



FEANTSA

## Romania

### FEANTSA Country Fiche<sup>1</sup>

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| <p><b>Key Statistics</b></p>                                 | <p>There is no national homelessness data collection strategy and very little data is available. Only general social inclusion indicators are available at national level.</p> <p>A study conducted in 2004 by the Research Institute for Quality of Life and the National Institute of Statistics, estimated the number of roofless people in Romania at 14,000-15,000 persons maximum.</p> <p>Between 1 January and 31 December 2011, 113,495 ‘marginalised persons’ were registered with the authorities of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 41,085 did not own or rent a place to live</li> <li>○ 161,806 lived in inadequate conditions</li> <li>○ 10,604 were older people without legal guardians or care givers</li> </ul> <p>According to Eurostat, in 2011, 17.1% of the EU-28 population lived in overcrowded dwellings with the highest overcrowding rates registered in Romania (54.2%).</p> <p>There are some future prospects for improved data collection.</p> |
| <p><b>Increase/Decrease in Number of Homeless People</b></p> | <p>The comments paper produced for the 2013 Peer Review in Denmark indicates a significant rise in homelessness in Romania. Although not all of the stated 41,085 ‘marginalised persons’ who did not own or rent a place to live’ would have been experiencing ‘rooflessness’, the remainder are likely to be suffering ‘houselessness’. Compared to the 2004 study – an estimated 14,000-15,000 roofless persons – the 2011 figure of 113,495 marginalised persons experiencing rooflessness or houselessness means that the earlier study was extraordinarily inaccurate or there has been a steady and dramatic rise in homelessness in Romania.</p>   |
| <p><b>Change in Profile of Homeless People</b></p>           | <p>There is anecdotal evidence indicating family homelessness is increasing, partly because of economic hardship but also because of domestic violence. Although slightly down on 2012, Casa Ioana received 98 applications from homeless families for a place in one or other of its family shelters in 2013.</p>  |
| <p><b>National Strategy</b></p>                              | <p><b>National Strategy</b></p> <p>There is no national integration strategy in Romania. Homelessness has always been referred to as a general priority in anti-poverty policies because homeless people are considered a vulnerable group. Following a Government decision (197/2006), a National Interest Programme (NIP) was launched with the aim of combating the social exclusion of homeless people by creating emergency social centres. The programme sets out a range of aims, objectives and indicators for a six-year period. Six national interest programmes have been developed concerning different vulnerable groups. Their aim is to promote the social inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of broader anti-poverty policy (as described in the National</p>   |

<sup>1</sup> Last updated January 2014

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|  | <p>Reform Programme).</p> <p>In addition, the Romanian Government has provided a definition of homelessness through Law 292/2011 on the national system of social assistance, which amended Law 47/2006. The definition of a homeless person is 'someone represented in a social category formed by single people or families who, because of singular or cumulated reasons (social, medical, financial, economic or legal) or because of <i>force majeure</i>, lives on the streets or with friends or acquaintances and is unable to sustain a rented house or is threatened with eviction, or lives in institutions or prisons and is due to be released within two months and lacks a domicile or residence.'</p> <p>In 2005, the Government committed to implementing a three-year national programme for the counties and municipality of Bucharest that would establish 50 shelters for homeless people. The programme was to be funded by the state and implemented through the National Interest Programme. By the end of November 2011, 55 centres had been established. However, adult services for people who had lost their homes are only being provided in 19 of the 41 counties and in only 26 cities. Not all of these services provide shelter with many simply offering information and advice - it is unclear how many of these services still operate in 2014. NGO service providers consider that the supply is insufficient to meet the demand.</p> <p><b>Governance</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection (MLFSP) is responsible for developing and implementing social policies and programmes as well as monitoring and assessing policy implementation. Other ministries involved in social policy are the Romanian Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing, the National Disability Authority, the National Employment Agency and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The Romanian Ministry of European Affairs monitors the implementation of the National Reform Programme (NRP) at the national level and coordinates the elaboration of the annual Action Plan for implementing it. The implementation of measures for poverty mitigation will be monitored by the MLFSP, based on information received from the implementing institutions.</p> |
| <p><b>Targeted Prevention</b></p>          | <p>Some limited measures to combat evictions do exist. There is an insurance fund for sitting tenants who are about to be evicted or having been evicted from their homes because the buildings have been returned to their former owners in the transition from communism. This group also has a right to access social housing as a means of solving their housing situation, along with a range of other 'priority need' categories. However, the supply of social housing is highly inadequate, meaning that this right is often not implemented.</p> <p>According to the law 272/2004 on Child protection, a variety of measures exists to support vulnerable young people leaving institutions. This includes follow-up care and the payment of rent for up to three years to support independent living. In practice, it tends to mean that people stay in the institutions until they have reached the upper age limit to access such support.</p>   |
| <p><b>Housing-Led Approaches</b></p>       | <p>Housing-led approaches are still a new concept in Romania. Presently, the state is the only provider of social housing and the construction of new social housing is inadequate. Where there is no housing stock, local authorities can pay housing allowance or housing subsidy to individuals and families that would otherwise qualify for social housing. Homeless people are not a priority group in the allocation of social housing.</p>   |
| <p><b>Quality of Homeless Services</b></p> | <p>No data</p>   |

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| <b>Remarks on Research</b>                | Policy is not strongly evidence-based. FEANTSA (2007) and UNCHR (2012) have produced two significant studies in the field (the latter focusing on refugee homelessness), in addition to the study conducted in 2004 by the Research Institute for Quality of Life and the National Institute of Statistics. |   |
| <b>Remarks on Budget Evolution</b>        | There is no data regarding the evolution of budgets channelled into homelessness. However, for the six-year duration of the NIP, the budget was fixed and amounted to RON 36,300 (approximately €8,162,000)   |   |
| <b>Remarks on Key Policy Developments</b> | <b>Positive</b>   | <b>Negative</b>   |
|   | Introduction of a minimum income guarantee scheme (Law No. 416/2001).   | Homeless people face considerable barriers to healthcare. According to Law No.95/2006, uninsured persons can receive a maximum of 72 hours medical care and the unemployed and those not receiving state benefits must pay RON 39 (€8) per month for health insurance cover. The same applies for mental health care. |