



FEANTSA Flash, October 2009

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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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- ▶ **Empowering ways of working: Empowerment for people using homeless services in Europe** [06/11/2009]  
This paper aims to provide a better understanding of empowerment in homeless services. Why is it important to think about empowerment? What does it mean to work in an empowering way? What are the challenges? The document focuses on homeless services, as this is the level that is most likely to have a direct impact on the lives of people. It first looks at the definition of empowerment. While acknowledging that empowerment is a challenge for both service users and service providers, the document highlights the risks of services that are not concerned with empowerment. The paper then sets out practical examples of empowering ways of working. The examples are structured around three dimensions of empowerment: respecting rights and principles of working, facilitating access to resources and creating opportunities. 'Empowering ways of working' is based on contributions from the FEANTSA Participation Working Group, testimonies from staff and service users from different EU countries about their understanding of empowerment and working in an empowering way, as well as other information resources on participation and empowerment of homeless people. The paper is available on [FEANTSA's website](#)
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- ▶ **FEANTSA campaign on ending homelessness** [06/11/2009]

As many of our readers know, FEANTSA is launching a campaign on 'Ending Homelessness' in 2010, in the framework of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The campaign message is that homelessness can, and should be ended. The campaign is a common European one aimed at policy makers, which FEANTSA members can develop in their national contexts. Members are encouraged to organise events during 2010 and a budget is available to invite homelessness experts from different countries to such events. Please let the FEANTSA office know of any events that you are organising. These will be posted on the campaign page of FEANTSA's website. Further information on the campaign is available on the members-only section of our website. A set of campaign materials will also be made available. For further details, please contact Ruth Owen ([ruth.owen@feantsa.org](mailto:ruth.owen@feantsa.org)).

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▶ **FEANTSA policy officer elected as member of EPHA's Executive Committee** [06/11/2009]

Stefania Del Zotto, who is responsible for the thematic area of health at FEANTSA, was elected on 14th October as a member of the Executive Committee of the European Public Health Association (EPHA). EPHA's mission is to promote and protect the health of all people living in Europe and to advocate for greater participation of citizens in health-related policy making at the European level. FEANTSA have been members of, and worked closely with, EPHA on issues relating to health and homelessness for a number of years. See [EPHA's website](#) for more information

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▶ **FEANTSA speaks out on Miss Homeless Belgium** [06/11/2009]

FEANTSA has spoken out on the event Miss Homeless Belgium. The Miss Homeless competition took place earlier this month and the winner was awarded a rent-free flat for one year. FEANTSA criticized the way the competition re-enforced stereotypes about deserving and undeserving poor – emphasizing the worthiness of individual contestants to access housing. FEANTSA also raised concerns about the effectiveness and nature of the awareness-raising generated by the event, which received a lot of international publicity but which failed to profile homelessness as more than an individual problem or to call for long-term solutions. A further concern voiced by FEANTSA related to the power issues involved in inviting very vulnerable women in acute housing need to compete in a beauty pageant in order to secure their right to housing. See FEANTSA's full [press release](#) on the issue.

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▶ **FEANTSA's European conference, 23rd October, Copenhagen** [06/11/2009]

More than 300 people came together in Copenhagen on the 23rd October for FEANTSA's conference on the annual theme of participation, co-organised with Projekt UDEFOR. A variety of lively workshops and panel discussions took place, alongside screenings of films on participation from across Europe. A meeting of European service users was also organized in the framework of the conference. You can see all presentations from the event on the [FEANTSA website](#). The films shown at the conference will be online soon, so keep an eye out on the conference web page.

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▶ **Homelessness measurement checklist** [06/11/2009]

The Data Collection working group of FEANTSA adopted a Homelessness Measurement Checklist in September 2009. This is a Checklist of items to consider when measuring homelessness, supported by national examples. It intends to give an overview of existing initiatives, definitions, variables and methods used to measure homelessness in Europe, and will be updated on an annual basis. Most FEANTSA members (platforms of homeless services) collect data on homelessness through client record systems, surveys, and street counts – FEANTSA is therefore keen to see progress made in homelessness measurement and to promote transnational exchanges on this issue through various tools. See full Checklist on the [FEANTSA website](#)

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▶ **LINK members' bulletin coming soon!** [06/11/2009]

The LINK members' bulletin will shortly be issued, containing a complete update on the statutory meetings that took place in Copenhagen, along with other information. Amongst the news is the election of the new Administrative and Executive Councils, as well as members of the working groups for the new mandate.

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▶ **Out now! Call for Papers for the European Journal of Homelessness, Vol IV, 2010 on the theme 'Homelessness, Poverty and Social Exclusion'** [06/11/2009]

To contribute to the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, Volume IV of the European Journal of Homelessness will be devoted to the theme of 'Homelessness, Poverty and Social Exclusion'. See the [FEANTSA European Observatory website](#) for further details. Please note that the deadline for contributions has been brought forward to 8th of January 2010. For further details please contact Dr. Eoin O'Sullivan ([tosullvn@tcd.ie](mailto:tosullvn@tcd.ie))

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▶ **Second edition of 'Employability and Homelessness' available online!** [06/11/2009]

The second edition of FEANTSA's new newsletter 'Employability and Homelessness' is available online. In this newsletter you will find information about interesting experiences and practices around employment for people experiencing homelessness from across Europe. This edition features projects from Norway, Germany and Italy. In the first article, Liv Hasås and Keith Jones, present "Dagsverket", a low threshold employment service for people using drugs in Bergen/ Norway. "Dagsverket" is a new model in Norway as it focuses on day-to-day work and is based on the principle that users themselves decide whether or not they are fit for work. The following article by Björn Giese is about the "Gut zu tun" project in Berlin, which aims at creating an organisational infrastructure to support people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness into work and training. Stefano Galliani then provides a critical analysis of so-called type-B cooperatives for the employment of people experiencing homelessness in Italy. His article is complemented by a recent briefing paper of FEANTSA's employment working group on the role of supported employment in work integration social enterprises (WISE). Where possible, we have provided the articles in different languages.

The newsletter is available on [FEANTSA's website](#). If you wish to be included in the distribution list of the newsletter, please write to Silke Paasche: [silke.paasche@feantsa.org](mailto:silke.paasche@feantsa.org)

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## News from the European Union

- ▶ **European Commission communication 'Solidarity in health: Reducing health inequalities'** [06/11/2009]  
On the 20th October, the European Commission published a communication on reducing health inequalities in the European Union. The communication makes reference to people experiencing homelessness as a group with particularly poor average levels of health. The communication sets out actions that the European Commission will take to help address health inequalities including collaboration with national authorities, regions and other bodies, assessment of the impact of EU policies on health inequalities to ensure that they help reduce them, regular statistics and reporting on size of inequalities and successful strategies to reduce them as well as better information on EU funding to help national authorities and other bodies address the inequalities. Download the full communication [here](#). Earlier in the year, FEANTSA took part in a [consultation on EU action to reduce health inequalities](#) which is available online.

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- ▶ **European Commission invites media to participate in the fight against poverty** [06/11/2009]  
A seminar on 'Poverty and Media' and a conference on 'Poverty: between perceptions and reality – the communication challenge' invited media and stakeholders to discuss how communicators can help to tackle poverty and social exclusion. "We in the EU have the good fortune to live in one of the world's most prosperous regions, yet poverty remains a daily reality for nearly 80 million Europeans," said Vladimír Špidla, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. "In January, we will launch the 2010 European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion. Media and communication professionals have a crucial role to play in helping make this campaign a success and we invite them to join us over the coming year."

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- ▶ **European year for combating poverty and social exclusion 2010** [06/11/2009]  
Calls for proposals continue to be issued in the member states in the framework of the year. See the FEANTSA website for a list of national programmes and calls for proposals. Ireland's call was issued this month with a deadline of the 27th of November. See the website of the Combat Poverty Agency for more information: <http://www.combatpoverty.ie/news/EY2010.html>.

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- ▶ **Fundamental Rights Agency report on Roma and housing** [06/11/2009]  
A new report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) gives evidence that Roma and Travellers are strongly disadvantaged in private and social housing throughout the European Union. This includes discrimination in access to housing, poor housing conditions, segregation, and forced evictions. The FRA report highlights shortcomings and good practices across the EU. The report states that Member States should pay higher attention to the issue of residential segregation and poor housing conditions. Member States and local authorities should implement existing anti-discrimination legislation and policies for Roma inclusion, and intensify their efforts to better inform the Roma of their rights, and involve them in the planning and implementation of housing policies. Find out more and download the full report from the [FRA's website](#).

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- ▶ **New Eurobarometer survey on attitudes to poverty and social exclusion** [06/11/2009]  
On the 27th October, the European Commission presented the results of a new Eurobarometer survey on the attitudes of Europeans to poverty and social exclusion. The survey shows that 73% of Europeans consider poverty to be a widespread problem in their country, while 89% want urgent action by their government to tackle the problem. 67% of Europeans consider decent housing to be too expensive, while 87% believe that poverty hampers people's chances of gaining access to decent housing. The results show that 7% of Europeans believe they are likely to become homeless, with the percentage rising to 16% amongst unemployed people. The survey was presented ahead of the 2010 European Year. Find out more and download the report [here](#).

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- ▶ **Report from the 8th European meeting of people experiencing poverty** [06/11/2009]

The 8th Meeting of people experiencing poverty took place in Brussels on 15 and 16 May 2009 and addressed the topics of Housing, Financial Inclusion and Access to Basic Services. The [full report](#) of the meeting is now available online.

Delegates reported on concrete examples of various living situations and a workshop took place on housing. The following specific demands on housing and homelessness were made to the EU institutions:

- To show what concrete steps have been taken to defend the right to housing and to address homelessness.
- In addressing housing and homelessness, to pay particular attention to what is happening to Roma and Migrant communities living in very vulnerable conditions and facing evictions.

► **Round table on poverty and social exclusion** [06/11/2009]

The 8th round table on poverty and social exclusion took place in Stockholm on the 15th and 16th of October. The event brought together around 300 participants representing European institutions, national governments, NGOs, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The theme was social inclusion in times of recession - New challenges for the Active inclusion strategy. Homelessness was one of the central issues of the event and a workshop, discussion and site visit were organised on the topic, providing an opportunity to share expertise and experiences. FEANTSA played a key role in plenaries and workshops. See the [Swedish presidency webpage](#) for further details of the round table.

► **The HABITACT website is now online!** [06/11/2009]

HABITACT, European exchange forum on local homeless strategies has launched its website ([www.habitact.eu](http://www.habitact.eu)). The launch took place alongside a meeting of HABITACT cities in Copenhagen (22nd-23rd October). The website includes information about the HABITACT forum, its objectives, partner cities, activities and events, and details of the European context for developing exchange on local homeless strategies.

For more information about HABITACT and for information about joining the forum, please contact Suzannah Young or Liz Gosme at [info@habitact.eu](mailto:info@habitact.eu).

► **UNECE/Eurostat discussion on enumeration of homeless people in 2011 population and housing censuses** [06/11/2009]

FEANTSA conducted a [survey of statistics offices](#) in 2008 on plans for enumerating homeless people on census night, which led to recommendations that the UNECE and Eurostat support exchanges between statistics offices on appropriate methodologies to be used in 2011 to enumerate the homeless population.

On 28th October 2009 in Geneva, the UNECE and Eurostat invited national statistics offices from 40 countries to exchange experiences on the preparation of the 2011 population and census round, and to discuss compliance with the 2008 EU regulation on population and housing censuses. The agenda included an item on the enumeration of homeless people in 2011, with papers from the UK, France, Finland, Serbia, and a European overview (a combination of Mphasis and FEANTSA surveys). All papers are available [online](#). FEANTSA proposals included the following:

- Organisation of a rough sleeper count to reach out to people who are not in traditional households or in national registers;
- Highlighting "services for homeless people" within the collective living situations classification in order to distinguish homeless people from other people living in collective living situations (older people, people with disabilities, and others);
- More research on the use of registers to count homeless people in the census (through the inclusion of relevant codes or reference addresses);
- Work with and consult homeless service providers where possible to benefit from their expertise in working with homeless people;
- Linking the census exercise to existing EU initiatives on tackling homelessness, namely the EU anti-poverty strategy.

For more information, please contact the FEANTSA office at [liz.gosme@feantsa.org](mailto:liz.gosme@feantsa.org)

## News from our Members

► **Emmaus mark 60 years with celebratory event in Paris** [06/11/2009]

Almost 4000 people gathered at Zenith, Paris to celebrate Emmaus's sixty years. The celebrations included a conference exploring the organisation's journey from its inception to today. Journalist Maitena Biraben provided film footage and images featuring Abbé Pierre, the creation and ongoing work of the movement. A celebratory meal and concerts accompanied the event.

► **FIO.psd campaign against impact of new security bill on homeless people** [06/11/2009]

FIO.psd continues to speak out against the potential impact of Italy's controversial security bill on homeless people and has launched a campaign. Registration in a municipality is a precondition for obtaining access to health care, social assistance, education and public housing, in the place where individuals live. According to the bill, all homeless people and those living in run-down housing or mobile homes will be removed from local residents' registries, meaning they will be denied their rights. An additional register is being created by the Ministry of the Interior. FIO.psd has launched a national campaign "Resident of the Republic". See [www.fiopsd.org](http://www.fiopsd.org) for more details.

► **Focus Ireland wins Irish Council of Social Housing award** [06/11/2009]

Focus Ireland has won an Irish Council of Social Housing award for its "Cluain Ghlas" social housing development at Hennessey's Road in Waterford City. The award was presented to Focus Ireland at the recent ICSH conference in Athlone in recognition of the excellence of the housing development, which provides supported housing to 16 households in the local community who were previously homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Focus Ireland said that the development shows the power of successful partnership to help deliver homes to people in need of housing. The project was delivered in partnership with the Department of Environment and Waterford City Council. The innovative housing project provides high quality, low-cost, supported accommodation. It was designed by architect Gary Falconer and built on a derelict site.

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▶ **Simon Communities - second Simon Week** [06/11/2009]

The second Simon Week took place from 5th to 11th October. Simon Week is an annual week of campaigning that aims to create greater awareness of homelessness and associated issues in Ireland and the work that Simon Communities around Ireland are engaged in. The week was an opportunity to remind people that everyone has a role to play in ending homelessness and to encourage people to get involved by volunteering, participating in events and donations. The week kicked off with an event celebrating the invaluable contribution of Simon's Full Time Volunteers. The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, was there to meet volunteers. Simon Communities also held a political briefing session during the week which gave politicians from all parties an opportunity to meet with Simon representatives from their constituency areas and hear about how the issue of homelessness is impacting on people in their local areas.

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## Homelessness in the Headlines

▶ **Belgium: Brussels metro warns passengers not to encourage begging** [06/11/2009]

Since the 15th October an audio message has been transmitted on the metro in Brussels asking passengers not to encourage begging by making donations to beggars. Some organisations have criticized the announcement, arguing that it encourages indifference to the plight of homeless people. STIB, the public transport provider has responded by saying that the message was inspired by similar tactics in Paris with the aim of discouraging recurrent begging in the station area. Phillippe Courard, minister for the fight against poverty said he was "perplexed" by the decision.

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▶ **Czech Republic: Labour and Social Affairs Ministry announces funding to combat poverty and social exclusion** [06/11/2009]

The Czech Labour and Social Affairs Ministry has announced it will earmark 10.5 million crowns to projects fighting poverty and social exclusion. The ministry will support projects focusing on improved access of disabled people to the labour market and the problems of people experiencing homeless. The projects can be submitted by the regions, municipalities, civic associations, church organisations and schools by November 20th 2009. The programme is co-financed by the European Union. Up to some 558 million crowns will be earmarked from the EU funds and the Czech state budget.

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▶ **Finland: Police demolish illegal Roma camps in Helsinki** [06/11/2009]

Finnish television reported on the demolition of illegal camps where Romanian and Roma ethnicity people have been living in Helsinki. Finnish authorities started by removing a container used for shelter and will continue by tearing down tents and improvised shelters in Kylasaari and Kalasatama. The demolition is linked to concern about growing numbers of Romanian and Roma ethnicity beggars, particularly about the potential development of organised criminal groups orchestrating begging in Finland. Over the past few years, Finland has seen an increasing number of Romanians and Roma begging on its city streets. Finnish social services have tried to monitor their state of health and offer them assistance.

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▶ **France: Increasing numbers of undocumented Afghan migrants and asylum seekers arrive in Paris** [06/11/2009]

Paris is seeing an increase in the number of homeless Afghan migrants and asylum seekers following the closure of the "Jungle" camp in Calais, where hundreds of migrants were living in makeshift shelters. As police attention has intensified in Calais, many migrants have moved to Paris. The presence of Afghan migrants and asylum seekers in Paris is not new – they have been visible in the city since the closure in 2002 of the Sangatte Centre (Pas-de-Calais). In Paris, the migrants are reliant on an inadequate supply of emergency accommodation and many sleep rough. Under the Dublin II protocol, many asylum seekers have to wait months to find out whether they will be sent back to their point of entry into the European Union. The mayor of Paris and a variety of organisations are calling on the state to provide additional places in emergency shelters. However, the state has so far not responded. The prefecture of Paris argues that the presence of migrants sleeping rough is not related to a shortage of accommodation but to the proximity of the main train stations and the existence of illegal trafficking channels, in particular to get people to England; it is therefore argued that providing accommodation undermines efforts to combat trafficking.

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▶ **Germany: Mobile veterinary practice for the homeless in Düsseldorf a success** [06/11/2009]

'Underdog' is a mobile veterinary practice that has been operating for two years in Düsseldorf, treating homeless people's pets. It was set up in the framework of a broader homeless strategy and is mostly financed by the North Rhine Westphalia Ministry of Integration. The much-acclaimed project has now found imitators around Germany. A similar programme called 'HundeDoc' has been set up in Berlin and practitioners are trying to develop them in Aachen and Cologne. The service provides basic veterinary care and micro-chipping of animals for free. Advice is also provided to the pet owners experiencing homeless.

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► **Poland: Government closes health service for the homeless due to lack of funding** [06/11/2009]

A centre providing health services to homeless people in Warsaw is facing closure as a change in law means the government are no longer able to fund services outside the public health service. The service has been run by an association of nineteen doctors working for free. As only 1/5 homeless people have health insurance, the closure would leave a significant number without access to health services. The health professionals working at the clinic argue that maintaining its services is a public health responsibility and have requested the intervention of the ombudsman.

► **Spain: A dozen homeless people living at Barcelona airport** [06/11/2009]

The Spanish press have reported on a dozen homeless people staying at the El Prat airport near Barcelona. Airport refurbishments that have reduced the number of seats have made the problem more visible. Airport authorities report that they watch out for people spending more than three days at the airport and try to intervene by referring onto social services. However, they say some people have spent years in the airport and that there have been up to twenty-four homeless people staying at the airport at times.

► **UK: Sale and rent back schemes are leaving people homeless** [06/11/2009]

Unregulated firms offering sale-and-rent -back deals which exploit vulnerable homeowners are operating illegally in the UK, warns housing charity Shelter. Shelter say new regulations aimed at banishing rogue firms have failed to curb their activities. The warning comes at a time when increasing numbers of borrowers in arrears are desperately looking to stay in their homes. Sale-and-rent-back schemes are usually taken out by people in financial difficulties looking to raise money quickly, often to stave off repossession. Under the schemes, they sell their home, often at a large discount to the market value, but stay in the property as a tenant. However, many people have then been left homeless by unscrupulous firms who have evicted them or increased rent sharply without warning. After campaigns from a number of charities and pressure groups, the government last year called on the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to investigate the growth of this activity. The OFT persuaded the government that the market should be regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). Since then, Shelter has been investigating whether firms advertising in the local and national press are in fact authorised by the FSA. It found that out of the 18 main companies that have been advertising regularly since 1st July, four are not on the FSA's register of authorised firms. Kay Boycott, the charity's director of policy and campaigns, believes there are many other firms also operating illegally, both in the printed media and on the internet.

## News from the United Nations

► **'Mortgage crisis shows markets alone cannot ensure housing for all', says UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing** [06/11/2009]

"The belief that markets will provide adequate housing for all has failed. The current crisis is a stark reminder of this reality" said the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Raquel Rolnik in a statement issued in New York earlier this month. Miss Rolnik was investigating housing issues in the US. She spoke about increasing rates of eviction and homelessness in the context of the crisis, noting that the millions of homeowners and renters affected by foreclosures would result in a sharp increase in homelessness. She said that most analysts blame the crisis on a shortage of liquidity or failure of regulation. She argued, however that the sub-prime mortgage crisis reflects "fundamental flaws in our approach to housing" and the inability of market mechanisms to provide adequate and affordable housing for all. The Special Rapporteur suggested that the current crisis should force a shift towards providing more housing options and alternatives to home ownership. She urged those countries that have not already done so to legally recognize the right to adequate housing for all.

## Announcements

► **Day of the Homeless approaches in Spain** [06/11/2009]

A coalition of Spanish homelessness organisations, including FEANTSA members are organising the annual awareness-raising event, the Day of the Homeless on the 22nd of November 2009. The day will provide an opportunity for campaigning, reflection and advocacy. Find out more from [Caritas Spain's website](#).

► **National symposium on the justiciable right to housing in France** [06/11/2009]

A National Symposium on the justiciable right to housing will take place on the 1st December 2009 in Lyon. The event is organised by Jurislogement with the support of the Faculty of Law - Lyon 3 and the Fondation Abbé Pierre. See [Jurislogement's website](#) for further information.

► **Second night of solidarity in Paris** [06/11/2009]

A collective of French organisations is organising the second night of solidarity for people experiencing homelessness in Paris on the 27th November 2009. Find out more over the coming weeks from [www.nuitsolidaire.fr](http://www.nuitsolidaire.fr).

## Publications

► **France: INSEE publishes two new articles on data collection and homelessness** [06/11/2009]

In the latest edition of National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies' (INSEE) statistics bulletin, Maryse Marpsat has published two articles on data collection in the field of homelessness; 'Counting the homeless in the United States' and 'Definitions of homelessness in Europe: convergence and divergence'. Read the articles [here](#).

► **France: New research into rough sleepers and mobile outreach teams** [06/11/2009]

Lead by the government commissioner on homelessness Alain Reignier, a group of six homelessness organisations have co-operated on a report on rough sleepers and mobile outreach teams. The organisations involved were the French Red cross, Samusocial Paris, Restos du Cœur, the Salvation Army, l'Ordre de Malte and the Le Collectif des Morts de la Rue. The research focused on the practices of outreach teams and the expectations of rough sleepers. 225 homeless people were interviewed, as well as service provider staff. The trigger factor behind the research was the question of non-optional intervention to provide shelter in cases of extreme cold. The aim of the survey was to help cool down the debate on this issue and identify practical proposals. The survey explores expectations and opinions on the emergency shelter hotline 115, shelters, mobile outreach teams, non-optional interventions in cases of extreme cold and other forms of provision. Download a summary of the report [here](#).

► **Italy: New book on homelessness** [06/11/2009]

'I senza fissa dimora' or 'the homeless' is a new book edited by Joachim Lavanco and Massimo Santinello. It analyses homelessness from the perspective of community psychology and details some research-interventions in different locations in Italy. The book highlights how people experiencing homelessness manage, using skills and resources to cope with their living situation. It argues that interventions should take the resources of homeless people as a starting point.

► **Spain: Report on representation of homeless people in the press** [06/11/2009]

Enred.psh has published a new report on homeless people in the press during 2008. Building on similar reports from 2006 and 2007, it analyses the portrayal of homeless people in the national Spanish press. Download the report [here](#).

► **UK: 'Off The Radar' report on children and young people living on the streets** [06/11/2009]

This new report by the charity Railway Children focuses on children and young people in the UK who have experienced being detached from parents, carers and other societal institutions whilst under the age of 16, and who have consequently lived on the streets or been street-involved. The report provides intimate and frank first-hand interviews with children and young people. Download the report [here](#).



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

This programme was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in these fields.

The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

To that effect, PROGRESS purports at:

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

For more information see:

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

**FEANTSA is supported financially by the European Commission. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.**