

10 OCTOBER 2017

World Homelessness Day: The potential of the ESF to tackle homelessness highlighted through FEANTSA 2017 Ending Homelessness Awards

Today, on World Homelessness Day, Corina Crețu, the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, will hand out the FEANTSA 2017 Ending Homelessness Awards at an event organised as part of the European Week of Regions and Cities.

The FEANTSA Awards celebrate 60 years of the European Social Fund (ESF) by showcasing outstanding ESF-funded projects tackling homelessness. The top three awards will go to projects from the Czech Republic, Finland and the United Kingdom.

Though the primary responsibility for organising and funding measures to address homelessness lies at local, regional and national level, the ESF and other European instruments can provide added value as leverage for improving policies and services.

Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA Director: “European instruments can sometimes fall short when it comes to reaching those in the most excluded situations. With these awards, we want to showcase and celebrate some of the excellent work that is being supported by the ESF. We hope to inspire more and better take-up of the ESF for tackling homelessness in the current period; and to contribute to building a post 2020 framework that really delivers on the commitment to leave no one behind by reaching out to homeless people. We hope that in another sixty years, we will be able to say that the European Union invested in ending homelessness and succeeded!”

Now is a key moment in the preparation of the post 2020 Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF). The priorities for the next MFF are the subject of fierce debate, with significant downward pressure on resources. FEANTSA believes the new MFF must include specific provisions for people in the most deprived situations, like those experiencing homelessness. Downward pressure on resources for the MFF cannot mean that the most vulnerable are left behind.

With the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the EU and its Member States have committed to eliminating poverty in all its forms, leaving no-one behind. Currently, it remains unclear how this will be reflected in EU funding instruments. With the [Be Fair Europe – Stand up for Homeless People](#) campaign, FEANTSA urges the European Union to maximise the impact of European Structural and Investment Funds on the fight against homelessness, now and post 2020.

----- ENDS -----

European Federation
of National Organisations
Working with the Homeless
194 Chaussée de Louvain, 1210 Brussels, Belgium
T +32 (0)2 538 66 69 • information@feantsa.org
www.feantsa.org



Find out more from www.feantsa.org or call +32 (0)2 538 66 69

Notes for editors:

FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless. It is an umbrella of not-for-profit organisations which participate in or contribute to the fight against homelessness in Europe. It is the only major European network focusing exclusively on homelessness at European level