



Be Fair, Europe – Stand Up for Homeless People

FEANTSA Roadmap – EU YOUTH STRATEGY

The Youth Strategy is one EU policy that could have a real impact on homelessness. This roadmap explains the current situation and what needs to change for Europe to stand up for young homeless people. It is one of a series of roadmaps supporting FEANTSA’s campaign

Where are we?

Youth homelessness & housing exclusion is a growing problem in the EU. In 2015, almost half of poor young people were spending more than 40% of their disposable income on housing. 27% of 16-24 year olds lived in overcrowded conditions, compared to 17% of the total population. Data from many Member States highlights worrying trends, such as:



IRL

+78% increase in homelessness among 18-24 year olds in last 3 years



GR

64% of 18-34 year olds live with their parents



DK

+85% increase in homelessness among 18-24 year olds between 2009-15



NL

+50% increase in homeless 18-30 year olds counted in 2016 census (since 2015)



Improving the situation of young people is a top EU priority. However, under the flagship initiative, the Youth Guarantee, not enough has been done to reach the most vulnerable, such as homeless youth.

What needs to change?

The European Commission & Member States should make the EU Youth Strategy deliver on youth homelessness by:



Ring-fencing Youth Guarantee funding to support homeless youth (e.g. the €6 billion of Youth Employment Initiative Funding for 2014-2020)

Monitoring extent to which Youth Guarantee schemes deliver for homeless youth



Topping up the Youth Guarantee with an "Aftercare Guarantee" to ensure quality support for the transition to adulthood for young people leaving state care. Such an initiative could be based on the aftercare guarantee in Ireland.



Ensuring that the European Solidarity Corps, the Commission's latest initiative for young people, delivers opportunities for all youth, including those living in vulnerable situations, and prioritises urgent social challenges like homelessness.



Ensuring that structural reforms do not put young people at risk of homelessness, including by using the European Semester to discourage misguided "stay at home" policies.



Taking measures to ensure that the EU's efforts to promote quality traineeships and apprenticeships target vulnerable youth