



FEANTSA FLASH  
August 2008

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For upcoming events and conferences, do not forget to visit the **FEANTSA [Calendar of events!](#)**

## FEANTSA News

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### ▶ **European Database on Employment and Homelessness** [8/28/2008]

FEANTSA has launched a [European Database on Employment and Homelessness](#) on its website. This online database provides easy access to relevant information resources, including national reports and research, as well as good practice examples of employment initiatives for people who are homeless from across the European Union. The database is currently only available in English.

FEANTSA will continue updating this database and welcomes all additional contributions in all EU languages (please add a short description in English or French if necessary).

For more information about the database, please contact Silke Paasche at [silke.paasche@feantsa.org](mailto:silke.paasche@feantsa.org).

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### ▶ **European Research Conference: The Hague, 19 September 2008** [8/28/2008]

Places are still available to attend this year's European Research Conference, 'Good Governance: the key to effective homelessness policies.' Taking place in The Hague on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, the conference is aimed at researchers in the area of homelessness, representatives from homelessness organisations and policy makers.

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

In the afternoon, delegates will have the chance to attend one of four workshops:

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

More information is available on the FEANTSA website, or from Christine Lambert, [Christine.lambert@feantsa.org](mailto:Christine.lambert@feantsa.org)

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► **FEANTSA European Conference: People who are Homeless can be Housed, Cardiff, 13-14 November 2008** [8/28/2008]

Register now for FEANTSA's European Conference, organised in cooperation with Shelter Cymru! This conference will explore different housing solutions for people who are homeless, offering an insight into successful practices from across Europe.

Join hundreds of representatives from homeless organisations, policy makers, housing experts and researchers from all over Europe to learn more about good practices and to discuss key issues in relation to housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness.

Find out more about the work of FEANTSA and its members at the Information Forum and debate pressing topics at one of the many round tables and workshops. Network at coffee breaks and dinners, taking place in the world famous Glamorgan County Cricket Club and the stunning National Museum, Cardiff.

Feedback from previous conference delegates includes 'excellent networking, fascinating information about other countries' strategies and good practices,' 'great opportunities for collaboration' and 'a much better understanding of European issues.'

A detailed programme, registration form and travel & accommodation information are available from the [FEANTSA web](#).

For any registration queries, please contact [Christine.Lambert@feantsa.org](mailto:Christine.Lambert@feantsa.org)

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► **FEANTSA's website gets a revamp!** [8/28/2008]

A number of updates have recently been made to the FEANTSA website, in order to make documents more readily available and information easier to find. The menu bar on the home page therefore has a few new additions:

**Transnational Exchange Initiatives:** Here you will find links to all of FEANTSA's initiatives to promote and facilitate the exchange of information, experience and good practice, such as the local authorities' forum, the network of Homeless Health Workers, and the Staff Exchange program.

**Tools and Toolkits:** Here you will find links to a number of useful tools, such as ETHOS, the European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion, the Toolkit for developing an integrated strategy, the Participation Toolkit, a Glossary of EU social policy terms, and Frequently Asked Questions about Homelessness.

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► **Homeless in Europe – Summer 2008 edition is now online!** [8/28/2008]

The summer 2008 edition of FEANTSA's tri-annual magazine, Homeless in Europe, is now online. Looking at the issue of Homelessness in the New Member States, it includes articles from Romania, Hungary, Poland, Estonia and Slovakia, giving insights to how these countries are coping with homeless care, tenure rights and the opening up of borders, since becoming member states of the EU.

The edition contains a new section, the "Letter to the Editor", which gives you the chance to comment on any of the articles included. Please feel free to send your feedback, thoughts and critique to [Charlotta.Odlind@feantsa.org](mailto:Charlotta.Odlind@feantsa.org)

The magazine is available in electronic form from our website. To receive a paper copy, please contact Charlotta Odlind.

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► **Housing and Homelessness 2008: 15 National Reports already available online** [8/28/2008]

Housing and Homelessness is FEANTSA's thematic focus for 2008 and as in previous years, FEANTSA has conducted a wide consultation with all of its member organisations on this topic.

The results have been analysed by the AC member of each FEANTSA member country and put into one National Report. Fifteen of these [National Reports](#) are now available online. They constitute a unique source of information for housing markets, public housing policies, housing as a cause of homelessness, social housing, the private rental market, homeownership and the prevention of homelessness in the different EU Member States.

The key findings of the reports will be included in the FEANTSA European Report 2008, which will be presented at the [FEANTSA European Conference](#) in Cardiff, 13-14 November 2008.

For more information, please contact [silke.paasche@feantsa.org](mailto:silke.paasche@feantsa.org)

## News from the European Union

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► **CEDEFOP Call for Tender: Quality approaches for assuring the quality of training and services provision** [8/28/2008]

CEDEFOP, the EU Agency that promotes the development of vocational training and development, is commissioning two studies.

The first study (Lot 1) aims at investigating the skill needs within the Social care sector, how they can be better addressed through training and what the role of quality assurance in preparing the working force could be to better serve its "end users", the vulnerable groups. The study is based on the "skill gaps" approach; it should cover the whole sector and focus on the service providers.

The second study (Lot 2) aims at analysing the different approaches on accreditation of VET-providers (Vocational Education and Training) in 6 to 8 Member States and 4 to 6 sectors in view of defining their common elements and differences so as to propose a set of guidelines and criteria for accreditation in view of establishing national/regional/sectoral frameworks and of helping VET-providers who wish to apply for accreditation.

The deadline for submitting tenders is the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, at 17:00.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/index.asp?section=3&sub=5&read=3668>

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► **French Presidency Round Table on Poverty and Social exclusion to take place in Marseille this October** [8/28/2008]

The 7th European Round Table against poverty and social exclusion will be held under the French Presidency of the European Union in Marseille on 15-16 October. It will focus on the issue of active inclusion in the light of the Commission recommendation to be published in September 2008 and experiments implemented by the French government in this area. The workshops will be organised along the three pillars of active inclusion:

1. Adequate level of income support (namely minimum income guarantee)
2. An inclusive labour market (including integration and support to find employment, quality sustainable employment)
3. Better access to quality services (including access to housing, financial inclusion, access to healthcare)

For the first time, an informal ministerial meeting on the fight against poverty will immediately follow the Round Table. It will aim to both strengthen political commitment from Member States in this area, and make recommendations for the December Council meeting on active inclusion. The work of the Round Table will also contribute to the preparation of the European Year of combating poverty and social exclusion in 2010. See more here: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/spsi/events\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/events_en.htm)

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► **Impact of EU competition rules on social services of general interest** [8/28/2008]

The Social Protection Committee (SPC) has issued a questionnaire on the application of EU rules to Social Services of General Interest (including homeless services). The main objective of the questionnaire is to collect information on how Community rules are applied in the various social sectors and to identify specific points which still give rise to uncertainties and questions. The SPC intends to issue a report to the Council in December 2008 taking into account the comments and answers received on the basis of this questionnaire. Responses to the questionnaire are to be sent to the European Commission by 15 September.

If you would like to provide feedback on the impact of EU rules on homeless services, please contact the FEANTSA office by email to [liz.gosme@feantsa.org](mailto:liz.gosme@feantsa.org)

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► **State aid for the employment of disadvantaged workers: Commission simplifies legislative rules** [8/28/2008]

The new General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) aims to create a simple, user-friendly and coherent set of legislative rules for state aid in various areas, including state aid for the employment of disadvantaged and disabled workers.

In a block exemption Regulation, the European Commission declares that certain categories of state aid are compatible with the Single Market and shall not be subject to the requirement of prior notification laid down in Article 88(3) of the EC Treaty. Consequently, Member States may implement state aid measures which fulfil the conditions of the Regulation without having gone through the notification procedure.

The new General Block Exemption Regulation covers employment aid for disadvantaged and disabled workers. A new element is that it distinguishes between disadvantaged worker (e.g. unemployed for longer than 6 months) and severely disadvantaged workers (unemployed for 24 months or more). Section 9 describes the rules regarding wage subsidies, aid intensity and the period of employment for these workers. For disadvantaged workers, it states that the aid intensity shall not exceed 50% of the eligible costs. The eligible costs shall be the wage costs over a maximum period of 12 months (for severely disadvantaged workers, the maximum period is 24 months) after recruitment.

Detailed information about the GBER is available on the [Commission website](#) (scroll down to Block exemption regulation). FEANTSA participated in the consultation prior to the adoption of the new GBER. See [FEANTSA's response](#).

For more information, please contact [silke.paasche@feantsa.org](mailto:silke.paasche@feantsa.org)

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► **Text on vulnerable communities adopted by European Parliament** [8/28/2008]

Earlier this summer, the European Parliament adopted the text 'The impact of cohesion policy on the integration of vulnerable communities and groups'. The text calls on Member States to determine the criteria defining vulnerable communities and groups in order to better identify the problems they face and to facilitate targeted and systematic measures.

The text notes that vulnerable groups may exist in all regions, even the more prosperous ones, and that an integrated approach should take such groups into account. It also points to the need to address through an integrated approach the shortcomings in terms of equal opportunities and the potential concentration of social conflicts in underdeveloped areas.

The text urges the Commission and the Member States to make greater use of the synergies and complementarities of the various financial instruments available, such as the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund, the European Integration Fund, the programme of Community action on public health and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, in order to increase their added value.

[Text in full.](#)

## News from our Members

### ► Klimaka- Greek shelter for female victims of trafficking is closed [1/9/2008]

FEANTSA member Klimaka, a Greek NGO which works with immigrants, disabled and homeless people has had to close its special shelter for foreign female survivors of trafficking and violence due to lack of funding.

For the last four years, the "Chloe" Shelter has provided shelter for abused women wanting to escape their traumatic situations, and victims of trafficking. Government support for the project is now insufficient, leaving the Klimaka with no alternative but to shut the shelter until new funding is found.

According to Olga Theodorikakou, a volunteer and project coordinator at the shelter, the main problem is awareness.

"Greece aspires to be a progressive country, a society that says 'we are developed and European'. To do that we sometimes have to hide certain aspects: homelessness, migrants, prostitution....People don't want to admit that there are problems and that in some respects things have yet to change."

This is mirrored in the funding problems the shelter suffers from. According to Athina Karapiperi, a Greek social worker and volunteer at the shelter, the government does not view trafficking as a problem that needs to be addressed by the whole of society. As a result, it was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, not the Ministry of Social Solidarity, that funded the shelter until earlier this year, she said.

Approximately, 100 people (women and children) victims of violence or/and trafficking have been hosted in the Shelter "Chloe". Their security, social support, legal aid, physical and mental health and work rehabilitation have been met through individualized treatment plans.

"Because of the high risk of sexually transmitted diseases, we were one of the few NGOs willing to help these women," said Karapiperi. "The shelter started in 2004. In the beginning, there was a team of healthcare professionals. They formed the paid staff. Then there were volunteers who helped us provide English and Greek lessons, computing lessons, physiotherapy and art therapy, and who carried out research."

This vigorous schedule worked. Around half the women the shelter dealt with decided to stay in Greece. Today these women are sustaining their independence and jobs in Greece with a bit of help from Klimaka, even though the shelter is closed.

## Homelessness in the Headlines

### ► Ireland: new Homeless Strategy criticised by homeless sector [9/1/2008]

The recently launched Irish government's strategy on homelessness, 'The Way Home' has attracted criticism for being 'too aspirational' and too vague about priorities, targets, resourcing and responsibilities.

The plan which was unveiled on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, and addresses adult homelessness in Ireland 2008-2013, has disappointed many working in the homeless sector for not setting out a detailed implementation plan or budget.

While it does contain very welcome elements such as setting the target for ending long-term homelessness by 2010, and placing a statutory obligation on local authorities to develop homeless action plans, it has been criticised for several serious gaps in its proposals. Says Chief Executive of Focus Ireland, a FEANTSA member, "There is a lack of clarity in the document in terms of the specific actions that will be undertaken, the party responsible for each action and the timeframe for delivery of each commitment. The strategy is not accompanied by any clear financial commitments. This raises doubts as to how much, if any, of it is actually achievable."

Denis Doherty, chairperson of FEANTSA member Simon Community, concurs, 'A detailed implementation plan is essential in order to give this new strategy credibility and ensure buy-in from the homeless sector.'

There was also concern that the strategy makes no mention of the National Economic and Social Council recommendation that 73,000 social housing units be built between 2004 and 2012. Focus Ireland estimates that by the end of 2009, the Irish government will be 25,000 units (40%) short of its social and affordable targets.

[The Way Home: A Strategy to Address Adult Homelessness in Ireland 2008-2013](#)

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► **Czech Republic: Action Plan on Homelessness 'Repressive'** [8/28/2008]

The Prague Action Plan to Deal with Homelessness (see May issue of the Flash), has attracted growing criticism from NGO's since its launch, for being repressive and even contravening basic human rights.

The plan has been attacked for being more about getting homeless people out of the city, than for trying to integrate them into normal life. Freek Spinnewijn, Director of FEANTSA, spoke in Prague at the time of the launch and warned that some of the assumptions on which the strategy was based were incorrect and would therefore inevitably lead to inappropriate policy measures.

Prague City Councillor for social policy Janecek stands by his belief that homeless people can be the source of health epidemics and that homeless people who get jobs through the city of Prague, but then lose them should be 'black listed.'

NGO's are also worried about the introduction of a central register for homeless people. Sensitive data on homeless people will be stored on it for 10 years, but it is unclear how people can get off the register, once their situation has changed.

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► **France: 8 million people living on poverty line** [8/28/2008]

According to an INSEE study published this summer, 13.2% of the French population are living on the poverty line. That figure represents 8 million people who are living on less than 880 euro a month.

The number of poor has remained relatively stable since 2002, but it means that they are living on 60% of the average income for France, which is 1.470 euro/month, or 17.600 euro/year. 30% of those poor are single parent families, mostly women living alone with their children. Half of those on the poverty line actually live off less than 720 euro per month.

The study does not include students, people living in state institutions, or homeless people.

According to Eurostat, the highest level of poverty exists in Lithuania (23% of the population), and the lowest in Sweden (9% of the population.)

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► **Germany: Increasing demand for help at 'railway missions'** [8/28/2008]

An increasing number of people with mental health problems are turning to German "Bahnhofsmissionen" for help (these are 'railway missions' or social care centres found in railway stations). Since 2003, 170 000 people have sought assistance which represents an increase of 10 percent, according to the director of the Konferenz der Kirchlichen Bahnhofsmissionen - KKBM (Conference of church-based railway missions).

The number of people in a "particularly difficult social situation", such as people who are homeless or drug misusers, seeking help is also high, which is one of the reasons why the demand for intensive pastoral and social support has increased by one third in the last five years.

In the last 12 months, 2.3 million people have been supported by 99 railway missions in Germany. More than half of the clients were men (53%), while 28% were women. The rest were adolescents and children.

Railway missions in Germany are supported by the Protestant and Catholic Churches. Following the closure of many railway missions in the last few years due to financial difficulties, the KKBM reports of a new "boom" in this area. The 100<sup>th</sup> railway mission will open its doors in 2008. In addition to 200 professionals, there are more than 2.000 volunteers working for railway missions in Germany.

#### ► **Slovakia: temporary reprieve for tenants in restitution properties** [8/28/2008]

Rents on property that was returned to its owners under post-communism restitution laws are to stay capped beyond 2008, to the relief of tenants facing growing debt and instability.

The Slovakian government will keep regulating the rents of residences that were returned to their original owners, with the Prime Minister Robert Fico announcing 'The regulation might last longer than just the end of 2008. It will probably be continued until a long-term solution to the tenants' situation is found.'

The tenants are mostly older inhabitants who simply cannot afford market-value rents. Says Kristian Straka of the Right to Housing Civil Association, 'If the rent is deregulated, most of the tenants would not be able to pay and would end up on the streets.'

The state originally capped the rents as a form of compensation for the tenants, who are not allowed to purchase the property. But the owners say this makes it impossible for them to invest in reconstruction and violates ownership rights guaranteed by both the Slovak constitution and international law.

The question of deregulation will certainly not fade away any time soon. Radoslav Prochazka, a lawyer representing several of the owners says 'At the heart of the issue is whether the state considers protecting the tenants a matter of public interest. If so, it should foot the bill for that, not private individuals.'

It is estimated that in Bratislava's Old Town alone, there are 3.000 apartments inhabited by pensioners who could not afford to pay deregulated rent.

Straka suggests that a way forward could be for the state to provide alternative housing, or to reimburse the tenants with bonds.

#### ► **Turkey: Istanbul's gentrification forces Roma out** [7/23/2008]

A controversial renewal scheme for Istanbul's historic district of Sulukule will force out more than 3.000 Roma who have lived there for generations. The area which borders the city's 5<sup>th</sup> century walls is home to Turkey's oldest Roma community, and will be razed to make way for new four-storey blocks, 620 modern villas, and a hotel. Some 45 listed Ottoman houses will also be renovated in the regeneration project that is being run by the local municipality and the city council.

Sulukule's homeowners have been offered new houses at reduced prices, but few can afford it, says the Sulukule Platform, a protest group fighting to save the district's heritage. The authorities are already preparing to re-house the Sulukule residents in a new development 30 miles away. Many owners and tenants have agreed to go, but campaigners insist that many do not understand the agreements they have signed and may not cope well in the new, alien environment.

Meanwhile, in Istanbul's Yakuplu neighbourhood, Roma residents who were relocated there eleven years ago to live in social housing, are being forced to move again. A proposal has been put forward by the Yakuplu municipality to create an upscale housing development in the area. If it goes ahead, some 1.500 Roma residents will be deprived of their homes yet again. Says Mehmet Pilgir, a resident of Yakuplu who is currently doing his military service 'we do our military service in this country, yet, we do not hold the right to equal citizenship.'

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**► France: new social security benefit for 2009** [1/9/2008]

French President, Nicolas Sarkozy has confirmed that a new social security benefit (the RSA – 'revenue de solidarité active') will be rolled out in July 2009.

The RSA (literally 'active solidarity benefit') will eventually replace a number of already existing benefits such as jobseekers allowance and child benefit. It aims to allow those most disadvantaged to receive social benefits, even if they start earning an income. Once in employment, the beneficiary will continue to receive a guaranteed monthly allowance, which is calculated on the basis of 448 Euro minus 38% of the current wage earned. The RSA could represent up to 1800 Euro for a couple with two children.

The aim of the RSA is to provide a minimum social benefit, as opposed to a guaranteed income for those who are unemployed. Contrary to the old jobseekers allowance, beneficiaries can lose eligibility for the RSA if they turn down more than two job offers or training possibilities.

The RSA will be financed by a supplementary 1.1% tax on capital gains. So far the RSA is being tested in 34 French 'départements', but will be rolled out in the whole country in the summer of next year.

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**► Italy: Police clamp-down on 'anti-social' behaviour in Rome** [1/9/2008]

A series of strict penalties have recently been introduced in Rome, as part of a campaign to preserve the artistic treasures of the city, which attracts millions of visitors every year. Tourists are to be fined €50 if found snacking near monuments, while homeless people are to be banned from setting up makeshift beds in public areas.

Drunks, people who throw litter on the pavement, visitors loitering in central areas and street vendors will also be faced with police fines in the effort to protect Rome's monuments.

According to city official Davide Bordoni, police will have to use their judgment in deciding when to intervene. "It is obvious that some situations must be tolerated," he said.

Rome's Mayor, Gianni Alemanno has recently backed down on imposing a decree which would have made it illegal to go through bins, saying he is taking the time to review the situation. The decree would mainly have affected homeless people, and has attracted a lot of criticism, mainly from the Catholic Church.

Furthermore, as from September, the police in Rome will be equipped with fire arms. Says Rome Alemanno, 'After 35 years, local police will be equipped with guns to guarantee the security of Rome's citizens.'

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**► Poland: Local authorities to receive aid for new social housing** [1/9/2008]

Following an update of existing laws on social and protected housing, local authorities will be able to receive aid amounting up to 50% of construction or renovation costs to create new council flats.

The Polish government wants to stimulate local authorities to show greater interest in the provision of housing for the poorest members of the local community. The only condition for receiving the aid will be to increase social housing in the local area. For every council-sponsored accommodation built from the state fund, the local authorities will have to provide an agreed number of social housing from the buildings in their possession.

The state budget will also offer more aid for the creation of accommodation for homeless people.

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**► UK: Sharp increase in women falling into homelessness** [1/9/2008]

The last five years have seen a sharp increase in women falling into homelessness or living in temporary accommodation, according to new research by the Conservative Party. Some 144,000 women have appeared on council waiting lists in England and Wales this year, a 43% rise from the 80,000 recorded in 2003, according to data provided by 248 councils in response to freedom of information requests.

The number of women being put into temporary accommodation, including bed and breakfasts, rose from 16,127 to 22,428 between 2003 and 2007. And the number of women forced to stay in B&Bs for more than six weeks rose from 399 to 1,328 over the same period.

Conservative housing spokesman Grant Shapp blamed the slow pace of house-building over the past decade, which has seen an average of 145,000 houses built each year, compared to 176,000 during the previous two decades.

Said Mr Shapps: "It is quite clear that many women are becoming trapped in the vicious cycle of hidden homelessness. The lack of adequate hostel provision and the shocking increase in waiting lists for social housing reflects the failure of the state to understand this complex problem." He added: "Women are at far greater risk of having to compromise between their own safety and their need to find a place to sleep. It is alarming that, in the extreme, the most vulnerable women are faced with the unenviable choice of squatting, sleeping rough or relying on family or friends for accommodation."

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► **USA: US department of Housing Urban Development reports unprecedented drop in number of chronically homeless persons** [1/9/2008]

According to a new report released recently by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), nearly 32,000 fewer persons lived on the streets and in emergency shelters in the US last year. That points to a 30% reduction in chronic homelessness since 2005.

In an address before the National Alliance to End Homelessness, HUD Secretary Steve Preston said, "We can all be encouraged that we're making progress in reducing chronic street homelessness in America and with more resources and better reporting, we can continue this trend."

Some homeless organisations however, are sceptical of the figures, and highlight the fact that the HUD's definition of a chronically homeless person is very narrow, namely 'a disabled individual who has been continuously homeless for more than one year or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.' This particular subset represents only 18% of the total homeless population.

Some organisations also argue that comparing the number of chronically homeless individuals from year to year should also be done with caution. Declines can be attributed to several factors including improved data collection and reporting, and variation in the number of communities reporting these data on an annual basis.

Since 2001, HUD has awarded more than \$9 billion to support thousands of local housing and service programs throughout the USA.

## Announcements

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► **EAPN: Written Declaration on Energy Poverty launched** [9/1/2008]

Eluned Morgan, the rapporteur for the European Parliament Report on the Electricity Market, and other Members of the European Parliament are now organising around a [declaration on Energy Poverty](#).

The declaration focuses on four main elements. It:

- Considers that the Commission should propose a Communication on tackling energy poverty in the European Union.
- Calls on Member States to provide national definitions of energy poverty and develop national action plans to eradicate energy poverty.
- Calls on the Commission to monitor and coordinate data provided by Member States, in addition to ensuring universal and public service obligations are respected.
- Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the Council.

EAPN will be working with CECODHAS, EPSU and other NGO's to lobby on this Declaration.

For more information, visit EAPN's website [www.eapn.eu](http://www.eapn.eu).

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► **Travelling sculpture exhibition: Welcome HomeLess** [9/1/2008]

To highlight the plight of foreign homeless people in Europe, Danish artist Jens Galschiøtt, in co-operation with projekt UDENFOR, is organising a touring exhibition entitled Welcome HomeLess. The exhibition consists of 30 bronze sculptures of homeless people, which will visit all European capital cities. The sculptures, which symbolise migrant homeless persons moving from one country to another without the right to assistance and without legal civil rights, will be installed in city streets.

In order to spur Europe-wide debate and action, the event launch will take place in Brussels. Says Galschiøtt, 'It is not the foreigners, but our reactions towards the foreigners, which threaten our civilisation.' The aim is to have one of the sculptures stand in the European Parliament while the exhibition tours the EU's 27 member states. Upon arrival in a new country, one of the sculptures will be placed in the national parliament to promote a more humanistic and sophisticated debate on this issue of homelessness and migrants.

Read more at [www.udenfor.dk](http://www.udenfor.dk) or contact Ninna Hoegh at [nh@udenfor.dk](mailto:nh@udenfor.dk) or by phone: +45 61 62 04 63

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► **Petition on human rights for sitting tenants in the CEE region - International Union of Tenants collecting signatures!** [8/8/2008]

The International Union of Tenants is urging people to join them in the call for human rights for tenants in privatised flats in central and eastern Europe.

- [Sign the Petition](#) on Human Rights for Sitting Tenants in the CEE-region (Central and Eastern Europe)

- [Read the background info](#) about Sitting Tenants.

For more information on the IUT, visit [www.iut.nu](http://www.iut.nu)

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► **Deadline approaching for Standard Grants from Visegrad Fund** [1/9/2008]

The Standard Grant Program from the Visegrad Fund supports cultural cooperation, scientific exchange and research, education, exchanges between young people, cross-border cooperation, promotion of tourism, and has in the past supported homeless theatre projects.

The minimum amount of funding allocated to a single project is EUR 4,001 and the time frame for the implementation of the project is 12 months. The financial contribution of the Fund cannot exceed 50% of the total project costs including the in-kind contribution of the applicant, or in-kind contributions of other co-financing subjects.

The International Visegrad Fund is an international organization based in Bratislava, founded by the governments of the countries of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, the V4. The purpose of the Fund is to promote development of closer cooperation among the V4 countries through supporting common cultural, scientific and educational projects.

The deadline for submission is the 15th of September. More information available from <http://www.visegradfund.org/grants.html>

## Publications

### ► **Australia - The cost-effectiveness of homelessness programs: a first assessment** [9/1/2008]

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) has published its assessment of the cost-effectiveness of homelessness programs operating in Australia. The study uses findings from a relatively small-scale, but nevertheless rich survey of homelessness programme agencies and clients in Western Australia to answer the question, 'what outcomes do programmes deliver for their clients, and at what net cost?'

Click here to download [AHURI's study](#).

### ► **Australia's Homeless Youth** [9/1/2008]

This 400 page document is a study of youth homelessness in Australia by the National Youth Commission.

To download, visit [http://www.policypointers.org/page\\_7417.html](http://www.policypointers.org/page_7417.html)

### ► **Canada - Poverty, Housing and Homelessness: Issues and Options** [9/1/2008]

As Canada's population has become increasingly urbanised, the number of poor households living in urban areas has grown as well. Today, chronic levels of poverty, polarised job opportunities, low wages, and unaffordable and inadequate housing in large cities create a fundamental challenge to the future of Canada and the quality of life of Canadians.

This report of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, looks at the lives and experiences of low-income Canadians living in major cities today and their paths into, and out of, poverty. What lessons can be learned and how can these lessons be applied to build a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous society?

For the full report, please visit this link: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/2/parlbus/commbus/senate/com-e/soci-e/rep-e/repfinaljun08-e.pdf>

### ► **Homeless Link's Street Outreach Good Practice Handbook now available online!** [9/1/2008]

The good practice companion for street outreach is now available for consultation on Homeless Link's website.

The handbook is in five parts:

- Theory – sets the theoretical context of street outreach services and the factors that affect their operation.
- Creating a positive service - outlines the measures needed to set up and develop an outreach service and its staff.
- Accommodation - details the different accommodation options available to rough sleepers.
- Delivering a quality service - outlines the practical approaches to street outreach working.
- Resources - examines published literature on rough sleeping and related issues.

See here for more details on the [Street Outreach Good Practice Handbook](#).

### ► **Perspectives on Irish Homelessness – Past, Present and Future** [9/1/2008]

This book is the first attempt by the Homeless Agency to collate a range of disparate and alternative voices on the subject of homelessness in Ireland. Its purpose is to try and tell something more about the phenomenon of homelessness and how it is experienced and understood today, how that has changed over time, and what it may become in the future.

The complexity of homelessness is beginning to be explored and understood in a more meaningful and useful way, and many contributions to this book use the concept of a 'pathway' into, through and out of homelessness. This is a result of the increased use of the pathways approach to investigating homelessness among the Irish research community. Its emphasis on developing an understanding of homelessness that embraces the dynamics of movement into and out of different situations over a person's lifetime is echoed across the national social policy system where the aim is to support and facilitate the development of each person, enabling them to reach their full potential.

Click here to download [Perspectives on Irish Homelessness – Past, Present and Future](#)

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► **Working with Young Homeless People** [9/1/2008]

'Working with Young Homeless People' is the UK's first how-to guide for working with young, homeless people. A study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation published in May showed that at least 75,000 young people aged 16-24 experienced homelessness in the UK in 2006-07.

Author Phil Robinson, chief executive of the social care charity Quarriers, provides practical advice on how to understand the needs of these young, vulnerable people, and how to ensure they are supported effectively.

The guide combines the latest research and practice to establish what works best when helping young homeless people and provides insights into their world through diary excerpts and interviews. Key issues covered include the relationship between drug and alcohol misuse and youth homelessness, current policies on housing and support for homeless youths and strategies for renewing a young person's familial bonds and friendships after an experience of homelessness.

For sale at 18.99 GBP from the following website: <http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book.php/isbn/9781843106111>



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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)

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