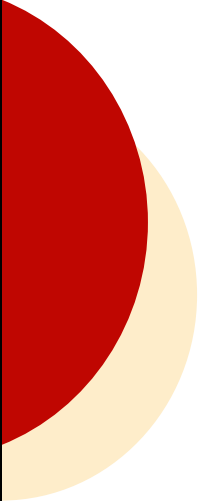


## Employability and Homelessness

News from across Europe

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## Editorial

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Welcome to the fifth edition of "Employability and Homelessness"! FEANTSA's newsletter will provide you with information about interesting employment initiatives for homeless people, latest information resources as well as events on this topic from across Europe. "Employability and Homelessness" is FEANTSA's response to the growing interest in approaches that tackle homelessness by combining housing and employment support in a holistic way. While the focus of the newsletter will be on homelessness, the information will also be useful for people working with other multiply disadvantaged groups. This issue of the Newsletter is different from the previous ones. Instead of publishing several longer texts, it provides the readers with a larger number of initiatives however described in a smaller detail. For more information about the project that might interest the readers can click on "Read more..." which leads directly to the source of the initiative in question.

FEANTSA is continuously looking for interesting initiatives, reports or events. For more information, please contact the editor, Karolina Krzystek at [Karolina.krzystek\(at\)feantsa.org](mailto:Karolina.krzystek@feantsa.org).

### **FEANTSA calls for information on the European Social Fund and homelessness!**

We are currently collecting information on the use of ESF money to fund local projects on homelessness (namely on promoting employability of homeless people or vulnerable groups). If you have examples of projects funded in this way in your country, please send them to [karolina.krzystek\(at\)feantsa.org](mailto:karolina.krzystek(at)feantsa.org)

## **Sharing Experiences**

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### **Qualifications Framework for Disadvantaged Groups**

“NQF Inclusive” is a European project aiming at developing a common European system of accreditation and certification of basic vocational education for disadvantaged people operated by the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with the Disabilities. The NQF, in regulating qualifications and in aligning each qualification to a particular level aims at enabling the recognition of qualifications across Europe, making it easier for the recognition of workers’ skills. The scheme will also look at the recognition of non-formal education and skills gained through work in sheltered employment workshop. Once developed, it can be applied to all disadvantaged groups, including in the homeless sector.

[Read more...](#)

### **Developing Employment Opportunities for Service Users – GROW Programme by Thames Reach**

Thames Reach, a British charity for homeless people has finalised a second phase of the GROW Programme which offers consultancy services to organisations working with the homeless people across England. The aim of the developed scheme is to develop service user employment opportunities and the focus is placed on the following issues: benefits and challenges of employing service users, identifying and overcoming organisational barriers and developing routes into employment. This scheme builds on the results of internal implementation of GROW within Thames Reach services which has seen the number of its employees with the direct experience of homelessness increase to 19% out of all staff members. GROW is funded by the UK Department for Communities and Local Government, and supported by Homeless Link. The Programme is currently focusing on the largest homelessness organisations before moving on to other smaller charities across England.

[Read more...](#)

### **Polish Social Economy Model from Gdansk, Poland**

In the early 2011 the Gdansk branch of the Polish non-for profit organisation working with the homeless people – the St Brother Albert’s Aid Society in the cooperation with the city of Gdansk, the Italian NGO Fio.PSD and other local partners have launch a project financed by the ESF aiming at the development of the “Gdansk Social Economy Model”. The project main objective is to develop a new model of cooperation between all partners locally involved and concerned by the social economy. This model will be used towards providing support to further development of social economy in the region. According to the St Brother Albert’s Aid Society, social economy is a relatively new

phenomenon in Poland, which began to spread only after its accession to the EU in 2004. Ever since, Poland has received considerable amounts of funding for spreading and mainstreaming such forms of activities. Nevertheless very few people actually implement it in practice. In some regions not a single social enterprise or a social cooperative exists despite costly awareness raising campaigns and wide-spread knowledge of the issue. One of the major reasons behind that can be identified as difficulties that persons or institutions wishing to establish a social economic activity face, particularly from the side of the public sector. The expected outcomes of the project launched are therefore clarification of tendering rules in the area of social economy. The project consists of three phases; during the first one a model is developed to be tested in the second one, in the final phase mainstreamed and implemented throughout the country in 2013.

For more information contact: [pawel.jaskulski\(ab.org.pl\)](mailto:pawel.jaskulski(ab.org.pl))

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### **Employment Academy for London's Homeless People opening in 2011**

Thames Reach is opening a training centre for people experiencing homelessness in London. The project is supposed to provide training and employment support services to people from December 2011 onwards. The academy will train homeless, disadvantaged people into increasing their opportunities to find and secure employment. [Read more...](#)

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### **Call for an Overhaul of Basic Skills Training for Homeless People**

FEANTSA member in the UK, St. Mungo's, has called for an overhaul of skills and employment training programmes to tackle declining employment prospects for homeless people. The charity has said that in 1983, 86% of its service users had some form of work. Today, much of that work has disappeared, leaving just 4% in employment, whereas 80% of the 1,500 service users surveyed say that it is their goal to get back to work and 25% wish to undertake vocational training, according to St. Mungo's. They are calling for the "Flexible New Deal", the UK Government's routes-into-employment programme, to include a preliminary stage with capability assessments, and a supported education system to help homeless people develop skills that currently mean they cannot find work. 40% of the people surveyed said they were not offered any training through the state employment service, Jobcentre Plus. Just less than a fifth said that the training they had been offered was not helpful. St. Mungo's also says that support must be focused on basic skills; not least because half of the homeless people they work with have literacy problems.

[Read more...](#)

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### **"Homeless not hopeless" – a Rework Bike Project in Cambridge, UK**

REWORK BIKES is a community workshop space in Cambridge hosting projects working with bikes, art and sustainable technology. "Homeless not hopeless" is a project working with the homeless and vulnerably housed in Cambridge. Volunteers teach bike mechanics to people experiencing homelessness. The project is realised in association with Cambridge Link-Up and provides informal learning of technical skills. The project has received a lot of media attention.

[Read more...](#)

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### Unseen Tours – London's Street Voices

Sock Mob events is a social enterprise which has evolved from the work of "The Sock Mob", an informal volunteer network that engages with London's street people through regular weekly guided walks for tourists. It organises guided tours around London facilitated via an internet page through which tickets can be purchased. The guides are people with the experience of living on the streets, and the principal aim, next to gaining money, is to get people engaged into a meaningful occupation which leads to enhancing their self confidence. The homeless tour guides receive training into the profession and also have the possibility to apply their knowledge about the city. [Read more...](#)

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### Business Action on Homelessness - Ready for Work

The Business Action on Homelessness (BAOH), a Business in the Community initiative, was launched in December 1998. In 2001, BAOH launched of the **Ready for Work** programme. The programme is delivered in 23 towns and cities across the UK. It offers homeless people or those at risk of homelessness the opportunity to improve their job prospects through pre-employment training, work experience placements with leading UK employers and one-to-one job coaching with business volunteers. In November 2010, the 2000th Ready for Work graduate was supported into employment. Another initiative is **Reducing Re-offending through Employment** which seeks to support people whose criminal convictions act as a barrier to work. Business in the Community recognises employment as a key route out of offending behaviour. Next to this project, the BAOH also runs an ongoing Campaign on Work Inclusion which highlights the best interventions that business can make to enhance the opportunities for those with multiple barriers to work to gain and sustain employment.

[Read more...](#)

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### International Information Exchange Project for Social Enterprises

International Social Enterprises Development Network is a project co-funded by the European Commission which has for the overall objective to support the development of Social Enterprises across the European Union thus contributing to the strengthening of social and economic cohesion over the transnational area of the project. The specific objectives of the project are: (1) identification of the driving forces for the development of SE; (2) mobilizing a transnational network of SE and promoting their participation to a web based network; (3) finding new solutions for the SE sector by implementing pilot innovative actions (finance, Business support services and market development); (4) Promoting the internal innovation of SE in terms of professionalization and creation of new socially oriented businesses; (5) creation of a transnational network of public and private partner institutions committed to the development of the sector; (6) providing a chance for social inclusion of disadvantaged groups including ethnic minorities (such as Roma) across the SEE space. It has recently launched a website aiming at exchanging information about running social enterprises. The complete information is accessible after the subscription.

[Read more...](#)

## Information Resources

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### **New European Strategy on Employment – attention given to non-governmental service providers**

The “Agenda for New skills and New Jobs” Communication from the European Commission published in November 2010 provides a new policy framework for development of action aiming at reducing unemployment and boosting skills in the European Union in line with the EU2020 targets. For the first time, the employment policy paper coming from the European Commission looks at the non-governmental organisations in their capacity of providers of employment and employability services next to the public and private job agencies. One of the focus themes will be developing better cooperation between the Public employment services, local authorities and the NGOs. The Commission plans to establish, by the end of 2011, **a partnership between employment services** from the public, private and third sectors to encourage an EU-level strategic dialogue to make transitions pay. The partnership will also provide small-scale funding for best-practice projects; a new web tool will disseminate the evaluated and tested good practices.

[Read more...](#)

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### **European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion – the EU2020 poverty strand**

On 16th December 2010, the European Commission published its Communication on the Europe 2020 Flagship Programme: the European Platform against Poverty (EPAP). The Commission sets out a framework for action “to ensure social and territorial cohesion, such that the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared across the European Union and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society”. Under section 2 of the Communication, homelessness and housing exclusion are mentioned as one of the key challenges for the future. Under section 3 on key actions to tackle poverty, several initiatives on homelessness are referred to: - As part of actions to develop social protection and access to essential services, the Commission will “Develop the Voluntary European Quality Framework on social services at sectoral level, including in the field of long-term care and homelessness.” The Commission will launch in 2011 an initiative to pool a range of European funds to promote evidence-based social innovation, including in the area of homelessness. This Communication paves the way for a genuine European framework on homelessness which will enable the wider community of experts on homelessness across Europe to promote innovative and effective solutions to homelessness, thereby contributing to the general reduction of poverty by 2020.

[Read the Communication](#)

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### **European Website on Sustainable Employment**

The CECOP-CICOPA Europe, the European confederation of cooperatives and other employee-owned enterprises has recently launched a website devoted to the issue of sustainable employment in the context of the crisis and the European Union policy responses to it which the associations judges

inadequate. The CECOP-CICOPA Europe whose member organisations are active in industry, services and crafts, most of them being worker and social cooperatives started from the premise, that quality with regard to work goes beyond the health and safety hazards. The aim of the website is to exchange and share information, projects and news on the issue of sustainable employment, everyone is welcome to contribute.

[Read more...](#)

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### **EU Report on In-work Poverty and Labour Market Segmentation**

The European Commission has published an expert report that analysis in-work poverty and labour market segmentation and suggests how progress can be made on this issue. It shows important variations in the scale on in-work poverty across the EU and covers three elements. First, it gives a general statistical overview of the situation in the Member States in a comparative perspective. Secondly, it examines the main explanatory factors for in-work poverty and labour market segmentation by undertaking a critical review of national studies by Governments and researchers. Thirdly, it presents and analyses policies in Member States to address in-work poverty and labour market segmentation. It focuses its attention on the benefits trap and the dangers of designing the social support systems which creates disincentives for people to undertaking employment at the risk of losing allowances. [Read more...](#)

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### **Single permit Directive for Labour Immigrants**

In 2010 the European Commission proposed a Directive on “Single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State” with a purpose of simplifying procedures for obtaining a residence and a work permit in the EU and to give to third-country workers equal treatment with national workers so as to avoid exploitation of foreign labour. The European Parliament, during its plenary last December, did not reach an agreement on it. One of these reasons is that intra-corporate transferees, seasonal workers, asylum-seekers and long-term residents would not be included in the scope of the directive. Other key issues disputed among the political groups were the principle of equal treatment of third-country nationals and EU citizens and whether Member States should be enabled to issue or require other documents, in addition to the permit. The Commission chose not to withdraw the proposal, so it was referred back to the Civil Liberties Committee, which restricted the reopening of amendments to only some parts of the text, therefore excluding the Employment and Social Affairs Committee.

[Read more...](#)

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### **France: The Working Poor in Institutional Accommodation**

This study won first prize in the Caisse Nationale des Allocations Familiales (French National Child Benefits Treasury) competition for Masters Theses 2009 focuses on the housing situations of the “working poor”. It shows that the proportion of working poor people using shelters for homeless people in France is on the increase.

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**“Towards a Single Market Act For a highly competitive social market economy; 50 proposals for improving our work, business and exchanges with one another”**

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010

In this Communication the European Commission set out plans to strengthen the Single Market with measures to boost growth and enhance citizens’ rights. The document contains 50 proposals for the improvement of the functioning of the Single Market and the second part is devoted to building trust of the European citizens by addressing issues of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. The proposals entail action in the field of services of general interest, strengthening the role of civil society stakeholders in macroeconomic restructuring, further recognition of formal and non-formal skills within the European Union as well as strengthening of the social dimension of the European economy.

[Read more...](#)

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**Poverty, Social Exclusion and Employment in Europe – materials from ETUI Seminar**

The conference materials are now available for [downloading](#). The conference was the ETUI contribution to the EU year against Poverty and Social Exclusion. It examined the key determinants that define people at risk of poverty and looked into the EU's approach to tackling poverty, as set out in the Lisbon Strategy and Europe 2020. The participants discussed whether the definitions and measurement used by the European Commission are adequate in determining the extent of poverty in the Member States. Issues such as how low incomes impact on workers and their families and the consequences of the current global economic crisis for low income families were tackled.

[Read more...](#)

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**Social Innovation Exchange (SIX) Website**

SIX, a global community of over 1000 individuals and organisations – including small NGOs and global firms, public agencies and academics committed to promoting social innovation and growing the capacity of the field have launched a website which serves as a platform of exchange on practices, news and solutions. The aim of the creators is to improve the methods via which societies find better solutions to societal challenges. This initiative provides space for sharing information on ongoing projects as well as their results in such fields as: social entrepreneurship, education and skills, employment, community development, poverty, health, green economy and many others.

[Read more...](#)



## Events

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### **“Governance of homeless service provision at local level: One-size-fits-all or diversity of models across Europe?” A European Seminar on Local Homelessness Strategies**

Friday 17 June 2011, Brussels

**Hosts :** Committee of the Regions, Co-host : FEANTSA and HABITACT – the European exchange forum on local homeless strategies

#### **Background of the seminar**

The EU is increasingly intervening (directly or indirectly) in the area of social services, including homeless services, namely through the adoption of EU legislation on public procurement of services, on State aid rules, and on the establishment of a European market of services. Moreover, these services are facing mounting pressure as a result of budgetary and austerity measures, leading to funding cuts in many parts of Europe. There is increasing interest therefore in new ways of working and new forms of governance, as local organisations adapt to the new emerging economic, welfare and political context in their country.

[Read more...](#)

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### **"Innovative Methods of Working with Underprivileged Youth: Theory and Practice"**

Krakow, 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011

This seminar, part of the European "Youth in Action" Programme aims at exploring and comparing the scope of responsibilities and entitlements, rehabilitation systems, and methods of youth work, as well as legal matters concerning the issue. The organisers would like to learn how the problems look in other European countries, and above all to get to know and to compare methods of working with 'underprivileged youth'. This meeting also aims at establishing cooperation among organizations and institutions. The invitation is extended to social workers, guardians, employees of government and non-governmental organizations, 'young offenders' institutions or reformatories, and everyone who works with underprivileged youth. For more information, please contact:

[kaska.kalamazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:kaska.kalamazoo@hotmail.com)

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### **“Migration and Housing Rights in Europe” - Housing Rights Watch conference in The Hague**

Hague, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Organisers: FEANTSA – the Housing Rights Watch Network and the University of The Hague

This Migration and Housing Rights in Europe Conference aims at exploring legal entitlements and protection granted to migrants with respect to housing rights and the challenges migrants face in accessing them. After the plenary session workshops are planned which have for the objective to

discuss legal measures concerning homeless migrants in the EU and access to housing services and rights under EU law (including article 34 of the Charter of Fundamental rights). The following thematic workshops will be held: rights and access to shelter of asylum seekers and undocumented migrants; the issue of local connection; migrant children's rights. The expected outcomes are legal action and re-enforced cooperation.

[Read more...](#)

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## SAVE THE DATE!

### European Conference on Quality in social services from the perspective of services working with homeless people

Friday, 21st October 2011, Luxembourg City

**Hosts: FEANTSA, Caritas Accueil et Solidarité, Confédération Caritas Luxembourg**

#### Conference background

Each year FEANTSA addresses a different theme, in the years 2010-2011 the focus area is Quality in social services from the perspective of services working with homeless people. While addressing the issue of quality in the sector for homeless people, certain considerations regarding the specificities of those services have to be taken into account. These are notably their transitional character, diversity among the needs and profiles of the service users, the non-market character of most of the homeless services providers and, often, a lack of clear legal frameworks providing for the organisation of homeless services provisions. [Read more...](#)



This Newsletter 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](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.

■ **European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL**

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