



FEANTSA

Slovenia

FEANTSA Country Fiche¹

Key Statistics

There is no established strategy for collecting data on homelessness in Slovenia.

The first national preparatory study on the extent of homelessness and housing exclusion was carried out in 2010 by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. It aimed to identify indicators and information sources and on hidden homelessness as well as profile types in order to estimate the extent of homelessness using secondary sources and also make recommendations on future data collection methods. One of the main conclusions of the study was that information on the extent of homelessness is currently very poor. The report generated some approximate figures for different ETHOS categories, which are provided here below. They are estimates from a preparatory study and should not to be considered reliable figures.

Rooflessness

- Approximate number of people who live on the street in Ljubljana based on 2005 survey : 285-700 (ETHOS 1.1)
- On 30th June 2010 there were 1,271 people with their permanent address registered in one of the Centres for social Work, meaning that they have no other permanent address
- Number of offences recorded under the 10th article of the law on protection of public order and peace in 2009, which includes passing the night in a public space: 337
- Approximate number of people staying in overnight shelters in Ljubljana from May 2009 until August 2010: 110 (ETHOS 2.1)
- Approximate number of persons presenting at Centres for Social Work because of homelessness in 2009: 222

Houselessness

- Approximate average number of users per month in Ljubljana's state-funded hostels (2009): 152.91 (Ethos 3.1)
- Approximate number of people living in temporary municipal emergency housing units in 2010 in Ljubljana, Maribor and Celje: 610 (ETHOS 3.2)
- Approximate number of people in state-funded programmes of transitional supported housing in Ljubljana (2009): 63 (ETHOS 3.3)
- Approximate number of people living in emergency housing provided by the municipality of Ljubljana: 486 (ETHOS 3.2)
- Approximate number of people on waiting list for emergency housing provided by the city of Ljubljana: 258
- Approximate number of people housed in state-funded transitional supported housing units for persons with mental health problems (2009): 288
- Number of users in state-funded safe houses, mothers' homes and shelters for women victims of violence (2009): 1,138 (ETHOS 4.1)
- Approximate number of people living in asylum centres (2009): 202 (ETHOS 5.1)
- Percentage of prisoners due to be released without housing solution (2008): 3.8% (ETHOS 6.1)

¹ Last updated Autumn 2012

	<p>Insecure Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Percentage of tenants without a lease contract (2005): 14% (ETHOS 8.2) ○ Number of people living in Roma settlements where all the buildings or most of the buildings are defined as illegal (2010): 5,949 (ETHOS 8.3) ○ Number of decrees on forced evictions (2010): 276 (ETHOS 9) ○ Number of sitting tenants living in problematic circumstances in denationalised apartments: 40,000 (as defined by the Tenants' Union) <p>Inadequate Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of people living in spaces that are not intended for living such as mobile homes, garages, sheds (2002 Census): 3,068 (ETHOS 11.2) ○ People presenting at Centres for Social Work because of "Housing Problems" (inadequate or insecure housing) in 2009: 2,118 ○ Percentage of the population living without a bathroom in the dwelling 0.9% (2010 EUSILC) ○ Percentage of the population living without a toilet in the dwelling 0.8% (2010 Eurostat EUSILC) ○ Percentage of the population living in a dark dwelling 11.8% (2010 t EUSILC) ○ Percentage of the population living with humidity, decay, roof leakage 30.2% (2010 EUSILC) ○ Percentage of people living in overcrowded conditions: 39.5%(2010 EU SILC)
<p>Increase/Decrease in Number of Homeless People</p>	<p>Homelessness has been increasing over the past few years. The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs (MLFSA) has been funding a growing number of services since 1996. More services such as night shelters are being provided in smaller cities. The number of people using food delivery and day centres has also been increasing (from 721 users in 2007 to 1307 users in 2009).</p>
<p>Change in Profile of Homeless People</p>	<p>Service providers report anecdotal evidence that the number of families and migrants facing homelessness is increasing. NGOs report that it is assumed that women are often found in different forms of hidden homelessness due to a lack of service provision for this target group.</p>
<p>National Strategy</p>	<p>National Strategy</p> <p>There is no specific integrated strategy on homelessness at national or regional level. Homelessness is usually dealt with within the broader sector of "social issues". Since 2000, homelessness has increasingly become a mainstream part of social policy. Before this, it was seen as a marginal problem, which could be tackled through charity.</p> <p>There have been some indications of progress towards a more strategic approach to homelessness in recent years. Homeless people were mentioned as a target group in a number of strategic documents such as the Resolution on the national programme of social protection (2006–2010) where they are listed as one of the vulnerable groups who need special treatment/care. Homeless people are also mentioned in National Programme for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (from 2000). The National Housing Programme (NHP) includes social instruments to make the acquisition and maintenance of housing easier for those individuals or families who are not able to meet their own housing needs or who cannot cover the costs of running a house.</p> <p>In 2010, the University of Ljubljana Faculty of Education and the Ministry of Labour organised a conference in the context of the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion. The</p>

	<p>aim was to start developing a national strategy by engaging all the relevant stakeholders. Sadly, this initiative has been rather weakly followed up by the different ministries. This can partly be explained by a stronger emphasis being given to financial concerns in the context of the crisis. Another factor is the lack of commitment of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) to housing the homeless, which makes an integrated approach difficult.</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>Responsibility for homelessness currently lies mostly with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs (MLFSA) and with social affairs departments at municipal level. Stakeholder involvement is a key element of the MLFSA's implementation of social security systems but there is no solid basis for stakeholder engagement in policy-making on homelessness.</p>
<p>Targeted Prevention</p>	<p>Evictions</p> <p>There is a social care service called "First Social Aid" which provides individuals being notified for eviction (or being evicted) with information in relation to possible solutions that address their situation. This service also acquaints people at risk of eviction with possible services and obligations following eviction and introduces them to services that can provide advice and guidance.</p> <p>People Leaving Institutions</p> <p>Some processes are in place to address the situation of people leaving institutions but this is an underdeveloped policy area overall.</p> <p>Penal institutions together with centres for social work (CSW) make social and post-penal plans with defined aims and needs, including housing needs. Housing after the release of an individual from a psychiatric hospital is considered a problem to be tackled only when advocates of the patient's rights offer a possibility for housing (for example a professional worker of a specialised institution that organises housing groups). In the case of a release of a minor from state care, it rests on the free choice of institutions if they, independently or in co-operation with the CSW, will arrange a dwelling for the released person.</p>
<p>Housing-Led Approaches</p>	<p>Housing-led approaches are not widespread and there is little focus on permanent housing as early as possible in the reintegration process. A small programme has been developed in Ljubljana focusing on transitional housing. It is run by an NGO and is the first supported housing service in the country. It provides flats for the transitional period of a year and a half, during which the homeless people are supported to make steps towards independent living. Flats are rented by the association on the private rental market, whereby expenses for rent represent the single biggest financial item of the project. A current focus of the association and the public housing stock of the Municipality of Ljubljana is how to address the gap between the supported apartments programme and independent living.</p>
<p>Quality of Homeless Services</p>	<p>Professional workers and professional assistants in public social welfare institutions are obliged to follow educational and training courses. The Social Chamber (according to the Social Security Act, Articles 76-78) determines the standards of these courses and verifies programmes before they enter the public network. The Social Chamber takes care of connectedness, development and professional improvement of social welfare activity. Moreover, certain conditions for employed staff in homelessness services are set by the MLFSA, the most important finance provider for homelessness services. The number of the homeless people in a room is from three to eight. Only in the "resettlement" programmes mentioned above, does each individual have his/her own room.</p>

Remarks on Research	<p>As mentioned above, the first national preparatory study on the extent of homelessness and housing exclusion was carried out in 2010 by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Five researchers identified indicators, sources of data, types of hidden homelessness, and estimated the extent of homelessness on the basis of secondary sources. The study made proposals for future methods for collecting national homelessness data. This contributed to an increased awareness; it has been useful as a policy recommendation tool, particularly at municipal level; and most importantly, it had an impact on the development of new homeless services that are evidence-based.</p>	
Remarks on Budget Evolution	<p>Since 1996, the MLFSA has been supporting programmes connected with homelessness within the budget for public social protection. The latter has been increasing over the years but a clear estimation of the amount channeled into homelessness interventions cannot be made. However, an increase in the number of beds in shelters has been observed. In 2011, there were 21 programmes (representing 639,000 Euros): 4 of them are long term programmes on homelessness supported by the MLFSA (276,000 Euros) and rest of them (17) one-year programmes (363,000 Euros).</p>	
Remarks on Key Policy Developments	Positive	Negative
	<p>There has been a nominal increase in social financial aid (including subsistence benefit, housing benefit, emergency healthcare and mental healthcare).</p> <p>The development of new services is observed (local shelters, day drop in centers, one social entrepreneurship project and some Housing-First oriented programmes).</p>	<p>Under the Law of the protection of public order and peace, aggressive begging and the use of public space for sleeping are punishable offences for which people are fined. People who have debts for fines are taken to prison for one month. This process is repeated until the fines are paid.</p>