CHAP. 1

EUROPE AND HOMELESSNESS
ALARMING TRENDS
HOMELESSNESS IN EUROPE: AN ALARMING PICTURE

LOCATION - NON-COMPARABLE - NON-EXHAUSTIVE OF ALARMING TRENDS IN HOMELESSNESS IN EUROPE

- **GREAT-BRITAIN (LONDON)**: +7% increase in people sleeping rough in 1 year.
- **IRELAND (DUBLIN)**: +59% increase in families in homeless accommodation in 1 year.
- **THE NETHERLANDS**: +50% increase in young homeless in 1 year.
- **BELGIUM (BRUSSELS)**: +34% increase in homeless people in 4 years.
- **LUXEMBOURG**: +61% increase in people in adult homeless accommodation in 4 years.
- **SPAIN (BARCELONA)**: +5% increase in homeless people in 7 years.
- **SPAIN**: +8% increase in homeless people in 2 years.
- **FRANCE**: +50% increase in homeless people in 11 years.

SECOND OVERVIEW OF HOUSING EXCLUSION IN EUROPE 2017 | FEANTSA - THE FOUNDATION ABBÉ PIERRE
Evidence from across Europe points to a worsening homelessness situation. Finland is the only exception, showing the effectiveness of implementing a long-term homelessness strategy.

**WARNING:** These statistics are not comparable. The situations described, the sources (official as far as possible), the periods of time and the methodologies are different and specific to each of the countries concerned. Details and explanations regarding the data are available in the following pages.
When it comes to homelessness, it is difficult to make comparisons across Europe due to an absence of common definitions and methodologies. Instead of presenting European figures, this ‘map of alarming trends’ brings to light facts and figures from most European Union Member States. This information shows how alarming the situation is in most countries. The map offers a closer look at certain cities or categories of people particularly affected by homelessness. Insofar as possible, the data comprises the most recent official figures from the country concerned and, if these figures are not available, other sources are provided. Background information regarding the definition, methodology, and source are subsequently described. The trends appearing on the map refer to recent changes in the available statistics (and not indications based on other available sources); and as such should be treated with caution since long- and short-term changes may vary or even contradict each other.

The table below compiles the most recent statistics on the number of homeless people in the different Member States. It provides contextual information on definition, methodology and source. For further reading, see the European Observatory on Homelessness studies (EOH Comparative Studies on Homelessness, 2014) and the previous edition (2015) of this report - which includes a chapter on the extent of homelessness in the EU and on government policies to tackle homelessness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER STATE</th>
<th>STATISTICS PROVIDED</th>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>DEFINITION AND METHODOLOGY</th>
<th>SOURCE(S)</th>
<th>TRENDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1 See 2016 FEANTSA country profiles http://www.feantsa.org/resources/resources-database?see http://www.feantsa.org/countries/
### Europe and Homelessness: Alarming Trends

- **Vienna**
  - Year: 2013
  - Number: 9,770 people
  - Description: The Wiener Sozialbericht (Vienna Social Report) counts the number of users of the support services for homeless people.

- **Belgium**
  - Sub-region: Brussels
  - Year: One night in 2014
  - Number: 2,603 people
  - Description: No national statistics exist: separate studies are available for Brussels, Wallonia, and Flanders, with non-comparable data. In relation to Brussels, a survey was carried out on a given night by the La Strada centre which supports homeless services in the city. The survey is based on a broad definition of homelessness which uses the FEANTS grid (7 operational categories out of 13 applied), and includes people living rough, in emergency accommodation, in homeless shelters/women’s shelters, in supported accommodation (Habitat Accompagné, Housing First), as well as people receiving longer-term support or living in temporary/ non-conventional structures (unofficial shelters, ‘negotiated occupancy’, religious communities, and squats). It excludes people living in insecure accommodation (staying with family or friends), in accommodation for immigrants, homeless as due to be released from institutions, under threat of eviction, under threat of domestic violence, or in extreme overcrowding.

- **Bulgaria**
  - Year: One night in 2015
  - Number: 3,486 homeless services places occupied
  - Description: Places occupied in homeless hostels, excluding people who are living rough, staying with family or friends, and other individuals without accommodation.

- **Croatia**
  - Year: One night in 2013
  - Number: 462 people
  - Description: This covers homeless people registered with social protection centres on 31 December.

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2 http://www.lastrada.brussels/portail/fr/denombrement-2014

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- 19% increase between 2010 and 2013


### EUROPE AND HOMELESSNESS

#### ALARMING TRENDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2011 Population Census</th>
<th>Emergency Accommodation in 2011</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Czech Republic</strong></td>
<td>11,496 people</td>
<td>One night in 2011</td>
<td>National data extracted from the 2011 population census. The data, calculated on a given night, only takes into account the people who accessed accommodation for the homeless or emergency accommodation on that night. Experts and NGOs believe the actual figures are far higher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Denmark</strong></td>
<td>6,138 people</td>
<td>One week in 2015</td>
<td>A national census of homeless people, conducted by the SFI – The Danish National Centre for Social Research, takes place every two years, over a given week (sixth week of the year). The definition of homelessness is very broad based on nine operational categories of the FEANTSA ETHOS grid: people living rough, in emergency accommodation, in accommodation for the homeless, in hotels, staying with family or friends, in short-term transitional supported accommodation, or homeless as due to be released from institutions such as prisons or hospitals. An evaluation of homelessness among young people (from 18 to 24) is also included in the same study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estonia</strong></td>
<td>1,371 people</td>
<td>Year 2012</td>
<td>No official data. Survey. Being homeless was defined as 'not having private or rented accommodation, not having permanent housing opportunities, or living in a place on a temporary basis'.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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One week in 2009: 4,998 → 23% increase in six years

Homeless young people in 2009: 633 → 85% increase in six years
Finland

6,700 single people and 325 families
One night accommodation, in accommodation 2013 between 2013 and 2016
National annual housing deprivation survey carried out by the Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARIA). The survey, conducted on a given night (November 15th), offers a broad definition of homelessness based on six operational categories of the FEANTSA grid: people living rough, in emergency accommodation, in accommodation for the homeless, in hospital facilities due to homelessness, due to be released from prison with nowhere to go, and staying with family or friends.

France

141,500 people
One night in 2012
Survey of those using accommodation services or soup kitchens conducted in 2001 and 2012 by INSEE (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies) primarily in cities with more than 20,000 residents (supplemented by an additional study carried out in smaller cities). For the purpose of this survey, INSEE categorises a person as being ‘homeless’ on a given day if, on the preceding night, that individual had used accommodation services or slept in a place not designed for habitation (streets, makeshift shelter). The surveys indicate the place where the person has slept the night before. The estimate includes adults, children, and those dependent on the national reception scheme for foreigners (namely reception centres for asylum seekers). People who do not make use of accommodation services or soup kitchens are excluded from the survey. Geographic coverage is not uniform. The same survey was used for the Paris area; however, figures for Paris only reflect French-speaking respondents and exclude the national reception scheme for foreigners.

Germany

338,000 people
Year 2014
No official national data collection. BAG W, the umbrella organisation of non-profit homeless service providers in Germany, produces an annual estimate of homelessness centred on regional statistics (i.e. North Rhine-Westphalia’s regular and comprehensive statistics), and surveys carried out by Bag W. Annual estimates are based on a broad definition of homelessness which includes all of the ETHOS Light categories.

ARA (2017) Asunnottomat 2016 (Selvyys 1/2017) [Homeless people 2016]. Available at: http://www.ara.fi/6-F/ARAihetopankki/Tilastot_is_selvyysyys/Asunnottomat_2016/Asunnottomat_20162015.pdf

7,500 single people and 417 families in 2013
10% decrease in homeless single people between 2013 and 2016

http://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/1244844

50% increase between 2001 and 2012


248,000 homeless people in 2012
35% increase between 2012 and 2014


http://www.bagw.de/
## EUROPE AND HOMELESSNESS

### ALARMING TRENDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Survey Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>7,720 people</td>
<td>Year 2009</td>
<td>No regular official national data collection. A one-off study was conducted in 2009 by the National Centre for Social Solidarity (NCSS). primarily identifying people living rough and in emergency accommodation, but excluding migrants and travellers. The methodology used has since been denounced by the Ministry for Health and other social partners. Other estimates and surveys have since been conducted by watchdogs and NGOs. Official registers show the number of refugees and asylum seekers living in camps (where living conditions are similar to those of people living rough) on a given day, even if they are dynamic and changing each day depending on the numbers listed. On 30 November 2016, 32,535 people were registered in the refugee camps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>9,000 people</td>
<td>Year between March 2015 and March 2016</td>
<td>A study, supported by Athens Mayor, was conducted by the City of Athens Homeless Shelter (KYDA) and was funded by the Norwegian government with the contribution of other European countries. A total of 451 respondents participated in the study that lasted from March 2015 until March 2016. It is estimated that there are about 9,000 homeless people in Athens, which corresponds to 1.4% of Athens population. The findings show that 71% of Athens homeless were forced to live on the streets in the past five years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>10,206 people</td>
<td>One night in 2016</td>
<td>Annual survey on a given night (3 February) by those providing services to homeless people (BMSZK), including feedback provided voluntarily from researchers, local authorities, and NGOs. All of the services and people concerned are not covered. These estimates include people living rough and in shelters.</td>
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</tbody>
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## Europe and Homelessness

### Alarming Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Families</th>
<th>Dependent Children</th>
<th>Week of Distribution</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>1,014</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td><a href="http://www.homelessdublin.ie/homeless-figures">Dublin Region Homeless Executive, Families who are homeless</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>50,724</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One month in 2014</td>
<td><a href="http://www.istat.it/it/archivia/72583">ISTAT (2014), Le Persone Senza Dimora</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ireland**: 4,283 adults, 1,173 families, 2,426 dependent children. National official data is collected on a monthly basis by local authorities and compiled by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) via the Pathway Accommodation & Support System (PASS). The data includes people in public emergency accommodation structures run by the local authorities. The data on shelters for domestic violence victims are available from the Child and Family Agency (Tusla). The data on asylum seekers in accommodation centres is available from the Reception and Integration Agency.

**Dublin**: 1,014 families, 1,014 families. In Dublin, the Dublin Region Homeless Executive uses the online PASS system to collect data from most of the services available to homeless people in the city of Dublin. Those who use these services are counted in ‘real time’.

**Italy**: 50,724 people. Official national data is collected by the National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT) and the first survey carried out in 2011 with a follow-up survey in 2014. The 2014 survey was conducted over a given month across 158 Italian towns and identified people who had used basic services (meal distribution, shower facilities, night-time accommodation) provided by one of the 768 service providers at least once. According to the ETHOS typology, by ‘homeless’ the survey means people who are living rough, in emergency accommodation. It excludes those in insecure or unfit housing.

**Lithuania**: 2,487 people with 2,340 people in emergency accommodation for mothers and children. National data on homelessness is collected by Statistics Lithuania as part of a general population census. The figures for a given year represent homeless people who are defined as having no permanent place of residence, or the means to rent or buy a basic property, and who, for this reason, are living rough, in premises not designed for habitation, or in temporary accommodation (night shelters, emergency accommodation centres, and shelters for mothers and children).

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[http://www.istat.it/it/archivia/72583]([http://www.istat.it/it/archivia/72583])

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of People</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>2,144 people</td>
<td>One night in 2016</td>
<td>Biennial census of people in 19 adult accommodation structures on a given night in the Greater Region of Luxembourg according to data provided by the facility managers, conducted by the Ministry for Family and Integration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>31,000 people including 12,400 young people between 18 and 30 years</td>
<td>One night in 2015</td>
<td>Annual estimate by the Central Bureau of Statistics of people registered as homeless with local authorities. The figures represent people from 18 to 66 who are living rough, in emergency accommodation, in short-term accommodation, or staying with family or friends on an irregular basis. Young homeless people (18-30 years) are also included in this study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>36,161 people including 1,892 children</td>
<td>One night in 2015</td>
<td>No regular official national data collection. The Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy (MIPPS) conducts a national study of homeless people every two years. Participation is voluntary and data coverage is incomplete, and the methodology used is strongly opposed by NGOs. The figures represent people living rough and in emergency accommodation. Other estimates are also available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>41,086 people</td>
<td>Year 2011</td>
<td>No regular official data collection nationally and very little data available. The figures estimate the number of people registered as ‘marginalised’ by the authorities between 1 January and 31 December 2011, and represents those who do not own or rent a place to live.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ministry for Family and Integration (2016), *Rensement des structures d’hébergement à la date du 15 mars 2016 (Accommodation census on 15 March 2016)* [available online soon].


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Approx. People</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>4,420 people</td>
<td>Year 2013</td>
<td>No regular official national data collection. The figures correspond to a study conducted by the Institute of Social Security in 2013 of people registered in the social security information system as being ‘actively homeless’ i.e. in receipt of ongoing support from social workers.</td>
<td>Instituto de Segurança Social [Institute of Social Security] (2013), Estratégia Nacional para a Integração das Pessoas em Situação de Sem Abrigo [National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>2,000 to 3,000 people</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>3,829 people</td>
<td>One night in 2011</td>
<td>Data collected by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia via a survey of people living in buildings not designed for habitation and those using the Centres for Social Work or NGOs as their permanent address (this includes some people who live in rented accommodation whose landlord does not permit them to use the address for official purposes).</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>22,939 people</td>
<td>From 13 February to 25 March 2012</td>
<td>Official data is collected by the National Statistics Institute (INE) via a survey of users of free food products and emergency accommodation across cities with more than 20,000 residents. Accordingly, the survey does not constitute full geographic coverage. The definition of homelessness covers people living rough, in emergency accommodation, in long-term collective accommodation (reception centres, shelters for victims of domestic violence, and reception centres for asylum seekers or undocumented migrants), as well as those living in buildings deemed unfit for habitation, in temporary accommodation (hotels), and in squats.</td>
<td>INE [National Statistics Institute] (2012), Encuesta a las Personas sin Hogar 2012 [Survey on Homeless Persons for the Year 2012] [methodology, diseño de registros y micro datos] [Survey on Homeless Persons for the Year 2012 [methodology, attendance, Records, and microdata]. Available at: <a href="http://www.ine.es/dynges/INEbase/en/categoria.htm?c=Estadistica_PG&amp;idi=1254785975608">http://www.ine.es/dynges/INEbase/en/categoria.htm?c=Estadistica_PG&amp;idi=1254785975608</a></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Type of Data Collection</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>2,914   people</td>
<td>One night in 2016</td>
<td>In Barcelona, the City Council and the Network of Attention to Homeless People (XAPSIL) jointly publish a census of homeless people (people living rough, and in emergency, residential, or transitional accommodation) on a given night. See also FEANTSA Country Profile - Spain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>34,000  people</td>
<td>One week in 2012</td>
<td>National data collection is carried out by the National Board of Health and Welfare every five years over one week in May from a wide range of services in contact with homeless people. The definition of homeless on which this broad and detailed survey is based covers most of the operational categories of the ETHOS grid including people staying with family or friends, due to be released from institutions, subletting privately for less than three months, and privately renting a room from an individual for less than three months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom/England</td>
<td>3,569   people sleeping rough</td>
<td>One night in autumn 2015</td>
<td>The data is collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The first figure represents total headcounts and estimates of the number of people sleeping rough on a given night during a specific period by the local authorities. Local authorities decide whether to proceed with a headcount or an estimate. The second figure represents the quarterly total of households owed a 'statutory duty' of housing assistance by the local authority as they are considered eligible due to being homeless through no fault of their own and accordingly become part of a category characterised as in 'priority need'. This only covers households who turn to their local authority to obtain this assistance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of people living rough, in shelters, in accommodation centres, in institutions, and with no place to go has increased by 29% between 2015 (6,600 people) and 2011 (6,800 people). The number of people staying with friends or family increased by 55% between 2005 (4,400 people) and 2011 (6,800 people).
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>London</strong></td>
<td>8,095 people sleeping rough in a year between 2015 and 2016</td>
<td>In London, the CHAIN database, commissioned by the Greater London Authority and managed by St Mungo’s, compiles information recorded by outreach teams and services working with people who are sleeping rough. The data allows the number of people who slept rough on at least one night during a given year (from 1 April to 31 March) to be estimated.</td>
<td><a href="https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports">Combined Homelessness and Information Network database</a></td>
<td>7% increase between 2014/2015 and 2015/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United Kingdom/Scotland</strong></td>
<td>34,662 'homeless applications' from April 2015 to April 2016</td>
<td>Data collected by all local authorities and published by the Scottish government on a yearly and half-yearly basis, using a system similar to the English one.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00508824.pdf">National Statistics Scotland</a></td>
<td>4% decrease between April 2014-April 2015 and April 2015-April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United Kingdom/Northern Ireland</strong></td>
<td>19,621 people registered as homeless in a year between 2014 and 2015</td>
<td>Data collected by the Department for Social Development which publishes a quarterly housing bulletin including statistics relating to homeless 'applications' and 'accepted applications'.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/">Department for Communities</a></td>
<td>4% increase between 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>