



Homelessness Measurement

CHECKLIST



<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Context▶ National▶ European▶ International	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Definition of homelessness▶ National definitions▶ European definitions▶ Measurement methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Homeless services database▶ Typology of services▶ Register of services▶ Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Standard Variables▶ Core▶ Non-core		<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Weblinks▶ Europe▶ International
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Client registration system▶ Guidelines▶ Dos and Donts▶ Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Surveys of homelessness▶ Methodologies▶ Dos and Donts▶ Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Population Census▶ Methodologies▶ Examples

FEANTSA, the European Federation of national organisations working with the homeless/Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri, is a European Non-Governmental Organisation committed to preventing and reducing homelessness with a view to its progressive elimination. FEANTSA runs the European Observatory on Homelessness which carries out research and reviews of homelessness statistics, profiles and services to inform homeless policies in Europe.

Homelessness is a continuing public policy issue across Europe. At EU level, comparative homelessness statistics are necessary (yet lacking) in the framework of the EU social inclusion strategy, a strategy whereby the European Commission and national governments monitor progress in tackling poverty, including tackling homelessness.¹ In this framework, all EU countries should regularly report to the European Commission on homelessness policy and statistics in their [National Strategic Report](#) on social protection and social inclusion (these national government reports submitted to the European Commission every three years). Many countries have developed integrated strategies to significantly reduce homelessness. In this context, reliable data is needed on the extent of homelessness, as well as information on the social characteristics and geographical spread of the population, in order to measure the impact of homelessness policies. Moreover, in 2011 all EU countries will carry out a population and housing census which should cover the whole population, including people who are homeless.

Measurement of homelessness in Europe is developing rapidly in most countries since information is the basis for the development, implementation and monitoring of homelessness policies. For the first time, the European Commission published in 2007 a study on measurement of homelessness at EU level with clear methodological recommendations for measuring homelessness. The MPHASIS project is currently testing the study recommendations in more than 20 countries (see recommendations in Annex I). The FEANTSA Research Observatory carried out a review of homelessness statistics and homelessness measurement in 2009 (see reference below) which provides an overview of progress made over the last 5 years.

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, including this **Checklist**. This is a Checklist of items to consider when measuring homelessness, supported by national examples. It is intended to give an overview of existing initiatives, definitions, variables and methods used to measure homelessness in Europe.

KEY DOCUMENTS/WEBSITES

- ▶ FEANTSA Review of homelessness statistics 2009 >> [Details](#)
- ▶ European Commission study on measurement of homelessness at EU level (2007)>> [Details](#)
- ▶ MPHASIS Synthesis Report: How to improve the information base on homelessness (2009) >> [Details](#)
- ▶ UNECE/Eurostat Recommendations for the 2011 census round >> [Details](#)
- ▶ FEANTSA Overview of transnational statistical initiatives on homelessness and poverty >> [Details](#)
- ▶ MPHASIS website, with most up-to-date national information on homelessness measurement>> [Details](#)
- ▶ EU Regulation on Population and Housing Censuses (2008) >>[Details](#)

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¹ In 2001, national governments stressed the need to develop common indicators on social inclusion, explicitly referring to housing and homelessness.

✓ Context

Many EU countries are developing strategies to tackle and significantly reduce homelessness. To this end, many initiatives have been taken to quantify this phenomenon, to research the causes and to grasp different pathways in and out of homelessness. Before developing an information strategy to measure homelessness, it may be useful to look past country borders to see what initiatives have been taken in other countries and at European/International level.

- ▶ National
- ▶ European
- ▶ International

▶ National

As yet, there are no European statistics on homelessness. However, statistics do exist at national, regional and local level on homelessness. These are mainly based on surveys of homeless people and homeless services.

>>[Read further](#) on the FEANTSA website

▶ European

There are no European statistics on homelessness, but different EU bodies and networks are active in collecting data on poverty, homelessness, housing deprivation in Europe.

- European Commission: DGEMPL of the European Commission is currently the leader on statistical initiatives on homelessness at EU level, with several interesting actions taken over the last few years (research, transnational projects, surveys) – especially important in this respect is the MPHASIS project on homelessness measurement. Eurostat: ECHP, EU-SILC, the Taskforce on Homelessness and the EU Urban audit.
- Indicators-Sub-Group: The work of the Indicators Sub-Group of the Social Protection committee (common EU indicators on poverty, including indicators on housing and material deprivation).
- The quality of life surveys of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working conditions.
- The data collected by the EU housing ministers on quality/availability of housing.

>>[Read further](#) in the FEANTSA *Overview of transnational statistical initiatives on homelessness and poverty*

▶ International

UN agencies like the UN Statistics Division, the UNECE, UN-Habitat and the country-reporting to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights can be useful sources of national data on homelessness. The UNECE is currently coordinating the population and housing censuses in EU countries (planned for 2011). The Council of Europe (social cohesion indicators, reporting on housing rights) and the OECD also collect some relevant data.

>>[Read further](#) in the FEANTSA *Overview of transnational statistical initiatives on homelessness and poverty*

✓ Definition of homelessness

Defining homelessness is a crucial first step in measuring homelessness. This definition will also determine the methodology to be used to collect information on homelessness. Different countries have different definitions of homelessness – some more narrow definitions focusing only on the extreme end of homelessness and other more broad definitions aiming to *prevent* street homelessness. At European level, some common definitions have emerged over the last decade which are used for transnational comparative analyses.

- ▶ National definitions
- ▶ European definitions
- ▶ Measurement methods

▶ National definitions

National definitions (where these exist) can be found in some of the different Mphasis national position papers. Legal definitions of homelessness do not exist in all countries, however some working definitions of homelessness are still developed for survey purposes.

>> [Read further](#)

▶ European definitions

-The [ETHOS](#) Typology developed by FEANTSA in 2005 provides a comprehensive definition of the housing vulnerability of persons experiencing any of the following situations: rooflessness, houselessness, living in insecure housing, living in inadequate housing. ETHOS provides a more complete reflection of homelessness as a dynamic process linked to other forms of housing exclusion (see Annex II).

-The [EC Study](#) proposes a harmonised definition of homelessness which is often referred to as ETHOS “light”. This narrower definition is useful for developing political consensus at EU level, however the full ETHOS typology provides a better reflection of the realities of homelessness (see Annex III).

-The [Eurostat/UNECE](#) Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2011 census round put forward a definition of primary and secondary homelessness.

▶ Measurement methods

The definition of living situations adopted will then determine the measurement methods to be used. The EC Study recently identified 3 main methods of measuring different existing forms of homelessness:

-Survey methods, including street counts of homeless people sleeping rough, surveys of those in overnight emergency shelters, or surveys of local authorities to estimate numbers of homeless people in contact with services.

-Registration or administrative records that are used by a number of countries to collate statistics on the number and profile of homeless people. These include official national returns, official registers of service providers, and NGO client record systems.

-General population and census data that can be used to gather some information about some categories of homelessness (those living in institutional situations, with family or friends, in accommodation for homeless people, and those in overcrowded or unfit or unconventional living conditions).

Living situation	Data source
People living rough	Survey
People in emergency accommodation	Client registration systems
People living in accommodation for homeless people	
People living in institutions	Administrative records
People living in non-conventional dwellings due to lack of housing	Census/Housing surveys
People living temporarily with family and friends	Surveys/Census

>> [Read further](#) in the EC study

✓ Homeless services database

Homeless services can be a source of data on homelessness since most service providers collect information on the users of their services. Before using homeless services as an information source, it is important to clarify what is a homeless service (develop a typology) and to develop a list/register/database of these services.

- ▶ Typology of services
- ▶ Register of services
- ▶ Examples

▶ Typology of services

After a stocktaking of the range of services provided to homeless people across the European Union (through the EC Study) a broad typology of services emerged including:

Accommodation for homeless people	e.g. emergency shelters, temporary hostels, supported or transitional housing
Non-residential services for homeless people	e.g. outreach services, day centres, advice services
Accommodation for other client groups that may be used by homeless people	e.g. hotels, bed and breakfast, specialist support and residential care services for people with alcohol, drug or mental health services
Mainstream services for the general population that may be used by homeless people	e.g. advice services, municipal services, health and social care services
Specialist support services for other client groups that may be used by homeless people	e.g. psychiatric counselling services, drug detoxification facilities.

These services may be provided by a wide range of service providers including the public or state sector (at a national, regional or local level), NGOs and the private sector. The EC study provides examples of typologies of services used in countries like Spain, France, the UK and Hungary.

>>[Read further](#) in the EC study

▶ Register of services

Once the definition of services is clarified, a register or database can be set up with the intention of listing all services provided to homeless people in a region. A register of services can have different purposes. It can be used internally by homeless services to search for different services for their clients. It can be used to carry out surveys of homelessness. It can be used as a funding register to collect relevant service information (no. of beds, type of support, address, etc). Registers can exist at national, regional or local level.

>>[Read further](#) in the EC study

▶ Examples

Poland - The Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy manages a [national database of homeless service providers](#). A number of national ministries keep a database of service providers (see in France, Czech Republic, Hungary).

Ireland - The Dublin Homelessness Directory and [Homeless Dublin](#) websites are the most extensive single sources of information about homelessness and related services in Ireland.

UK - [Homeless UK](#) is a UK-wide online database of services for people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or have housing problems. A number of national umbrellas of service providers have set up databases of services (see in Czech Republic, Spain, Germany, Poland, Ireland)

>>[Read further](#) in the EC study and in the Mphasis national position papers

✓ Standard variables

In order to make meaningful comparisons between different sets of client data, on the local, regional, national and international level it is absolutely essential to agree on a certain minimum of variables which are collected in the same way. Indeed, a set of harmonised core variables would enhance the understanding of homelessness and of the changing profile of the homeless population. Eurostat has adopted a report on the harmonisation of core social variables which are relevant for the collection of cross-country on homelessness. The EC Study proposed specific core and non-core variables on homelessness which could be collected across Europe.

- ▶ Core
- ▶ Non-core

▶ Core

Table 7.3 Proposed Core Variables

Variable	CORE
Demographic Characteristics: Age and Gender	
Age	Date of birth
Gender	Male/Female
Nationality / Migration background	
Nationality	Country of citizenship
Country of birth	Country of birth
Household / family characteristics	
Household structure/ living situation	Alone living without child(ren), alone living together with child(ren), couple living without child(ren), couple living together with child(ren) Other type of household
Housing characteristics	
Previous accommodation, night before entering service and current accommodation situation (at date of counting)	Living Rough (public space / external space) In emergency accommodation (overnight shelters) In accommodation for the homeless (homeless hostels, temporary accommodation, transitional supported accommodation) Living in crisis shelter for domestic violence Living in institutions (health care, prison) Living in non-conventional dwellings due to lack of housing (mobile homes, non-standard building, temporary structure) Sharing with friends or relatives (due to homelessness) Homeless and living in other types of accommodation Not homeless
Duration of (current) homelessness	Less than 2 months; 2 to under 6 months; 6 months to under 1 year; 1 to under 3 years; 3 to under 5 years; 5 years and longer
Reasons for Homelessness	
Reason(s) for last period of homelessness as defined by the homeless person (several answers possible)	Landlord Action (eviction) / Mortgage repossession End of contract / unfit housing / lack of housing Relationship breakdown / family conflict / death Loss of job / unemployment Violence Personal (support needs / addiction / health) Financial (debt) Discharge from institution / armed forces Immigration Force majeure (fire, flood etc.) Other reasons

Such a restricted list of core variables increases the feasibility of data harmonisation. While developed mainly for accommodation based services, the variables can also be used as a core data set for client registration at non-residential services for the homeless and can also guide the definition of variables employed in surveys.

- >> [Read further](#) in the EC study
- >> [Read further](#) in Eurostat report on core social variables

▶ Non-core

Table 7.4 Proposed Non-Core Variables

Variable	NON-CORE
Economic characteristics	
Main activity	Paid employment (non subsidised), Subsidised employment, sheltered employment Voluntary work, School or training Unemployed (but able to work) Retired Long-term sick/disable
Source / type of income (several answers possible)	Income from paid employment Pension for old aged or severely handicapped Income from minimum subsistence scheme Other types of welfare benefits Educational grants Income from begging, sex working Other types of income No income at all Indication of main income source
Educational characteristics	
Highest educational attainment	Highest Educational attainment (coded to ISCED level)
Support needs/Problems	
Physical health	Disability (y/n) Other physical health problems (y/n)
Mental health	Mental problems (no, suspected, diagnosed)
Addiction	Alcohol (no, suspected, diagnosed) Drugs (no, suspected, diagnosed) Other substances / gambling etc. (no, suspected, diagnosed)
Financial	Debts? (y/n)
Occupation	Lack of occupation/training (y/n)
Safety / violence	Experience of domestic abuse (y/n)

A second set of non-core variables was also recommended. The collection of such information (for example on support needs) using the same definitions would also be important to add value to existing data sets and to allow more comparative analysis to be undertaken.

✓ **Client registration systems**

This is referred to as a homelessness documentation system, service user database, client register, or client record system according to the country. They all refer to the databases of homeless service providers – these are databases which contain profile information on homeless people using their services, and exist within most service provider organisations for case management purposes. This source of information is useful for monitoring trends in homelessness and profiles of homeless people in order to improve homeless services, to develop evidence-based policies, and to measure the impact of these policies.

- ▶ Guidelines
- ▶ Dos and Donts
- ▶ Examples

▶ **Guidelines**

The EC Study provides a very detailed analysis of the different steps in setting up a client registration system. The Data collection working group of FEANTSA also agreed on general good practice [guidelines](#) for setting up homelessness documentation systems in order to measure and monitor homelessness. The recent FEANTSA Review of Homelessness Statistics contains more detailed guidelines for developing a client registration system. >> [Read further](#) in the 2009 FEANTSA Review of Homelessness Statistics

▶ **Dos and Donts**

The Data collection group of FEANTSA also agreed on a short “Dos and Donts” checklist for setting up a client registration system. >> [Read further](#) on the FEANTSA website.

▶ **Examples**

Czech Republic – The NewPeopleVision (NPV) database allows for comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of the provision of services to users. The system is universal for all centres working with people in an emergency situation (men, women, mothers with children, families). It was introduced in 2004, and this program is currently used by 55 agencies in 36 cities throughout the Czech Republic.

Germany – The Umbrella of homeless service providers (BAGW) manages a national homelessness documentation system. The system was launched in 1990 by BAGW members who financed the development of the software for their own purposes (mainly case management purposes). This client record system is used in the NGO sector only, and not for services of the public sector.

Ireland – The Homeless Agency supports one identified shared Database/Client Registration System (LINK), which all service providers in Dublin, seeking state funding, are obliged to use. The LINK system is used to improve and develop services and their delivery within and across the homeless sector to clients and also to ensure they receive a continuum of care based on an accurate and up-to-date assessment of their needs. >> [Details](#)

Netherlands – The two nationally used sources in the Netherlands are the client record systems Regas (from Federatie Opgang, the Dutch Federation of Shelters) and Clever (from the Salvation Army, which is also affiliated with Federatie Opgang). Both systems are used primarily by residential facilities for homeless people, day and night shelters, and refuges serving women who have fled violence or abuse. The ultimate aim of both registration systems is to create profiles of populations of homeless people and of women contacting refuges throughout the Netherlands, and to gauge the extent to which they take up the services such facilities offer.

Norway – The Bokart electronic system aims to provide a continuous registration of households that are disadvantaged in the housing market. BOKART registers only those persons who have been in contact with the municipal service apparatus. As of March 2008, a total of 86 municipalities had adopted the system. The system was developed by the Norwegian State Housing Bank as a municipal planning tool, after requests from the municipalities for a more dynamic system for surveying those suffering hardship on the housing market.

>> [Read further](#) in the Mphasis national position papers

✓ Surveys of homelessness

Collection of data from continuous client registration systems used by homeless services or local authorities is an effective way of monitoring the numbers and profiles of people using homeless services. However, there will always be those homeless people who are not in contact with services at all and the only robust way of obtaining statistical information is via surveys and street counts.

- ▶ Methodologies
- ▶ Dos and Donts
- ▶ Examples

▶ Methodologies

Collecting data through surveys is useful for analysing some aspects of homelessness in greater depth. When carried out at regular intervals (as opposed to a one-off survey), collecting data through surveys is useful for monitoring trends in homelessness and profiles. The three main types include surveys directly carried out of homeless people (including street counts of people sleeping rough, which range from simple headcounts to headcounts with interviews), surveys collecting data from organisations providing services to homeless people (overnight shelters, temporary accommodation, etc), and surveys of local authorities to estimate numbers of homeless people submitting applications for social/housing support.

>>[Read further](#) in the EC study

▶ Dos and Donts

The Dos and Donts for client registration systems (above) are, to a certain extent, also relevant for developing homelessness surveys. In addition, some methodological issues involved around measuring homelessness from surveys include the need for a comprehensive directory of services and representative sample, choosing between a cheaper option of a survey of service providers or a more expensive direct survey of homeless people, and a time frame and use of unique identifiers to help minimise double counting. The use of standard core variables is also vital for comparability over time with repeat surveys and between different surveys.

>>[Read further](#) in the EC study

▶ Examples

There already exists a substantial body of good practice, including sample and questionnaire design, statistical analysis of results, weightings and fieldwork methodology.

Hungary – February 3rd survey. This is an annual survey in Budapest carried out every year on the same day. It covers the Budapest region and collects information directly from homeless people. There are general questions asked, and every year specific issues are examined in greater depth (for instance employability, family relations, overindebtedness). This survey has also spread to other Hungarian cities.

Ireland – “Counted In” triennial assessment (2002, 2005, 2008). Every 3 years, the Homeless Agency carries out a survey on homelessness in the four Dublin local authorities. The survey method involves a questionnaire being completed by every person (or household) in touch with homeless services and/or registered with a local authority over the course of one week. It uses a unique identifier for each household to avoid duplication and provides a reasonably comprehensive picture of homelessness. >> [Details](#)

France – The statistics office in France, INSEE, carried out a nation-wide homelessness survey in 2001 (>>[Details](#)). In addition, since 2006, a census of homeless people takes place every 5 years in municipalities of more than 10,000 inhabitants, and by rotation in smaller municipalities. Municipalities are responsible for carrying it out and INSEE defines the protocol of recording, organising and controlling the way it is carried out.

Poland – Biennial survey of homelessness in the Pomeranian region. This survey has been conducted by the Pomeranian Forum in Aid of Getting Out of Homelessness every two years since 2001. It is a one-day action of counting homeless people gathering socio-demographic data. >> [Details](#)

>> [Read further](#) in the Mphasis national position papers

✓ Population Census

General population and census data can be used to gather some information about some categories of homelessness which are harder to reach (such as those living in institutional situations, with family or friends, in accommodation for homeless people, and those in overcrowded or unfit or unconventional living conditions).

► Methodologies

► Examples

► Methodologies

According to the 2008 EU Regulation on population and housing censuses, EU countries are free to choose the appropriate method (data source) of census-taking among a list of alternative approaches including conventional census (using interviews or sending questionnaires out), register-based (using population register and housing register), combined (register and conventional/sample survey), and a rolling census. The different methods used will inevitably determine the nature of the enumeration strategies targeting homeless people on census night. Strategies are being developed to collect census data on primary homelessness (mainly through hiring special enumerators who are familiar with the homeless population) and secondary homelessness (mainly through use of databases of homeless services). The UNECE website contains much information on methodologies used by different countries for the 2000 census round and is starting to gather information on methodologies to be used in 2011.

>> [Read further](#) on the UNECE website

► Examples

In 2008, FEANTSA provided a tentative overview of methodologies to be used for the 2010 census. There are countries which intend to enumerate homeless people through cooperation with homeless services using the conventional census-taking approach. Some will work closely with service providers either to enumerate people sleeping rough on census night (primary homelessness) or to enumerate people living in emergency and transitional accommodation (part of secondary homeless population), or both. Other countries might attempt to extract data on homeless people from their population/housing register, although it is not clear as yet to what extent these registers contain data on homeless people.

UK (England) - Information will be collected on persons with no usual address either because they are enumerated in temporary accommodation designed for such persons or through special arrangements to record persons sleeping rough on census night. Special arrangements are being made with housing organisations and local authorities to devise a strategy to count such persons. Census staff will also accompany local authority officials in their own field activities to count homeless people in a programme leading up to the 2011 Census.

France – There is a rolling census conducted in France, whereby people sleeping rough and persons usually living in mobile homes are comprehensively enumerated by municipalities in the first two days of the census surveys (through data collected in rolling surveys). Homeless people accommodated in collective shelters or hostels are surveyed through a separate annual survey of all forms of “collective accommodation”. Homeless people in hotel rooms (if on a permanent basis) or in apartments by the NGOs or other agencies are surveyed during the conventional dwellings enumeration (i.e. in the dwelling census).

Finland - The Finnish population register is divided into 3 main groups: people living in conventional dwellings, people living in institutions, and people with no usual place of residence (calculated by deducting the total number of people in conventional dwellings and institutions, from the total population). So the Finnish population register identifies people with no usual place of residence. This group includes homeless people (people living in temporary arrangements like night shelters), however it will also include people who are living with family/friends or even people who have moved abroad. So it will be important to distinguish homeless people in the “no usual place of residence category” for the 2011 census.

Outside Europe - The United States, Russia and Australia are developing special enumeration strategies for hard-to-reach groups like homeless people, mainly using the conventional approach (as opposed to a population register).

>> [Read further](#) in the *FEANTSA recommendations for the enumeration of homeless people on census night*

✓ Links

This section outlines key websites and report on homelessness both in Europe and in other countries outside Europe (such as the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia) where significant work has been undertaken on methods to measure homelessness.

- ▶ Key documents/websites - Europe
- ▶ Key documents/websites - International

▶ Key documents/websites - Europe

FEANTSA Review of homelessness statistics 2009 >> [Details](#)

This is the latest FEANTSA document summarising the developments in homelessness measurement over the last few years and the latest trends. There are also matrices with existing data on the different ETHOS categories.

European Commission study on measurement of homelessness at EU level (2007)>> [Details](#)

This study was published in 2007 and was the first European research on homelessness measurement in Europe with the aim of support the capacity of national authorities to measure homelessness in their countries. The study puts forward *inter alia* a European working definition of homelessness, a typology of homeless services, and standard core variables on homelessness.

MPHASIS Synthesis Report: How to improve the information base on homelessness (2009) >> [Details](#)

The MPHASIS project funded in 2008-2009 by the European Commission provides a summary of the main elements needed to develop an information base on homelessness.

UNECE/Eurostat Recommendations for the 2011 census round >> [Details](#)

These Recommendations were adopted in 2006 by the Conference of European Statisticians and puts forward common definitions of the variables to be used in the 2011 census round. A European census is undertaken every 10 years in Europe. The last one was in 2000 and another one is planned in EU countries in 2011.

FEANTSA Overview of transnational statistical initiatives on homelessness and poverty >> [Details](#)

This document provides an overview of European (Commission, Eurostat, European Foundation, etc) and International (UN, Council of Europe, etc) statistical initiatives on homelessness and poverty. This document is updated on an annual basis.

MPHASIS website, with most up-to-date national information on homelessness measurement>> [Details](#)

This website contains country pages with information on latest initiatives on homelessness measurement in the 20 countries participating in the Mphasis project.

EU Regulation on Population and Housing Censuses (2008) >>[Details](#)

This is a piece of EU legislation adopted in 2008 which clarifies which core variables are to be included in all the national censuses in 2011. This includes a core variables on "housing conditions" of EU citizens: conventional dwellings, non-conventional dwellings, institutions, no usual place of residence (e.g. homeless people).

>>[Read further](#) in the FEANTSA *Overview of transnational statistical initiatives on homelessness and poverty*

▶ Key documents/websites – Outside Europe

USA

- Homelessness Management Information System sponsored by the HUD >>[Details](#)
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development: >> [Details](#)

Australia

- Department of Health and Ageing >> [Details](#)
- Australian Bureau of Statistics >> [Details](#)

New Zealand

- Statistics New Zealand >> [Details](#)

Canada

- Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) >> [Details](#)

Annex I: Key recommendations from the 2007 Study on measurement of homelessness at EU level

Recommendations for **national authorities**:

1. Prepare a national Homelessness Monitoring Information Strategy developed in consultation with all relevant Ministries and stakeholders.
2. Identify (or establish) a co-ordinating mechanism or agency for homelessness data collection.
3. Adopt the harmonised definition of living situations and homelessness from this report as a basic framework for data collection.
4. Adopt the set of standard core variables from this report and their definition as a basic set of variables to be employed in data collection.
5. Adopt a national definition of services for homelessness.
6. Establish and maintain a directory/database of services for homeless people.
7. Ensure that funding for homeless service providers requires the provision of basic anonymised data on clients and provide funding to facilitate this as necessary.
8. Establish a strategy for collection of data from service provider client registration systems.
9. Ensure added value of data collection for the services and homeless people.

The report also makes a number of overall recommendations for the **European Commission** for action at EU level:

1. Encourage Member States to develop in the framework of the streamlined EU strategy for social protection and social inclusion national strategies to combat homelessness.
2. Require Member States to identify progress reached with the development of national strategies and whether this incorporates a homelessness monitoring information strategy.
3. Monitor progress of Member States towards continuous client recording systems.
4. Encourage national statistics offices to adopt the harmonised definition of homelessness for data collection while recognising that alternative definitions may be used for policy purposes.
5. Encourage national statistics offices to play a coordination role in the collection of data on homelessness for use in EU level initiatives
6. Reduce the obstacles to achieving homeless information monitoring (e.g. through the use of funding under FP7, structural funds and European research programme).

Annex II: ETHOS – European typology on homelessness and housing exclusion (FEANTSA Typology)

	Operational Category		Living Situation		Generic Definition	
Conceptual Category	ROOLES	1	People Living Rough	1.1	Public space or external space	Living in the streets or public spaces, without a shelter that can be defined as living quarters
		2	People in emergency accommodation	2.1	Night shelter	People with no usual place of residence who make use of overnight shelter, low threshold shelter
	HOUSELES	3	People in accommodation for the homeless	3.1	Homeless hostel	Where the period of stay is intended to be short term
				3.2	Temporary Accommodation	
				3.3	Transitional supported accommodation	
		4	People in Women's Shelter	4.1	Women's shelter accommodation	Women accommodated due to experience of domestic violence and where the period of stay is intended to be short term
		5	People in accommodation for immigrants	5.1	Temporary accommodation / reception centres	Immigrants in reception or short term accommodation due to their immigrant status
	5.2			Migrant workers accommodation		
	6	People due to be released from institutions	6.1	Penal institutions	No housing available prior to release	
			6.2	Medical institutions ⁹	Stay longer than needed due to lack of housing	
	7	People receiving longer-term support (due to homelessness)	6.3	Children's institutions / homes	No housing identified (e.g by 16th birthday)	
			7.1	Residential care for older homeless people	Long stay accommodation with care for formerly homeless people (normally more than one year)	
	7.2	Supported accommodation for formerly homeless people				
INSECURE	8	People living in insecure accommodation	8.1	Temporarily with family/friends	Living in conventional housing but not the usual or place of residence due to lack of housing	
			8.2	No legal (sub)tenancy	Occupation of dwelling with no legal tenancy	
			8.3	Illegal occupation of land	Illegal occupation of a dwelling	
	9	People living under threat of eviction	8.3	Illegal occupation of land	Occupation of land with no legal rights	
9.1			Legal orders enforced (rented)	Where orders for eviction are operative		
9.2	Re-possession orders (owned)	Where mortgagor has legal order to re-possess				
10	People living under threat of violence	10.1	Police recorded incidents	Where police action is taken to ensure place of safety for victims of domestic violence		
INADEQUATE	11	People living in temporary / non-conventional structures	11.1	Mobile homes	Not intended as place of usual residence	
			11.2	Non-conventional building	Makeshift shelter, shack or shanty	
			11.3	Temporary structure	Semi-permanent structure hut or cabin	
12	People living in unfit housing	12.1	Occupied dwellings unfit for habitation	Defined as unfit for habitation by national legislation or building regulations		
13	People living in extreme overcrowding	13.1	Highest national norm of overcrowding	Defined as exceeding national density standard for floor-space or useable rooms		

**Annex III: ETHOS Light
(Typology of the EC Study)**

Operational Category		Living Situation		Definition
1	People Living Rough	1	Public space / external space	Living in the streets or public spaces without a shelter that can be defined as living quarters
2	People in emergency accommodation	2	Overnight Shelters	People with no place of usual residence who move frequently between various types of accommodation
3	People living in accommodation for the homeless	3 4 5 6	Homeless Hostels Temporary Accommodation Transitional Supported Accommodation Women's shelter or refuge accommodation	Where the period of stay is less than one year
4	People living in institutions	7 8	Health care institutions Penal institutions	Stay longer than needed due to lack of housing No housing available prior to release
5	People living in non-conventional dwellings due to lack of housing	9 10 11	Mobile homes Non-conventional building Temporary structure	Where the accommodation is used due to a lack of housing and is not the person's usual place of residence
6	Homeless people living temporarily in conventional housing with family and friends (due to lack of housing)	12	Conventional housing, but not the person's usual place of residence	Where the accommodation is used due to a lack of housing and is not the person's usual place of residence



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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
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