



FEANTSA News

- ▶ [European seminar on local homeless strategies - 4th June, Brussels](#)
- ▶ [Latest ENHW Newsletter Available](#)
- ▶ [Research Conference on Homelessness in Europe - Registrations open](#)

News from the European Union

- ▶ [Commissioner Andor: "homelessness must be a top priority for the next decade"](#)
- ▶ [EU Council facilitates ERDF housing interventions for marginalised people](#)
- ▶ [EU integrated guidelines for economic and employment policies](#)
- ▶ [European Commission swears oath to respect the EU Treaties](#)
- ▶ [European Parliament Report on the Workings of the Social OMC](#)
- ▶ [FRA: EU Fundamental Rights Protection Bodies Need Additional Support](#)
- ▶ [Greek MEPs ask questions about homelessness](#)
- ▶ [HOME04 European project – first study visit in Granada](#)
- ▶ [MEPs back poverty reduction target](#)
- ▶ [MEPs call for EU money for Member States willing to host refugees](#)
- ▶ [Netherlands: Social housing organizations want EU decision overturned](#)
- ▶ [Peer Reviews on Homelessness in Finland and Portugal](#)
- ▶ [People Experiencing Poverty Meeting in the European Parliament](#)
- ▶ [SPC Opinion paper calls for further action to tackle health inequalities in the EU](#)

News from the Council of Europe

- ▶ [Assisted voluntary return programmes for irregular migrants as an alternative to forced return](#)

News from our Members

- ▶ [FEANTSA Members' EY2010 Activities](#)
- ▶ [Ireland: Warning over Irish homeless crisis](#)
- ▶ [Italy: fio.PSD criticize decision to place prisoners under house arrest](#)
- ▶ [Slovenia: Conference on social exclusion, poverty and homelessness](#)

- ▶ **Spain: Seminar on Ending Homelessness, Madrid**
- ▶ **UK: OSW and Crisis Merger**
- ▶ **UK: Campaign to introduce duty on local authorities to end homelessness**

Homelessness in the Headlines

- ▶ **Czech Republic: Homelessness among Vietnamese community**
- ▶ **France : Mobilisation in favour of asylum seekers' housing rights**
- ▶ **France: DALO law enforced for the first time**
- ▶ **France: Survey of housing experiences of people leaving prisons**
- ▶ **Germany: University courses offered in homeless shelters**
- ▶ **Italy: Rights groups urge international action to stop evictions of Roma people**
- ▶ **Poland: National Strategy to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion**
- ▶ **Poland: The principles of social housing reform**
- ▶ **Serbia: Authorities Urged to Halt Forced Eviction of Roma Families**
- ▶ **Spain: Madrid police compile map of begging areas**
- ▶ **Spain: Catalonia needs 571,000 social housing units**
- ▶ **UK: Homeless Young People in Charity Election**
- ▶ **UK: 'Incomers are jumping housing queue' say Welsh local authorities**
- ▶ **USA: Attacks on homeless people classed among "hate crimes"**

News from the United Nations

- ▶ **UN Secretary General urges support for migrant families**

Announcements

- ▶ **CoR: Local and regional responses to poverty and social exclusion**
- ▶ **Denmark: Video of sculpture exhibition by former service user**
- ▶ **France: Study of people using homeless services**
- ▶ **Swedish Social Report 2010 Focuses on Transnational Migration and Undocumented Migrants**
- ▶ **Transnational project to facilitate the input of homeless people into the European Consensus Conference on Homelessness**
- ▶ **UK: Homeless Link Re-launches Homelessness Pages**

Publications

- ▶ **Hungary: Homeless people, employment and the economic crisis - Results of the annual February 3rd survey**
- ▶ **Improving life chances for children in poverty: lessons from across Europe**
- ▶ **Ireland: Integrating a human rights-based approach into homeless services**
- ▶ **Poland: "Homelessness with no Fear" Forum**
- ▶ **Social impact of homelessness and poor quality housing**

For upcoming events, don't forget to check our [Events Calendar!](#)

FEANTSA News

► **European seminar on local homeless strategies - 4th June, Brussels** [28/05/2010]

On 4th June 2010, the Committee of the Regions (with FEANTSA and HABITACT) will host a European seminar on local homeless strategies, called Homelessness in public and private spaces: Mind the policy gap! Local strategies to address the different faces of homelessness. Find more information and a draft programme on the [FEANTSA website](#).

► **Latest ENHW Newsletter Available** [28/05/2010]

The Spring 2010 edition of the European Network of Homeless Health Workers (ENHW) newsletter is now available. The newsletter is published in the framework of the European Network of Homeless Health Workers, which brings together health professionals working with people who are homeless across the EU. It is a multi-disciplinary initiative, aimed at all persons working with homeless people in a health capacity, across all areas of mental and physical health. Read it [here](#).

► **Research Conference on Homelessness in Europe - Registrations open** [28/05/2010]

Registrations are open for the 5th Annual Research [Conference](#) on Homelessness in Europe. The conference will take place in Budapest, Hungary, on 17th September 2010 and will address the theme of "Understanding Homelessness and Housing Exclusion in the New European Context". For more information, and to register, contact christine.lambert@feantsa.org.

News from the European Union

► **Commissioner Andor: "homelessness must be a top priority for the next decade"** [28/05/2010]

Speaking at a European Commission [conference](#) on Mutual Learning on Active Inclusion and Homelessness on the 6th May 2010, László Andor, European Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, stated that homelessness must be a "top priority for the next decade". Commissioner Andor [concluded](#) the conference, which had featured expert speakers: policy-makers, stakeholders, researchers and representatives from projects across the EU who have implemented initiatives on homelessness and active inclusion. In a panel discussion, FEANTSA President, René Kneip, [highlighted](#) recent progress made at EU level on the issue of homelessness and called for the development of an EU homelessness strategy.

► **EU Council facilitates ERDF housing interventions for marginalised people** [28/05/2010]

On 26th April 2010, the Council of the European Union adopted a regulation allowing the extension of financial support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for housing interventions for poor and marginalised communities, including Roma communities. The aim is to promote the inclusion of Roma and other marginalised people by providing them with acceptable housing conditions. The new regulation extends housing interventions eligible for ERDF support to the renovation of houses in rural areas and to the replacement of houses in urban and rural areas.

► **EU integrated guidelines for economic and employment policies** [28/05/2010]

A new set of integrated guidelines for economic and employment policies were proposed by the European Commission (EC) on 27th April. The guidelines form part of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The "Europe 2020 Integrated Guidelines" set out the framework for the Europe 2020 strategy and reforms at Member State level. The guidelines are integrated to ensure that national and EU-level policies contribute fully to achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy. The EC has produced a [proposal](#) on Member States' employment policy guidelines, relating to: increasing labour market participation and reducing structural unemployment; developing a skilled workforce responding to labour market needs, promoting job quality and lifelong learning; improving the performance of education and training systems at all levels and increasing participation in tertiary education; and promoting social inclusion and combating poverty.

► **European Commission swears oath to respect the EU Treaties** [28/05/2010]

On the 3rd of May, the College of Commissioners swore a solemn declaration at the European Court of Justice, pledging to respect the EU Treaties and to be completely independent in carrying out their duties during their mandate. For the first time, the Commissioners also explicitly pledged to respect the new Charter of Fundamental Rights. Read more [here](#).

► **European Parliament Report on the Workings of the Social OMC** [28/05/2010]

This [report](#) provides an overview of the development of the Social Open Method of Coordination (OMC), its strengths and weaknesses and plans for the future. It makes proposals for strengthening the role of the Parliament in the process. Homelessness is covered by the report, but is not mentioned as an area on which progress through the OMC is possible, whereas recent developments on homelessness have shown that this is so. A number of the recommendations have already been followed on homelessness and it is now possible to move towards implementation.

► **FRA: EU Fundamental Rights Protection Bodies Need Additional Support** [28/05/2010]

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) considers that European Union data protection authorities, equality bodies and national human rights institutions need additional support, often lack resources, are not sufficiently independent or have weak mandates. Moreover, some of the most vulnerable groups are unaware of their existence: only 16% of ethnic minority and immigrant respondents of an FRA [survey](#) were able to think of any organisation offering support to people who have been discriminated against. All the reports are available at <http://www.fra.europa.eu/>

▶ **Greek MEPs ask questions about homelessness** [28/05/2010]

In April, two Greek MEPs, Michail Tremopoulos (Greens/ALE) and Georgios Papanikolaou (EPP), put written questions to the European Commission on homelessness in EU member states. Papanikolaou's question concerns data on levels of homelessness in Member States (and in particular in Greece) and on the social profile of homeless people. Tremopoulos queried the delay by the Greek Government in adopting and implementing policies for homeless people. The Commission should answer in the coming months.

▶ **HOME04 European project – first study visit in Granada** [28/05/2010]

The [PEOPLE programme](#) (a European mini-programme led by the Junta of Andalusia and co-funded under the Interregional Cooperation programme INTERREG IVC), set up a partnership project on homelessness called HOME04 between the Andalusia Public Foundation for Social Integration and Assistance, the City of Seville, Andalusia Health Services, the City of Granada, the City of Venice from the Veneto region and the Employment Agency Södermaln of the Stockholm region. FEANTSA is a supporting partner in this partnership. The project, whose full title is Networking for Integrated Care Homeless, will analyse and develop integrated policies with a local focus promoting the participation of homeless people by developing and using ICT to improve care and promote inclusion. After a meeting in February 2010, the partnership will do a study visit in Granada, which will focus on themes such as women and homelessness, mental health, healthcare, housing and employment. Contact [Tamara Hodas](#) for more information.

▶ **MEPs back poverty reduction target** [28/05/2010]

The EU 2020 strategy needs quantifiable poverty reduction targets and more effective forms of governance in employment and social policy than the traditional Open Method of Coordination among Member States, said a resolution approved by the Employment and Social Affairs Committee. To reduce poverty, MEPs reiterated Parliament's proposals to establish EU targets for minimum income (at least 60% of national median income), minimum wages (at least 60% of the relevant national average wage in the relevant sector) and ending street homelessness by 2015. However, it is still uncertain which indicator will be used to measure progress towards the poverty target. The Commission is looking at 3 indicators: relative poverty; material deprivation and jobless households and the Social Protection Committee discussed the issue during a meeting on the 18th May.

▶ **MEPs call for EU money for Member States willing to host refugees** [28/05/2010]

Member States volunteering to receive refugees should receive money from the EU refugee fund, suggested Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee on 27th April. To encourage more Member States to help in resettlement, the funding should also be increased for Member States applying for the first time, said the committee. MEPs also say that the new EU budget (2013-2017) should include funding for resettlement. Read more [here](#).

▶ **Netherlands: Social housing organizations want EU decision overturned** [28/05/2010]

On the 30th April 2010, 133 Dutch social housing organizations filed an objection to a European Commission decision stipulating that housing associations may only allocate social rental dwellings to households with an income of €33,000 or less per year. The objection is supported by CECODHAS Housing Europe, Woonbond (Netherlands Union of Tenants) and Aedes (Dutch association of social housing organizations), who believe that the decision would mean that only single-income households, people with a small pension and people on benefits would be eligible for public-sector rented accommodation. They also feel that those with middle incomes living in public-sector rented accommodation, less inclined to move to more expensive accommodation and thus freeing up room for first-time renters, would stay put. They feel that half a million households in the middle-income category would be in danger of falling into the gap between the rental and home ownership markets.

▶ **Peer Reviews on Homelessness in Finland and Portugal** [28/05/2010]

Two peer reviews on homelessness will take place in 2010. On the 4th-5th November, Portugal will present 'building a comprehensive and participative strategy on homelessness' and on the 2nd-3rd December, Finland will present its national programme to reduce long-term homelessness. Peer Reviews are an instrument of the Social 'Open Method of Coordination'. The host country presents a selected 'good practice' to experts from the European Commission, other countries and relevant stakeholders. See more on the Peer Review Programme [website](#).

▶ **People Experiencing Poverty Meeting in the European Parliament** [28/05/2010]

On the 24th and 25th June 2010 there will be a meeting of people experiencing poverty in the European Parliament, Brussels. This meeting will be held in the framework of the European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion. Read more [here](#).

▶ **SPC Opinion paper calls for further action to tackle health inequalities in the EU** [28/05/2010]

The Social Protection Committee (SPC) has published an [Opinion paper](#) on "Solidarity in Health: Reducing health inequalities in the EU", which underlines the need to ensure access to affordable and high quality health care services and to guarantee coverage of citizens from all socio-economic backgrounds and says specific targeted policies should be implemented to improve health outcomes for vulnerable and socially excluded groups, including homeless people. The Communication "Solidarity in health: Reducing health inequalities in the EU" can be found on the [European Commission website](#) and a policy briefing paper on the [Equity Channel website](#).

News from the Council of Europe

- ▶ **Assisted voluntary return programmes for irregular migrants as an alternative to forced return** [28/05/2010]
A report adopted on the 18th May by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Migration Committee makes a plea for assisted voluntary return programmes for irregular migrants as a more humane, cheaper and mutually beneficial alternative to forced return or compulsory removal. It provides an overview of voluntary return programmes in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Switzerland and will be debated during the PACE summer session (Strasbourg, 21st-25th June).

News from our Members

- ▶ **FEANTSA Members' EY2010 Activities** [28/05/2010]
Several FEANTSA members have organised or are running [activities](#) in the framework of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in order to contribute to the fight against homelessness.
- ▶ **Ireland: Warning over Irish homeless crisis** [28/05/2010]
Ireland's homeless crisis will deepen unless the government provides accommodation to those most in need, Irish FEANTSA member Focus Ireland has warned. Focus Ireland question why properties are lying empty when more people than ever before are living in inadequate, overcrowded, unsuitable or insecure shelter.
- ▶ **Italy: fio.PSD criticize decision to place prisoners under house arrest** [28/05/2010]
Italian FEANTSA members fio.PSD have published a press release criticizing a law allowing some prisoners to serve their sentence under house arrest to ease pressure on the country's overcrowded prison system, saying that the measure discriminates against prisoners who are homeless. Read the press release [here](#).
- ▶ **Slovenia: Conference on social exclusion, poverty and homelessness** [28/05/2010]
As part of the European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion, Slovenian FEANTSA member Kings of the Street has organized a conference on social exclusion, poverty and homelessness, with a view to developing a national homelessness strategy. The event will take place from the 16th-18th June in Ljubljana. The conference aims to mobilize different experts and organizations operating in Slovenia in the field of homelessness, and to coordinate efforts towards the development, negotiation and adoption of national policy on homelessness. At the same time, the aim is to facilitate mutual learning, provide networking opportunities for those working in the field and transfer good practice models from Europe. For more information, contact marta.stajduhar@kraljiulice.org.
- ▶ **Spain: Seminar on Ending Homelessness, Madrid** [28/05/2010]
On the 26th May 2010 at Pontificia Comillas University in Madrid, a seminar organized by Spanish FEANTSA members and including participation from political, social and academic stakeholders involved in ending homelessness debated existing homelessness policies, established a starting point for creating a coordinated ending homelessness strategy and defined challenges and priorities for implementing such a strategy. The seminar also studied the "10 proposals for ending homelessness" put forward by the organizations in the framework of the "Ending Homelessness" campaign and included workshops on prevention and employment, accommodation models and quality of accommodation, intervention models including participation, emotional/relationship support and a gender-based approach, and models of coordination and networks. Download the programme [here](#). Read more about the campaign activities on the [FACIAM website](#).
- ▶ **UK: OSW and Crisis Merger** [28/05/2010]
UK FEANTSA member, Off the Streets and into Work (OSW) merged with Crisis, UK national charity for single homeless people, on 1st April 2010. The merger combines the work of both organisations on helping homeless people progress through education, training and employment programmes and in helping people access accommodation in the private rented sector, as well as on influencing policy and practice and on creating a knowledge base on tackling homelessness.
- ▶ **UK: Campaign to introduce duty on local authorities to end homelessness** [28/05/2010]
A campaign, led by UK FEANTSA member Shelter Scotland, calls on the Scottish government to introduce a duty on local authorities to help end the cycle of homelessness. The 12 organisations involved want the Housing Bill, currently being debated in the Scottish Parliament, to include the need for local authorities to take into consideration a range of support needs, from help with furnishing a property to assistance with drug or alcohol problems, in every case where a person becomes homeless.

Homelessness in the Headlines

- ▶ **Czech Republic: Homelessness among Vietnamese community** [28/05/2010]

Media attention generated by recent tension around the Vietnamese market place in Prague's southern district of Libus has revealed the existence of socially excluded communities of Vietnamese people. Homeless people, drug-users and destitute criminals have come to public attention. Some Vietnamese people are victims of bogus job-mediating agencies who have brought them to the country on the basis of false business visas for which they paid high sums of money, only to find that the job they expected to start did not exist. These people can become destitute and they are unable to leave the country because of Visa complications.

► **France : Mobilisation in favour of asylum seekers' housing rights** [28/05/2010]

Alongside associations which work with people experiencing housing exclusion and homelessness, asylum-seeker support organizations met on the 3rd May 2010 to demonstrate for the right to housing for asylum seekers as well as French citizens in France. Asylum seekers theoretically receive social support and accommodation while their asylum request is being examined, but in reality, say NGOs, this system is the victim of diminishing resources and asylum seekers have been evicted and some have ended up on the street. Immigration minister, Éric Besson, recently announced that 1000 extra accommodation spaces would be created in 2010. The small scale of this promise is a source of concern for associations, which criticize the lack of government help in terms of integration and the fact that asylum seekers can have no recourse to public funds if they do not ask for state accommodation, even if they wish to live, and are capable of living, independently.

► **France: DALO law enforced for the first time** [28/05/2010]

The French law guaranteeing the right to housing has been applied for the first time, in an administrative court in Lyon. The state has been prosecuted for not having respected the requirement to rehouse homeless people. The request that a decision to evict three households from the emergency hotel accommodation in which they were staying be postponed and that their situation be reexamined for 48 hours was not upheld by local authorities in the Rhône. A procedure has begun to obtain the payment of damages per day for as long as the request is not dealt with. According to social work professionals, state administrators are still unfamiliar with the conditions set down in the law.

► **France: Survey of housing experiences of people leaving prisons** [28/05/2010]

The French prison authority has carried out a spot inquiry into the housing conditions of people leaving prisons in France. The research asked 1613 people leaving prison between the 1st and 7th February 2010 across the country and in its overseas territories. The results reveal that 15% of people leaving prison do not have a permanent housing solution, 10% only have an insecure solution and 5% have no solution at all. See more (in French) [here](#).

► **Germany: University courses offered in homeless shelters** [28/05/2010]

A project organized by street magazine Straßenkreuzer offers courses to users of emergency shelters. The courses will take the form of lectures followed by seminar sessions. The project is open to all and hopes to propose three subjects topics, Law, New Media and Diet and Nutrition, by July. More information is available at <http://www.strassenkreuzer.de/>

► **Italy: Rights groups urge international action to stop evictions of Roma people** [28/05/2010]

On 5th May, the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and NAGA sent letters to international and European human rights watchdogs in response to evictions of Roma and Sinti people in Italy. The organisations urged the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner, the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing and the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency, to denounce such human rights violations publicly and visit the country to engage in dialogue with Italian authorities. [Read more](#).

► **Poland: National Strategy to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion** [28/05/2010]

As 2010 is the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, the Office of the Polish Ombudsman is working on a National Strategy to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion. The project will cover a strategy to combat homelessness, currently developed by a team set up to solve the problem of homelessness. The last meeting of the team took place on 28 April 2010. All Polish FEANTSA members are involved in the process.

► **Poland: The principles of social housing reform** [28/05/2010]

On 29th April 2010 the Polish Ministry of Infrastructure adopted a draft law on social housing which stipulates the principles of social housing in Poland. The phase of public consultation will last until the end of May 2010.

► **Serbia: Authorities Urged to Halt Forced Eviction of Roma Families** [28/05/2010]

Amnesty International (AI) has urged authorities in Belgrade not to carry out the planned forced eviction of a Romani settlement. At least 300 houses in an informal settlement known as Belvil are set to be demolished to make way for a new road, despite the people living there not having been offered any alternative adequate housing. Belgrade's Deputy Mayor has said the families will be housed in metal "containers". AI does not believe these metal containers satisfy human rights criteria for adequate housing.

► **Spain: Madrid police compile map of begging areas** [28/05/2010]

Madrid police have compiled a "risk map", for internal use, of the city centre, identifying the main areas where people beg. Various NGOs have voiced their alarm that this map has been compiled by the police and not by social services, and highlighted the risk of tarring people begging and people who are experiencing homelessness with the same brush. A spokesperson from the Concejalía de Seguridad (Council for Safety) said that the police respond to complaints from residents about begging, and maintained that police officers approaching homeless people should be accompanied by a social worker, but admitted that this is not always possible.

► **Spain: Catalonia needs 571,000 social housing units** [28/05/2010]

A new housing plan in Catalonia has highlighted the need to build 571,000 housing units which ensure some form of social protection or public assistance to tenants, and has stipulated that the regional government should begin implementing measures to achieve this, including, as a last resort, the compulsory rental of properties for sale that remain empty as a result of the crisis. The plan details that the government must provide housing solutions for 65,000 people at risk of social exclusion, including the region's 6,000 homeless people and 20,000 people who live in inadequate housing, who are identified as those who should receive the most urgent assistance. Access to housing is to be improved through lowering rents and house prices and renewing inadequate housing.

► **UK: Homeless Young People in Charity Election** [28/05/2010]

Homeless young people living at services provided by charity Centrepoint voted for representatives among the charity's service users to sit on the charity's parliament. 20 young people were elected to provide a voice for young people who are often isolated or marginalised from mainstream debate. The youngsters will represent their peers' views on improving services, improving the wider community and act as advocates for change with national politicians. For more information visit <http://www.centrepoin.org.uk/>.

► **UK: 'Incomers are jumping housing queue' say Welsh local authorities** [28/05/2010]

A Welsh Assembly Government report studied how North Wales authorities coped with demands for housing from cross-border migrants, often from England, between November 2008 and July 2009. It found that councillors feel newcomers should have to prove they have been local for longer than the current period (at least six months in the previous 12 months) to combat the perceived practice of people from outside Wales trying to be classed as 'homeless' to gain priority in the queue for council accommodation.

► **USA: Attacks on homeless people classed among "hate crimes"** [28/05/2010]

On 11th May, the state of Florida, USA, approved a law that increases penalties against attackers targeting homeless people. The move adds homeless people to an existing "hate crimes" law that concerns penalties for attacks motivated by "race, skin colour, ancestry, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, mental health condition, physical disability or age". It would allow homeless people to sue for larger sums of damages if attacked.

News from the United Nations

► **UN Secretary General urges support for migrant families** [28/05/2010]

Focusing on the social and cultural contributions of migrants, as well as on the challenges they face in his message for the International Day of Families (15th May), UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged governments to implement policies that help migrants adapt and prosper in host countries. "Migrants can face harsh living conditions, discrimination and low wages," he stated. He noted that the worsening economic crisis is partly to blame for the pressure on families to leave their homes. Many also migrate because of poverty, unemployment, conflict or human rights violations. The Secretary-General called on States to ratify and implement the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

Announcements

► **CoR: Local and regional responses to poverty and social exclusion** [28/05/2010]

In the context of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, the Committee of the Regions invites local and regional authorities, organisations and EU institutions to exchange good practice and expertise in the fight against poverty and social exclusion at local level on the 8th June. More information is available on the [CoR website](#).

► **Denmark: Video of sculpture exhibition by former service user** [28/05/2010]

Thomas Roos, a filmmaker having previously experienced homelessness has produced a [film](#) of a stop on the tour which will take the statues of homeless people unveiled at the Ending Homelessness campaign launch to various cities around Europe. Henrik Thiesen of FEANTSA's Health Working Group, made the music for the film.

► **France: Study of people using homeless services** [28/05/2010]

The French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) and the National Institute of Demographic Studies (INED) are preparing a national study of people using homeless accommodation services and organisations providing free meals. The study is the second edition of a survey carried out in 2001. It aims to compare homeless people with the general population in terms of health, employment and living conditions, to determine "homelessness trajectories", assess homeless people's use of institutions (in particular their recourse to the enforceable right to housing) and to identify the processes of exclusion.

- **Swedish Social Report 2010 Focuses on Transnational Migration and Undocumented Migrants** [28/05/2010]
The Swedish Annual Social Report, published in March 2010, includes two chapters on migration – transnational migration and undocumented migrants – as well as chapters on: access to the labour market for young people; the changing profile of poverty; assisting people with multiple welfare needs; the social impact of illness; housing segregation and education inequalities. The report is available in Swedish on the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare [website](#).
-
- **Transnational project to facilitate the input of homeless people into the European Consensus Conference on Homelessness** [28/05/2010]
The [European Consensus Conference on Homelessness](#) is a process taking place in 2010, aiming to facilitate homelessness policy-making in Europe and seeking to establish common understandings on questions about homelessness and provide a basis for future policy progress. Co-organised by the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council and FEANTSA, with the support of the French Government, the consensus conference will take place on 9th and 10th December 2010.
The participation of people with experience of homelessness is a central part of the consensus conference. The Belgian organisation Front Commun des SDF has been contracted by the Belgian Presidency to organise a transnational consultation of people with experience of homelessness. The results of this process will be presented at the consensus conference in order to ensure that the views of homeless people are taken into account. The Preparatory Committee for the consensus conference, which brings together key stakeholders in the field of homelessness - NGOs, researchers, public authorities, people with direct experience of homelessness and representatives of neighbouring sectors such as social housing – has identified a series of key questions that will be addressed at the consensus conference. The Front Commun des SDF are consulting people with experience of homelessness on these questions, both via a website-based consultation and through asking partners to organise meetings.
Full details of the consultation and how to get involved are available [here](#). For further details contact Jean Peeters at frontcommunsdf@hotmail.com
-
- **UK: Homeless Link Re-launches Homelessness Pages** [28/05/2010]
Homeless Link is re-launching its publications website [Homeless Pages](#), a source of publications and research on homelessness in the UK.

Publications

- **Hungary: Homeless people, employment and the economic crisis - Results of the annual February 3rd survey** [28/05/2010]
Every February since 1997, a survey has interviewed homeless people in 19 Hungarian cities. The survey is not a census of all homeless people in Hungary as it only reaches those who are sleeping in homeless services willing to cooperate in the research, or those sleeping rough who are in touch with an outreach service. Some questions are the same every year (age, sex, place of birth, length of homeless experience, which service people use), while some vary. 8019 people answered the survey in 2010. The focus was on employment, as in 2009. This allowed comparison of the data of the two years of the global economic crisis, and its effects on the lives of people experiencing homelessness.
-
- **Improving life chances for children in poverty: lessons from across Europe** [28/05/2010]
The European Cities Against Child Poverty Network, an EU-wide partnership between the cities of Amsterdam, Budapest, Helsinki, London and Milan, as well as associate Swedish cities, undertook a two-year project addressing the causes of child poverty in European cities through sharing practical experience. The network's final report presents the findings, including on the impact of homelessness and poor housing conditions on children and ways to improve housing conditions for families. Download the report [here](#).
-
- **Ireland: Integrating a human rights-based approach into homeless services** [28/05/2010]
Dundalk Simon Community has produced a [paper](#) on their experience of developing a human rights-based approach to their work. Visit <http://www.dundalksimon.ie/> for more information.
-
- **Poland: "Homelessness with no Fear" Forum** [28/05/2010]
The 2010 issue of the publication produced by the forum "Homelessness with no Fear" is devoted to a question which has not been widely discussed yet in Poland – preventing homelessness. The book is divided into two parts, the first devoted to counteracting homelessness and the second to different approaches to homelessness. The book contains 19 texts which cover different aspects of homelessness, including the annual report made by Piotr Olech, as well as texts written by Andrzej Przymeński and Monika Oliwa-Ciesielska, Andrzej Trzeciński, or Maciej Dębski who presents the results of the latest survey of the homeless population (2009).
-
- **Social impact of homelessness and poor quality housing** [28/05/2010]

A report entitled *The Social Impact of Poor Housing* analyses the impact of low quality housing on health, educational achievement and crime. It finds strong links between poor housing and health problems, low educational attainment and an association with crime and reoffending. The report concludes that people considered officially homeless and living in temporary accommodation suffered from a higher incidence of sickness. Homeless children were four times as likely to suffer from respiratory infections, five times as likely to have stomach infections and made twice as many emergency hospital visits, had six times as many speech impediments and four times the rate of asthma compared with permanently housed children. Find out more and download the report on the National Housing Federation [website](#).

A similar study by Professor Sonia Jackson found that living in state care institutions had a negative impact on children's educational and consequently, employment, social and housing options. The study discovered that conditions in care institutions made carrying on in education extremely difficult for children and young people, who would then find their employment and housing options limited on exiting care institutions. Of particular interest is the discrepancy between levels of homelessness among "high-achievers" and school leavers: 2.6% of high-achievers in the study were homeless, compared with 22.7% of school-leavers.



**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/social/main.jsp?catId=327&langId=en>

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.