

Homelessness in public and private spaces: Mind the policy gap! Local strategies to address the different faces of homelessness

Brussels, 4 June 2010



René Kneip gained a social work diploma in Brussels in 1978, specialising in community development. In 1986 René was hired as a civil servant at the "Service National d'Action Sociale". In 1995 he took over the newly created job of director of "Caritas Accueil et Solidarité asbl", an NGO member of Caritas Luxembourg, specialising in the domain of homelessness and long term unemployment. His daily job consists in organising and coordinating all the services of this NGO, comprising street-work, day care centre, night- shelter, protected housing, accompanied housing and protected employment activities. Since 1987, René Kneip has represented Luxembourg on the administrative council of FEANTSA, was one of the founding members of the Data Collection Working Group, and is now in his fourth mandate as member of the executive committee and in his first mandate as President of FEANTSA.



Tore Hult – Member of the local council of Alingsås, Sweden, Member of the Committee of the Regions

Tore Hult, Vice-president of the municipal council of Alingsås (SE/PES), has launched a Committee of the Regions own-initiative opinion on "Combating homelessness". The CoR issues several opinions a year, within the frame of its consultative work, which provide a local and regional perspective to European debates.



Antonia Carparelli – European Commission, DG Employment, social affairs and inclusion

Antonia Carparelli is Head of the Unit for "Social inclusion policies and social aspects of migration" at the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. She joined the European Commission in 1993, after several years of research and professional work as an economist in her own country, Italy, first at the National Institute for Statistics and then at the National Institute for Economic Forecasting. At the European Commission, she has worked for several years in the Department for Economic and Financial Affairs, dealing with several dimensions of the introduction of the single currency. In 1999 she was appointed Deputy Head of Cabinet of the European Commissioner for Environment (Mrs Margot Wallström) and she was confirmed in that function in 2004, when Mrs Wallström became Vice-president of the European Commission and was given the responsibilities for Institutional Issues, Relations with the Parliament and Communication.



Fabrizio Torella, Ferrovie dello Stato

Fabrizio TORELLA has a degree in humanities. He worked for several years for Ferrovie dello Stato (the national Railway Company) in Rome, dealing with social issues, economic and social research. He wrote some essays on railway-related topics, such as *Le stazioni impresenziate sulla rete ferroviaria italiana* and *Il patrimonio immobiliare FS*. He coordinated important researches with the University of Milan on the environment-oriented reuse of FS real estate, and essays on social issues with the Institute of Transport Research and Training entitled "Social distress in major Italian stations". He is currently working at the Social Policies Department of Ferrovie dello Stato, on behalf of which he is the vice president of the network "Gares européennes et solidarité" (whose members -railway companies- have signed the European Charter for the development of social initiatives in stations), and the ONDS delegate.



Alessandro Radicchi, ONDS

Alessandro RADICCHI is the President of the social cooperative Europe Consulting NPO and the director of the National Observatory on solidarity in Italian stations (ONDS). After a degree in Astronomical Mathematics, he carried out research on informatics and astrophysics for several years, while devoting the rest of his time to volunteering in Bosnia, in support of children affected by the war, and in Italy, helping people experiencing homelessness. At the age of 29 he left the “for-profit” sector for social cooperation, becoming President of Europe Consulting NPO and founding in 2002 the Help Center of the Roma Termini railway station in Rome, a center of social orientation for homeless people. In parallel, he created with Ferrovie dello Stato (the national Railway Company) the ONDS. On the EU level, he collaborated in the creation of “Gares européennes et solidarité”, the European network of railway companies engaged in the social issues concerning railway stations. Within Europe Consulting NPO, he is the editor of several publications on sociological issues, and Director of the street newspaper of Rome “Shaker, Pensieri senza dimora”.



Geertien Pols, Centrum voor Dienstverlening Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Geertien Pols works for the Centrum voor Dienstverlening Rotterdam in the Netherlands – this is a local NGO homeless service provider which works closely with Rotterdam city council to implement local homeless policy. She has studied social work. She worked in different management roles with homeless people and rough sleepers. At the moment she is responsible for innovation and development. She is using the European model of social quality to reflect on what works for someone we call homeless.



Commandant Jean-François Molas, Brigade d'Assistance aux Personnes Sans-Abri, BAPSA, Paris

Jean-François Molas has been head policy officer of the “Brigade d'Assistance aux Personnes Sans-Abri (BAPSA)” (police homeless services) in Paris since January 2008. He has also worked in other police services such as fighting against human trafficking and road security. The BAPSA was created back in 1955, and today is made up of a team of 70 police officers who do outreach work with homeless people in Paris. The BAPSA was involved in the French consensus conference on homelessness in December 2007.



Ferenc Matlári, Menhely Foundation, Hungary

Ferenc Matlári has been working as a social worker at Menhely Alapítvány (Shelter Foundation) in Budapest since 2003. Menhely Alapítvány is one of the first non-governmental organisations in Hungary which works with homeless people. Ferenc’s work covers different kinds of activities, administrative service in one of the four Menhely day centres, social work in the street with the Crisis Car team, and dispatcher work for the non-stop homeless help telephone emergency phoneline. He has given professional training to social assistants as well as street work training for social workers.



Michaela Gosch is the manager of Graz Women's Shelter. The shelter supports women and their children who are fleeing domestic violence. She has worked in various areas of affirmative action and equal opportunity. She has been playing a leading role in current projects to reconcile of work and family life at two Graz universities (technical and medical), and is now developing plans to provide affordable accommodation for women and children after they leave the women’s shelter. She works together with local and national NGOs and local government authorities.



Andrew Waugh, Former advisor to Scottish Government, UK

Andrew's worked for the Scottish Government for one year (2007-2008). During that time, Andrew built the Scottish Government's revised homelessness data capture system and created the Waugh Model. Prior to this, Andrew worked for a private sector consultancy and also for the Scottish Council for Single Homelessness. His work has helped individual local authorities assess the impact of implementing homelessness legislation in their own areas, and helped them identify what steps they need to take in the future. Since working for the Government, Andrew has been on a round the world trip and now lives in Finland. More information: <http://www.tinyurl.com/awaugh>



Kristin Tandberg, Correctional Services Eastern Norway,

Kristin Tandberg has a degree in social work from 1989 and has worked with the prison & probation service since. Today she is a senior adviser at the Regional Administration of The Norwegian Correctional Service. For the last few years, her main tasks have been cooperation between the different actors in the field. She has been specifically engaged in agreements with housing authorities to secure a safe release for the inmates.



Gro Mansson, Drammen prison

Gro Solbakken Månsson is the project coordinator of the project “My future” (original title “Fremtid for meg”), Drammen prison, Norway. Beside her job as a project coordinator, she collaborates with the Ministry of Justice working with procedures ensuring a safer release for inmates who serve a sentence in Norwegian prisons. She has a bachelor degree in social work and a master degree in public management. Her previous working experiences are primary prevention work and therapeutic work with people who abuses drugs and who have mental disorders in institutions as primary school and in the specialized health care service.



Nienke Boesveldt, Amsterdam city council

Nienke Boesveldt is a member of HABITACT – European exchange forum on local homeless strategies and has hosted a HABITACT peer review in March 2010 on the Amsterdam homeless strategy. She is a policy-maker in the city of Amsterdam, working in the housing, health and welfare department. She is responsible for homeless policy in the city of Amsterdam. She worked as a researcher for the University of Utrecht and the National Institute for Mental Health and Addiction, working specifically on vulnerable groups such as public mental Health and child protection issues. She is currently undertaking a PhD on the Amsterdam Homeless policy, as an outside researcher, besides her current activities as a policy-maker for the city of

Amsterdam.



Emmanuel Cornelius, Esch-sur-Alzette city council

Emmanuel CORNELIUS has a masters degree in social sciences with a specialization in social change theory and approach. He worked for some years as a junior consultant in human resource management and continuous vocational training where he represented Luxembourg in the European unit of the CEDEFOP in Thessaloniki. In 2004 he integrated the city council of Esch-sur-Alzette as “Social Development Agent” in charge of the social policy of this small city (30.000 inhabitants). In this function he focuses more specially on housing policies and homeless. Emmanuel CORNELIUS is also the president of the “Association Luxembourgeoise des Solidarités de Proximité” which develops ideas in the social action field, the social work field and the urban development field to promote solidarity amongst the

citizens in their living area. He also coordinates for the “European Federation of Neighborhood Solidarity” in Paris a European research network in the field of neighborhood solidarity.



Herwig Verschueren, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Herwig Verschueren teaches International and European Labour and Social Security law at the University of Antwerp (Belgium). He is also a visiting professor at the University of Brussels (VUB). From 1992 to 2004, he was a civil servant at the European Commission (Brussels) working in the field of free movement of workers and the co-ordination of social security schemes. Since 2004 he is a professor at the University of Antwerp and a visiting professor at the University of Brussels. His research concentrates on European social law and more specifically on the legal position of migrant workers and persons with regard to labour and social security rights. He is a member of the European academic networks “Tress” (European social security co-ordination) and “Free Movement of Workers”. He regularly acts as a consultant for Belgian and European public authorities, including the European Commission,

on legal issues related to the cross-border application of labour and social security law.