning State obligations in the promotion and implementation of the right to housing. It will certainly contribute to the building of international standards, which should lead to a more effective implementation in these rights by European States.

Says FEANTSA Director, Freek Spinnewijn, "FEANTSA welcomes this landmark ruling and will use this tool to encourage

other European States to guarantee the right to housing to everyone. Policies should first and foremost target the most vulnerable.”

On 2 July, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution, thus closing the procedure.

More information on the collective complaint and media coverage are available on [FEANTSA's website](#).

▶ **Key messages from European Seminar on Strategies to End Homelessness** [23/07/2008]

The seminar, hosted by the Committee of the Regions, was opened by Gerhard Stahl (Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions) and Jérôme Vignon (Director for social protection and social inclusion in DG EMPL) who both underlined the importance of transnational cooperation in the area of homelessness. Since most problems related to homelessness are dealt with at local level, it is important to allow local authorities to develop a European forum where they can regularly exchange practices and ideas on effective ways to reduce homelessness. Speakers at the seminar focused on some of the obstacles to ending homelessness as well as the success factors. For more information about the discussions on strategies to end homelessness and the key conclusions of the seminar, see full seminar report, speakers, participants list at the following link: <http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/pg.asp?Page=981>

▶ **New FEANTSA members!** [23/07/2008]

We are delighted to announce that three new members have joined FEANTSA. They are:

- Kings of the Street, based in Ljubljana, Slovenia
- YMCA Valletta, based in Valletta, Malta
- Ersta Diakoni, based in Stockholm, Sweden

We would like to wish them a warm welcome to FEANTSA. More information on these three organisations, plus contact details can be found on the [FEANTSA website](#), under ‘about our members.’

News from the European Union

▶ **European Commission publishes study on the impact of EU legislation on social and health services of general interest** [23/07/2008]

The European Commission has published a study on the impact of EU legislation on social and health services of general interest, such as social integration services (which include homeless services).

The European Union is aiming to create a [single and open European market](#) of goods and services. Therefore EU legislation has been adopted to break down national barriers and ensure fair competition between services within the internal market. EU internal market and competition rules are also applicable to all services of general interest which are “economic” in nature such as energy services, telecommunications, audiovisual broadcasting and postal services, water supply, waste management, education, etc. Social and health services of general interest (SHSGI) are seen as part of the wider category of services of general interest, however it has been argued that social and health services of general interest have a specific mission of protection of fundamental rights, ensuring social cohesion and social protection – all missions which are potentially obstructed by EU competition rules.

The study published by the European Commission has collected facts and illustrations to improve knowledge on questions concerning the application of EU rules to the development of social services. The study covers a broad range of topics relevant for all SHSGI but also studied five sectors more in detail: social integration services (including homeless services), social housing, childcare, labour market services for disadvantaged groups, and long-term care for older people.

See full study here: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/docs/social_protection/2008/study_social_health_services_en.pdf

▶ **European Commission unveils sweeping new European social package** [23/07/2008]

A comprehensive social package unveiled on the second day of the French Presidency, aimed at tackling discrimination in all areas has received mixed reactions. Whilst MEP's warmly welcomed the new measures, many business federations and civil society groups remarked that it falls short of what is necessary.

The large-scale package, containing proposals in the areas of employment, education and health, comes three weeks after Irish citizens rejected the EU's Reform Treaty and is seen as an attempt to reassure Europeans that Brussels cares about citizens' needs and can act efficiently. "It's important to us to understand the message of the Irish voters," said Francois Fillon, the prime minister of France, which began its six-month EU presidency on July 1. "They're telling us: fewer discussions about institutions, more concrete solutions for the problems in Europe."

The key elements of the package are the directives on anti-discrimination and European Works Councils respectively. Ensuring equal rights regardless of skin color, gender, sexual orientation, religion and handicaps is the driving force behind the package. The new measures, which have yet to be put into effect by the individual member states, go well beyond the EU's existing handful of anti-discrimination laws, which were passed several years ago.

In addition to anti-discrimination laws, the package also aims to break down inter-European borders for health care by ensuring that health insurers pay for services in other European countries. The patient's health care service would foot the bill for non-hospital treatment abroad, but only up to the amount the treatment would cost in the home state. Some limitations apply, for example on major surgeries, to prevent health care tourism - which is a concern in some member countries like Britain.

However, French President Nicolas Sarkozy has already made it clear that social policy will not be a top priority during his country's EU presidency. Issues like the reform treaty, immigration, defence, climate change, and energy supply will take centre stage during the French Presidency.

► **European Pact on Mental Health and Wellbeing** [23/07/2008]

An EU High-Level Conference on mental health took place on the 13 June 2008, establishing a 'European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being.' Although disappointment was voiced by some NGO's that the 'pact' is non-binding, they welcome the fact that it recognizes mental health as a right, and identifies the need for more research, political commitment and the involvement of all stakeholders.

The pact calls for action in five priority areas: Prevention of Suicide and Depression, Mental Health in Youth and Education, Mental Health in Workplace Settings, Mental Health in Older People, and Combating Stigma and Social Exclusion.

For more information, please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/mental_health_en.htm

► **First MPHASIS meeting in Norway** [23/07/2008]

After the launch meeting of the MPHASIS project in March 2008, the first of the twenty national MPHASIS meetings took place in Norway on 13 June 2008. This was a one-day meeting coordinated by the Norwegian State Housing Bank with all relevant Norwegian stakeholders present, including Statistics Norway and the associations of Norwegian municipalities KS and KBL. The meeting participants discussed the state of play in Norway regarding homelessness data, data collection methods, and the roles of different authorities and organisations in homelessness data collection. This served to determine follow-up action to develop a homelessness monitoring information strategy in Norway. Information about this meeting (agenda, meeting report, supporting documents) will shortly be available on the [MPHASIS website](#).

► **France unveils pact on EU wide immigration** [23/07/2008]

EU Interior Ministers meeting in Cannes have tentatively endorsed French President Nicolas Sarkozy's bid to establish common policies on immigration, refugees and asylum in the newly unveiled European immigration pact, the first big move since France took over Presidency of the EU on July 1st.

The endorsement comes after Sarkozy scrapped or watered down the most contentious elements, including the "obligatory integration contract", defining how immigrants would have to behave across Europe, to make it more acceptable to Spain and other countries that initially held objections to the pact.

The French scheme aims to make it easier for the EU to attract highly qualified immigrants to fill labour shortages in Europe, to beef up policing of the EU's borders, to establish common European refugee and asylum policies by 2010, and to expel illegal immigrants.

Last month the EU ended three years of argument over the deportation of illegal immigrants, estimated at 8 million in the EU, by finally agreeing legislation on returning illegal immigrants. Under the law, people who have entered the EU illegally can be detained for 18 months and, once deported, barred from re-entering the EU for five years. This law has been bitterly attacked outside the EU, particularly in Latin America.

The French proposals focus on five areas - regulating legal immigration, returning illegal immigrants, strengthening EU

borders, "partnership" with the countries of origin of the migrants, and asylum policy. On the latter, the French are pushing for the EU's first "asylum support office" to be up and running within 18 months. The French pact builds on new EU laws such as the "Return directive", and other drafts from the European commission such as the contested "blue card" scheme, modelled on the US green card and aimed at attracting highly-skilled workers.

► **Latest Eurobarometer highlights citizens' concerns about affordability of housing** [23/07/2008]

The latest Flash Eurobarometer survey report has been published, highlighting the expectations of European citizens regarding the social reality in 20 years time. In preparing the report, over 25,000 individuals were randomly selected and interviewed across the EU between the 9th and 13th of April. The results showed that almost half of people interviewed felt that life would be worse in 20 years time than today, with those from new Member States most optimistic about the future.

The main challenges identified by respondents were the affordability of housing, with most citizens believing that it will be more difficult to find and access affordable housing in the future. This majority was reflected in the results from all Member States, Cyprus being top of the list with 87% of people agreeing with the statement, followed by Belgium (85%) and the UK and Luxembourg (82%).

Additional concerns established in the survey include: an increase in social inequality, reduced availability of affordable medical assistance and lack of employment opportunities even for the most suitably educated and qualified.

► **New call for proposals on social inclusion issued by the European Commission** [23/07/2008]

A new call for proposals has been issued by DG Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission. This open call for proposals aims **to promote debates at national level** to support the reinforcement of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on social protection and social inclusion in PROGRESS-participating countries with a view to promote an inclusive society.

To this end the Commission would like to promote debates on how to best tackle poverty and social exclusion and on the potential and value-added of EU action in this field. An amount of approximately EUR 4.9 million will be available for this call. It is envisaged that around 10 projects will be selected. Community financial aid granted to each project will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs. The applicant should guarantee the co-financing in cash of the remaining 20%. Contributions in kind are not accepted. Activities should start between 1/12/2008 and 28/02/2009, for a maximum duration of 24 months and minimum duration of 18 months. The deadline for submitting proposals is 18 August 2008.

For more information on the call, please consult the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=3406

News from our Members

► **Homeless Link Action Plan for Migrant rough sleepers** [23/07/2008]

UK FEANTSA member Homeless Link has launched an Action Plan backed by the Communities and Local Government (CLG) to reduce the number of people from Central and Eastern Europe sleeping rough in London.

The Action Plan builds on an earlier Homeless Link report written in 2006, in response to the growing concern about the number of migrants from these countries ending up homeless in London, with some day centres having to turn homeless people away as demand for services increased.

The Action Plan is focused on Central and Eastern Europeans who have no recourse to public funds, and is split into eight key areas of work, including the offer to return home to the country of origin return home along with tickets to facilitate this. Homeless Link will also develop training on the cultures of Central and Eastern European countries for the staff working in homelessness, substance abuse and local council services.

Jenny Edwards, Chief Executive of Homeless Link said that the support of the CLG was a great example of the third sector working in collaboration the Government. She added "however, the issue requires a wider response than the homelessness sector and this country. We can call on other government departments and to international agencies to demonstrate an equal commitment in tackling this issue."

Homeless Link is the national membership body for frontline homelessness agencies in England, statutory organisations and individuals or researchers interested in homelessness.

Homelessness in the Headlines

► **Samusocial Romania newsletter now available!** [23/07/2008]

The newsletter covering Samusocial Romania's activities from October 2007 – April 2008, is now available in French. Some of the main news items include the creation of a new, mobile psychiatric team which has been helping homeless people with mental health problems, the creation of a new sanitary facility, and the sad fact that 88 people died from the cold on the streets of Bucharest, in the month of December.

Please see here for the [newsletter](#) (in French).

► **CECODHAS supports homelessness agenda in new Vision Statement** [23/07/2008]

In the first of a two-stage celebration marking 20 years of the organisation, CECODHAS (European Network for the Promotion of Access to Decent Housing for All) held its General Assembly in Gothenburg, Sweden and used the occasion to elect a new president and adopt an agreed vision for Europe.

In the Vision Statement, CECODHAS asserts the need for the right to housing to be universally recognised and enforceable, and for a Europe-wide adoption of a commitment to end homelessness by 2015, with the necessary means made available for such a goal. The Common Vision Statement will guide the work of CECODHAS under the presidency of newly elected David Orr (of the English National Housing Federation). The vision is based on a Europe which "provides access to decent and affordable housing for all in communities which are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable."

CECODHAS is an NGO bringing together 46 regional and national federations from 19 EU Member States who in turn represent 39,000 public, voluntary and cooperative social housing enterprises providing over 21 million homes in the European Union.

► **Denmark: Care home for elderly homeless people opens** [23/07/2008]

A care home for elderly homeless people, The Arbejde Adlers Hus, has opened in Copenhagen. Run by several different organisations, the home aims to make life easier for older, homeless people and to help them maintain social contacts, which are crucial to their well-being.

For more information (in Danish) visit: <http://www.os-samraad.dk/projekt/eldre-hjemlose>

► **France: Disappointment at lack of progress with Action Plan on Homelessness** [23/07/2008]

Four months on from the unveiling of France's Action Plan to help homeless people and those living in insecure accommodation, only 3% of the measures laid out have been implemented.

In January 2008, France's Prime Minister, François Fillon, put forward 100 measures concerning housing and improved co-ordination to help those experiencing homelessness and in insecure housing. So far, only 12 measures have been looked at, and 3 have been put in place.

French NGO's working with homeless people have expressed their disappointment, and are increasingly concerned that the needs of 200.000 homeless people and 3 million people living in insecure housing will go unmet. There is also uncertainty as to when the 250 million euro that has been earmarked for the action plan will appear.

► **Ireland: Government considers new 5-year strategy to tackle homelessness** [23/07/2008]

The Irish government is considering a new five-year strategy to tackle homelessness which envisages a major shift towards the use of private-rented accommodation rather than emergency hostel beds. A draft version of the plan, "Homelessness – New Strategy", indicates that the Government hopes to eliminate long-term homelessness by ensuring homeless people are not in emergency accommodation, such as shelters or BBs, for longer than six months. The strategy also notes that emergency accommodation costs at least twice as much as ordinary housing, and can contribute to people becoming caught in a cycle of homelessness.

The strategy suggests that local authorities and homeless agencies should consider using more private-rented accommodation while bearing in mind issues such as access to support services and the need to avoid concentrating vulnerable people in one area.

However, the 50-page strategy does not contain any details on how much funding will be needed, or whether Government money will be ring-fenced to ensure it is implemented.

Already this year the Health Service Authority (HSE) has frozen funding for homeless services at last year's levels; Homeless agencies in Dublin say, despite progress in recent years, they are now turning away dozens of homeless

people every night because their emergency beds are full.

► **Netherlands: New research project on Youth Homelessness underway** [23/07/2008]

On May 1st 2008, **MOVISIE** (the Netherlands' Centre for Social Development) embarked on a research project entitled "*Combating Social Exclusion among Young Homeless Populations (CSEYHP): A Comparative Investigation of Homeless paths among local white and ethnic groups, migrant young men & women and Appropriate Reinsertion Methods*".

The three year project is funded by the 7th Research Framework Programme of the European Union and is being coordinated by MOVISIE in conjunction with 3 partners: the London Metropolitan University (UK), Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia (CIES-ISCTE, Portugal) and the Univerzita Karlova Department of Civil Society Studies (Czech Republic).

Underpinning the project is the assertion that levels of youth homelessness vary between European countries in relation to the patterns of support that are available to them. In northern Europe, interventionist programmes have been developed to work with homeless populations and this project aims to test the usefulness of two of these programmes; the Dutch 8-Steps model and the Safe Moves model in the UK – in relation to homeless youth.

The project enlists the active participation of young people as sources of information from their own lives and backgrounds, as co-researchers in interviewing their peers and as contributors to the national workshops that will take place in the four countries to assess and discuss the research findings. At the end of the three year project the results will be presented at an international conference.

For further information on the project visit www.movisie.nl/homelessyouth

► **Netherlands: Significant drop in homelessness figures** [23/07/2008]

Levels of homelessness in the South of the Netherlands have fallen significantly thanks to a successful strategy by the District Council. The number of households classified as homeless dropped from 175 in 2003-4 to just 29 in 2006-7 and this has been attributed to effective prevention work by council officers.

The second homelessness strategy has recently been released for consultation, with the new policy building on the successes of the first by appointing a homeless prevention officer, offering education to young people and measures to raise awareness of the support options available to people who are homeless.

George Aley, Chairman of the Council's Policy Development panel is impressed with the progress made. He said, "Our homeless record is probably second to none. The fact that we are showing 29 homeless people at this time is a credit to our prevention methods."

► **Slovakia: Mayors propose housing for 'unadaptable people'** [23/07/2008]

A group of mayors from Central Slovakia met in Ziar nad Hronom in early June to put forward a proposal for housing 'unadaptable people' in special community centres. The proposal comes as a number of mayors do not think that social housing should be built for the 'unadaptable' with municipal budgets. Says Ivan Cernaj, mayor of Ziar nad Hronom, 'the tenants soon after moving in often destroy the new flats....It is impossible to build flats for them and leave them to their own fate.' Eva Cirenova, mayor of Revuca, concurs 'in the past election term, we built some houses. It is now occupied by rent-defaulters who continually destroy it.'

The mayors propose that community centres, in which 'unadaptable' people would pay some basic expenditures, be staffed by trained social workers, financed by the state and overseen by the Association of the Towns and Villages of Slovakia.

► **UK: Housing crisis blamed for rise in numbers of people sleeping rough in Scotland** [23/07/2008]

The recent rise in numbers of rough sleepers in the centre of Edinburgh has been attributed to the drip-down effect of the housing crisis in the city.

Following the release of a report from the Homeless Outreach Project, it has been said the lack of affordable housing is one reason why more people at the bottom of the chain are being pushed out on to the streets. After a comprehensive headcount of rough sleepers, it has emerged that the number living on the streets has risen to 39 this year in the city centre, an increase of 16 from last year.

Labour councillor and affordable housing campaigner Gordon Munro said the crisis was one of two reasons he felt were responsible for the issue. "As a city we are struggling to house the homeless and struggling to house the citizens, and until we can get more Government funding this situation isn't going to change. The housing crisis certainly affects these figures, and another is the same capital city effect that London experiences. People come here from elsewhere and know they will get services other local authorities can't give them", he said.

► **Ukraine: Shelter for homeless women closed down in Kiev** [23/07/2008]

One of two municipal shelters for homeless people in the city of Kiev has been closed down, due to lack of funding. Opened in 2003, the "centre for the social adaptation for homeless women" was a big help to women experiencing homelessness in Kiev. The only remaining facility now is the so-called House of Social Care – a night shelter which has been operational for the last two years.

The sole NGO dealing with the problem of homelessness in Kiev has also been refused city funding because of a lack of finances. The city has the highest levels of homelessness in the Ukraine. There are an estimated 12.000 people living on the streets of Kiev.

News from the United Nations

► **United Nations: Human Rights Council adopts Optional Protocol to the ICESCR** [23/07/2008]

On 18 June 2008 the Human Rights Council adopted by consensus an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which was adopted in 1966 and is the only major human rights treaty lacking a complaint procedure.

The Optional Protocol, which is the result of decades of work, should be considered as a significant achievement bringing one step closer the possibility of an international remedy mechanism for violations of economic, social and cultural rights. The UN General Assembly is expected to give its final approval by the end of the year. The Protocol will enter into force once it has been ratified by ten States.

Further information is available on the [UN web site](#) or the [International NGO Coalition for an Optional Protocol to the ICESCR web site](#).

Announcements

► **Junta de Andalucia seeking project partner** [24/07/2008]

The regional government of Andalucia (Junta de Andalucia), is applying for the EU open call for proposals VP/2008/015 on the 'Promotion of debates on social inclusion, in support of the reinforcement of the open method of coordination on social protection and social inclusion'.

The Junta de Andalucia project aims to promote debates at European level, concerning the situation of socially excluded groups (or at risk of exclusion), such as homeless people, Roma women, female victims of sexual exploitation etc. The project will develop a roadmap in order to analyse causes, the current situation and solutions to tackle these problems.

They are looking for partners to their project, especially from Portugal, Ireland, Romania, Sweden, Northern Italy, Poland, Lithuania and Finland.

More [information](#) is attached. Please contact Dolores Rincon Romero, (Dolores.rincon.ext@juntadeandalucia.es) if you are interested in participating.

► **Avoiding Repossession: UK Website Launched** [23/07/2008]

A UK website on how to avoid and deal with home repossession has been launched. Containing practical advice and features, it contains useful information on topics such as how to get help with mortgage payments, how to sell or remortgage your home, how to access housing benefits, etc.

<http://www.housingrepossessions.co.uk/aboutoursite.html>

Publications

► **Become a social landlord** [23/07/2008]

The French government is encouraging private owners to house people in difficulty and a new 14-page booklet, published by FAPIL (Federation of Associations for Promotion and Integration through housing) describes the different ways to combine profitability and solidarity through tax incentives and guarantee schemes rents.

The Owner's Solidarity Manual, edited by FAPIL Ile-de-France, available from member associations. More information on <http://www.fapil.net/>

► **New study on Youth Homelessness in Ireland** [23/07/2008]

"Not Just Homelessness ... A Study of 'Out of Home' Young People in Cork City", has been recently launched by The Children's Research Centre of Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. The study documents young people's pathways or routes out of home, their experiences of leaving home, the challenges they confronted once they became homeless and their experiences of interacting with services and service providers.

States co-author, Dr Paula Maycock, "This research demonstrates the complexity of the problem we call 'youth homelessness'. Many in the study who left home prematurely reported problems and adversities from childhood, suggesting that early identification and assessment could have prevented many from becoming homeless. On reaching the age of 18 years, young people confronted specific challenges and the lack of provision for 18-25 year olds is a particular problem. Many were forced to access adult emergency hostel accommodation, settings which are most often not equipped to meet their complex needs".

The Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin, is a specialist centre, established in 1995 which undertakes multi-disciplinary policy and practice-relevant research into the lives of children and young people and the contexts in which they live their lives.

The research was funded by the Health Service Executive and the report is available at the following website: www.tcd.ie/childrensresearchcentre



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

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