



# The impact of the rising tide of asylum-seekers on the homeless sector in Germany

Dr. Thomas Specht, BAG  
Wohnungslosenhilfe



FEANTSA

POD MAATSCHAPPELIJKE INTEGRATIE  
BETER SAMEN LEVEN  
SPP INTÉGRATION SOCIALE  
MIEUX VIVRE ENSEMBLE



STEUNPUNT  
ALGEMEEN WELZIJNSWERK



ΙΣΝ/SNF  
ΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ  
STAVROS NIARCHOS  
FOUNDATION



.be

# BAG W: Structure and Tasks

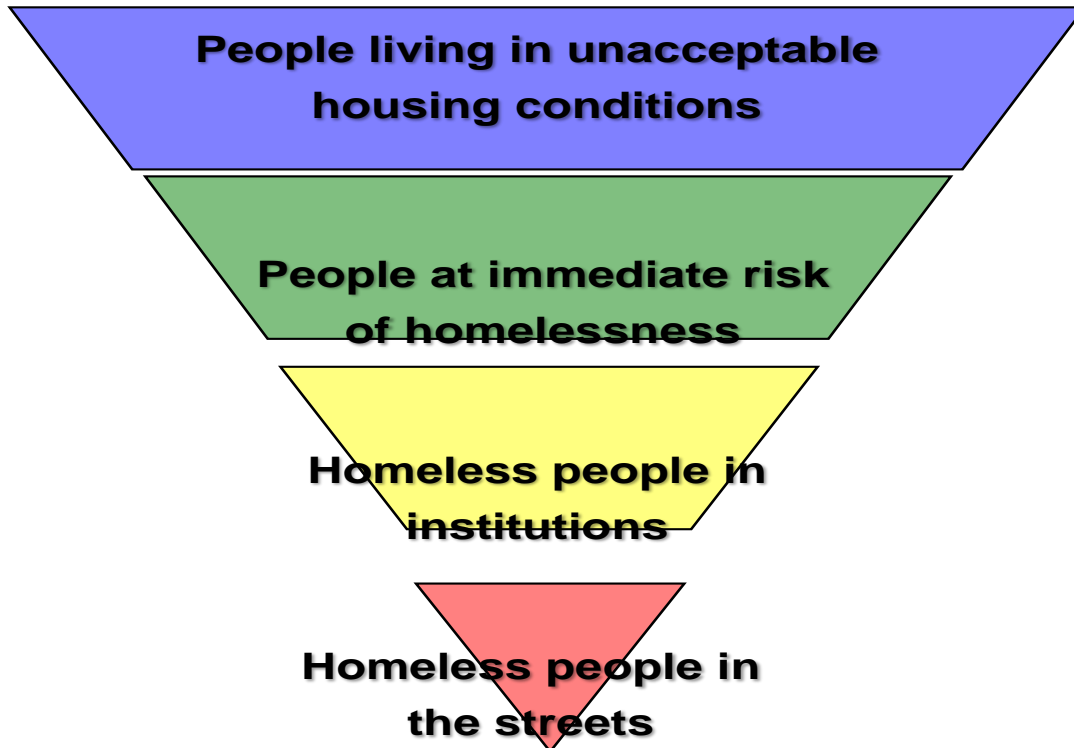


- Re-founded 1954, but goes back until 1884
- National umbrella for public administrations and NGO's
- 180 members with about 700 social services for the homeless (about 60% of all services for homeless -1200)
- Staff: 1 chief ex., 3 policy officers, 2.5 Administration

# What target groups?



## Pyramid of homelessness and housing exclusion



# Political and administrative frame on homelessness



- National government makes national legislation on homelessness; municipalities and so-called jobcenters (Part of National Labour agency) at the local level implement in cooperation with NGO-based social services
- regulation of legal claims of “persons in social difficulties” for **comprehensive social counseling** (§§ 67-69 Social Code, Book XII)
- Persons who are at risk of losing their homes are entitled to **assistance of prevention**- either in the form of loans or allowances for rent arrears.
- Police laws in the *Bundesländer* (regional states) strictly oblige municipalities to provide **shelter** for roofless people.

# Structure of services for homeless people in Germany



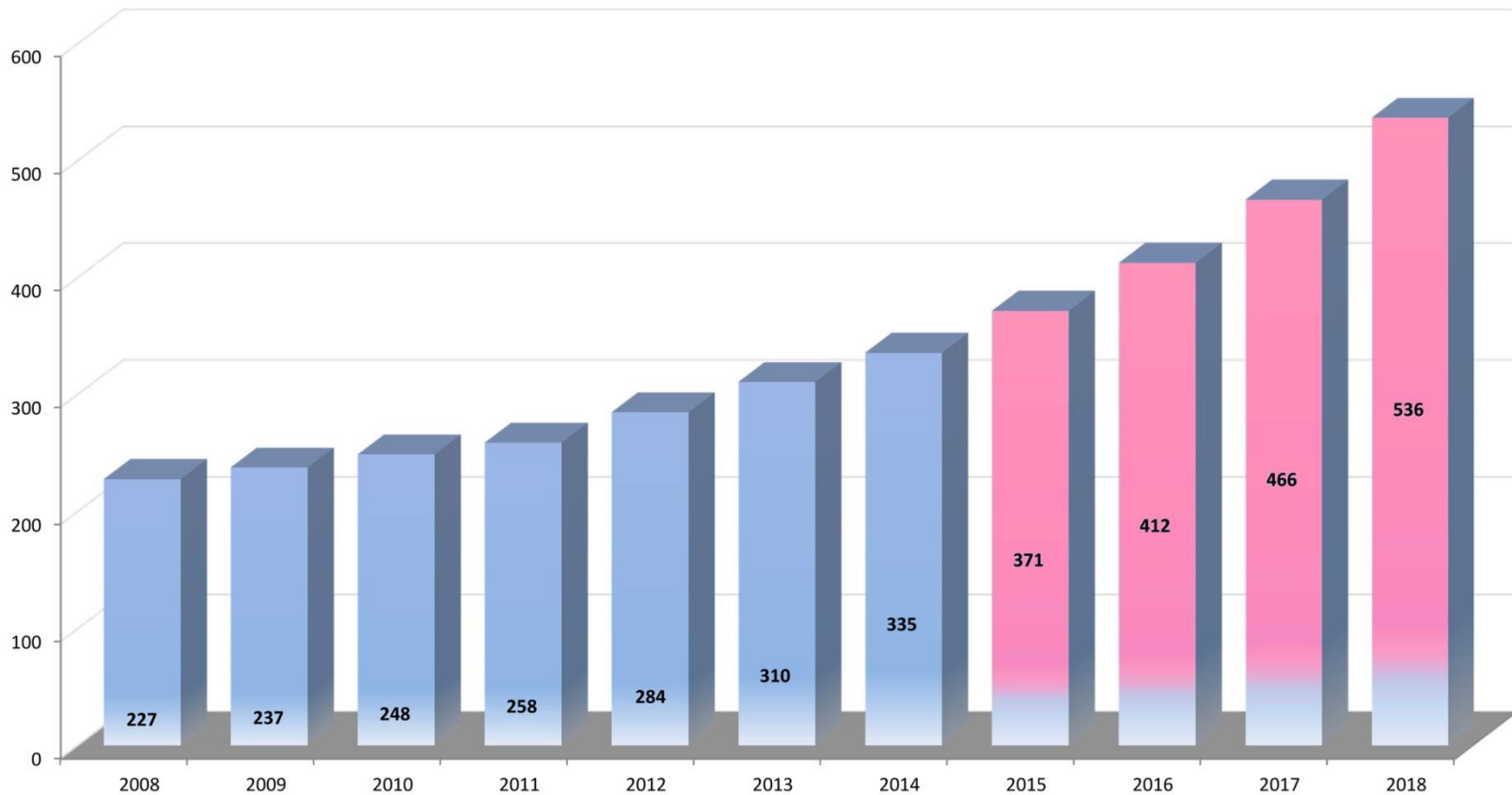
- About 1200 specialized **services for actual homeless** ( 25 % with integrated accomodation, 75 % counseling services)
- About 120-140 **specialized prevention services**, most of them in cities with more than 100.000; tendency growing, also in rural areas
- Main intervention approach: **referral into the housing market** if apartments are available (de facto “Housing first” – it is known under ambulantory approach in Germany since around 1980)

# What numbers?



- **In 2014, about 335.000 people in Germany were without a home (rise by 17% since 2012)**
- **BAG W estimates that by 2016, this number will have increased by 60% to 540.000**

# Development 2008-2014 and Prognosis 2015 - 2018



Quelle: Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Wohnungslosenhilfe e.V. ([www.bagw.de](http://www.bagw.de)); 5. Okt. 2015



# Migration: Impacts in general



**Migration of asylum seekers increasingly effects the homeless sector via four “channels”:**

- ❖ Via grown concurrence in the housing market
- ❖ Via prolongation of stay in shelters
- ❖ Via growing homelessness of refugees
- ❖ Via growing numbers of national and EU-migrants sleeping rough due to capacity limits in the shelter sector





# Asylum Seekers 2010-2014

year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Abs.	41,332	45,741	64,539	109,580	173,072
+%	49,5	10,7	41,1	69,8	57,9

# BAG W Estimate 2015-2018



YEAR	ASYLUM SEEKERS	Households demanding Housing ( 2 Pers. P. flat)	Persons demanding shelter
2015	800,000	200,000 (400.000 persons)	400.000
2016	400,000	100,000 ( 200.000 persons)	200.000
2017	500,000	125,000 ( 250.000 persons)	250.000
2018	500,00	125,000 ( 250.000 persons)	250.000

# Background of estimate



- Housingquota 50 %
- Shelterquota 50 %
- Family members following after 2-3 years
- **This would lead to an additional housing demand of about 550.000 rented flats und 1.1 Mill. shelter places in 2015-2018**

# General Effect on homeless numbers in the homeless sector



	Prog- nosis							
	2015	+ %	2016	+ %	2017	+ %	2018	+ %
<b>Overall</b>	<b>371,000</b>		<b>412,000</b>		<b>466,000</b>		<b>536,000</b>	
Housing market effect	8		9		9		10	
Migra- tion effect	3		3		4		5	

# Migrants in the Homeless Sector



	German	EU	Third Country	no state	Percentage Migrants	Difference to Year before
2007	90,9%	4,0%	5,0%	0,1%	9,1%	0,0%
2008	89,2%	4,1%	6,6%	0,1%	10,7%	1,6%
2009	87,0%	4,4%	8,4%	0,1%	12,9%	2,2%
2010	86,3%	4,7%	8,8%	0,1%	13,6%	0,7%
2011	84,5%	5,9%	9,4%	0,1%	15,4%	1,8%
2012	82,7%	6,8%	10,4%	0,1%	17,3%	1,9%
2013	81,4%	7,9%	10,7%	0,1%	18,6%	1,3%
2014	78,7%	9,8%	11,4%	0,1%	21,3%	2,6%
						12,17%



- ❖ 470,000 units new built every year until
- ❖ Among them at least 150.000 units for affordable and social housing a year

# Measures for accepted homeless asylum-seekers outside the homeless sector



- **Federal Level:** **Financial support** of municipalities for emergency care through the federal state
- **Regions („Länder“):** Establishment of **adequate help- and funding structures** through regulations
- **Municipalities:** ensure **non-discriminatory access to emergency care** regardless of nationality

# Recommendations for homelessness and housing inclusion policy and migration policy



## *Local support systems*

- the principle of equal treatment of all people experiencing homelessness, regardless of their citizenship,
- the implementation of further support for all migrants,
- enhancing and strengthening connections and co-operation between all advice and contact-point services,
- ensuring medical care and access to the general health care system, and
- increasing low threshold advice services within the social services that cater for migrants.



# Specific Measures



- ❖ providing migrants experiencing homelessness with unlimited access to emergency services
- ❖ guaranteeing safe accommodation and special refuges to female migrants who have been exposed to (sexual) violence.
- ❖ focusing more strongly on migrants at risk of homelessness when developing and implementing preventive support services.
- ❖ developing and promoting social integration services within the neighbourhood of those migrants living in unacceptable housing conditions
- ❖ increasing the number of support services available to migrant families with and without children for housing procurement and housing maintenance.
- ❖ promoting support services in the field of employment that offer further training to migrants.

# Measures on EU-Level



- ❖ During the funding period of 2014- 2020, special programmes combating problems of homelessness and housing exclusion (including cases involving migrants) are to be created via EU structural and social funds.
- ❖ the German federal government should engage in a **socio-political dialogue** with other member states to find solutions to poverty-driven migration and homelessness



# Thanks for Your attention !

BAG Wohnungslosenhilfe e.V.



For more information see :

**Position**

**“Services for Migrants experiencing Homelessness and Housing Exclusion as well as Social Difficulties”**

**Strategic Policy Statement  
of the BAG Wohnungslosenhilfe e.V.**