



FEANTSA Flash  
October 2008

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

## FEANTSA News

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- ▶ **FEANTSA European Conference, 13-14 November, Cardiff: Last Chance to Register!** [31/10/2008]  
Registration to FEANTSA's European Conference organised in cooperation with Shelter Cymru is open until the **3rd of November** for delegates not requiring a hotel room.

The conference will explore different housing solutions for people who are homeless, and will provide an excellent opportunity to network, discuss good practices, be inspired by work going on across Europe and find out more about the work of FEANTSA. Over two hundred people are currently registered to attend from 22 different countries.

A full programme and registration form are available from the [FEANTSA web](#). There you can also find detailed information on travelling to and from the conference venue.

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

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- ▶ **FEANTSA Research Conference: Perspectives from Europe and further afield** [31/10/2008]  
FEANTSA's Research Conference, 'Good Governance: the key to effective homelessness policies' gathered more than 100 people in The Hague to hear more about new research on homelessness, and to exchange ideas and information. Many pressing issues were raised at the meeting, and Dennis Culhane's presentation on the results of a cost-benefit analysis of homelessness policies in the USA - not often done in Europe – was particularly thought provoking.

To access the presentations given, the delegates list and photos from the event please go to the following link: <http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/pg.asp?Page=1094>

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- ▶ **FEANTSA Resource Page on Homelessness and Alcohol Addiction** [31/10/2008]

As part of its commitment in the framework of the [European Alcohol and Health Forum](#), FEANTSA has started gathering relevant information relating to alcohol addiction and homelessness (recent research, publications, articles and relevant links).

The forum [web page](#) already contains data in a number of languages. Some publications are specifically devoted to the topic, while others are more general but nonetheless contain relevant information on homelessness and alcohol addiction.

This is an ongoing exercise: please do not hesitate to forward on any relevant research you know of on the subject to [stefania.delzotto@feantsa.org](mailto:stefania.delzotto@feantsa.org)

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► **Homeless in Europe: Autumn Edition on Housing Rights now online!** [31/10/2008]

The restyled Autumn 2008 edition of Homeless in Europe, FEANTSA's tri-annual magazine, is now available online. The theme of this bumper issue is "The Right to Housing: The Way Forward".

Access to adequate housing can be considered as being a precondition for the exercise of most other fundamental human rights. Having a secure, adequate and affordable place to live is essential to the achievement of a decent standard of living and to the fulfilment of human life beyond simple survival. This edition looks at the issue of the right to housing from a number of perspectives and gives practical information on the legal frameworks which promote the right to housing, explains the Council of Europe collective complaint mechanism, presents national case studies from Scotland, Finland, France and Spain and provides details on Housing Rights Watch.

We hope that you will find this new look easier to read online. If you'd like a paper copy of the magazine, if you'd like to comment on any of the articles, or contribute an art piece for future covers, please email Charlotta Odland ([charlotta.odland@feantsa.org](mailto:charlotta.odland@feantsa.org)).

The magazine can be read online by clicking on the cover page at the following link: <http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/pg.asp?Page=35>

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► **Right to housing: FEANTSA lodges a collective complaint against Slovenia** [31/10/2008]

FEANTSA has lodged a collective complaint against Slovenia for non compliance with Article 31, 16 and E of the revised European Social Charter, which are respectively devoted to the right to housing, to the right of the family to social, legal and economic protection and to non-discrimination.

The complaint concerns the situation of tenants living in so-called restituted (denationalised) flats, who are treated differently from other tenants of former publicly owned housing, and whose rights have been undermined by a series of measures taken by the national authorities since 1991, thus increasing their vulnerability to housing exclusion.

FEANTSA believes that access to decent housing is a precondition for the exercise of other fundamental rights and for full participation in society. With its members, it seeks to advance the right of all people to have a secure, adequate and affordable place to live.

The situation faced by Slovenian tenants of restituted dwellings and its social consequences are of great concern to FEANTSA. In the complaint, FEANTSA argues that the Republic of Slovenia has failed in complying with the provisions of the revised European Social Charter (RESC) with regard to this specific group of tenants.

FEANTSA hopes that the collective complaint will encourage the Slovenian authorities to take action as to solve the problem of sitting tenants for the benefit of the Slovenian society as a whole. The Council of Europe European Committee of Social Rights is expected to take a decision on the admissibility of the complaint in the coming months.

The full text of the complaint is available [here](#).

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► **Update on MPHASIS – "Mutual Progress on Homelessness through Advancing and Strengthening Information Systems"** [31/10/2008]

After the launch of the MPHASIS project in March 2008, national MPHASIS coordinators have been busy preparing their national meetings. These meetings bring together all relevant stakeholders to discuss how to measure and monitor homelessness. The MPHASIS Norway meeting took place in June 2008, and national meetings have now also taken place in Luxembourg and Austria.

**MPHASIS Luxembourg:** The MPHASIS Luxembourg meeting took place on 29 September 2009, bringing together 40 representatives. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Family Affairs and also included representatives from: other ministries (Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Equal Opportunities); the National Association of Social Workers; the statistics office of Luxembourg; the CEPS/INSTEAD research institute; and from all the major NGOs working in the field of housing exclusion. The meeting was constructive and led to an agreement in favour of developing a national homelessness information strategy. A working group will be created for the development of this information strategy and will be coordinated by the Social Affairs Commissioner ("Commissaire de Gouvernement à l'Action Sociale"). The report and documents of the meeting will soon be available on the [MPHASIS website](#).

**MPHASIS Austria:** The first National MPHASIS meeting in Austria took place on 3rd of October 2008 in Vienna as a one-day meeting coordinated by the BAWO. 22 people attended the meeting including Austrian stakeholders like the Ministry of Social Affairs, Statistics Austria, and representatives of most of the Federal States, dealing with social issues. The meeting was attended also by sfs-research and Students of the University of Applied Sciences-St. Pölten who will evaluate the process. There was agreement about the necessity of developing an instrument to acquire national homelessness data or at least to make data comparable. The states will now have some time to think about how they can achieve this aim. If the necessities and the support from the federal states are clear, the Commissioner of Social Affairs will take care of the funding and coordination of the data collection strategy. The short report and documents of the meeting are available on the [MPHASIS website](#).

## News from the European Union

### ► **European Commission Recommendation on Active Inclusion** [31/10/2008]

The European Commission on 3<sup>rd</sup> October put forward a set of common principles to help guide EU countries in their strategies to tackle poverty.

The Recommendation is based around three key aspects: adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services. National governments will be encouraged to refer to these common principles and define policies for 'active inclusion' on this basis so as to step up the fight against exclusion from society and from the labour market.

"Current schemes for tackling poverty often don't work," said Social Affairs Commissioner Vladimír Špidla. "Social exclusion is the result of numerous problems, ranging from lack of a job or insufficient skills to poor housing, social isolation or family breakdown. We must take an integrated approach to offer people a genuine way out of poverty. This means reintegrating as many people as possible in the labour market, while ensuring that those who cannot work also have access to adequate resources to live a dignified life."

Some 16% of Europeans are at risk of poverty, while long-term unemployment remains at 3% and 15% of young people still leave school early.

The Recommendation is the result of two consultation rounds on the concept of Active Inclusion to which FEANTSA responded. The common principles set out by the Commission will be formally discussed by national governments at the Employment and Social Affairs Council in December 2008 that will draw conclusions on follow-up actions.

More on the Recommendation

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=437&newsId=401&furtherNews=yes>

More on Active inclusion

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/spsi/active\\_inclusion\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/active_inclusion_en.htm)

### ► **European Parliament adopts Report on Social Inclusion and Combating Poverty** [31/10/2008]

On 13<sup>th</sup> October the Parliament adopted MEP Gabriele Zimmer's (GUE/NGL) report on social inclusion and combating poverty, including child poverty in the EU. The report recommends that concrete measures and EU-wide targets be put in place to reduce and eradicate poverty and social exclusion, calling, for example, for child poverty to be reduced by 50% by 2012, and an EU-wide commitment to end street homelessness by 2015. The report was adopted with 540 votes in favour, with only 57 votes against.

The report, says Zimmer, "sends a strong message to the Council and the Commission: Start acting for a social Europe!"

In the report MEP's call for measures to facilitate social inclusion e.g. in housing, education, training, and lifelong learning plus targeted additional benefits for disadvantaged groups (people with disabilities or chronic diseases, lone parents or households with many children). It also calls on the Council to agree an EU target for minimum wages to provide for remuneration of at least 60% of the relevant average wage and, further, to agree a timetable for achieving that target in all Member States.

Point 60. of the report deals with the issue of homelessness. It:

*Calls on the Council to agree an EU-wide commitment to end street homelessness by 2015 and calls for the development by Member States of integrated policies to ensure access to affordable quality housing for all; urges the Member States to devise "winter emergency plans" as part of a wider homelessness strategy, as well as to establish agencies dedicated to enabling provision and access to housing for groups facing discrimination; suggests the collection of comparable data on the extent of homelessness and poor housing; calls on the Commission to develop an EU framework definition of homelessness and provide annual updates on action taken and progress made in the Member States towards ending homelessness;*

For a full copy of the Zimmer report, click [here](#).

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#### ► **FEANTSA Position on the EU social inclusion strategy: "Paving the way for a European consensual framework on homelessness"** [31/10/2008]

FEANTSA took part in the European Round Table on Social Inclusion, which was held on the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> of October in Marseille. The Round Table brings together all stakeholders (NGOs, ministries, local authorities, researchers, journalists, etc) that work to tackle poverty through concerted action at EU level. For this event, FEANTSA prepared a statement which draws attention to the impact of the EU social inclusion strategy so far and to the potential for delivering visible progress on homelessness through the Open Method of Coordination (used at EU level to coordinate national anti-poverty strategies).

FEANTSA believes the EU social inclusion strategy has had an impact on homelessness policy development since 2001, namely in terms of gradually building consensus on how to tackle homelessness and on the urgent need for concerted action on homelessness at EU level. This is confirmed in the policy trends of the latest National Strategic Reports 2008-2010 (FEANTSA's analysis will be available mid-November), and in the political messages of various European events and reports (see seventh meeting of People Experiencing Poverty; see European Parliament Written Declaration calling for an end to street homelessness by 2015).

FEANTSA therefore believes it is crucial to build on this momentum by organising a European *Consensus Conference on homelessness* with all relevant stakeholders, to reach a genuine European consensus on key questions such as: "What is homelessness?" or "What are the aims of public homeless policies?" Such a Consensus would then direct EU action and transnational cooperation on homelessness towards commonly understood and agreed objectives.

See here for: [Paving the way for a European Consensual Framework on Homelessness](#)

### News from our Members

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#### ► **AMI: Social Action, 1st Semester 2008** [31/10/2008]

FEANTSA's Portuguese member, AMI, has recently issued its first semester report for 2008. In the first six months of the year, 4.695 people sought help from AMI's social services – one of the highest figures on record. For more information, please see [AMI's Social Action, 1st semester 2008](#).

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#### ► **Simon Communities: Reaction to Ireland's budget announcement** [31/10/2008]

The Irish homelessness organisation, Simon Communities, expressed its disappointment at the announcement of the national budget on 14<sup>th</sup> October, saying that the measures will have a disproportionate impact on the poor and those living on low incomes.

Patrick Burke, Chief Executive of Simon, said, "We would have liked a more targeted and equitable Budget. The universal one per cent income levy on all earners will disproportionately affect lower-income earners. In addition, the VAT increase will have the greatest effect on those who are most vulnerable in society".

The organisation noted there was a significant decrease in the overall housing budget, and said it was imperative that the Government invests the reduced funds in a way that ensures housing targets are still met. Says Burke, "it is essential that the Government sticks to agreed targets and meets its commitment around social housing. Social housing and private rented accommodation are two of the range of options which must be available to assist people in moving, and remaining, out of homelessness".

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#### ► **St Mungos: Homelessness and poor health** [31/10/2008]

The London charity, St Mungos, conducted research in September that reveals very high levels of ill health endured by their service users. In their hostels last year they found that 32% had an alcohol dependency, 63% had a drugs problem, 49% had a mental health problem and 43% had a physical illness.

The research shows that over two-thirds of rough sleepers have multiple needs; often a combination of mental health problems, substance misuse and physical health problems. They also found that the most common illnesses their hostel clients suffered from included circulatory disease, cardio-vascular problems and epilepsy and neurological problems.

Despite these illnesses, St Mungo's found that one in three interviewees had a condition for which they were not being treated, and over half of this group was estimated to have conditions which could deteriorate to the point where they would require urgent medical attention. The vast majority of ambulance calls (85%) to St Mungo's were for illness or overdose, and most call-outs were for pre-existing conditions such as asthma and diabetes.

For a full copy of the research results, click [here](#).

## Homelessness in the Headlines

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#### ► **Belgium: 5400 young people sought aid from homeless organisations in 2007** [31/10/2008]

In 2007, 5.379 young people in Flanders, in the north of Belgium, sought help from homeless organisations and homeless care institutions. Just over 3.000 of them, (mainly from East Flanders, Limburg and Antwerp), were accompanied to homeless shelters. The vast majority of the young people were between the ages of 18 to 25, although 1.034 were children under the age of eleven.

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#### ► **Belgium: Asylum seekers and homeless people in competition for limited beds** [31/10/2008]

Centres for asylum seekers in Belgium are so full, they are referring people to homeless shelters instead. However, many homeless organisations, such as the Pierre d'Angle in Brussels are also so overcrowded that they are calling on the Federal Agency for Asylum Seekers (Fedasil) to stop distributing their addresses as an alternative sources of shelter. Says one worker in the Pierre d'Angle, 'We are working in the sector for the homeless, not asylum seekers. We have neither the space nor the funding to take in asylum seekers in this shelter.' The shelter has 48 beds, but receives more than 150 people asking for help.

There is growing anger that the Federal Agency is shirking its own responsibility and passing it on to local services that are already at breaking point.

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#### ► **Croatia: Launch of first national magazine on the homeless** [31/10/2008]

The first Croatian magazine focusing on people who are homeless was launched at the end of September. The magazine will be published by the Secular Franciscan Order from the city of Trast.

The magazine, called "Ulicne Svjetiljke" (loosely translated as "Street Lights,") is sold by homeless people on the streets and half the cost of the magazine is given to shelters. The rest of the money collected by sales will be invested in forthcoming publications. Street Lights will be published four times a year - the first issue contains reports on shelters for people who are homeless in Rijeka, Split and Varazdin.

The Mayor of Rijeka, Vojko Obersnel, bought the first copy of the magazine and announced that the city authorities will donate 60,000 kuna (approximately €8,390) per year for the Rijeka shelter and vowed to financially assist the publication of the magazine.

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#### ► **France: Homage paid to Sister Emmanuelle** [31/10/2008]

Leaders around the world have paid homage to Sister Emmanuelle, who died on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October in her sleep at the age of 99, just four weeks from celebrating her centenary.

Born in Brussels, Sister Emmanuelle became known the world over for her tireless work to protect society's most vulnerable citizens. She spent many years working on behalf of Cairo's rubbish collectors, and the homeless population in France.

Her simplicity and frankness, along with her progressive religious views earned her the respect of people from all walks of life. Says Martin Hirsch, France's High Commissioner for Active Solidarity against Poverty "the greatest homage we can pay Sister Emmanuelle is to continue the fight for the disenfranchised."

► **France: Housing rights bus hits the road** [31/10/2008]

French organisations Secours Catholique and Fondation Abbé Pierre have hired a bus to travel across France to inform people living in inadequate housing about the rights that the DALO law accords them (DALO is the enforceable right to housing, which was established on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2007).

The bus, emblazoned with 'DALO: un toit, c'est un droit' (DALO: a roof is a right) will travel to Montpellier (5 November), Lyon (17-18 November), Lille (24-25 November), Metz (19 November), Toulouse (27-28 November), Paris (30 November – 2 December) and Rennes (4-5 December.)

The two organisations lament the lack of mobilisation by the public authorities to spread information about the DALO and to inform those who could benefit from it the most. The fact that only 40.000 housing appeals have been submitted so far, when it is estimated that 600.000 households could benefit from the DALO, means that either people do not know of its existence, or that they are finding it hard to fill in the complex paper work.

For more information about the DALO law, please refer to the Autumn 2008 edition of Homeless in Europe, [The Right to Housing: The Way Forward](#).

► **France: Psychiatric teams part of winter plans** [31/10/2008]

The French Minister of Housing, Christine Boutin has announced that mobile psychiatric teams will be created to help homeless people suffering from psychiatric problems.

Up to 30% of homeless men and women in France suffer from psychiatric health issues. As part of France's Winter Plans, mobile teams made up of psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers will be created, and more beds for people suffering from long-term illness will be made available.

Madame Boutin also added that she wanted a target of 15% those in emergency shelters to not have to stay for longer than 3 months before being housed.

► **Germany: Government of North Rhine -Westphalia plans to stop unique homelessness programme** [31/10/2008]

The government of North Rhine-Westphalia is planning to put an end to a unique German homelessness programme, "Wohnungslosigkeit vermeiden – dauerhaftes Wohnen sichern" (*Preventing homelessness – ensuring long-term housing*). North Rhine – Westphalia is the only region in the country that has an integrated homelessness programme. According to German FEANTSA member BAGW, this programme has, for the last twelve years, facilitated the establishment of a large network of support centres for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These centres have helped to significantly reduce the number of people who are homeless; a role that has been acknowledged by the regional government.

BAGW highlights in a recent press release that the continued work of the programme is crucial in order to prevent homelessness and to support people who may experience homelessness in the future. While the number of people who are homeless has declined since the 1990s, it is estimated that there are still 26,000 - 52,000 people at risk of homelessness in North Rhine-Westphalia, which has a total population of over 18 million people.

See the BAGW press release [here](#).

► **Ireland: Amnesty International forum has focus on housing and health** [31/10/2008]

A two-day international conference on health and housing rights, organised by Amnesty International, opened in Dublin on 20<sup>th</sup> October. The conference was addressed by the Irish Minister for Health, Mary Harney, UN special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, Miloon Kothari, and FEANTSA Director, Freek Spinnewijn.

Colm O’Gorman, Amnesty International Ireland’s Executive Director, said, “Human rights, like access to adequate health services and housing, should not be considered a luxury but as an essential component of any just and stable society. Every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health and the right to adequate housing. Successive Irish governments have committed to uphold these rights and have not delivered, but there is also a responsibility on those of us campaigning for social justice to work with governments in identifying credible alternatives and proposing realistic solutions”.

For more information on the forum, contact Freek Spinnewijn ([freek.spinnewijn@feantsa.org](mailto:freek.spinnewijn@feantsa.org))

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► **Ireland: Asylum seekers ending up homeless** [31/10/2008]

Asylum seekers who are being expelled from state accommodation for ‘violent and aggressive behaviour’ are ending up homeless on the streets, but the Irish Refugee Council (IRC) argues that many of them have mental health problems and need specialised help.

According to new figures, 22 asylum seekers were expelled in the last 18 months for repeatedly causing problems in Ireland’s direct provision centres. The IRC says that they are ending up living on the streets because no other state agency is obliged to take them in. The asylum seekers also lose access to their weekly payment of 19.10 Euro, and having no postal address means that they cannot get a medical card, or even keep track of their asylum application.

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► **UK: Feedback sought from Homeless patients** [31/10/2008]

A new scheme has been launched that aims to give homeless people a chance to voice their opinions on the care they have received on the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK.

Social enterprise Patient Opinion and FEANTSA members Homeless Link, which are leading the scheme, say homeless people tend to have poorer physical and mental health than others, but face greater difficulties in accessing health care when they need it. The aim of this project is to bring the voices of homeless patients into the heart of the NHS and help improve services.

A group of homelessness services in London will pilot the scheme by helping clients give their feedback, either on paper or directly on Patient Opinion’s website.

Says Jenny Edwards, chief executive of Homeless Link, this scheme “offers a real opportunity for the experience of the most vulnerable in our society to be heard. We will be lobbying for this to lead to real service improvement. Services that meet the needs of the most vulnerable well, will be excellent services for everyone.”

See [www.patientopinion.org.uk](http://www.patientopinion.org.uk) for more information.

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► **UK: Rough sleepers given rude awakening** [31/10/2008]

The controversial practice of “wetting down” spots where rough sleepers live, forcing them to move and seek shelter has provoked outcry amongst some people working in the homeless sector and the church.

The Rev Simon Perry, of Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, says he was “very disappointed” to learn that wetting down had resumed without any consultation and ahead of a meeting in October to discuss the way forward. “It’s sub-human, waking people up to force them to accept your help,” he insists. However, Howard Sinclair, Chief Executive of homelessness charity Broadway, says, “The whole point is to make it uncomfortable for people to sleep on the streets, to make them confront the fact that it is not doing them any good, and to engage with services”.

The controversial practice of “wetting down” was introduced in April by the City of London Corporation, in partnership with the police and Broadway. But following protests by a local church group and housing campaigners, the practice (called Operation Poncho) was temporarily suspended in July pending an evaluation of its impact.

Mr Sinclair believes progress has been made, and that as result of Operation Poncho, 99 people were helped to get off the streets between April and August, compared with 46 during the same period a year ago. But critics of the operation claim that it takes no account of east Europeans, who are not eligible for state-funded help.

Councils are under pressure to meet government targets to have zero people sleeping rough by 2012, and police forces are also under pressure to get rough sleepers off the streets. Mr Sinclair says that in the months ahead, Broadway will work with the police “to make sure rough sleepers do not simply disappear behind doorways, but are cared for and helped to start rebuilding their lives”.

► **Markets alone cannot ensure housing for all, UN expert says** [31/10/2008]

On the 23rd of October, Raquel Rolnik, the new United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing issued a statement in New York, declaring that markets alone cannot ensure housing for all.

"The belief that markets will provide adequate housing for all has failed. The current crisis is a stark reminder of this reality. A home is not a commodity – four walls and a roof. It is a place to live in security, peace and dignity, and a right for every human being.

In the United States alone, the millions of homeowners and renters affected by foreclosures means a sharp increase in the numbers of the homeless. With the continuing housing and financial crisis spreading to many countries, things are only going to get worse. Millions more may face eviction because they cannot pay their mortgages."

In her statement, she goes on to say that "excessive focus on homeownership as the one and single solution to ensure access to housing is part of the problem" and warns that homelessness threatens not only the most marginalised or the most poor, but increasingly "those who work but cannot afford market prices and are forced to live in inadequate housing. Homelessness, or living in inadequate housing conditions, can cause not only material deprivation but also the loss of enjoyment of a wide range of other human rights, whether civil and political or economic, social and cultural."

See [here](#) for full statement.

## Announcements

► **European Ministerial e-Inclusion Conference** [31/10/2008]

FEANTSA will be manning an information stand at the next European ministerial conference on e-inclusion for socially excluded people, taking place in Vienna 30 November – 2 December. If you are interested in sending leaflets, brochures, posters or other information on projects or work related to e-inclusion for vulnerable groups (ie the provision of ICT skills to homeless people), then please contact Charlotta Odling ([charlotta.odling@feantsa.org](mailto:charlotta.odling@feantsa.org)).

## Publications

► **France – Les sans-domicile** [31/10/2008]

Since the 1990's, the issue of people who are homeless has been a key topic of debate within the spheres of politics and social sciences. In spite of this, there remains a degree of prejudice and confusion surrounding the issue.

This book attempts to answer numerous questions such as: How do you define 'homeless'? What services are available to homeless people and how do they go about their day-to-day lives? What is the situation like in France? How does it differ from other European countries?

The book is co-authored by Cécile Brousse, Jean-Marie Firdion and Maryse Marpsat, and can be bought (in French) from [www.amazon.fr](http://www.amazon.fr)

► **France – Vivre en ville: Observatoire mondial des modes de vie urbains 2008-2009** [31/10/2008]

This new book on city-living is the result of a study carried out by Veolia Environment in 14 major cities in the five continents of the world. The book also contains contributions from French and foreign writers who are experts in this field, including: Julien Damon, Philippe Méchet, Joachim Soëtard and others. The publication looks at the problems and issues that arise from city living such as sustainable development, mobility, social stratification, poverty, governance and demographics.

To purchase the book (in French), visit [www.amazon.fr](http://www.amazon.fr)

► **Housing Policy and Vulnerable Social Groups** [31/10/2008]

The Council of Europe has just published this report and corresponding guidelines, which are the outcome of a two-year project carried out by a group of specialists, whose objective was to take stock of existing work in the field of social housing for vulnerable groups. It complements the report on access to social rights in Europe (2002) and is an integral part of the Council of Europe's Social Cohesion Strategy.

Addressed to policy makers at national and local levels, service organisations and users, this work provides examples and guidelines on designing and implementing effective housing policies for vulnerable social groups.

It is available for 8 Euro [here](#).

► **Spain – A study on youth homelessness and social and health service problems** [31/10/2008]

This is a multi-centre study coordinated by the NGO Prevention-Santé and supported by the European Union. The study was carried out in Granada and aims to analyse the current profile of young people who are homeless and their use of available social services.

See [here](#) for a full copy of the report (in Spanish).

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► **UK - Crunch Time for the Social Housing Sector, September 2008** [31/10/2008]

In order to understand more fully the impact the tightening credit situation is having on the Registered Social Housing sector in the UK, Baker Tilly undertook a survey in August 2008. It establishes the perceptions of senior Registered Social Housing executives on the topic and how it is directly affecting their organisations, including predictions for recovery.

See [here](#).

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► **UK - No Place Like Home?** [31/10/2008]

Immigration is a subject which receives a great deal of policy, political and media attention. Questions about who comes, where they come from, and how long they stay for are at the heart of an ongoing debate. Beyond the discourse on numbers, however, is a much more fundamental question: if immigration is here to stay - and labour market economics, as well as EU rules, say that it is - how do we manage the housing and other support needs of migrants while they are here?

Shelter believes that there needs to be a more focused and strategic approach to planning and providing for the housing and wider needs of migrants arriving in the UK. In its new discussion paper, 'No Place Like Home?', Shelter seeks to clarify the current situation, as well as suggest options for reform. If you would like to discuss this subject further, please contact Elizabeth O'Hara: [elizabeth\\_ohara@shelter.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth_ohara@shelter.org.uk) or Rita Diaz: [rita@shelter.org.uk](mailto:rita@shelter.org.uk)

Shelter has also published a factsheet which provides information on the trends of international migration to the UK, and looks at the impact migration has on both the economy and social housing.

Download here: [No Place Like Home?](#)

Download here: [Housing and Immigration factsheet](#)

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► **UK - The Culture of Homelessness** [31/10/2008]

Despite an extensive literature on homelessness there is surprisingly little work that investigates the roots of homelessness by tracking homeless people over time. In this ethnographic study, Megan Ravenhill presents the results of ten years' research on the streets and in the hostels and day-centres of the UK, incorporating intensive interviews with 150 homeless and formerly homeless people as well as policy makers and professionals working with homeless people. This book would be of interest to Academics and students studying sociology, ethnography, housing, homelessness, social work, childhood or youth studies, European social policy.

See [here](#) for more information and how to order.



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- 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;
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- 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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