

WARSZAWA FEANTSA FORUM 18-19 MAY
PROGRAMME 18-19 MAY WARSZAWA
FEANTSA FORUM 18-19
WARSZAWA



Ogólnopolska Federacja
na rzecz Rozwiązywania
Problemu Bezdomności



Co-organised with:



Warszawa

Honorary patronage:



Ministra Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej

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Ministerstwo
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RZECZNIK PRAW
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Wiceprzewodnicząca Komitetu
do spraw Pożytku Publicznego

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18.05 Overview

08:00-09:00

REGISTRATIONS

ROOM: IRYS

09:00-12:00

GENERAL ASSEMBLY - FEANTSA MEMBERS ONLY

ROOM: IRYS

The annual General Assembly for the FEANTSA membership.

13:00-15:00

LUNCH

13:00-18:00

WORKING SPACES AND SITE VISITS

Site visits take place across the City of Warsaw. Two weeks before the Forum begins, participants registered for site visits will receive an information pack putting them in touch with the site visit organisers and other practical information.

Working spaces covering a variety of topics from youth homelessness to litigation. Please note, some sessions are open to anyone and others are by invite only.

21:00 - 21:45

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: ROMA FROM UKRAINE

Roma from Ukraine are a special group of refugees due to their experience of discrimination in Ukraine and then in the countries they fled to: mainly Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, the Czech Republic, Germany, and Moldova. The European Commission estimates that at least 100,000 Roma have fled Ukraine. According to estimates by some Roma NGOs, some 10,000–15,000 Ukrainian Roma have reached Poland.

On the evening of the 18th of May, we invite you for a short film screening (17 minutes) to learn more about the stories of Roma fleeing Ukraine.

The film was prepared by Fundacja Jaagew Dikh with support from the ERGO Network and the European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM), a collaborative initiative of the Network of European Foundations (NEF).

Dr. Elżbieta Mirga-Wójtowicz, Roma cultural activist, political scientist, and researcher and board member of the Fundacja Jaw Dikh, will be present for an introduction and to respond to questions after the film.

Doors open at 21:00. The event begins at 21:15 in room IRYS, Novotel Warsaw Centrum. Places are on a first come, first serve basis.

Working spaces - Closed sessions

13:00-14:00

HONOURING PEOPLE WHO DIED HOMELESS

ROOM: ORCHIDEA B

This working group is interested in how we can better recognise these deaths, break the cycle of invisibility, and find meaningful ways to honour people who have died while homeless.

The first half of this session will bring together the informal working group on Death and Remembrance to discuss the upcoming FEANTSA magazine and reflect on the future direction of their work.

13:00-16:30

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF COALITIONS TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

ROOM: BOARDROOM 101

This is a space for the members of the different coalitions to learn about each other's work contexts, common challenges and ways to improve the role of the coalitions in preventing and combatting youth homelessness.

14:00-15:00

LAWYERING FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

ROOM: GERBERA B

This session will provide a structured opportunity for grassroots lawyers and organisations that provide legal advice within homelessness services to exchange ideas. The focus will be on concrete legal problems, effective lawyering strategies and gaps in current protection frameworks. Participants will share their practical approaches to legal interventions, advocacy and strategic litigation, reflecting on how these experiences could be scaled up or supported at the EU level.

The discussion will also explore how FEANTSA and Housing Rights Watch can support this work through coordination, advocacy and litigation strategies, with the aim of improving access to justice and housing rights across Europe.

17:00-18:30

MEETING OF THE FEANTSA YOUTH BOARD

ROOM: BOARDROOM 101

This will be the first in-person meeting of the recently established FEANTSA Youth Board. There will be an exchange of views on the governance of FEANTSA Youth and its relationship with FEANTSA.

tbc

MEASURING HOMELESSNESS IN EUROPE - THE "EUROPEAN HOMELESSNESS COUNTS" PROJECT

ROOM: ROA

Homelessness is a persistent and complex social problem across Europe, necessitating robust, comparable data to inform policy responses and interventions. The "European Homelessness Count" project seeks to address this challenge by developing a more uniform methodology for homelessness counts that is applicable at the city level. In 2024, 15 cities were on board to elaborate and pilot a common methodology to capture ETHOS Light 1-3 and further groups in Europe, which was then scaled up to 35 cities in 2025. The workshop will serve as a forum to discuss the results and the lessons from the two year project. *This session is by invitation only.*

Working spaces – Open sessions

13:00-14:00

HOMELESSNESS AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

ROOM: ORCHIDEA A

Last year saw the climate crisis in Europe intensify, as climate-driven heatwaves caused an estimated 16,500 additional deaths across European cities. Severe weather response strategies are becoming increasingly integral to homelessness provision in Europe with people sleeping rough particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events, heat and cold caused by the climate emergency. Climate change is also driving global displacement of people, contributing to growing migrant homelessness in Europe. More than 45 million people globally were displaced by extreme weather events such as flooding, droughts, storms and wildfires in 2024.

Join Depaul International as we explore the intersections of climate change and homelessness. We'll share findings from our new report, *The Case for Action on Global Homelessness*, examining how recognising homelessness as a frontline climate resilience issue has the potential to be transformative. Our workshop will draw on climate response and climate-resilient solutions to homelessness from Europe and around the world, and encourage practitioners to share learning and practices so we can improve our preparedness and solutions for people at-risk.

13:00-14:00

LAWYERING FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (OPEN SESSION)

ROOM: GERBERA B

This session will provide a structured opportunity for grassroots lawyers and organisations that provide legal advice within homelessness services to exchange ideas. The focus will be on concrete legal problems, effective lawyering strategies and gaps in current protection frameworks. Participants will share their practical approaches to legal interventions, advocacy and strategic litigation, reflecting on how these experiences could be scaled up or supported at the EU level.

The discussion will also explore how FEANTSA and Housing Rights Watch can support this work through coordination, advocacy and litigation strategies, with the aim of improving access to justice and housing rights across Europe.

14:00-15:00

HONOURING PEOPLE WHO DIED HOMELESS (OPEN SESSION)

ROOM: ORCHIDEA B

Death is an often overlooked part of work with people experiencing homelessness. Too often, people die in isolation, without their lives or their stories being properly acknowledged.

The open session will begin with a brief introduction to the working group and the intentions behind the magazine, followed by a few examples of different ways to pay tribute. Participants will then be invited to create their own tributes in whatever form feels right to them. They are free to decide whether they would like their contribution to be considered for publication in the magazine or kept private.

Working spaces - Open sessions

14:00-15:00

EARLY PREVENTIONS AGAINST ENERGY DEBT AND DISCONNECTIONS

ROOM: GERBERA A

Energy debt and disconnections can be a cause of homelessness and cause barriers for households to re-enter the housing market. While many countries offer support for energy bills and partial protection from disconnection, many households still suffer from disconnections and accessing support. In this session, three experts will share best practices on how energy companies can cooperate with social service providers to spot the early warning signs and resolve energy debt.

14:00-15:00

JOINING FEANTSA - AN INTRODUCTION FOR LOCAL NGOS

ROOM: GERBERA A

Polish NGOs and organisations working on ending homelessness are invited to this presentation on FEANTSA membership and thematic work.

14:00-16:30

MEETING THE HOUSING FIRST EUROPE HUB - DROP IN

ROOM: ORCHIDEA A

This open session provides an opportunity to find out more about the Housing First Europe Hub and its activities such as training, capacity building and research. Participants of this session will also get the opportunity to hear about Housing First in Poland. Other relevant topics within Housing First and housing-led approaches are going to be covered as well such as youth and health.

Join us to learn more about the Hub, the state of Housing First in Poland and Europe, and to network with Hub partners, associates, and newcomers.

14:00-16:30

BRIDGING HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

ROOM: FREZJA

Join this working space to discover FEANTSA's work on health and to exchange your own good practices related to health and homelessness. The session will offer an overview of FEANTSA's work on health policies and will introduce the SOLACE CEE project. SOLACE CEE is an initiative fuelled by the urgent healthcare and housing needs of chronically homeless individuals with complex challenges and high-intensity service requirements. Themes such as mental health and substance-use support in Central and Southeast Europe will be discussed. After the presentations, participants are invited to share their own work and good practices related to health and homelessness.

Working spaces - Open sessions

15:30-16:30

**IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR NON-EU MIGRANT HOMELESSNESS
ROOM: ORCHIDEA B**

This session discusses the 14th Comparative Study on Homelessness in Europe by the European Observatory on Homelessness, focusing on homelessness among non-EU migrants, including asylum seekers, refugees, people with international protection, and irregular migrants. The research examines how different EU Member States respond to non-EU migrant homelessness, highlighting system strengths, limitations, and the unique challenges faced by this population across Europe.

Site visits

10:00-11:00

12:00-13:00

SUPPORT ON THE MOVE

Stowarzyszenie Pomocy i Interwencji Społecznej

We invite you to a study visit at the Mobile Support Point (MPP) - a service that combines mobility, specialist assistance and a harm reduction approach. MPP operates directly in the places where people experiencing homelessness stay, including those who do not use stationary services. It is one of the few spaces in Warsaw where support is also available to individuals under the influence of alcohol or substances, offered in an atmosphere of acceptance, safety and non-judgment. During the visit, participants will learn how the MPP operates, its philosophy based on accessibility and harm reduction, and the range of support provided: social counselling, crisis intervention, basic psychological assistance and help in planning further steps. We will also discuss the flexibility of the MPP, its ability to operate in different locations, and its crucial role for people who remain “outside the system,” for whom low-threshold support is often the only real form of contact with help.

13:00-15:00

15:00-17:00

STUDIO DE_HA AND A PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT POINT

Fundacja Daj Herbatę

Studio DE_HA takes a holistic approach to gainful employment and has created a space for people to get back on their feet, on their own terms. Learn more about how they were founded, what a reintegration plan looks like and listen to those with lived experience talk about their journey to this programme. The second half of the visit will introduce the participants to the Mental Health Support Centre and the services they provide.

13:00-14:00

14:00-15:00

CENTRAL INTEGRATION POINT

Fundacja Daj Herbatę

The Central Integration Point is a day centre that offers a range of activities and services to create a place in which every person who needs help is getting their basic needs met. The CPI Staff will welcome participants to talk about how the centre was established, the services they provide, and what a day in the life of the centre looks like.

13:30-15:30

HOME FOR YOUNG MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN; DOM DLA MŁODYCH MAM I ICH DZIECI

Fundacja po DRUGIE

The Home offers safe accommodation and support for young mothers and their children who experience homelessness or housing exclusion. During the visit, participants will be able to learn more about our work and daily activities.

Site visits

13:30-15:30

SHELTER FOR HOMELESS

Warszawskie Centrum Integracji “Integracyjna Warszawa

Visit accommodation and warming centers and learn more about the living conditions, additional projects in the field of psychological support, specialist consultations and time management.

14:00-17:00

FROM THE STREET TO THE SYSTEM: STREET WORKING IN WARSAW

Stowarzyszenie Pomocy i Interwencji Społecznej

Join us for an on-the-ground study visit exploring how street work is carried out in Warsaw. Guided by experienced streetworkers, participants will walk (and use public transport) along a specially designed route that showcases the unique characteristics of Warsaw’s outreach work. You will see a broad spectrum of interventions: from direct street-based support, through cooperation with public transport services and large shopping malls, and concluding with a visit and a moment of rest at the Municipal Sobering-Up Centre. During the walk, we will present several practical solutions developed by our organisation, including the ICE (“In Case of Emergency”) declaration used to support safe and informed interventions. Together, we will also engage in a conversation on best practices, with a particular focus on multisector cooperation and the partnerships that make effective street work possible in a large, dynamic city.

14:00-15:30

ETEZJA - A HOME WHERE CHANGE BEGINS

16:00-17:30

Stowarzyszenie Pomocy i Interwencji Społecznej

We invite you to a study visit at the “Etezja” Home, dedicated to pregnant women as well as mothers and fathers with children who have found themselves in a difficult or threatening life situation. It is a space that combines safety, specialist support, and an atmosphere of everyday care. A place where, day by day, the process of rebuilding a sense of agency, stability, and relationships takes place. During the visit, participants will learn about the home’s operating principles, its goals, and its philosophy of work. They will also discover how support is provided to both parents and children - from psychological and legal assistance to social and educational support – and gain insight into the cooperation model with various institutions. In addition, we will present our housing program, which enables families to gradually transition from emergency accommodation to independent living.

14:30-16:30

SUPPORT WITHIN THE HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM

16:30-18:30

Fundacja Zamieszkań

During the visit, we will present our headquarters, where we carry out a wide range of activities supporting people experiencing homelessness. We will talk about our work using the Housing First approach in Warsaw, as well as other initiatives, such as the certification of Experts by Experience in overcoming homelessness and research on women’s homelessness.

Site visits

14:30-16:00

FILLING VACANT SPACES: VISIT A RENOVATED BUILDING INTENDED FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Fundacja Habitat for Humanity Poland

What are the principles of a partnership between the local government (building owners) and NGOs to achieve the social goal of adapting a vacant space into apartments and a social enterprise café for people experiencing homelessness. How can renovations include volunteers in construction work, use donations from construction companies as part of their corporate social responsibility and renovate a large building while preserving its historic elements and traces of history. All these questions and more can be answered by visiting the project led by Habitat for Humanity Poland.

15:30-17:30

HOSTEL FOR LGBTQ+

Fundacja the Warsaw House

The Warsaw House Foundation is an LGBTQ+-specific organisation supporting young people (18–29) experiencing homelessness through housing, psychosocial support, and community-building, including both Polish youth and LGBTQ+ migrants and refugees. The site visit will include a tour of our office and housing space, rooms used for therapy and group work, as well as a space planned for renovation to expand future housing capacity. Participants will learn about our housing-first, trauma-informed approach and see how community spaces are used for peer-led and youth-informed initiatives, including the Trans Lounge – a regular group space for trans and non-binary youth focused on support, connection, and well-being.

16:00-17:00

COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

Warszawskie Centrum Integracji “Integracyjna Warszawa

Visit sanitary and hygiene facilities and presentation of housing programs based on the Housing First method.

16:00-18:00

HOME VISIT

Housing First Poland Foundation

Join the Housing First Poland Foundation in a visit to a regular, private apartment in Warsaw. In this apartment we HFPF has regular weekly meetings of the Specialist Team of the Ambivalence Program based on Housing First Values for people with the experience of long term homelessness and mental health crises. The Program is acknowledged by EPOCH as an Inspiring Practice to Combat Homelessness in EPOCH Practice publication. They will present their activities and welcome your questions in a unique home setting.

19.05 Overview

09:00-11:00	OPENING PLENARY ROOM: RATUSZOWA Welcome and introduction followed by the panel discussion <i>'EU Agenda: Is it Making a Difference on Homelessness?'</i>
11:00-11:30	COFFEE BREAK - ROOM: MARMUROWA
11:30-13:30	WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND MORE
13:00-15:00	LUNCH ROOM: MARMUROWA To include as much content as possible this year, we have a slightly different schedule meaning not everyone's lunch break will look the same! Lunch will be open from 13:00 until 15:00, you are welcome to drop in when you have an open spot in your timetable.
15:00-16:30	WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND MORE
16:30-17:00	COFFEE BREAK - ROOM: MARMUROWA
17:00-18:30	CLOSING PLENARY: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE HOMELESS SECTOR ROOM: RATUSZOWA

Session Types - Overview

WORKSHOPS

Interactive sessions focused on exploring major issues, challenges, or themes facing the field. Workshops bring together leaders and experts in the field to unpack complexities and identify shared insights or directions forward.

SEMINARS

Focused presentations led by subject-matter experts that share insights, research, or emerging trends on a specific topic.

SEMINARS (DEEPIVES)

Extended, in-depth seminars that allow for a deeper exploration of complex topics, strategies, or case studies. These sessions provide more time for detailed analysis, examples, and meaningful audience engagement.

TRAININGS

Skills-based instructional sessions aimed at building or strengthening specific competencies. Trainings are structured, practical, and focused on learning how to use tools, frameworks, or methods effectively.

BEST PRACTICE EXCHANGES

Member-led sessions that showcase projects, programs, or methods in action across a range of topics such as employment, prison release, upstream surveys, and eviction-related work. These exchanges create space for sharing practical lessons, challenges, and ideas that others can adapt to their own contexts.

TOWN HALL – IN CONVERSATION

An interactive, moderated discussion featuring leaders or experts addressing timely issues and audience questions. Designed to be conversational and inclusive, these sessions prioritize dialogue, transparency, and shared perspectives.



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski



Session interpreted
from Polish to
English

Opening Plenary

ROOM: RATUSZOWA

09:00-09:45



Session interpreted
from Polish to
English

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Speakers:

Representatives of the Polish government responsible for addressing homelessness (TBC)

Adriana Porowska, Deputy Chair of the Committee for Public Benefit, Secretary of State at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Poland

Representative of the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) (TBC)

Aldona Machnowska-Góra, Deputy Mayor of the City of Warsaw, Poland

09:45-11:00



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

EU AGENDA: IS IT MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON HOMELESSNESS

What is the EU doing to work towards ending homelessness in Europe? Is it making a difference on the ground, starting with a closer look at Poland. This tough question will be addressed by our keynote speaker, Jakub Wilczek, from the Polish National Federation for Solving the Problem of Homelessness.

Opening this discussion to a wider European perspective, panellists from the European institutions and civil society will grapple with the same question, how is the EU agenda impacting the homeless sector.

Speakers:

Jakub Wilczek Ogólnopolska Federacja na rzecz Rozwiązywania Problemu Bezdomności, Poland

Sarah Coupechoux, Fondation pour le Logement des Défavorisés, France

Katarina Ivankovic Knezevic, Social Affairs Director, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Jan Milota, Platforma pro socialni bydleni, Czechia

Stefan Moser, Housing Task Force, European Commission

Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA

Workshops

11:30-13:30



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

ACCESS TO HOUSING AND SHELTER FOR UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

ROOM: RATUSZOWA

This workshop will present the situation with access to housing and shelter for undocumented migrants, as researched by the PICUM and FEANTSA report in 2025. It will additionally explore solutions for ensuring access to housing and accommodation for people in irregular situations, in the context of increasingly restrictive migration and asylum policies.

Speakers:

Laetitia Van der Venet, Senior Advocacy Officer, PICUM

Arja Schreij, General manager, The Steering Group for Undocumented Persons in Amsterdam (RgOA), the Netherlands

Albert Sales Campos, Institut Metropol, Spain

11:30-13:30



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

HARMONISING HOMELESSNESS DATA COLLECTION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

ROOM: STARZYŃSKIEGO

In the Lisbon Declaration (2021), EU Member States committed themselves “to work towards the ending of homelessness by 2030.” Achieving this ambition requires reliable and comparable data on both the scale and the profiles of people experiencing homelessness (PEH) across the European Union. Without harmonised data, the EU cannot effectively monitor progress, assess policy effectiveness, or support mutual learning between Member States.

Harmonising homelessness data, however, is methodologically and institutionally complex. As demonstrated by European Homelessness Counts, these challenges are particularly pronounced in the field of homelessness due to variations in definitions, service provision systems, administrative data infrastructures, and the lived situations of people experiencing homelessness across Member States.

Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Koen Hermans, Coordinator of the European Homelessness Counts Project

Ali Bargu, Economics and Policy Analyst in the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

Maria Ilies, European Commission, DG EMPL

Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA

Workshops

14:30-16:30



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

CITIES AT THE FOREFRONT OF HOUSING FIRST – IMPLEMENTING A HOUSING FIRST APPROACH TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

ROOM: MIKOŁAJSKIEJ

Cities are often at the forefront when it comes to implementing and scaling up Housing First. This workshop will explore what is needed for a successful city-wide approach to Housing First.

Cities from different European countries (Finland, The Netherlands, France, Poland, Czechia, Ireland) will share insights on their successes and challenges, on accessing housing and how to build long-term relationships with key actors.

Following a panel discussion, where speakers will present insights on scaling up Housing First on a city level participants will engage in group discussions facilitated by the speakers, allowing for deeper exchanges on best practices, common barriers, and practical solutions.

Speakers:

Paula Pönkänen, Project Manager for Eliminating Long-Term Homelessness in Helsinki, Social, Health, and Rescue Services Division of the City of Helsinki, Finland

René Meijborg, Executive Director of Project 010, City of Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Derek Jochemsen, Policy Advisor for Healthcare & Social Support, City of Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Marek Mikulec, Research assistant/Assistant professor, University of Ostrava, and Coordinator of desegregation activities, Ministry of Regional Development, Czech Republic

Barbara Tomasik-Mejsner, Municipality Family Assistance Centre, Gdańsk, Poland

Nicolas Pleace, Associate Dean of School for Research and Impact and Professor of Housing and Society, University of York, United Kingdom

TBC, Dublin

TBC, Lyon

Workshops

14:30-16:30



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

DEINSTITUTIONALISATION AND THE HOMELESS SECTOR

ROOM: RATUSZOWA

This session will discuss the deinstitutionalisation model in Poland and Spain. In Poland, an EU-funded project is currently developing a deinstitutionalisation (DI) model, and the workshop will present its preliminary results, including a service framework structured around three areas: homelessness prevention, transition from institutional shelter-based services to housing-led solutions, and outreach services. In Spain, the closing of a shelter led HOGAR SÍ and Provivienda, in coordination with the Madrid City Council, to kick start an innovative project, Rights to Housing. With a transition to a model of community and personalised care, the project aimed to design and implement a model to transform the homeless care system. The session will provide an opportunity to reflect on shared challenges and lessons learned across both national contexts.

Speakers:

Piotr Olech St. Brother Albert Aid Society, Poland

Gonzalo Caro Sagüés, Hogar Si, Spain

Dámaris Barajas Sanz, Provivienda, Spain

Chair: Ruth Owen, FEANTSA

Best practice exchanges

12:45-13:45



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

PRISON RELEASE AND HOMELESSNESS: THE POLISH EXPERIENCE ROOM: MIKOŁAJSKIEJ

This session will present a best practice of cooperation between Prison Guard, public social services and local NGOs in the city of Łódź. These organisations work together to prevent homelessness and people released from prison. This session will also look at the broader situation in Poland.

Speakers:

Anna Grabarczyk, Huśtawka Foundation, Poland

Lt. Michał Góra, Specialist at the Regional Prison Guard Inspectorate in Łódź, Poland

12:45-13:45

CAN WORK BE A WAY OUT OF HOMELESSNESS? WHAT PRACTICE TELLS US

ROOM: KISIELEWSKIEGO

Explore how employment can be a starting point for social inclusion, rather than its final outcome. Drawing on a best-practice exchange between Convergence France and Agape Association's Job First programme (Poland), it highlights how proactive outreach approaches and adapted work opportunities can make access to employment possible even in situations of homelessness. The focus is on employment as a first lever – a point of entry to activate wider social and health support, build self-confidence, strengthen social connections, and provide financial stability – rather than an end goal in itself. This session provides reflections and practical insights on the conditions under which work can support pathways towards stability and inclusion.

Speakers:

Rémi Tricart, Convergence France, France

Jan Strączyński, Agape Association, Poland

Chair: Catherine McGillicuddy, Irish Council for Social Housing, Ireland

Best practice exchanges

14:15-15:15

PREVENTING EVICTIONS: LEGAL REFORM AND INTEGRATED PREVENTION IN EUROPE

ROOM: KISIELEWSKIEGO

Eviction prevention is an essential strategy for tackling homelessness. This session explores legal, policy and practice-based approaches to preventing evictions in Europe, with a focus on Ireland and Austria.

Threshold (Ireland) will present its work combining free, independent advice and support for people experiencing housing difficulties with advocacy for stronger tenant protections and fairer rental laws. The presentation will reflect on how frontline service delivery informs policy reform efforts.

The Austrian Ministry for Social Affairs will present the Wohnschirm programme, a nationwide eviction prevention scheme combining social work counselling with financial support to address rent arrears or support relocation. Implemented through NGOs and publicly funded, Wohnschirm demonstrates how early intervention can prevent homelessness at scale.

Speakers:

Chair: Maria Jose Aldanas, FEANTSA

Andrea Zierler, Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Austria

Gareth Redmond Threshold, Ireland

14:15-15:15



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

UPSTREAM – A GAME-CHANGER TO END (YOUTH) HOMELESSNESS

ROOM: GOETHEGO

Presenters will discuss the main features of Upstream, a school-based intervention to identify risk factors of vulnerability and provide solutions to prevent (youth) homelessness. This programme was successfully implemented in Australia first, and is now present in Canada and several European countries. This session will take a look at how Upstream has been implemented and the opportunities it presents to drastically reduce homelessness.

Speakers:

Anna-Laura Marana, KU Leuven, Belgium

Evelien Demaerschalk, KU Leuven, Belgium

Jordana Gold, Rock Trust, Scotland

Seminars

11:30-12:30

CHILDREN AND HOUSING INSECURITY: TRENDS, CHALLENGES, AND RESPONSES

ROOM: KORCZAKA

This session will provide an overview of current trends in child and family homelessness and housing insecurity. Drawing on recent reports and sector expertise, speakers will examine the drivers of the crisis, its impact on children's wellbeing, and opportunities for coordinated action.

Speakers:

Julie Lignon, UNICEF, France

Lucie Bichet, Federation des acteurs de la solidarite, France

11:30-12:30



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING POLICY: PLUGGING THE GAPS

ROOM: GOETHEGO

With Ireland's new housing strategy out and with the setbacks in the implementation of the long-awaited Housing Support Bill in the Czech Republic, this session explores the tactics employed by homeless advocates in these two countries to push for a housing response to homelessness at the national level. It also aims to open the conversation and invites participants to share their approaches to shaping housing policy.

Speakers:

Emma Byrne, Focus Ireland, Ireland

Jan Milota, Platforma pro sociální bydlení, Czechia

11:30-12:30

COUNTRY FOCUS: POLAND

ROOM: MIKOLAJSKIEJ

Explore how Poland is gradually shaping a more coherent approach to homelessness and housing exclusion. Despite responsibilities being spread across different institutions, cooperation between national authorities, local governments, NGOs and research communities is gaining importance. There is a growing effort to connect housing, social and health policies, while advocacy, pilot projects and partnerships are laying the groundwork for more integrated solutions. The session will look at which forms of cooperation are already emerging, what barriers remain, and what conditions could help further align actions at the national level.

Speakers:

Aleksandra Krugły, Institute of Urban and Regional Development

Adriana Porowska, Deputy Chair of the Committee for Public Benefit,
Secretary of State at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Poland

TBC, Warsaw Municipality

Chair: Jakub Wilczek

Seminars

11:30-12:30

HOW TO START PEER WORK IN YOUR ORGANISATION – EXPERIENCE FROM FINLAND AND AUSTRIA

ROOM: KISIELEWSKIEGO

How can peer work be set up in different realities? Explore concrete examples from two organisations, based in Finland and Austria, who established peer work despite the barriers. Their presentations will look at how to get funding, have the profession of peer work recognised and what it means to have a space where people with lived experience can work.

Speakers:

Elisabeth Hammer, neunerhaus, Austria

Sanna Tiivola, No Fixed Abode, Finland

Chair: Hana Košan, Kralji Ulice, Slovenia

12:45-13:45

AGEING AND HOMELESSNESS

ROOM: KORCZAKA

The population of Europe is ageing, and with it come complex and evolving needs of older adults experiencing homelessness. Dr. Piotr Glimasiński will provide a biomedical perspective, examining premature ageing and multimorbidity among people experiencing homelessness. Further insights will come from the Simon Communities of Ireland, highlighting evidence, lived realities and responses to older adult homelessness in Ireland.

Speakers:

Dr. Piotr Glimasiński, Poland

Ber Grogan, Simon Communities, Ireland

Chair: Sarah Coupechoux, Fondation de Logement, France

15:30-16:30

RACE AND HOMELESSNESS

ROOM: KISIELEWSKIEGO

This session explores how racial inequalities shape experiences of homelessness and examines current discrimination experiences and anti-racism efforts within the homelessness sector. Presenters will discuss disparities, share practices for addressing structural discrimination, and identify concrete steps to promote more equitable and inclusive services.

Speakers:

Henri Baptiste, Pathway Housing Solutions, UK

Dr. Elżbieta Mirga-Wójtowicz, Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw

Dr. Kamila Fialkowska, Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw

Chair: Päivi Al-Tameemi, Moniheli ry, Finland

Seminars

15:30-16:30



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

ANTI-LGBTIQ+ DISCRIMINATION AND HOMELESSNESS

ROOM: GOETHEGO

With a concerning number of hate speech and discriminatory incidents against the LGBTIQ+ community in Europe, presenters will connect how this increasingly hostile environment can result in more people being exposed to homelessness. The presenters will also reflect on how services can better respond to this reality.

Speakers:

Pacôme Rupin, Fondation Le Refuge, France

Justyna Nakielska, Institute of Urban and Regional Development, Poland

Adam Bruton, Council of Europe

15:30-16:30

OVERSEEING THE GREY AREAS: UNREGULATED SERVICE PROVISION

ROOM: KORCZAKA

This session explores the growing role of unregulated or weakly regulated supported housing and service providers. While these arrangements can increase capacity and offer rapid responses, they also raise concerns about quality, accountability, residents' rights, and long-term outcomes. Drawing on practice examples and policy reflections, the session will examine where gaps in regulation emerge, how public funding is justified and monitored, and what risks arise when care and housing responsibilities are blurred. Participants will be invited to discuss how supported housing can balance flexibility and innovation with safeguards, standards, and dignity for residents.

Speakers:

Francesca Albenese, CRISIS, United Kingdom

Mike Allen, Focus Ireland, Ireland

Seminars - Deep dives

14:30-16:30



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

WHEN TEMPORARY PROTECTION ENDS - RISKS OF HOMELESSNESS AND DESTITUTION

ROOM: STARZYŃSKIEGO

Temporary Protection for people fleeing Ukraine has been extended until 2027, with preparations now underway for a transition out of this status. This session will explore the risks of destitution and homelessness that may arise during this transition for displaced Ukrainians. Speakers will focus on national contexts where support measures have been scaled back for beneficiaries of temporary protection.

Speakers:

Aneta Szarfenberg, Pracownia 3E, Poland

Ewan Day-Collins, Depaul International, United Kingdom

Rész Levente, BMSZKI, Hungary

14:30-16:30

WOMEN'S VOICES

ROOM: TROJKI

This interactive workshop will share the findings of the Women's Voices project, which aims to strengthen responses, improve safety and support for women experiencing homelessness. The project uses a participatory photography methodology called Visual Voices, where women with lived experience of homelessness share their perceptions through images and narration. The women's Visual Voices will be used during the workshop to encourage reflection and discussion about ways to make women's safety needs more visible within services (from outreach to drop in to all sorts of accommodation and housing), and how to action changes to support more gender responsive homelessness services. Participants will learn about the methodology, explore emergent findings, and gain practical skills to apply in their own work.

Speakers:

Meabh Savage & Hayley Swanton, South-East Technology University, Ireland

Dalma Fabian, FEANTSA

Hana Kosan & Jana Bedrac, Kings of the Street, Slovenia

Saija Turunen, Y-Saatio, Finland

Tamás Gerencsér, Boglárka Györffy and Boróka Fehér (KRE), BMSZKI, Hungary

Training Sessions

11:30-13:30

TAKING NEURODIVERSITY INTO ACCOUNT IN THE HOMELESSNESS SECTOR

ROOM: TROJKI

This interactive session introduces the NOAT project (2024–2026) by No Fixed Abode NGO in Finland, which integrates neuropsychiatric knowledge into homelessness services. It examines how unrecognised neurodivergence can increase the risk of eviction and prolonged homelessness, and offers practical tools for recognising neurodivergent traits, adapting support, and improving neuro-accessibility within Housing First and supported housing models.

Speakers:

Katja Kivipuro, No Fixed Abode, Finland

Verna Nykänen, No Fixed Abode, Finland

14:15-15:15

PRACTICAL SKILLS – TRAINING ON ENERGY POVERTY

ROOM: KORCZAKA

This seminar will offer practical skills for professionals, especially front-line workers in the homelessness sector, on supporting clients who face high energy bills, debt, and fuel poverty, particularly in the context of preventing homelessness due to debt and stabilising housing after homelessness, and as part of that, managing energy use and bills. Low-cost energy saving gadgets will also be presented.

Speakers:

Eva Lems, Energy Adviser

In Conversation/Town Hall

12:45-13:45



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

HOMELESSNESS IN THE EU AFFORDABLE HOUSING - THE NEXT STEPS

ROOM: GOETHEGO

This session will feed into a constructive dialogue on the European Affordable Housing Plan with representatives from the EU institutions on what the next steps are and potential challenges in its implementation, from a homelessness perspective. With this, we aim to foster direct interaction between the homeless sector and EU officials.

Speakers:

Stefan Moser, Housing Task Force, European Commission

Closing Plenary

ROOM: RATUSZOWA

17:00-18:30



Sesja tłumaczona
na język polski

Building Resilience in the Homeless Sector

Europe stands at a critical moment for the homelessness sector. Against a backdrop of geopolitical instability, increasing pressure on public budgets, and rising populism and extremism, organisations working to prevent and end homelessness are operating in an increasingly challenging environment. This session will bring together diverse perspectives to explore how the homelessness sector can strengthen its resilience, adapt to ongoing pressures, and continue to deliver effective responses for people experiencing homelessness across Europe.

Speakers:

Vera Kovács, Co-Founder and CEO, From the Streets to a Home!, Hungary

Marthe Yonh, Director of the Housing Unit, Cités Caritas, France

Jörn M. Scheuermann, Managing Director of the Working Group for Emergency Housing Assistance Munich and Upper Bavaria, Germany



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