



FEANTSA NEWS

Call for Papers: European Research Conference "Families, Housing and Homelessness"

The [Call for Papers](#) for the 10th European Research Conference on Homelessness, "Families, Housing and Homelessness" taking place at Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland on the 25th September 2015, is now available. Please send submissions to teller@mri.hu by the 10th March 2015. Tweet the call for papers by [clicking this link](#).

Call for Papers: Vol. 9, No. 2 of the European Journal of Homelessness

The [Call for Papers](#) for Volume 9, Number 2 of the European Journal of Homelessness (Open Edition) is now open. Deadline: 8th May 2015

FEANTSA 2015 Policy Conference

The next [FEANTSA Policy Conference](#), "Homelessness, a local phenomenon with a European dimension: Key steps to connect communities to Europe" will take place on the 18th, 19th and 20th June 2015 at Paris City Hall (Hôtel de Ville), France. It will informally start with local project visits on the afternoon of 18th June, followed by a central programme (plenary and 12 workshops) on 19th June and finish with decentralised networking hotspots on the morning of Saturday 20th June. The full programme will be available in February and registration will open in March 2015. Workshop themes will include migration, social investment, EU funds, service funding models, youth, fundamental rights, domestic violence, health systems, Housing First, housing markets. The programme will include an opportunity for participants to display information about the work they are doing, in the form of an Info Hub. Publications, posters, leaflets, online content and more can be displayed. The Info Hub is open to innovative ways of working – please let us know if you have ideas. #feantsa2015

New EOH Website

The European Observatory on Homelessness website has been revamped, with a new colour, slideshow and clearer labelling of sections. www.feantsaresearch.org

Participation Seminar

FEANTSA is holding a seminar on participation of people who are homeless in Barcelona, Spain on the 5th March. The seminar "Get a different result, get people participating", organised by the FEANTSA participation working group and hosted by the Municipality of Barcelona and Arrels Fundació, will discuss, through group reflection, what participation of homeless people means and agree on a shared definition of participation for Barcelona. Project visits with city tour guides with experience of

homelessness and to a supervised injecting facility will take place after the seminar.

New Policy Statements

["The Impact of recent Rulings on the Rights of Homeless mobile EU Citizens"](#)

["Does the EU Youth Guarantee Address Young Homeless People's Needs?"](#)

Youth Study Session

A [Study Session](#), "Advocacy – Better Policies for Preventing Youth Homelessness", will take place from Sunday 8th to Saturday 14th March 2015 at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France. It will give participants the chance to share and learn about taking a human rights approach to addressing and preventing homelessness. The focus of this study session is Advocacy: 1. advocating for and with service users, 2. advocating for good practice within organisations, 3. learning about and engaging in political advocacy for better policies.

Training Event on Free Movement – Report

The [report](#) from the training event on free movement of EU citizens co-hosted by Eurodiaconia and CCME and at which FEANTSA presented its work is now available. The report highlights some of the key points presented by each of the speakers and some of the main conclusions drawn from the meeting.

FEANTSA Speaks at ELOSH Co-Production Event

FEANTSA took part in and spoke at the latest ELOSH Transpartnership [event](#), which took place in Amsterdam on 17th-18th February. The event was on '[co-production](#)', a new concept in many parts of Europe, defined as "inclusive working practices between experts by experience and organisations. It is about equal partnership and collaboration between parties passionate about improving service provision. Every person involved in the process of co-production is valued, respected and listened to, with everyone involved in designing, developing and delivering." In ELOSH, working in co-production with people who use services means that the national partners in Italy, France, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Greece, Ireland and Finland are expected to involve service users in the local coalitions, the localisation of the training materials (i.e. adapting the training to the national context) and preparation and delivery of the training.

EUROPE NEWS

The Finnish Homelessness Strategy: An International Review

The Finnish Ministry of the Environment published an [International Review of its Homelessness Strategy](#) on the 10th February. Finland is one of the only countries to have managed to reduce homelessness in recent years. It has been an early-adopter of Housing First, an evidence-based innovation which is increasingly being taken up in Europe and internationally.

A seminar entitled 'Facts, Findings and the Future' took place in Helsinki on the 10th February to present the review and was broadcast [online](#). It is now available to view as a recording. A press conference in Finnish and English preceded the seminar and was also livestreamed. Read our [press release](#) about the event and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment [press release](#).

Registration for HABITACT Peer Review: Odense, Denmark on 9-10th April 2015

The peer review will be hosted by the City of Odense in Denmark, among the most successful cities in reducing homelessness in Denmark, and founding member of the HABITACT network. Key words in the Odense approach: linking homelessness policy to the global strategy of the city; Housing First; diversity of support models for homeless people and people at risk of homelessness; building links with neighbourhood community groups. Key themes proposed for discussion in this peer review: compatibility of local social and security policies, the geography of homelessness, the pros and cons of a public housing model, the full continuum of support models (prevention to resettlement). The independent expert nominated for this peer review is Dr Volker Busch-Geertsema, coordinator of the European observatory on homelessness. The target audience for this peer review: practitioners working in local authorities. If you would like to encourage cities in your country to attend the peer review, please contact Liz Gosme liz.gosme@feantsa.org to receive a copy of the peer review programme. The peer review will be preceded by a meeting about the URBACT III programme, a European funding programme for cities. Registration deadline: 1 March 2015. More information about previous peer reviews is available on the HABITACT website.

European Survey of Regional/Local Authorities on Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes

The Committee of the Regions is preparing an *own-initiative opinion on the outcome of the negotiations on the Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes*. The opinion is intended to assess the partnership agreements (PA) and operational programmes (OP) from the viewpoint of the regional and local authorities that will use the 2014-2020 ESIF. The rapporteur, Ivan Žagar (SI/EPP), will make sure that the key messages of the opinion are passed on to the European Commission and the other European institutions. The public can [take part in the survey](#). Deadline for input: 6 March 2015.

Living Conditions in Europe

This [publication](#) provides a statistical overview of living conditions in Europe in 2014. It presents a broad range of indicators on different aspects of living conditions and the distinct socio-economic factors that affect them. These include poverty and inequality; living standards and their affordability for households; quality of housing and the living environment, as well as other material living conditions, along with their interrelationships with the social, labour and health status of a household; and aspects of child poverty and social exclusion, as well as the family-related factors in childhood which affect the situation of today's adults.

Youth Dimension of the European Social Fund

The European Commission has [proposed](#) a new piece of legislation to make €1 BN available to Member States to advance the implementation of the Youth Guarantee (a political framework agreed in 2013, supported by [national implementation plans](#)). This proposal aims to speed up the allocation of European Social Fund (ESF) funds to youth unemployment programmes, with [country-specific allocations](#). FEANTSA hopes the funds will also be made available to vulnerable youth with complex needs and from marginalized communities. Commission guidance says that evaluations should be able to present an assessment of the extent to which the groups identified in the ESF Regulation are targeted and what kind of offers they receive. This analysis should make use of the categories for participants' common output indicators set out in Annex I of the ESF Regulation with special attention to:

- participants who live in jobless households
- participants who live in jobless households with dependent children
- participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children
- migrants, people with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalized communities such as Roma)
- participants with disabilities
- other disadvantaged (including homeless or affected by housing exclusion)"

Hungary: Little EU Action on Rights Concerns

The EU needs to stand up for its own values and protect the rights of Hungary's citizens, says Human Rights Watch in a new [report](#). Brussels has done virtually nothing about Hungary's problematic laws and practices concerning human rights since the European Commission in March 2014 created a "rule of law" measure to address serious abuses in EU member states, states Human Rights Watch. They have identified a series of reforms needed to bring Hungary's laws and practices in line with its international and regional obligations, including to: reverse the constitutional amendment permitting criminalization of homelessness and repeal all legislation with the same effect; ensure protection for domestic violence survivors by extending protection under the 2013 domestic violence provision to all women regardless of relationship status after a single instance of violence, increasing shelter spaces, and ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and take concrete action to protect the rights of the Roma minority.

Jobs in the Social Care Sector: Trends in Europe

What is the situation for the workforce in the health and care sectors? Are there common trends in Europe when it comes to wages, working conditions and staff training requirements? How have budgetary cuts impacted the sector? Following the establishment of the European Observatory of Human Resources in 2014, the [first results of research](#) conducted by Prof. Dr. Jane Lethbridge are available.

UN NEWS

OHCHR Report on Access to Adequate Housing

The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Leilani Farha, has just released her [2015 annual report](#). Its main focus is the Responsibilities of local and other subnational governments in relation to the right to adequate housing.

MEMBER NEWS

France: Hotel Accommodation – Inadequate Solution for Children and Families

A [report](#) by Secours Catholique in Ile-de-France [shows](#) the uncomfortable conditions people accommodated in hotel rooms in the region are living in. Half of these people are children. This study, which constitutes a first step towards the creation of an observatory on inadequate accommodation solutions, reveals that of the 260 people having answered the survey, 89% are living with their families in a hotel room. Most of them (67%) are not from the European Community and earn less than 500 euros a month. Almost three quarters say they are receiving support from social services. The study also criticizes the fact that "hotel rooms, initially envisaged as an emergency solution, is becoming a permanent one". Indeed, 44% of the people asked have been living in a hotel room for more than a year and 19% for more than two years.

Ireland: Family Homelessness in Dublin

New figures from the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive report that there were 359 families in emergency homeless accommodation in Dublin at the end of January. That figure compares with 307 by the end of October 2014 and 331 the following December. Focus Ireland has [warned](#) that the homelessness crisis is developing into a child welfare crisis as 780

children are homeless within these families. They also say that the figures do not include dozens of families across Dublin which have been recognised as homeless by the local authorities but have not been offered any emergency accommodation. Focus Ireland said Government action is needed to stop the growing crisis.

Ireland: Rising Rents Pushing More People into Homelessness

The Simon Communities in Ireland have [warned](#) that the [latest figures from the Daft.ie Rental Report 2014](#) – Year in Review will mean that more and more people are being pushed into homelessness whilst far too many people are still stuck in emergency accommodation for far too long because they have no other option. The figures show an overall increase of 9.7% in rent prices across the country from October to December. In addition, the numbers of properties available to rent have reduced by more than a quarter year to year. Niamh Randall, National Spokesperson for the Simon Communities said that housing supply and certainty around rents must be addressed now if the Government are serious about their commitment to end homelessness by 2016.

Italy: Europe Group

fio.PSD has set up a national group on European social policy that meets periodically to draft documents, develop projects, study European policies and make them available to fio.PSD members and arrange meetings in different parts of Italy. Sara Baldisserri, a member of this group, will attend FEANTSA AC meetings with Stefano Galliani, FEANTSA AC member in Italy. Opportunities for exchange at European level will also be available to other members of the group.

This group will be joined by three young fio.PSD candidates who will be participating in the [FEANTSA Youth Study Session](#) in Strasbourg, where they will study the legal aspects to ending youth homelessness and related advocacy work.

UK: Official Figures Give False Picture of Homelessness in England

Homelessness in England is worse than official figures show, according to new independent research published by Crisis and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It shows that official figures fail to capture the number of people who are given informal help by authorities. It also warns of millions of "hidden homeless" people and highlights the rise in homelessness due to the numbers made homeless from the private rented sector, which now accounts for 30% of all statutory homelessness cases.. The latest government statistics show 52,000 households were formally recorded as homeless in 2013-14, but [The Homelessness Monitor: England 2015](#) shows how official homelessness figures are masking the true scale of the problem, with 280,000 cases of people facing homelessness last year – a 9% rise not reflected in the headline statistics. The independent study, which analyses the impact of economic and policy developments on homelessness, draws on a survey of councils combined with new statistical analysis and in-depth interviews. It also shows that welfare reforms such as sanctions and housing benefit cuts are fuelling England's rapidly worsening homelessness crisis.

UK: Homeless Hospital Discharge Improvement

An [evaluation](#) of the UK Government's £10m Hospital Discharge Fund shows the benefits of local agencies working together to improve discharge process for homeless people leaving hospital, but warns that progress could be undone without continued investment. Homeless Link was commissioned to evaluate this programme, and found improved outcomes, for example, 69% of homeless people initially had suitable accommodation to go to when they were discharged, which rose to 93% of homeless people in projects which combined hospital and housing staff.

HEADLINES

France: Paris Anti-Exclusion Agreement

Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris and Dominique Versini, Deputy Mayor responsible for solidarity, family, children, child protection, social inclusion and older people presented and signed the [Paris Anti-Exclusion Agreement](#) on the 18th February 2015. FNARS Ile-de-France published a [press release](#) pointing out the measures that will be required if the agreement is to be successful.

France: 3.5 Million Experiencing Housing Exclusion or Homelessness

In its [20th Annual report](#), *Fondation Abbé Pierre* estimates that 3.5 million people are Experiencing Housing Exclusion or Homelessness in France. The report also estimates that 10 million people are affected by the wider housing crisis. The NGO deplores the "lack of knowledge on the reality of housing exclusion in France", finding regrettable for example the fact that the study had to be based in part on Insee figures which have not been updated since 2006, before the economic crisis. A 2012 study on homelessness allowed for some more recent figures to be included.

France: Homeless Helpline Goes on Strike

The operators in charge of the emergency helpline for homeless people in Seine-Saint-Denis, near Paris, took part in industrial action for the first time on the 12th February. They decried a lack of resources and accommodation. On the 2nd February, the Seine-Saint-Denis emergency switchboard for homeless people received 18,933 calls coming from 760 different numbers. The small team of social workers expected to answer the calls and to find accommodation for homeless people only managed to take 485 calls. On that day, like all the others, the helpline already knew of 6,500 people temporarily accommodated in hotel rooms. On that day, as very often happens, there weren't enough rooms. Forty-one people, including 15 children and a pregnant woman, had to sleep rough.

Greece: Government Pledges to Shut Immigrant Detention Centres

Greece's new government has pledged to close down detention centres for irregular migrants that have long been criticised by rights groups as inhumane. The United Nations has accused Greece of holding migrants in shocking conditions without heating or hot water. The government say they will set up "open" reception centres with better facilities.

Hungary: Situation Worsening for Vulnerable Children and Families

Maria Herczog, coordinator of the Opening Doors campaign in Hungary and member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, has [raised the alarm](#) over Hungary's failing child protection system. In spite of strong legislation, a lack of resources, a lack of training and deep-rooted prejudices in the system mean many children are still being institutionalized – and a significant number of them are Roma.

Hungary has a legislation that prohibits the placement of children in care for financial reasons. Still, there is growing evidence that newborns are being taken into care from maternity wards, often denying the mothers any documented evidence of why and how such a decision has been taken.

The legislation clearly obliges the state to provide assistance to vulnerable families to prevent institutionalization of children, but there is no understanding of how these obligations are to be met, and no accompanying resources. Homelessness, inadequate housing conditions, and the inability of families to clothe or feed their children are considered as parental neglect. There is little if any attempt to help families improve their situation. Although it is forbidden in Hungary to document ethnic and religious

background, anecdotal evidence suggests that babies of Roma origin are the most likely to be taken into care.

Maria Herczog is not the only one to voice concerns about this situation. A Város Mindenkié, a group for homeless people, [organised an event](#) with the participation of experts, to raise awareness of the growing number of homeless families and mothers with young children, whose children are placed into care because of homelessness, and TASZ - an NGO based in Budapest - has also [raised concerns about child institutionalisation](#).

UK: Homeless Babies

About 15,700 children under the age of two are living in households classed as statutorily homelessness in the UK, according to a [report](#) released by two children's charities. They call on the UK government to improve services to young homeless families as they say the welfare of thousands of babies without a home is at risk. They suggest the government create a 'gold standard' for homelessness services dealing with homeless families with babies. Other recommendations include: collecting data on the number of babies being routinely collected by local authorities; local safeguarding children's boards reviewing the role housing problems play in serious case reviews; increasing awareness among health and children's services of housing and welfare issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Health, Homelessness and Multiple Exclusion: Symposium

The UK Faculty for Homeless and Inclusion Health's [annual symposium](#) on health, homelessness and multiple exclusion takes place in London on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th March 2015. This year's programme focuses on the links between poor health and homelessness, health service responses, in the UK and with European input. These include: Faculty of Homeless and Inclusion Health pathway programme; Inclusion Health: defining a new discipline; how can health services identify the most vulnerable?; the balance between specialist and mainstream healthcare provision of the most excluded; processes of exclusion – can health services reform?; how can we reduce premature mortality at the extremes?; setting the research agenda for homelessness and health; new health commissioning models for homeless and excluded groups; defining education and training needs for clinicians who work with homeless and other severely excluded groups; identifying new service models or health service responses that work; considering homeless people's health issues and those of other severely excluded groups in the wider context of health inequalities in society. The symposium will be available to view online.

3rd European Congress on Assertive Outreach

The 3rd [European Congress on Assertive Outreach](#) will take place in Oslo, Norway, of the 24-26 June 2015.

Third World Conference of Women's Shelters

Applicants interested in participating in the [3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters](#), hosted from 3-6 November 2015 in the Hague, The Netherlands, are invited to [register their intent](#) to attend the conference and to submit ideas for contribution to the content of the conference. Please also indicate whether or not you will require assistance in finding funding for your participation. Those who wish can already pre-pay the conference fee and/or donate in order to support other participants.

European Investment Bank Institute Social Innovation Tournament

The [European Investment Bank Institute Social Innovation Tournament](#) is the flagship initiative of the Institute's Social Programme. It is organised every year in a different country to reward and sponsor European entrepreneurs whose primary purpose is to generate a social, ethical or environmental impact. Three prizes are awarded by a Jury, composed of specialists from the academic and business world: General Category 1st and 2nd Prizes of EUR 25 000 and EUR 10 000 respectively and

a Special Category Prize of EUR 25 000. In 2015, the Special Category Prize will go to projects addressing equal opportunities issues with a special emphasis on people with disabilities. Projects are typically related to fighting unemployment, marginalisation of disadvantaged communities and promoting access to education in a wide range of fields, from education and health care to natural or urban environment, through new technologies, new systems, and new processes. The call for projects for the 2015 edition will run from 1 February to 21 March 2015.

The Networks Approach Training

The Rock Trust is offering training on the Networks Approach. This is a full day of training aimed at professionals and volunteers who support individuals experiencing isolation, loneliness and vulnerability due to a lack of positive relationships in their lives. The training will look at the importance of supportive relationships in allowing individuals to make positive steps forward, how they can develop positive relationships and improve social skills. The training will also discuss ways for your service to imbed support networks into your practice. It will take place on Thursday 23rd April 2015 from 9:30am-4pm in Glasgow, UK. For further information or to book please email training@rocktrust.org.

Call for European Partners: Europe for Citizens 2015

The Social Cooperative [Madonna della Carità](#), based in Rimini, Italy, is taking part in a Europe for Citizens 2015 project, "Develop and share services for people experiencing homelessness and who are victims of social exclusion", which comes under Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation – Measure Civil Society Projects (deadline March 2nd). They are looking for partners who develop active policies against poverty and are keen to adopt good practices from abroad in order to further their skills and share innovation.

The Cooperative has been providing social welfare services to disadvantaged people at risk of poverty and social exclusion since 1985. The Cooperative supports migrants, asylum seekers, women victims of sex trafficking, the elderly, lower income families and their children. Thanks to the social workers employed and to many volunteers involved through the Associazione Madonna della Carità and Caritas Rimini, the Cooperative encourages the participation of disadvantaged people in public life, implementing policies for social inclusion, strengthening education, employment, and housing strategies at local, regional, and national level.

Organisations interested in being involved in the project are invited to contact [Viola Carando](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Health Interventions for People who are Homeless

This [study](#) shows that homelessness has serious implications for the health of individuals and populations. Primary health-care programmes specifically tailored to homeless individuals might be more effective than standard primary health care. Standard case management, assertive community treatment, and critical time intervention are effective models of mental health-care delivery. Housing First, with immediate provision of housing in independent units with support, improves outcomes for individuals with serious mental illnesses. Many different types of interventions, including case management, are effective in the reduction of substance misuse. Interventions that provide case management and supportive housing have the greatest effect when they target individuals who are the most intensive users of services. Medical respite programmes are an effective intervention for homeless patients leaving the hospital. Although the scientific literature provides guidance on interventions to improve the health of homeless individuals, health-care providers should also seek to address social policies and structural factors that result in homelessness.

Biographical Profiles and Behavioral Patterns of Homeless Women

This [book](#), "Biographical Profiles and Behavioral Patterns of Homeless Women in the Context of Extremely Asymmetric Power Balances" (in German), analyses the mutual relationship between structural problems, life history and experience of homelessness services and their effect on the lives of homeless women. It explores how a narrative-biographical interview

approach can promote a better understanding of what can help homeless women, unlike the classic focus on an individual's 'problems'. The author, Carla Wesselmann, has worked as a social worker with homeless women. She thus joins the increasing numbers of social scientists whose professional background is in social work. These experts deal with multiple questions and problems from the angle of social work.

What Life is Like for Homeless Women Over 50

What is life like for homeless, roofless, excluded, vulnerable women who are less protected by society because they do not live with young children and are not old enough to live in sheltered housing or nursing homes? A [study](#) by Mipes into homelessness amongst women aged between 50 and 65 years old, led by a group of social workers, tries to answer this question.

Psychologically Informed Environments

"Organisational development, appreciative inquiry and the development of Psychologically Informed Environments (PIEs). Part I: a positive psychology approach" is a [conceptual paper](#) suggesting a new approach to the development of a Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE). The background of the approach (AI) is given, the pilot project described, and the way it contributes to a PIE is discussed. The beneficial and practical link with Positive Psychology is also explored. Part 2 will describe the outcomes of the implementation of AI in pilot at a homelessness hostel in Westminster, London, UK.

Costs of Youth Homelessness

New Australian [research](#) reveals the extreme difficulties faced by homeless young people, with 63% having been in kinship, residential or foster care and more than half being diagnosed with a mental illness. The report, *The Costs of Youth Homelessness in Australia* is described as the first national, Australian longitudinal study investigating the economic, personal and social costs of youth homelessness over time across a broad range of locations. The researchers said the landmark project was conducted to better understand the experience, impact and support needs of homeless youth.

Housing First Materials in Polish

A [repository of Housing First materials](#) is now available in Polish.



This publication is supported by the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS (2007-2013). This programme is implemented by the European Commission. It was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment, social affairs and equal opportunities area, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Europe 2020 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-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

For more information see: <http://ec.europa.eu/progress>

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

FEANTSA works with the European Commission, the contracting authority for the four-year partnership agreement under which this publication has received funding.

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)