



FEANTSA NEWS

Registration for 9th European Research Conference on Homelessness

[Registration](#) is open for the 9th European Research Conference on Homelessness, "[Homelessness in Times of Crisis](#)" taking place in Warsaw on the 19th September. The programme, abstracts, speakers' biographies and the list of site visits are available on the event [website](#).

New FEANTSA/HABITACT Communications Assistant

Sandra Mitrovic joined us in May and will be with us until October 2014 and is assisting FEANTSA and HABITACT with their communications work. She is Serbian Hungarian and speaks Serbian, Hungarian, English and Italian. She is specialized in using digital media channels and has experience in online political campaigning. She has work experience in youth and education, and is supporting network-building and promoting positive communication about homelessness.

New FEANTSA Policy Assistant

Carl Wirehag began working as Policy Assistant at the FEANTSA office in March and will be with us until August. His work focuses mainly on housing policy and housing rights. He is originally from Gothenburg, Sweden where he has worked with homelessness/social exclusion issues for the last 7 years, alongside his university studies in European social policy and law.

Press Release: 2014 Country Specific Recommendations: European Union Risks Leaving its Most Excluded Citizens Behind

On 2nd June, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, László Andor presented proposals of 2014 Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) in the social policy field. Ahead of the EPSCO Council Meeting of 19-20 June, FEANTSA shares its concern that these recommendations neglect homelessness. Read the [press release](#).

Analysis of 2014 National Reform Programmes

FEANTSA has published a [review](#) of the 2014 National Reform Programmes that shows that Member States continue to highlight homelessness as a priority for delivering on Europe 2020.

Press Release: Homes, Not Spikes, Are the Answer to Homelessness

These past few weeks, conventional and social media have been alive with reactions to the issue of metal spikes and other types of architecture used to chase homeless people away from certain areas. FEANTSA welcomes the protests against these

practices and encourages using this energy to promote sustainable solutions to homelessness. Read the [press release](#) and Euractiv [op-ed](#) and 24dash [opinion article](#).

Press Release: New European Parliament Can Act to End Homelessness

The new Heads of the four biggest Parliamentary Groups in the European Parliament voted in favour of a Homelessness Strategy for the European Union in 2011. They can use their new position to make this call a reality. Read the FEANTSA [press release](#).

EU Alliance for Investing in Children - Press Release Ahead of June EPSCO Council

The EU Alliance for Investing in Children launched a [press release](#) ahead of the Employment and Social Affairs Council (EPSCO) meeting of ministers to approve the Country-Specific Recommendations, as a reaction to the 2014 National Reform Programmes. FEANTSA is part of the alliance.

FEANTSA Article on Migration in Viennese Homelessness Publication

FEANTSA submitted a report on migration and homelessness to a [publication](#) on Homelessness in Vienna. Several articles in the publication focus on issues of EU migration. It also explores affordable housing, the shortcomings of social assistance policies and the relevance of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to homelessness policies and services. It also includes data on state-funded homelessness services in Vienna.

FEANTSA Signs ENoMW Statement on the Rights of Domestic Workers

On the International Day of Domestic Workers, the European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW) published a [statement](#) to draw the attention of the European institutions and national and European stakeholders to the situation and treatment of Domestic Workers within European Union Member States, as well as their contribution to European society, stating that the European Union must strengthen efforts to guarantee the equal rights and equal treatment of Migrant Domestic Workers by ratifying the ILO Convention 189. FEANTSA signed the statement.

FEANTSA Opens Housing First Summer School in Italy

The first [Housing First Italia Network](#) Summer School opened in Ragusa, Italy in June. Around 50 participants took part in the 5-day [course](#), which was opened by the fio.PSD President and the FEANTSA Director. Read more [about the network](#).

FEANTSA Speaks at Conference on Interventions for Homeless People and People with Addictions

On 19th June, FEANTSA spoke at a conference on interventions for homeless people and for people with addictions in Braga, Portugal. The event was organised by the Braga delegation of the National Red Cross Organisation and focused on harm reduction and social reintegration. The results of the Housing First programme in Lisbon were also presented.

FEANTSA Speaking at Conference on Social Developments in the European

Union

On 1st July, FEANTSA is speaking at a [conference](#) and book launch organised by the European Social Observatory and the European Trade Union Institute to mark the 15th edition of their flagship publication.

FEANTSA and Housing Rights Watch Workshop with fePshon Housing Solutions for Homeless People

Bringing together experts on housing rights, housing law, housing systems, alternative tenancies, homelessness and activists, this workshop explored the possibility of working with new partners on housing solutions for homeless people. Starting from the premise that the housing crisis and economic crisis require solutions that respect the right to housing, and create more affordable housing, experts from across Europe discussed areas of potential collaboration including: empty houses, alternative tenancies (intergenerational housing, moving from occupations/squatting to stable tenancies, new regulations and possibilities in housing codes, etc.), community land trusts, social rental agencies, and others.

The workshop provided much food for thought and FEANTSA and Housing Rights Watch will contemplate the useful discussions for a future event. Presentations and notes from the workshop can be found on www.housingrightswatch.org

Please contact samara.jones@feantsa.org with any comments or questions.

FEANTSA to Host Second Study Session with Council of Europe Youth Department on Advocacy Training

FEANTSA has been granted a second opportunity to organise a study session with the Council of Europe's European Youth Centres for young people working with homeless youth or young people at risk of homelessness. Our first study session in March of this year was very well received, and there was a strong demand for more training on advocacy.

FEANTSA members – both those who have already joined FEANTSA's Youth Homelessness Network and those who are interested in joining – will be invited to apply for the study session in the autumn. Details about the programme, dates (first half of 2015) and location (Budapest, Hungary or Strasbourg, France), will be published in September.

Please contact samara.jones@feantsa.org with any questions.

EUROPE NEWS

Committee of the Regions Adopts Call for EU Homelessness Strategy

The EU Committee of the Regions formally and unanimously [adopted](#) its opinion calling for an EU Homelessness Strategy on the 25th June.

Eurostat Data on Homelessness

For the first time, Eurostat has created an official [country breakdown](#) of homelessness. The table is the result of the 2011 population and housing census.

Quarterly HABITACT e-bulletin Now Online

The latest issue of the HABITACT [e-bulletin](#) contains examples of local news and local trends on homelessness, as well as EU news and HABITACT news.

European Council Nominates Jean-Claude Juncker as New European Commission President

The 28 heads of State and Government designated Luxembourg centre-right politician Jean-Claude Juncker for the position of President of the European Commission (the new term would start at the end of this year). The EU countries proceeded to a vote and all countries except the UK and Hungary approved him. The European Parliament now needs to approve this nomination with a simple majority – the vote will take place the week of 14th July.

Social Services Europe Briefing on Revised Public Procurement Directive

Social Services Europe (of which FEANTSA is a member) has prepared a [briefing](#) on the [revised EU public procurement directive](#), highlighting the relevant articles for social/health services or authorities funding these services.

New European Guide to Housing Dimension of Refugee Resettlement

In many European cities, housing for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable and low income groups is becoming increasingly difficult to find. To try and inspire creative solutions and new initiatives in housing for refugee resettlement, the SHARE partnership has produced a [Good Practice Guide](#) to Housing as part of Refugee Resettlement, 'A Place to Live, A Place to Stay'. SHARE is a part of the [European Resettlement Network](#), an inclusive network that supports the development of resettlement in Europe.

Social Situation of Young People in Europe

The Third European Quality of Life Survey [policy brief](#) examines the quality of life of young people in Europe, focusing on dimensions such as living arrangements, social exclusion, relationships and sources of support, as well as participation in society and social/cultural activities.

Horizon 2020 in Brief

This free [guide](#) explains the EU framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020 — the biggest EU research and innovation programme ever with EUR 80 billion of funding available from 2014 to 2020.

MEMBER NEWS

Belgium: Belgian Homeless Cup Final

The Belgian Homeless Cup final took place in Brussels on 11th June. UR Namur won the tournament, OH Leuven was awarded the Fair Play Trophy by sponsor Electrabel and KAA Gent won the Community Trophy for the best social project of

the season.

Denmark: Digitalisation and Homelessness Services

The digitalisation of the public sector implies additional work for Danish FEANTSA member projekt UDENFOR and its 10 permanent and 40 voluntary staff members. Bibi Agger, professional leader and deputy manager of projekt UDENFOR talks about its project to help its service users navigate the ever-increasing digital public service landscape in an interview with the magazine produced by *Djøf*, an Association of Lawyers, Economists and Social and Political Scientists. The [Danish](#) and [English](#) versions of the interview are on the projekt UDENFOR website.

France: *Collectif des Associations Unies* Demonstration to Ask for Measures Against Housing Exclusion

On the 9th June, the *Collectif des Associations Unies pour une nouvelle politique publique du logement des personnes sans-abri et mal logées* (Collective of NGOs United in Favour of a New Public Housing Policy for Homeless People and People in Housing Exclusion) put up tents along the Saint Martin canal in Paris and in several big cities in France (Lille, Nantes, Toulouse, Mulhouse and Strasbourg), as part of a symbolic show of solidarity with vulnerable people and those experiencing housing exclusion and to ask for concrete solutions for them. Following the demonstration, the NGOs met the Housing Minister's cabinet. During the meeting, the Collective reiterated its four priorities: unfreezing housing benefit payments; adequate responses for people who will be in temporary accommodation this winter; a law planning the construction of social housing targeting very vulnerable groups and a real eviction prevention policy.

The Collective announced that the government still has not proposed concrete and immediate solutions but that the Housing Minister will circulate a plan at the beginning of July.

France: Alliance Between Health and Social NGOs Promoting Housing for People with Mental Health Issues

ANPCME, FNAPSY, Unafam, and FNARS have [signed](#) a charter on accommodation and housing for people with mental health issues. For these four NGOs, having housing or accommodation is one of the main factors promoting stabilisation for people with mental health problems and has a real impact on public health issues.

Ireland: Warning of Homelessness Crisis Among Young People Leaving State Care

Focus Ireland has expressed concern about the fact that up to 40% of the young people leaving State care it works with are homeless. It has warned that an emergency response to the growing crisis of homelessness among young people leaving State care is badly needed. The current attention given to housing shortages has failed to include young people leaving State care, says Focus Ireland.

Italy: Meeting with Italian President

fiو.PSD was recently among those [invited](#) to join the Italian President at the presentation of the newly-introduced basic social welfare scheme [REIS](#) ('*reddito di inclusione sociale*'). fiو.PSD attended as part of the delegation of members of the Italian Anti-Poverty Alliance.

Italy: Safya – A Transdisciplinary Approach to the Health of Homeless People in Europe

fiOPSD and other experts on homeless health issues have published a [book](#) on approaches to solving the health issues of homeless people in Europe to accompany the 'Safya' ('health' in Swahili) project, which promoted a new, personalised approach to homelessness and health.

Spain: Work Begins on Homelessness Strategy, fePsh Involved

The first meeting of the stakeholders in the drafting of a national homelessness strategy in Spain was held on the 18th June.

A group of ten NGOs is involved in drawing up the national strategy. The group consists of FEANTSA members Caritas Spain, Provienda, RAIS Fundación and fePsh, the federation of Spanish homelessness NGOs as well as EAPN Spain, ACCEM (an organisation working with migrants and refugees), the National HIV/AIDS Council (CESIDA), the Spanish Red Cross, the Union of NGOs working with People with Drug Addictions (Unad) and the Mental Health Centre in Barcelona (atenea).

The Social Affairs Ministry will hire a consulting service to write a first draft of the strategy that will analyse the situation and should be finished in September.

The stakeholder group has asked to meet the consultant to establish areas to work on. fePsh aims to provide a working document from the NGOs involved in the federation.

Spain: fePsh Statement Against Tarragona PP Proposal to Count Homeless People with a View to Expelling Migrants

In reaction to a statement by the Tarragona (Catalonia) *Partido Popular* (People's Party) spokesperson saying he would conduct a census of homeless people in the city and use it to return irregular migrants, fePsh published a [press release](#) rejecting the statement and demonstrating its indignation at the stigmatising and punitive approach promoted by the spokesperson.

Spain: Call for Social Housing Stock Targeting Homeless People to Be Increased

As part of its inclusion programme, *Sant Joan de Déu Serveis Socials de Barcelona* has called for the enlargement of social housing stock made available for homeless people. The aim is to obtain affordable rental housing from organisations and individuals so that it may be used to give vulnerable people at risk of social exclusion a new chance.

UK: Housing Justice launches new Night Shelter Quality Mark

Housing Justice has launched a new national good practice standard for Night Shelters, the Housing Justice Quality Mark ([HJQM](#)). The new HJQM sets out standards of good practice including risk assessment, health and safety, training for volunteers, and partnership working in night shelters. The HJQM will make sure that shelters operate safely and work in partnership with others to respond effectively to the needs of their homeless guests and has already been piloted across several shelters.

UK: Study Shows Half of Homeless People Lack Reading and Writing Skills

St Mungo's Broadway has conducted the largest ever recorded [survey](#) of homeless people's literacy and numeracy skills by direct assessment. [Reading Counts: Why English and maths skills matter in tackling homelessness](#) looked at levels of literacy and numeracy among 139 of St Mungo's Broadway's single homeless service users. It found that 51% lack the basic literacy skills needed for everyday life. This figure compares with one in six (15%) of the general population who struggle to read.

The findings include:

- One in two lack the basic English skills needed for everyday life
- 55 per cent were found to lack basic maths skills
- Many had a poor experience of school, often connected to unstable or traumatic childhoods
- Clients who lack basic English and maths skills make less progress in addressing physical and mental health issues

A 2013 survey of 1,595 St Mungo's clients found that only six per cent were in paid work. Poor English and maths skills partly explain this extremely low rate of employment.

The report makes six recommendations including that the UK Government make a long term commitment to fund English and maths programmes, which are designed for people who are homeless, commit to work with homelessness agencies to expand the pilot pre-employment support programme, [STRIVE](#), and encourage local authorities to better coordinate community learning and supported accommodation services.

HEADLINES

Czech Republic: Czech Church in Favour of Housing for Homeless People

The Council on Justice and Peace of the the Czech Catholic Church has published a [statement](#) (also [in Italian](#)) arguing for formal solutions to homelessness, especially permanent housing with support in the social sector for homeless people. The document is a response to the recent government homelessness strategy, "The Concept of Preventing and Tackling Homelessness Issues in the Czech Republic until 2020". It also calls for more positive attitudes towards homeless people from the public and politicians and warns of a rise in the number of young homeless people because of youth unemployment. It says it is not possible to tackle homelessness without an integrated approach that takes account of the level of unemployment and growing migration. This approach, it says, must include prevention, education in schools and social assistance for families at risk. The statement criticizes the separation of families because of their housing situation and calls for the use of social housing as a fundamental instrument for social integration. The Czech Catholic Church is in favour of testing Housing First approaches.

Ireland: Dublin Housing Boom Fuelling Increase in Homelessness

Dublin is undergoing an increase in homelessness and a property boom as a result of the economic crisis. Building virtually stopped in Ireland's crash six years ago, and austerity slowed down state-funded housebuilding and made cuts to social welfare. The shortage of accommodation has seen Dublin rents rise: property prices in Dublin in April were 18% higher than a year ago, according to the Central Statistics Office. Investors are now buying up property, driving the boom. However, many landlords prefer to take higher rents from private tenants, instead of the rent allowance offered by those on benefits and the number of people becoming homeless has increased significantly. Protesters have called for swift action to be taken on homebuilding. Ireland's Housing Minister has now unveiled plans to restart some building and restore disused state properties.

Sweden: Homelessness Coordinator Final Report

In 2011, the Swedish Social Affairs Ministry initiated a project to evaluate municipal work on homelessness. A homelessness coordinator was appointed for a two-year mandate to visit and evaluate local homelessness services and promote good

practice. This mandate has now ended and the [final report](#) is available (in Swedish).

UK: "Welfare Reform Will Increase Homelessness in Scotland"

A [report](#) by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations warns that the 'cumulative impact' of the 'bedroom tax', benefit sanctions and problems accessing finance may push up homelessness levels in Scotland. A survey of 42 housing associations showed 26% respondents believe the growing requests for downsizing triggered by the bedroom tax have affected their ability to re-house homeless households.

UK: Homelessness in the Housing (Wales) Bill

Welsh Assembly Members recently debated the Welsh Government's Housing (Wales) Bill. Although the Bill has been welcomed by many across the homelessness sector, others see it as a 'missed opportunity'. A series of [blogs](#), from an academic, a former Housing Minister and a housing and homelessness charity, evaluate the bill.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"A Home for All" – Registration Open

The European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), with the Nordic Centre for Welfare and Social Issues (NVC), the Norwegian SOR Foundation and the partners of PUSH Europe: FEANTSA, CECODHAS and MHE, are organising an international conference on the development of homes and housing services for persons with disabilities, persons with mental health problems, homeless people and people in need of housing support. The conference will take place in Oslo on 9th and 10th October 2014. [Registration](#) is now open.

PUBLICATIONS

Current Issues in Mental Health in Canada: Homelessness and Access to Housing

This [paper](#) explores the complex relationship between mental health, homelessness and access to housing and the current situation in Canada. It concludes that the Housing First approach has demonstrated that individuals with mental health problems can remain in suitable housing if offered accompanying recovery-oriented supports.

Toolkit on Depression and Anxiety for Homelessness Workers

A guide about depression and anxiety for people who work with homeless men, called [Tune In Now](#), was created by Homelessness Australia. The online toolkit contains information about the signs and symptoms of depression and anxiety, screening tools, practical tips on having a conversation about depression and anxiety and links to other relevant resources.

Homeless People in the Paris Metropolitan Area

Four memoranda produced by a partnership between the Paris urban planning institute (Apur) and the Ile-de-France branch of the national statistical office (Insee) on homeless people in the Paris metropolitan area, based on the results of a survey of people using Parisian shelters and food-distribution units carried out in 2012 by Insee and the National institute for population studies (Ined), and the Apur study 'Homeless People in Paris and in Metropolitan France: Social Emergency/Situation Projections' are available on the [Apur website](#).

The National Centre on Family Homelessness and SHIFT Longitudinal Study

The National Center on Family Homelessness in the USA recently published a major longitudinal [study](#) involving women with children who have experienced homelessness. The SHIFT (service and Housing Interventions for Families in Transition) Longitudinal Study identified women with children in emergency shelter and transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing programmes and interviewed them three times over a 30 month period. The findings of the study show significant traumatic experiences among homeless and residentially unstable families.

Private Renting Can Work for Homeless People

A new [report](#) evaluating Crisis UK's Private Rented Sector Access Development Programme outlines key lessons from the programme, which was set up to help homeless people find a home in the private rented sector. The report says that private renting can work for homeless people given the right training and support for both tenants and landlords.



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

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