



Country Profile: Portugal

Third Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe 2018



Housing Exclusion 2016

- Between 2010 and 2016, the cost of housing for poor households increased in three quarters of EU countries. The increase is higher than 20% in almost half of all countries and reaches very high levels in **Portugal (+40%)**, the United Kingdom (45%) and Bulgaria (+54%).
- Between 2010 and 2016, 19 countries saw inequality worsen with regard to housing costs, including seven to a significant degree (Denmark, the Netherlands, **Portugal**, Romania, Bulgaria, Germany and Hungary). In Portugal poor households spent **35.1%** of their income in housing costs in 2016 (**+37.6%** since 2010) compared to **17.7%** for the total population (**+23.8%** since 2010).
- The number of households in Portugal in housing cost overburden (meaning they spend more than 40% of their income on housing) increased by **80%** among the total population between 2010 and 2016 (**7.5%** of total population / **29.1%** of poor households in 2016).
- Quality of housing: drop in households living in **overcrowding** between 2010 and 2016, but still high numbers of people living in **severe housing deprivation** compared to other countries in EU (total Portuguese population: **4.9%** / poor Portuguese households: **11.3%**). Almost a quarter of poor EU households were unable to maintain an adequate household temperature in 2016. In five EU countries (Italy, **Portugal**, Cyprus, Greece and Bulgaria), more than a **third** of poor households were victims of this form of fuel poverty.
- Nationality and age are factors of housing exclusion: non-EU citizens and young people aged between 16-24 years old are far more likely to experience housing cost overburden and overcrowding than the rest of the population. For example, non-EU citizens (**29%**) are **4 times** more likely to experience housing cost overburden than Portuguese citizens (**7%**).

Homelessness data & policies

- No recent data on homelessness exist at national level.

- Portugal was the first Mediterranean country to adopt a strategic approach to homelessness. However, the National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People 2009-2015 received a lot of criticism. Despite moving in a positive direction and mobilising local stakeholders to reorganise responses to homelessness in a more integrated way across different territories, there were many failures in its implementation. The lack of political backing, institutional steering, transparency in funding allocation as well as weaknesses in horizontal coordination and follow-up/evaluation mechanisms all seriously compromised the strategy's actual impact. However, a new action framework for 2017-2023 that is entering a more favourable political agenda – the President of the Portuguese Republic had directly favoured renewal of the strategy – has already seen noteworthy advances in its operational methods including strengthening the internal workings of the interinstitutional group (the GIMAE), which is responsible for monitoring strategic implementation.