

Homelessness and the UN 2030 Agenda

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2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

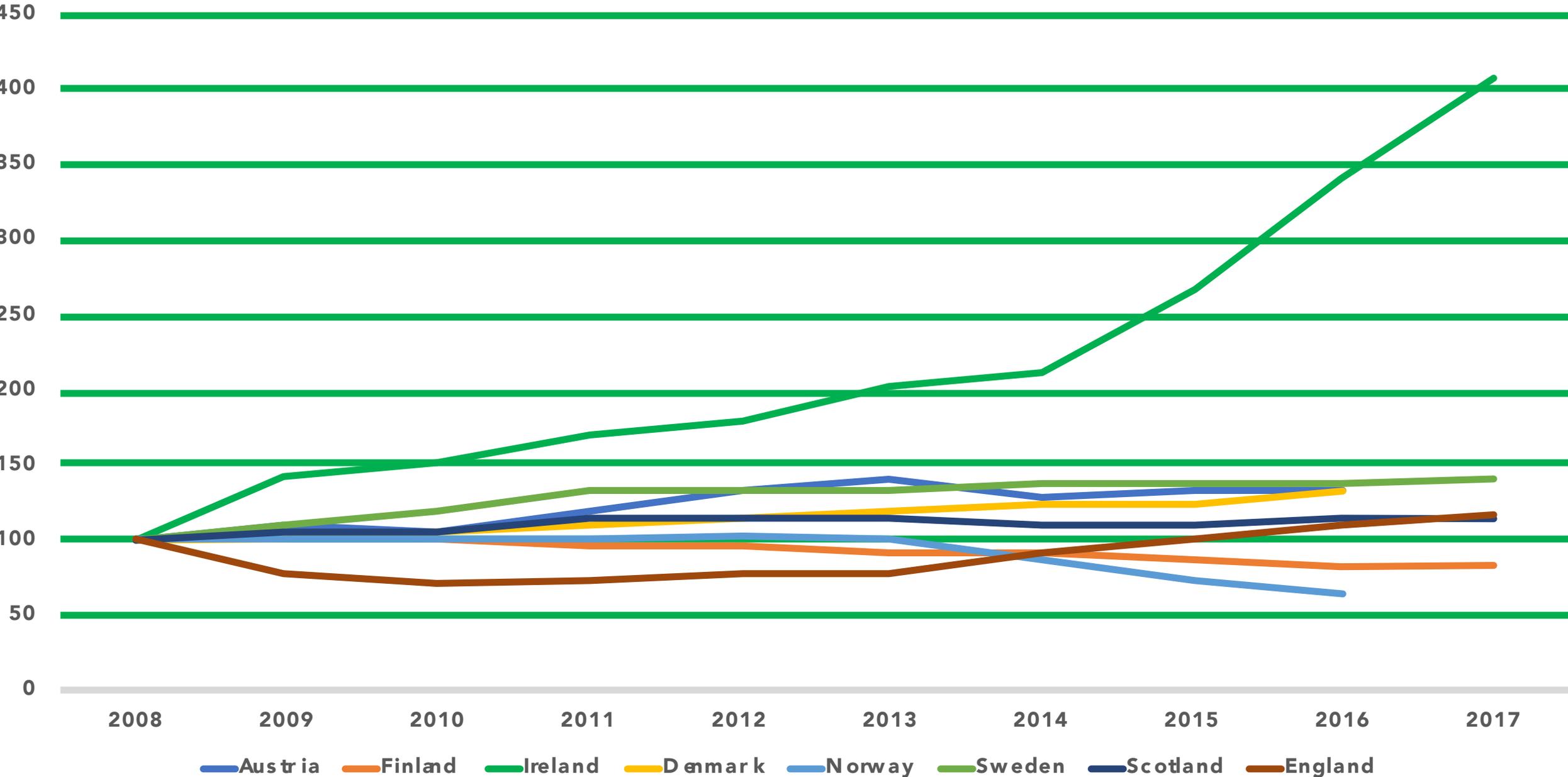
- At the 70th UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015 a new global sustainable development framework: the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* was adopted.
- The *2030 Agenda* represents a commitment to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030 worldwide, ensuring that no one is left behind.
- The *2030 Agenda* has 17 *Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)*; the first goal is to eradicate poverty in all its forms.
- **To reduce homelessness to functional zero (rare, brief and non - recurrent) in all member states by 2030**

Key Issues

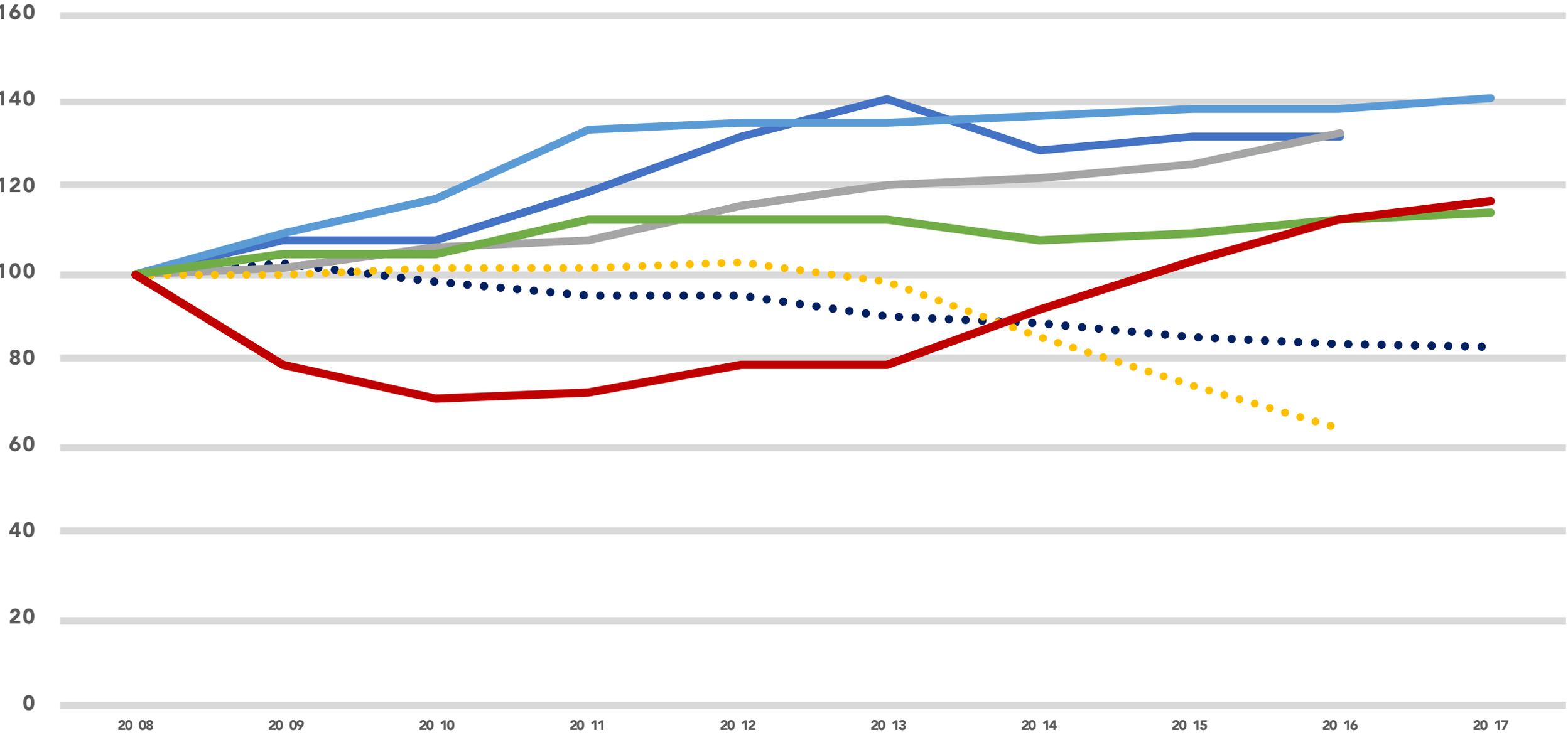
- **Extent and Nature of Homelessness in the EU**
- **Responses to Homelessness in the EU**
- **Mechanisms to reduce homelessness to functional zero by 2030?**

Extent and Nature of Homelessness in the EU

Index of Homelessness in Selected EU Member States



Index of Homelessness in Selected EU Member States



— Austria ••• Finland — Denmark ••• Norway — Sweden — Scotland — England

Sustainable development in the European Union

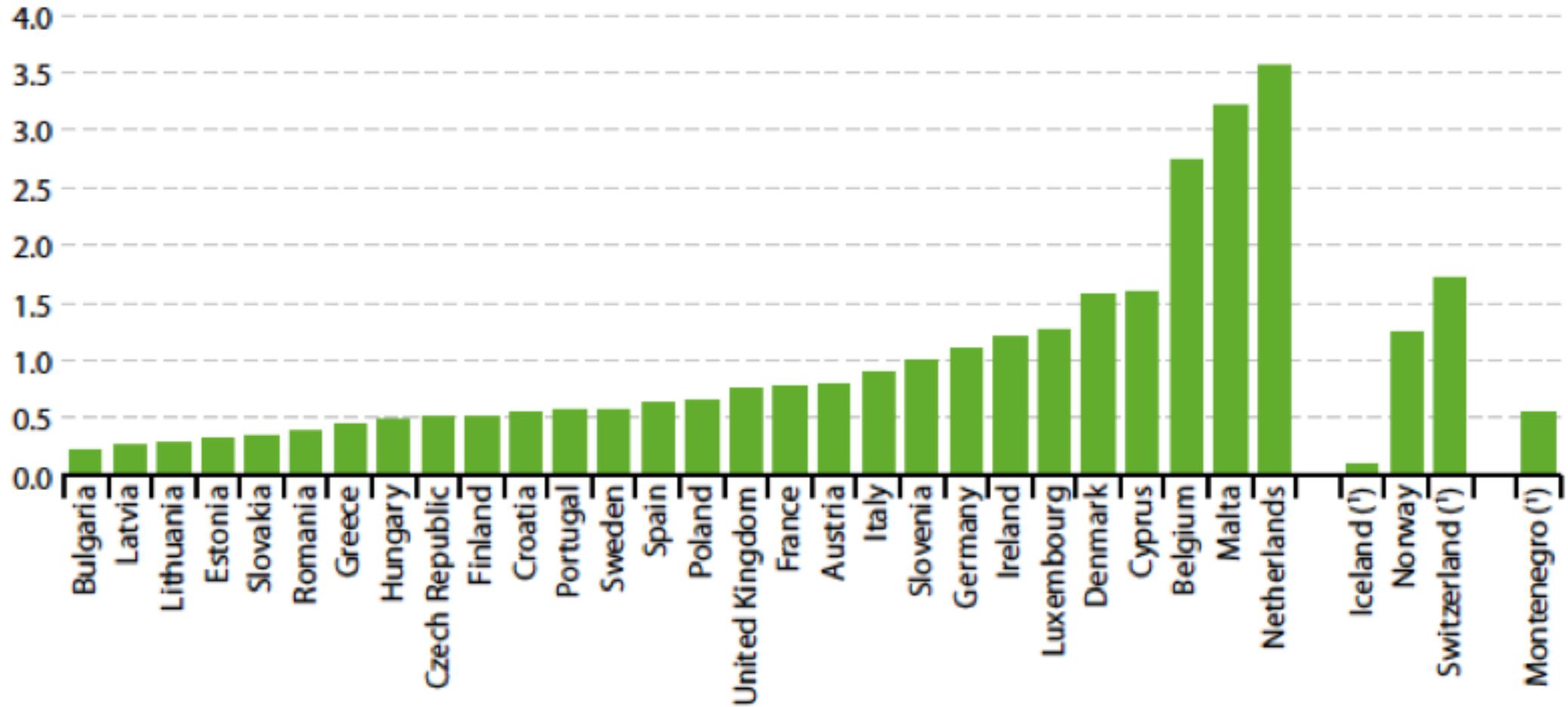
A STATISTICAL GLANCE FROM THE VIEWPOINT
OF THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2016 edition



Live Stock Density

Figure 2.3: Livestock density index, by country, 2013
(livestock units per ha)



Key Action 1

- ***The Statistics Office in each member state to devise a methodology to measure homelessness on a biennial basis, using ETHOS Light as the conceptual framework.***

Ethos Light

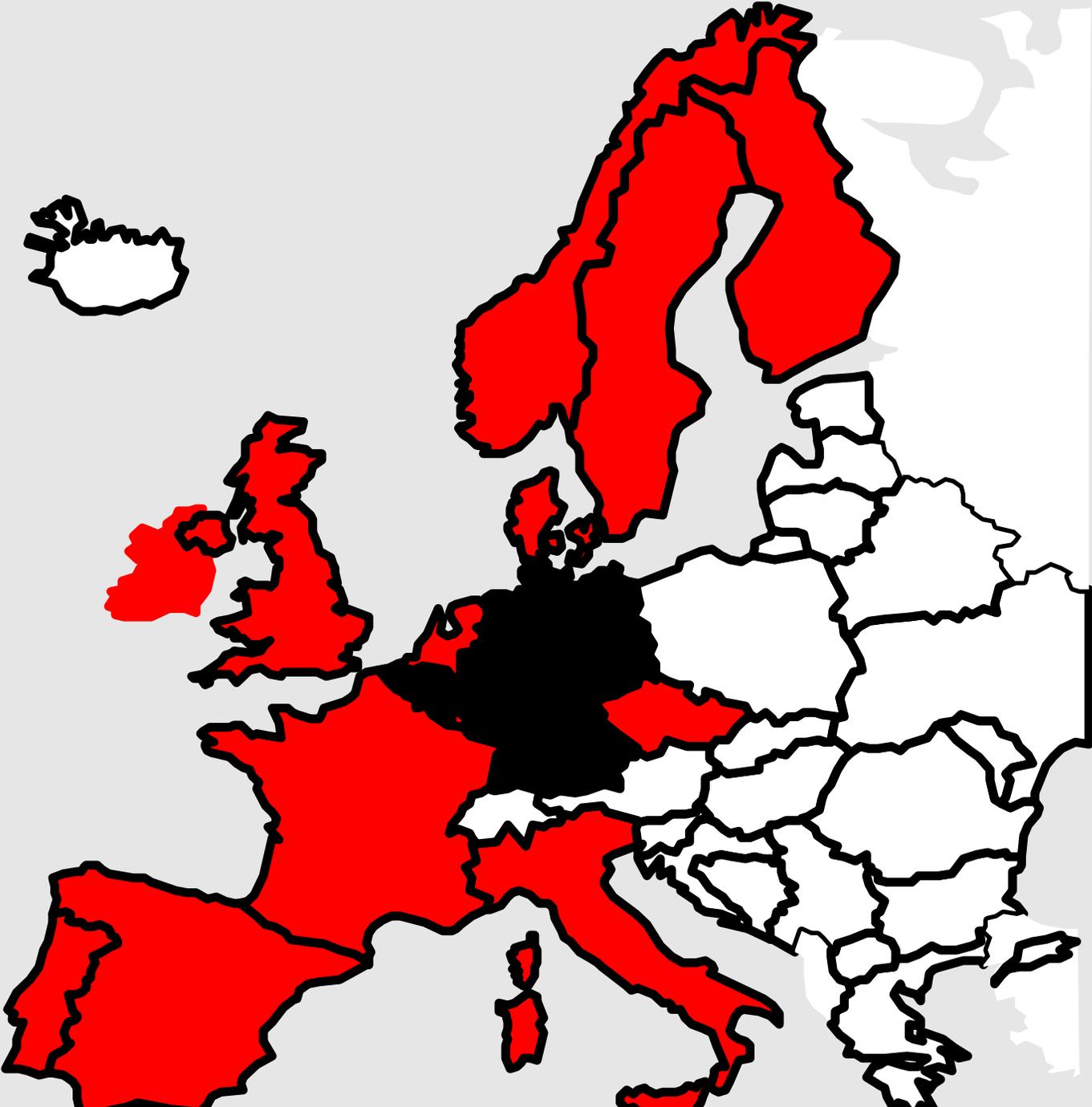
OPERATIONAL CATEGORY		LIVING SITUATION		DEFINITION
1	People living rough	1	Public spaces / external spaces	Living in the streets or public spaces without a shelter that can be defined as living quarters
2	People in emergency accommodation	2	Overnight shelters	People with no place of usual residence who move frequently between various types of accommodation
3	People living in accommodation for the homeless	3	Homeless hostels	Where the period of stay is time-limited and no long-term housing is provided
		4	Temporary accommodation	
		5	Transitional supported accommodation	
4	People living in institutions	6	Women's shelters or refuge accommodation	Stay longer than needed due to lack of housing
		7	Health care institutions	
5	People living in non-conventional dwellings due to lack of housing	8	Penal institutions	No housing available prior to release
		9	Mobile homes	
		10	Non-conventional buildings	
6	Homeless people living temporarily in conventional housing with family and friends (due to lack of housing)	11	Temporary structures	Where the accommodation is used due to a lack of housing and is not the person's usual place of residence
		12	Conventional housing, but not the person's usual place of residence	

Grounds for Optimism?

- Paradoxically, as the numbers of people experiencing homelessness are rising in many countries, provinces, and regions, or are at best remaining stable, more States, regions and municipalities are devising ***plans to end homelessness***, and there is greater optimism than ever before that this policy objective can be achieved.
- There is ***increasing research evidence on what works***, both in preventing homelessness in the first instance and the support mechanisms that can ensure sustainable and stable accommodation for people who had experienced homelessness.

Homeless Strategies In Europe

-  National
-  Regional



Key Action 2

The European Commission “to develop a homelessness action plan, taking due account of the principle of subsidiarity, containing measures including monitoring, knowledge development, mutual learning and transnational exchange, and making full use of relevant EU instruments and funding.”

WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on an EU Homelessness Strategy

Neena Gill (S&D), Brian Hayes (PPE), Alfred Sant (S&D), Sylvie Goulard (ALDE), Karima Delli (Verts/ALE), Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL), Sylvie Guillaume (S&D), Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE), Agnes Jongerius (S&D), Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL), Gabriele Zimmer (GUE/NGL), Viorica Dăncilă (S&D), Mary Honeyball (S&D), Stefan Eck (GUE/NGL), Bronis Ropé (Verts/ALE), Hugues Bayet (S&D), Klaus Buchner (Verts/ALE)

Four Challenges

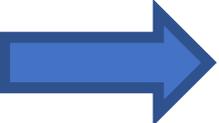
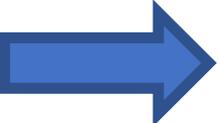
- **Shelterization**

- **Criminalization**

- **Feminization**

- **Migrationization**

Four Challenges

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Shelterisation |  | Rapid Rehousing |
| 1. Criminalisation |  | Social Inclusion |
| 2. Feminisation |  | Prevention |
| 3. Migrationisation |  | Integration |

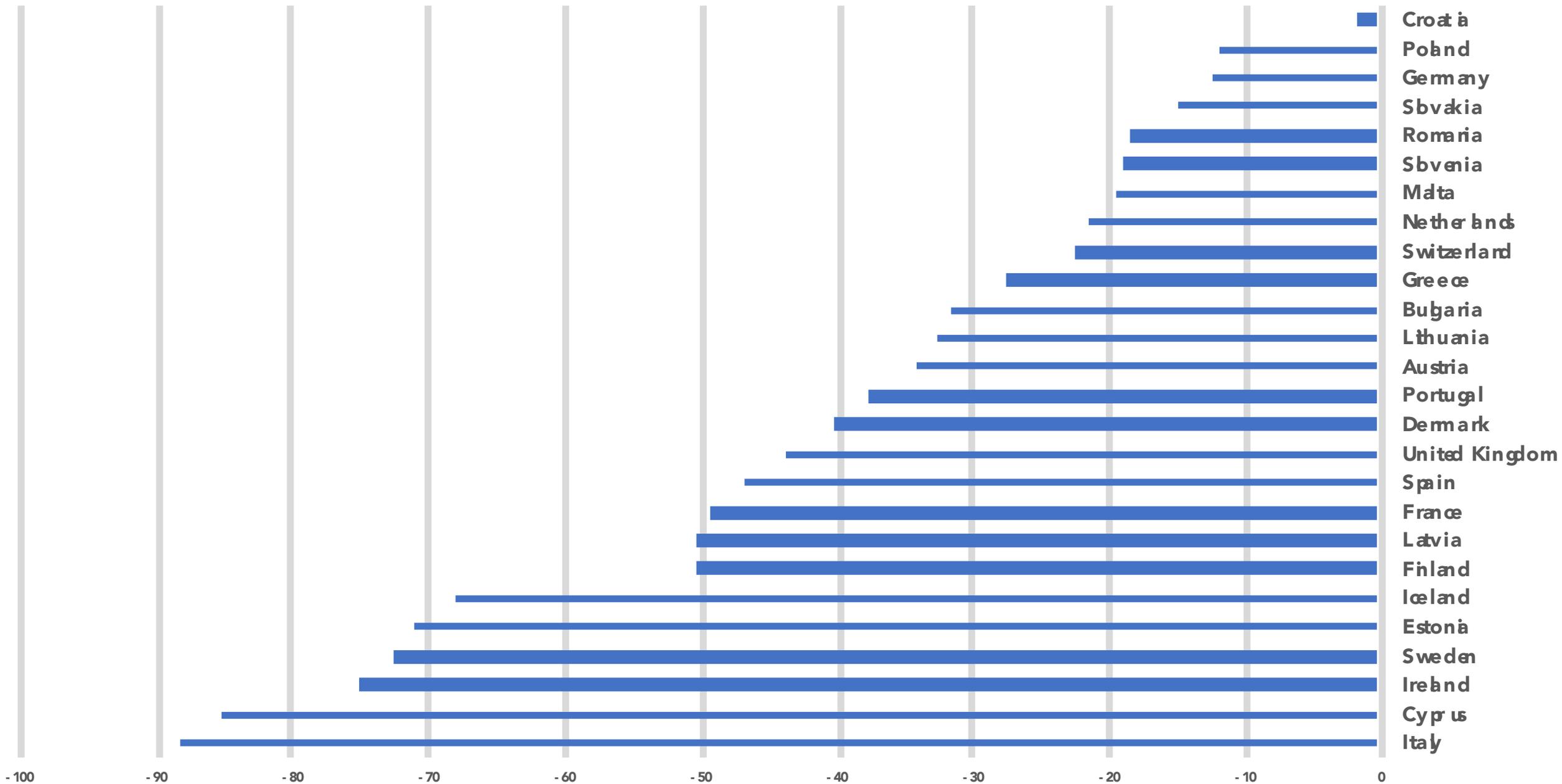
Critiques of Shelterisation of Homelessness

- 1. The inherent contradiction of imposing rules and regulations that restrict individual autonomy, often infantilizing in tone, in shelters, allowing shelter users to survive shelter life, but limit their ability to achieve sustained exits to independent accommodation;**
- 2. That despite the rules and regulations, the violence and intimidation often evident in such congregate settings can result in some of the most vulnerable people rejecting entreaties to enter shelters;**
- 3. That those with the most complex need and who do enter shelters, are often excluded because of they pose difficulties in meeting managerial targets, thus receiving less professional support**

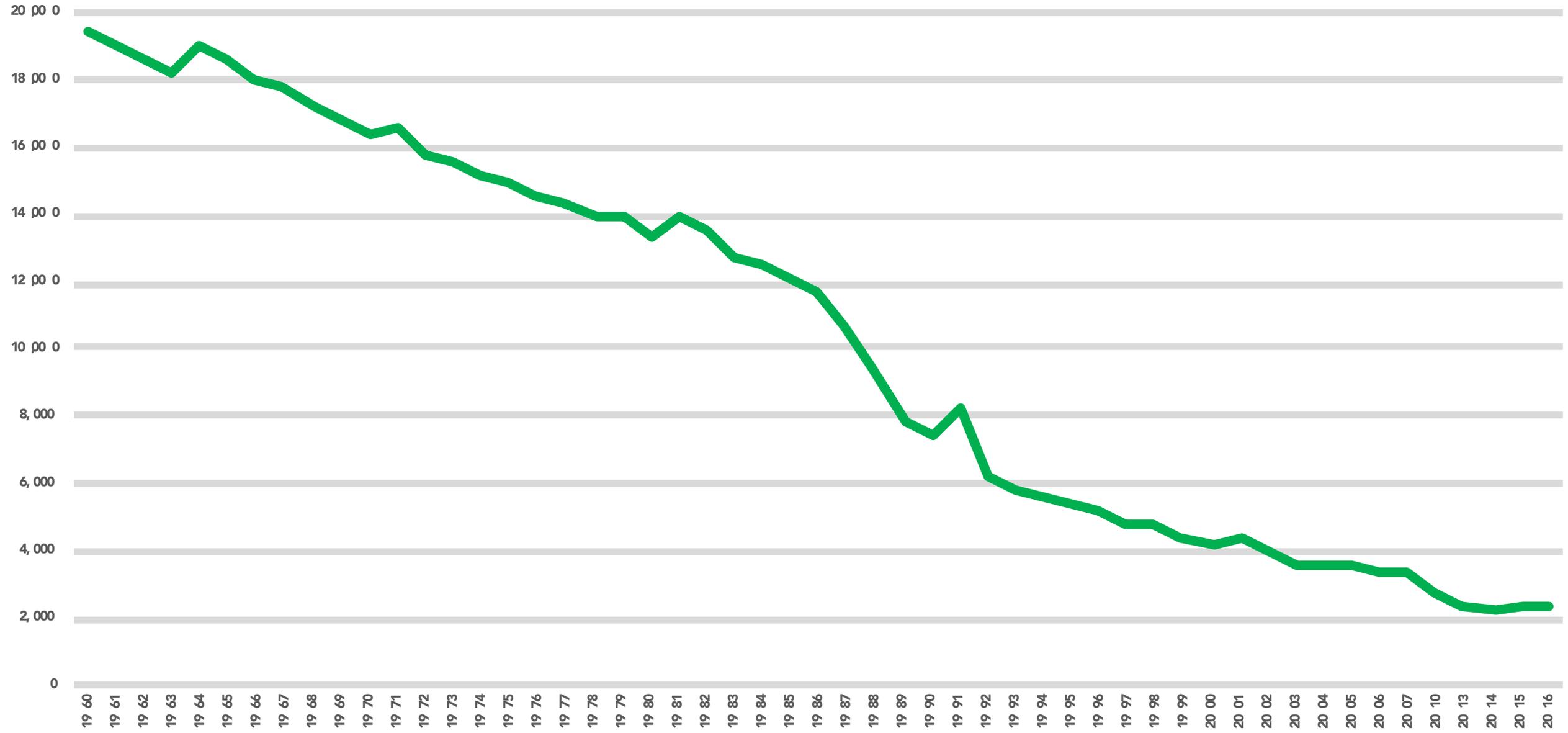
- 4. That the objective of providing care in shelters is 'severely adulterated' by the problematic and often provocative provision of 'security', and the legal rules governing the running of the shelter always take precedence over the provision of care; and**

- 5. Managing homelessness through the provision of emergency congregate is extraordinarily expensive, and that a minority of shelter users also made extensive use of other expensive emergency health services, as they traversed through institutional circuit of short stays in various services without ever resolving their residential instability.**

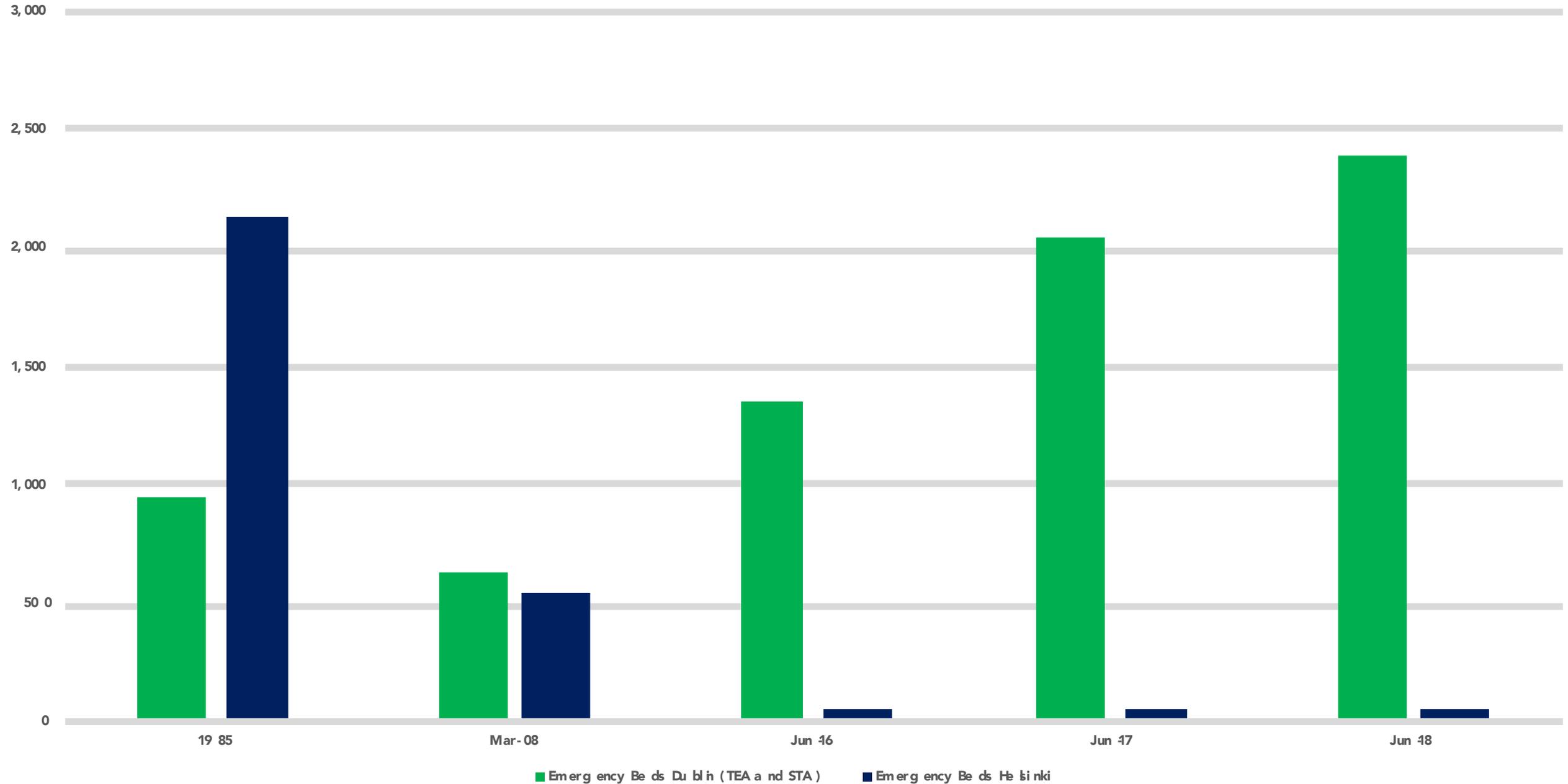
Change in the Number of Psychiatric Beds, 1993-2011



Number of Adult Patients in Irish Public Psychiatric Hospitals, 1960-2016



Emergency Beds in Dublin and Helsinki, 1985-2018



Bered dig att möta din Gud.
Amos 4:12









ST VINCENT DE PAUL
SHELTER

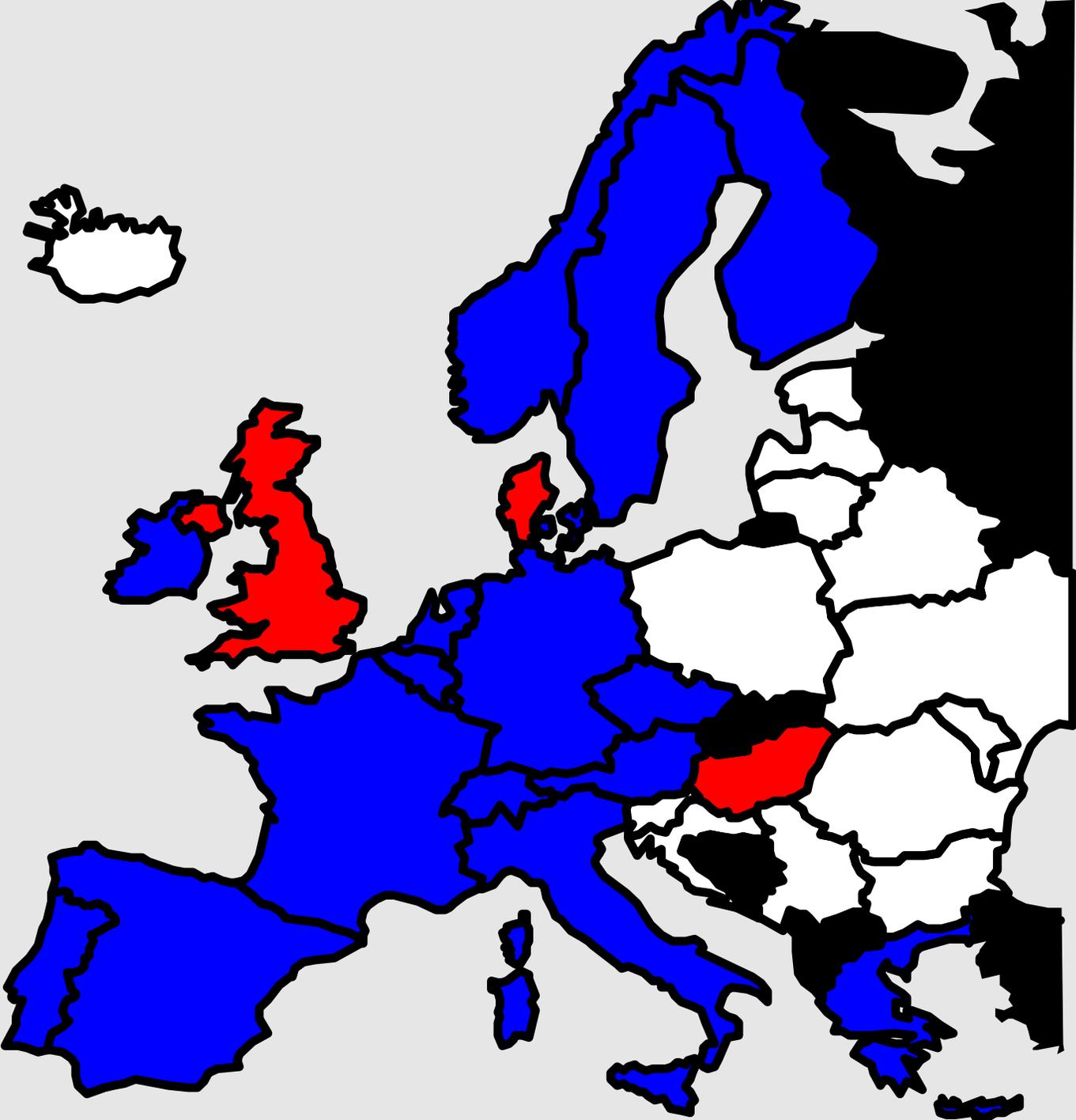
Key Action 3

- ***Rapid Rehousing must become the default position for responding to crisis homelessness, with shelters playing a minimal emergency role only.***
- The evidence from other domains, such as institutional provision for those with mental health issues or intellectual disabilities, demonstrates that it is possible to close large scale congregate facilities.
- Clear evidence from Finland that closing shelters is possible.

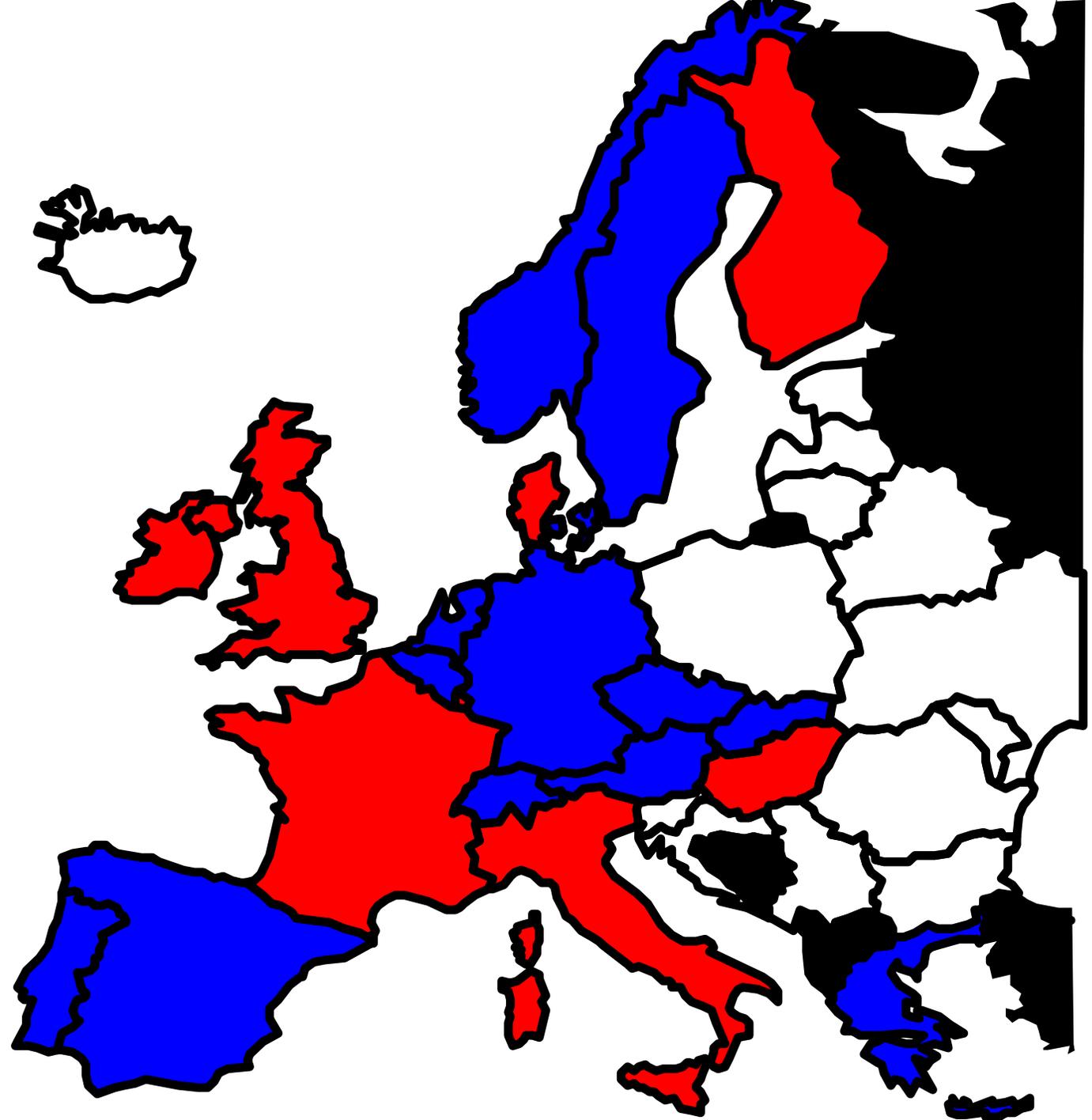
Criminalization of Homelessness

- The repeal of often long redundant 19th century legislation which criminalised beggars and vagabonds in the 1960s and 1970s was a feature of most west European societies.
- Evidence across the EU of the re-introduction of legislation regulating behaviour in urban public spaces, begging in particular.
- Involvement in street culture activities, such as begging, is problematic because of the strong evidence that it is highly damaging to those involved.

**National level
Legislation
Criminalising
Begging
In Europe**



**National level
Legislation
Criminalising
Aggressive /
exploitative
Begging
In Europe**



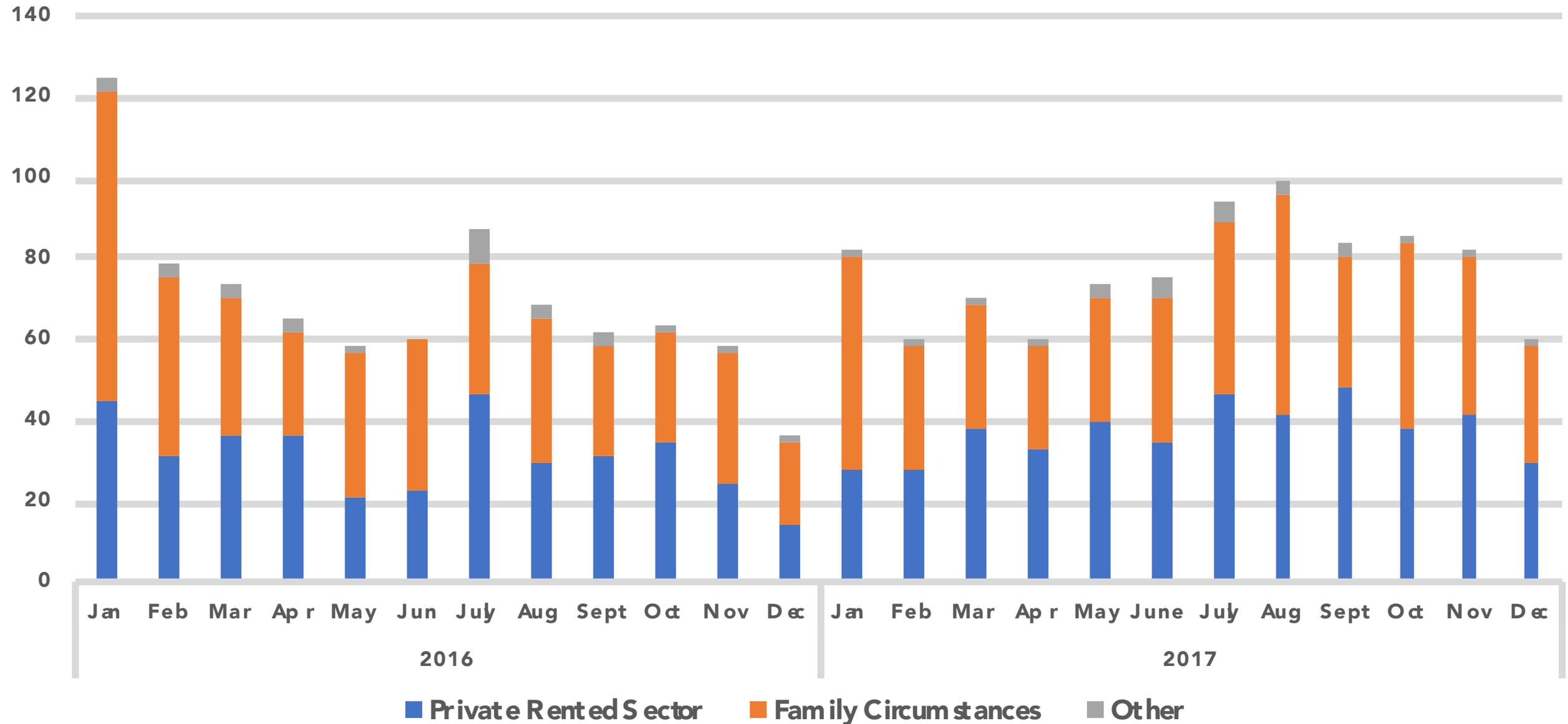
Key Action 4

- *Rather than **excluding** those experiencing entrenched homelessness in the cities of Europe through costly criminalisation and penalization, the default position must be the alternative evidenced-based policies of **inclusion**.*
- For the minority of entrenched long term, often dual diagnosed homeless, engaged in problematic street culture, research is clearly demonstrating that if engaged with through assertive outreach, and provided with permanent supported housing, they are capable of retaining their accommodation, **and making significantly less use of costly criminal justice services.**

Feminization of Homelessness

- There are methodological challenges in exploring the extent and nature of family homelessness, because there is evidence suggesting that families may experience high rates of hidden homelessness.
- Family homelessness is often quite different from homelessness among lone adults.
- First is the extent to which family homelessness is experienced by *women*.
- Second, family homelessness *is not characterised by high rates of complex support needs*, such as addiction and severe mental illness, as is the case for lone adults experiencing recurrent and sustained homelessness.

Reported Reasons for New Cases of Family Homelessness in Dublin, Ireland, 2016-2017



Key Action 5

- *For families at risk of homelessness, the default policy and practice must be targeted preventative interventions, and for those families who experience emergency homelessness, speedy access to affordable accommodation with security.*
- The research evidence is clear that both long and short-term housing subsidies are considerably less costly than emergency accommodation or transitional congregate facilities for families, while also offering substantial additional benefits across a range of psycho-social domains, particularly for the children.

Homelessness and Migration

- There is limited data on the extent to which migrants experience homelessness in member states, but they are heterogeneous in terms of their needs and supports.
- While migrants who experience homelessness may have little in common with one another, other than experiencing homelessness, (very similar to general population experiencing homelessness), **what is common** across Member States are restrictions on access to homeless services for migrants experiencing homelessness.
- It is in this context, that an **EU homelessness action plan**, is all the more important to co-ordinate and ensure coherent planning and consistent access to services in all member states.

Conclusions

1. The Statistics Office in each member state to devise a methodology to measure homelessness on a biennial basis, using ETHOS as the conceptual framework.
2. The European Commission "to develop a homelessness action plan...
3. Rapid Rehousing must become the default position for responding to crisis homelessness, with shelters playing a minimal emergency role only.
4. Rather than excluding those experiencing entrenched homelessness in the cities of Europe through costly criminalisation and penalization, the default position must be the alternative evidenced-based policies of inclusion.
5. For families at risk of homelessness, the default policy and practice must be targeted preventative interventions, and for those families who experience emergency homelessness, speedy access to affordable accommodation with security.

Not forgetting housing....

- Crucial to achieving a functional zero by 2030 is the provision of affordable, accessible housing.
- To restore social housing to a 'wider affordability role', rather than 'a safety net' or 'ambulance role'; and
- To provide secure occupancy in the private rented sector, which ensures access and ongoing affordability, security of tenure and adequate mechanisms of redress.

Entrenched
Homelessness

**Secure Supported
Housing**

Emergency
Homelessness

**Pointed Prevention and
Accessible, Affordable
Accommodation**

Final word....

- ***"Some might argue that such reforms of services for the homeless are futile, akin to rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. We argue that this approach is more like reallocating the lifeboats. While it would not have saved the Titanic, reallocating the lifeboats (and adding more of them) would have saved many, many more lives. While a reformed homelessness assistance system may not solve the housing affordability crisis, it can prevent involuntary shelter stays and reduce the time people spend as homeless, thereby saving many people from the indignities and victimization of public destitution" (Culhane and Metraux).***