



FEANTSA Policy Conference 2021

4 November 2021

9.00 -17.30 – General Assembly

This is a closed event to the FEANTSA members.

FEANTSA members are invited to our General Assembly where we will present an overview of the activities over the past year & discuss the future of FEANTSA. The General Assembly will include a break for lunch. Members will receive the GA agenda directly.



Draft Conference Programme

Prices Paid & Lessons Learned

Friday 5th November 2021

Market Hall: Námestie - SNP 25, 811 01 Bratislava, Slovakia

Falkensteiner Hotel: Pilárikova 7372/5, 811 03 Bratislava, Slovakia

WorksUp Online: [Join here](#)

The registrations and opening plenary will take place at the Old Market Hall, with workshops being hosted in both the Old Market Hall & Falkensteiner Hotel.

8.15 **Registration**

9.00 **Welcoming Address: [EN, FR & SK]**

- Kjell Larsson, FEANTSA President
- Milan Krajniak, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
- Matúš Vallo, Mayor of Bratislava
- Video address by Emmanuelle Wargon, French Minister for Housing & Homelessness, France

9.30 **Keynote Address: Lessons Learned & Prices Paid: What is next for the homeless sector in Europe?**

Nicholas Pleace, University of York, United Kingdom

Over the past two years the homeless sector has grappled with an unparalleled challenge in providing housing, shelter and healthcare to vulnerable and marginalised people in a global pandemic. Nicholas Pleace's keynote address will reflect back on the key lessons we can draw from COVID19. Rather than reviewing specific services or actions in how we responded during the crisis, this keynote will examine where do we as a sector go next and how do we maintain a commitment to ending homelessness in the "new normal".

Nota Bene Video

10.00 **Panel Discussion**

- Nicholas Pleace, University of York, United Kingdom
- Katerina Ivankovic-Knezevic, European Commission
- Jules van Dam, Stichting De Tussenvoorziening, Netherlands



- Eva Račická, a person with homelessness experience/first NOTA BENE vendor, Slovakia

11.00 – Coffee Break – The Coffee break will be available at both Old Market Hall & Falkensteiner Hotel.

11.30 Workshop Stream I (More details in below)

13.00 Lunch – Lunch will take place at the Old Market Hall

14.30 Workshop Steam II

16.00 Coffee break - The Coffee break will be available at both Old Market Hall & Falkensteiner Hotel.

16.30 Workshop Steam III

18.00 End of Conference – if you used interpretation headsets please make sure to return them at the Old Market Hall.

18.00 – 19.30 Drinks Reception, Old Market Hall



Workshop Lists:

Stream I

1. Rewind: Learning from Past Mistakes [EN, SK, FR]

Old Market Hall, Plenary Room

Western European countries are often profiled as a best practice and praised for innovations and strategies around combatting homelessness. Countries like the Netherlands, Scotland and Ireland had ambition to end homelessness matched by resources, strategies & research to truly tackle homelessness. Despite appearing to have everything on paper to eradicate homelessness these countries have been grappling with large increases in people experiencing homelessness in the last 10 years. This panel asks former FEANTSA presidents from their respective countries what went wrong? More importantly as we continue the fight to prevent and end homelessness in Europe what can other countries learn from these mistakes?

Speakers:

- Chair: Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA
- Rina Beers, Former FEANTSA President, Valente, The Netherlands
- Robert Aldridge, Former FEANTSA President, Independent, Scotland
- Mike Allen, Former FEANTSA President, Focus Ireland, Ireland

2. Housing, Health & Covid [EN & SK]

Clever Room, Falkensteiner Hotel, 1st Floor

Housing has long been regarded as a social determinant of health, but the global pandemic has clearly identified the importance of housing within a public health framework. In some countries and cities rough sleeping was eliminated and congregated shelters were replaced with individual housing units to comply with public health guidelines. Whether 'emergency' or long-term measures, how did securing housing impact on the health outcomes of people experiencing homelessness? How was their health managed? How were addictions supported? How did support workers provide a continuity of care?

Speakers:

- Chair: Ruth Kasper, FEANTSA
- Pablo Marchesi, HOGAR SÍ, Spain
- Dr. Austin O'Carroll, Health Service Executive Clinical Covid Lead, Ireland
- Lucia Roussier, Equita, Slovakia



3. Responding to a Worsening Youth Housing & Homeless Crisis [EN & SK] **Smart Room, Falkensteiner Hotel, 1st Floor**

In 2021 Fondation Abbé Pierre and FEANTSA published the 6th instalment of the Annual Overview of Housing Exclusion and Homelessness in Europe which focused on the growing problems young people face in accessing housing and rises in youth homelessness. This workshop will provide an insight into findings of the key challenges young people encounter when accessing housing. Participants will then get an insight into how Housing First for Youth in the Hague, Netherlands is supporting vulnerable youth experiencing homelessness access housing.

Speakers:

- Chair: Lisa O'Brien, FEANTSA Youth Chair, Ireland
- Chloé Serme-Morin, FEANTSA, France
- Melanie Schmit, Housing First for Youth, Limor, Netherlands

4. Evictions in a Global Pandemic: [EN] **Old Market Hall, 1st Floor Balcony**

Moratoria on evictions became a common government response to Covid. The value and importance of a 'home' to stay safe was central to government messaging throughout the pandemic. Overnight many sectors were effectively shut down with millions of people across Europe becoming unemployed. As an emergency response, governments banned evictions to protect people from becoming homeless and to prevent added pressure on already stressed homeless services. How many households have been able to avoid eviction thanks to the moratorium? How can an explosion of procedures be avoided now that the moratoria have ended? How can we avoid a repeat of the 2008 eviction crisis?

Speakers:

- Chair: Maria José Aldanas, FEANTSA
- Sarah Coupechoux, Head of European Studies at the Fondation Abbé Pierre
- Michal Zalesak, Legal Consultant, European Roma Rights Centre. (ERRC).

5. Connecting the Dots: Roma & Homelessness [EN] **Vision Room, Falkensteiner Hotel, 1st Floor**

The Roma are frequently over-represented in the groups of mobile EU citizens who experience homelessness across the EU. Many of the issues Roma mobile EU citizens experience while living in homelessness abroad are specific to these communities, such as discrimination or police profiling. What do homeless service providers need in order to develop competences in assisting Roma communities and how can they respond to their needs? This workshop will address these questions



while outlining the key causes of Roma migration within the EU and factors that push people to destitution and homelessness

Speakers:

- Chair : Simona Barbu, FEANTSA
- Donatella De Vito, Casa della Carita, Italy
- Jonathan Lee, ERRC, Belgium

Stream II

1. Ending Homelessness in Eastern European Countries [EN & SK]

Vision Room, Falkensteiner Hotel, 1st Floor

This workshop will explore approaches to tackling homelessness in specific circumstances of Eastern European countries - Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Social Housing Platform supports the pursuit of ending homelessness, previously winning FEANTSA's ending homelessness award. NGO Proti Prudu, Nota bene street-paper publisher, advocates ending homelessness through specific services for their vendors and spreads this approach at local and national level. Both cases combine the use of innovative ways to help overcome regional specific problems and challenges resulting from the specific historical background and specific housing problems related to past regimes.

Speakers:

- Chair: Jakub Wilczek, National Federation for Solving Homelessness, Poland
- Nina Beňová & Ivan Lorenc, NGO Proti prúdu (street-paper Nota bene publisher), Slovakia
- Adam Zábanský, Councilor for housing and transparency/representative of the city of Prague, Czech Republic

2. Alternative Housing Models: Converting Hotels Into Adequate Housing For Homeless People [EN & SK]

Old Market Hall, Plenary Room

The global pandemic has focused attention on the inadequacy of congregate and collective shelter and housing models. But how can we transform collective and congregate settings to appropriate, safe and secure housing? During the last year hotels were used to shelter people in emergency situations. But in the long-term can hotels, shelters and non-residential buildings be re-repurposed to meet the housing needs of people experiencing homelessness? This workshop will explore models for transforming collective housing into appropriate housing models for homeless services, with practices from the US and from France.



Speakers:

- Chair: Arturo Coego, Provienda, Spain
- Chloé Serme-Morin, FEANTSA
- Peter Fredriksson, Suoja-Pirtti ry (Association for Longterm Homeless Persons), Finland

3. Creating Inclusive & Responsive Homeless Services [EN]

Smart Room, Falkensteiner Hotel, 1st Floor

As the number of people experiencing homelessness has risen in the past decade so have the profiles of homelessness. Services have noted increases in women's homelessness and LGBTIQ homelessness, both of which are frequently defined as hidden forms of homelessness. This workshop will provide practical guidance for how services can better meet the needs of women and LGBTIQ people experiencing homelessness. How can services be more aware of the needs of women experiencing homelessness often living with the trauma of gender based violence? How can services create empowering and safe spaces for LGBTIQ people with experiences of homophobia and transphobia?

Speakers:

- Chair: Robbie Stakelum, FEANTSA
- Emma Evans, LLamau, Wales
- Lada Hajdikova, Jako Doma, Czech Republic

4. Building Networks to Advance Housing First [EN & SK]

Clever Room, Falkensteiner Hotel, 1st Floor

One of the cornerstones of the famed Finnish Housing First model is a Housing First network. While Finland is often cited as a leading example of reducing homelessness and working towards its eradication, the value of its Housing First network has gone under the radar. This session will look at the added value such networks bring in developing training, tools for practitioners, advocating for Housing First funding, developing quality measures and sharing practices. The use of networks has helped transform homeless services from competitors to collaborators and leads to higher quality services. This workshop will provide insights in the established Finnish Housing First network and the Scottish Housing First Network.

Speakers:

- Chair : Samara Jones, Housing First Europe Hub
- Juha Kahila, Y-Foundation, Finland
- Margaret-Ann Brunjes, Homeless Network Scotland, Scotland



5. European Structural Funds [EN]

Old Market Hall, 1st Floor Balcony

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) comprises nearly EUR 90 billion in funds to be made available between 2021-2027, and incorporates the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) has a budget of EUR 191 billion for the next seven years and finances large-scale investments, including in the housing sector. This workshop will identify how European funds can be used in the pursuit of combatting homelessness, drawing on concrete examples of implementation and programming.

Speakers:

- Chair: Ruth Kasper, FEANTSA
- Sarah Coupechoux, Fondation Abbé Pierre, France
- Michal Dord, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Czech Republic

Stream III

1. Peer Work for Supporting the Health Challenges of People Experiencing Homelessness [EN]

Vision Room, Falkensteiner Hotel, 1st Floor

Peer work has become a successful intervention to integrate the perspectives and experiences of people experiencing homelessness into how services respond to homelessness. Managing the physical and mental health needs of clients can be a challenge for services. Peer workers can provide both valuable insights and support in helping people experiencing homelessness navigate complex and bureaucratic administrative procedures in accessing vital healthcare. This workshop will provide examples of how peer workers can support homeless people access and manage their healthcare needs.

Speakers:

- Chair: Sanna Tiivola, No Fixed Abode, Finland
- Katarzyna Toeplitz, Camillian Mission of Social Assistance, Poland
- Martin Murphy, Groundswell, UK

2. Ending Homelessness at Local Level: [EN, FR & SK]

Old Market Hall, Plenary Room

Cities remain one of the most important actors when it comes to delivering policies that can prevent, reduce and ultimately end homelessness. This workshop will showcase the work of ambitious cities who are FEANTSA members and their pursuit to end homelessness. The city of Ghent will showcase the Roof Project, which is an action planning network funded by Urbact which aims to shift city



policies towards Housing First with the view to reach a functional zero level of homelessness, rather than managing homelessness. Lyon Metropole will present Home Silk Road, funded by the Urban Innovative Action Initiative and co-funded by the ERDF. This project renovated old buildings in the heart of the city and converts them into social housing for vulnerable groups, including people experiencing homelessness, migrants and students, with the aim of providing both social and economic value for the city.

Speakers:

- Chair: Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA
- Patricia vanderbauwhede, City of Ghent, Belgium
- Martine Chanal, City of Lyon, France

3. An Overview of the Right to Housing [EN & SK]

Smart Room, Falkensteiner Hotel, 1st Floor

Homelessness is the violation of a series of our human rights including the right to housing. But what does this actually mean? This workshop will frame homelessness as a human rights issue and provide an insight into how FEANTSA & Housing Rights Watch advocates for the right to housing. Participants will be introduced to the right to housing in international treaties and strategic litigation which has advanced the right to housing. The workshop will also examine how to build a movement around the right to housing, drawing on the experiences of Ireland.

Speakers:

- Chair: Maria José Aldanas, FEANTSA
- Dima Yared, Human rights Officer OHCHR Brussels, Belgium
- Padraic Kenna, Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

4. European Investment to End Homelessness [EN & SK]

Clever Room, Falkensteiner Hotel, 1st Floor

Earlier this year the European Commission and Portuguese Presidency launched the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness with the target of ending homelessness in Europe by 2030.¹ In order to support member states strive towards the eradication of homelessness in Europe the European Commission will mobilise the InvestEU fund and partner with the European Investment

¹ Definition of Ending Homelessness: No one sleeping rough where there is adequate shelter capacity and no one staying in an emergency situation for longer than constitutes an emergency, no is discharged from an institution into homelessness, evictions should be prevented and no one should be evicted without relevant social assistance & no one is discriminated due to their situation of homelessness.



Bank to make grants and loans available to finance projects and services that will contribute the platforms target of combatting homelessness. This workshop will examine some of the funding opportunities made available to support the Platform's mission.

- Chair: Juha Kaakinen, Y-Foundation, Finland
- Ruth Owen, Deputy Director, FEANTSA
- Peter Surek, Erste Bank, Slovakia

5. The Child Guarantee & Homelessness [EN]

Old Market Hall, 1st Floor Balcony

The European Union has introduced a Child Guarantee to ensure the basic needs and rights of children are met in Europe. Comprising 5 key policy areas the Guarantee covers access to housing for children. Each Member State will be required to submit an action plan for how they plan to ensure every child as access to, among other priorities, housing by March 2022. This workshop will provide an overview of the process, how to influence the Child Guarantee action plan in your country and interesting practices that can support the implementation of the guarantee.

Speaker:

- Chair: Samara Jones, FEANTSA
- Stefan Iszkowski, DG EMPL, European Commission
- Nicoleta Dinu, Casa Ioana, Romania
- Ricardo Ibarra Roca, Platfom de Infancia, Spain