

What is FEANTSA?

FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless is an umbrella of not-for-profit organisations which participate in or contribute to the fight against homelessness in Europe. FEANTSA's objective is



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to prevent and alleviate the poverty and social exclusion of people threatened by or living in homelessness, by encouraging and facilitating the co-operation of all relevant actors fighting homelessness in Europe. FEANTSA currently has more than 100 member organisations working across Europe, in almost all of the EU's member states. Most of FEANTSA's members are national or regional umbrella organisations of service providers that support homeless people with a wide range of services including housing, health, employment and social support.

For more information, do not hesitate to contact the FEANTSA office:

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FEANTSA 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

The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.

Ending Homelessness is possible!



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Ending homelessness may appear to some to be an unrealistic dream, but at FEANTSA we believe that if the objectives outlined here become part of integrated homelessness policies, then we can finally end homelessness for all.



No one sleeping rough

Nobody should be forced to sleep on the streets because of a lack of high quality services adapted to his/her needs and aspirations. In today's Europe, it is unacceptable that people should have to jeopardise their safety, health and dignity by sleeping on the street.

No one living in emergency accommodation for longer than is an 'emergency'

Nobody should have to stay in emergency accommodation for any longer than can be considered an 'emergency'. Shelters are conceived as temporary solutions to a complex phenomenon. They are not designed as long term solutions for vulnerable people and should not become substitutes to real 'homes'.

No one living in transitional accommodation longer than is required for successful move-on

Homeless hostels, temporary accommodation and transitional supported accommodation all offer intermediate steps towards long-term housing and are designed for the short to medium-term. Unfortunately, these forms of accommodation can become more permanent than they should be, leading to people living long-term in inappropriate situations.

No one leaving an institution without housing options

Nobody who is in an institution – be it a hospital, care or prison – should be discharged without sufficient support and adequate housing options. Young people leaving care, ill people leaving hospital, and prison leavers are often vulnerable and can be helped to avoid the revolving door that goes from institutional care to homelessness and back into care, by being given support and good housing opportunities.

No young people becoming homeless as a result of the transition to independent living

The transition to independent living is a time when people are vulnerable to becoming homeless. No young person should be made homeless because of a lack of first-time housing options, services or entitlement to benefits during the transition to independent living. More can be done to help young people to live independently and access suitable housing options.

Homelessness in Europe

Many men and, increasingly women and children are currently homeless throughout the European Union. Sleeping rough on the streets, or staying long-term in shelters or hostels, their fundamental human rights are being violated.

Many factors can lead to homelessness. These factors are not only individual or relationship-related experiences such as divorce, bereavement, mental illness, domestic violence or

substance abuse. Structural factors such as poor access to affordable housing, unemployment, precarious employment and discrimination play their part too. As do institutional factors such as poorly co-ordinated services and inadequately structured benefit systems. Without a concerted effort by policy makers to tackle these points, too many individuals and families will find themselves on the streets or spending months or years in temporary accommodation.

Ending homelessness does not mean criminalising homeless people, or making judgements about their situation. It means investing time and resources in long-lasting solutions to homelessness and providing real, personalised alternatives. It's time to move on from investing in short-term measures, which after several decades have merely 'managed' the problem of homelessness and have not eradicated it. Let's work for a Europe willing to end homelessness. Once and for all.