Experiencing different Street Count in Italy

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European Homelessness Count

In **2021** launch of «The **Platform**» via Lisbon Declaration with the aim of tackling Homelessness in the EU

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3044
https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/addressing-poverty-and-supporting-social-inclusion/homelessness_en

Among the main strands the first is to strenghten evidence on homelessness and to promote a coordinated European-wide **counting initiative**

The EHC **project** – service contract

- **I year** – 10 EU partners and 15 cities
- **II year** – 20 EU partners and 35 cities

- **Italy** and the two cities involved in the EHC I year 2024: Catania and Milan

Funded by European Union

Comune di Catania

Università di Catania

ITALY in the EHC Project

- Homelessness in Italy / Different Data Sources on Homelessness
- EHC Catania and Milan
- Prototypical example of regionally fragmented welfare situation and Homelessness Count

Italian cities involved in EHC I Year

		INHABITANTS	Area Covered with EHC	PREVIOUS COUNT
CATANIA	180 km2	300.000	All city	No
MILANO	181 km2	1.400.000	2 Municipalities	Yes

Current Data Collection Method on Homelessness

ETHOS	ETHOS LIGHT
ETHOS is a a common framework definition of homelessness commonly used by academia, policy makers, and service providers. ETHOS categories (13) attempt to cover all living situations which amount to forms of homelessness or housing exclusion: rooflessness, houselessness, and living in insecure or inadequate housing	ETHOS Light is widely regarded as a common tool for collecting data on homelessness across Europe. ETHOS Light harmonises a variety of existing definitions and distinguishes 6 different operational categories: People living rough in public spaces; People living in emergency accommodation; People living in homeless hostels, women's shelters, or refuge accommodation; People living in institutions; People living in non conventional dwellings; People living temporarily with family or friends

Edgar and Meert (2005), The ETHOS Definition of Homelessness, Fourth Review of Statistics on Homelessness in Europe, EOH - FEANTSA

FEANTSA, European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion, 2005, https://www.feantsa.org/en/toolkit/2005/04/01/ethos-typology-on-homelessness-and-housing-exclusion

Homelessness Count and Methodological Approach

Basic count	ELABORATE COUNT Services-based Count	COMPREHENSIVE COUNT Extended service-based count
Ethos 1-3	**Ethos 1-3**	**Ethos 1-3 + 4 , + 5, + 6**
Data source - Head count - Administrative data	Data source - Survey + (questionnaire filled in by services for PEH or by persons themselves)	Data source - Questionnaire filled in by all services - Survey +
Services involved Night shelters • Hostels • Temporary accommodation • Transitional accommodation • Women's shelters • Refuge accommodation	Services involved Night shelters • Hostels • Temporary accommodation • Transitional accommodation • Women's shelters • Refuge accommodation	Services involved All relevant services in the city: • Low-threshold services • General social services • Public social services • Health care institutions • Housing agencies

Homelessness Count and Methodological Approach in the Italian cities

Catania

Head street count → Ethos 1

Service based count → Ethos 2-3

Milan

Survey + in street count → Ethos 1

Survey + in services based count → Ethos 2-3

New: The service-based approach was used in combination with the survey+. This approach introduces an element of innovation with respect to previous count: the involvement of low-threshold day services, such as showers, drop-in centers, support desks for administrative procedures, etc., which had not been included in the previous survey.

Output: Various profiles of severe adult marginality … to be interviewed → (all) Ethos and more

"Low threshold services" = "grey zones" = "vulnerability *vs.* marginality"

EHC and The participatory processes in the Italian cities

CATANIA

May / July 2024

•A **steering committee** with the local police, mental health services, the Prefecture, local social services and the registry office.

•**Meeting with more than 30 no profit associations** involved in the provision of services for people in extreme poverty with the aim of sharing the EHC methodology / **mapping** services for homeless people / involving associations and volunteers in carrying out the Count.

September 2024

Two Training sessions for volunteers

All involved Associations actively participated in:
• recruiting volunteers
• sharing of experiences and skills
• logistical support during the Count (providing cars and association headquarters, used as coordination centers for volunteers).

MILAN

July 2024

• A **steering committee** with the Representatives from the Municipality, University of Catania, fio.PSD and 12 representatives from 6 third-sector organizations. Strategic direction and oversight, Monitoring of implementation, Outcome evaluation (meetings held twice before and once after the count)

• Additional **Operational Coordinators** (Final Phase): 3 professionals from 2 large third-sector organizations with the operational support and field management task

September 2024

• Regular online **meetings** between the central team and the Municipality, One in-person meeting in Milan, Three formal meetings of the steering committee, Two-hour online training sessions for social workers and volunteers, Progressive and flexible involvement of stakeholders (especially third-sector) based on project phase

Active involvement of both institutional and non-institutional actors, Clear distribution of roles and responsibilities, Inclusive participation during the data collection phase

Volunteers, enumerators and the Teams of the EHC in Italy

CATANIA

October 2024

• 170 volunteers responded to the Call

•140 took part in the training days and **131 volunteers participated in the Count on October 1**

•Volunteers were divided into **39 teams**: each team member had a different role (team leader, map handler and data entry operator on LimeSurvey).

•**Teams were "mixed",** made up of volunteers from different associations and volunteers not belonging to any association, who accounted for **over 30%** of the participants.

MILAN

October 2024

• 55 volunteers were involved in the Count (51 in the street count, while 4 were involved in the service-based count)

•Volunteers were "experts" with experience in working within PEH services

For the street count, the two administrative areas involved (Municipio 1 and Municipio 2) were divided into 9 sub-areas (5 in Municipio 2 and 4 in Municipio 1). Each sub-area had a designated hub, where teams of 3–4 enumerators, previously trained, gathered.

•**Teams were "mixed",** Social workers and operators (expert volunteers), research team

Socio-demographic profile of PEH

CATANIA

Living situation (on reference date)
declared by the PEH

ETHOS Light category		Adults (149)	%
1	in public space	102	68.5
2	in emergency accommodation	5	3.4
3	in accommodation for PEH or temporary housing	42	28.2

0% (0)
0% (0)

male	86.6%	129	female	11.4%	17	non-binary	0%	0

1.3% (2)
0.7% (1)

MILANO

Living situation (on reference date)
declared by the PEH

ETHOS Light category		Adults (256*)	%
1	in public space	163	63.7
2	in emergency accommodation	41	16.0
3	in accommodation for PEH or temporary housing	52	20.3

0% (0)
0% (0)

*In addition to the 256 reported cases, 7 individuals interviewed on October 30 did not disclose their living situation on October 29, reference date of the count. They are therefore excluded from the total surveyed, and their data are not reported.

male	87.5%	224	female	11.3%	29	non-binary	0%	0

0.4% (1)
0.8% (2)

= unknown or not answered
= missing data
= other

Socio-demographic profile of PEH

CATANIA

6.7% (10)

0% (0)

Nationality

(54 PEH: Only Survey+)

0% (0)

0% (0)

Residence status for non-Italian

39 PEH Only Survey+ (non-Italian)

2.6% (1)

0% (0)

0% (0)

MILANO

0% (0)

0.4% (1)

Nationality

0.4% (1)

2.0% (5)

Residence status for non-Italian

191 PEH (non-Italian)

4.2% (8)

2.1% (4)

9.9% (19)

International protection	4.7% (9)
Passport or EU citizen	4.7% (9)
Order to leave	0.5% (1)

Socio-demographic profile of PEH

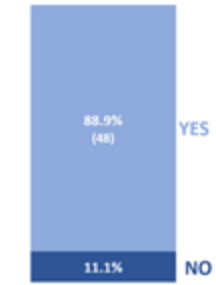
CATANIA

0% (0)

0% (0)

Ever had stable housing?

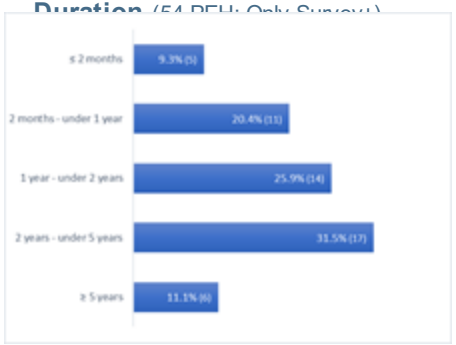
(54 PEH: Only Survey+)



0% (0)

0% (0)

Duration (54 PEH: Only Survey+)



1.9% (1)

0% (0)

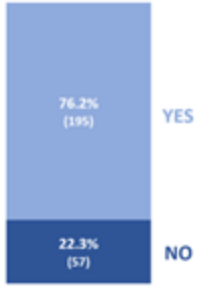
MILANO

Household

3.9% (10)

1.2% (3)

Ever had stable housing?



1.6% (4)

0% (0)

Duration

3.1% (8)

0.8% (2)

Triggers leading to homelessness

CATANIA

MILANO

Strengths and Weaknesses in **CATANIA**

Strengths

- The EHC CT Team has worked in **strong collaboration with the local administration**, the outreach unit and Fio.PSD. The different but convergent experiences and expectations have added value to the research;
- Full coverage of the urban territory (39 Teams were engaged on the evening of 1 october 2024);
- Positive involvement of institutional stakeholders and ETS; Furthermore, a large portion of the **volunteers** who responded positively to the call were **not members of ETS** but private citizens sensitive to the issue;
- The Team not use volunteers to submit the questionnaire but only university researchers, social workers indicated by the local municipality and service operators;
- Two different data collections (Head Street Count; Survey +);

Weaknesses

- **Limited availability of shelters** in the administrative area (mainly entrusted to volunteer organizations);
- The presence of shelters and temporary accommodations **outside the city's** administrative area; furthermore, it should be noted that both publicly managed shelters have now been closed;
- The count did not collect **data on specific subgroups** (women victims of violence, migrants); the specificity of the systems hindered the ability to reach the specific population of homeless women and migrants;

Strengths and Weaknesses in **MILANO**

STRENGTHS

- **Wide participation of local services**, including new ones (e.g. day services)
- **Institutional support** promoting communication and organizing meetings
- **Active involvement of associations** in volunteer recruitment
- **Reaching hard-to-reach groups** including undocumented foreign nationals, both young and adult
- **The inclusion of day services** represented significant innovations compared to previous counts.
- **The use of identification codes** successfully prevented double counting, improving data quality
- **The questionnaire**, despite some issues, was considered balanced in terms of length and clarity

WEAKNESSES

- **Late preparation** limited the opportunity for deeper territorial engagement
- **Too many counts close in time** risk reducing the municipality's sense of ownership and future engagement
- **Difficulty in reaching** certain ETHOS groups (women in general: low representation and some cases of non-response, women victims of violence were not reached, due to lack of connection with those services; minors …)
- The use of **zoning approach** based on data from existing platforms ("Tutti per Te") was fruitful but "limited" because may have excluded lesser-known areas where PEH might be present but less visible
- The **Limesurvey platform** had some instability (e.g. the final page of the questionnaire occasionally did not close properly)
- The question "**Have you ever had a stable house?**" was **confusing** for some respondents, as the term "stable" was interpreted in various ways

Comparing data of the EHC

	Population	TOTAL NUMBER	LIVING SITUATION					
			ETHOS Light 1		ETHOS Light 2		ETHOS Light 3	
		N	n	%	n	%	n	%
BOCHUM	362.213	1051	20	1.9	19	1.8	1012	96.2
BUDAPEST	1.690.000	3513	382	10.9	946	26.9	2185	62.2
CATANIA	311.580	149	102	68.5	5	3.4	42	28.2
CHARLEROI	400.000	588	158	26.9	117	19.9	313	53.2
CORK	224.000	544	37	6.8	18	3.3	489	89.9
DUBLIN	1.299.000	7647	151	2.0	0	0.0	7496	98.0
KOŠICE	225.000	520	151	29.0	156	30.0	213	41.0
LJUBLJANA	291.000	222	78	35.1	23	10.4	121	54.5
LYON	1.787.000	7527	853	11.3	328	4.4	6346	84.3
MILAN	1.370.000	256	163	63.7	41	16.0	52	20.3
MÜNSTER	322.900	1728	72	4.2	33	1.9	1623	93.9
NAMUR	322.900	469	132	28.1	70	14.9	267	57.0
NIJMEGEN	177.000	250	67	26.8	109	43.6	74	29.6
PORTO	249.000	607	281	46.3	36	5.9	290	47.8
WEST-FRIESLAND	195.500	147	27	18.4	18	12.2	102	69.4

Comparing data of the EHC

	GENDER					
		Male		Female	Non-binary/diverse	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
BOCHUM	635	60.4	415	39.5	<10	
BUDAPEST	2322	67.0	1145	33.0	<10	
CATANIA	129	88.4	17	11.6	0	0.0
CHARLEROI	373	63.4	215	36.6	0	0.0
CORK	337	61.9	206	37.9	<10	
DUBLIN	4725	61.8	2918	38.2	<10	
KOŠICE	309	59.4	211	40.6	0	0.0
LJUBLJANA	146	66.1	71	32.1	<10	
LYON	3792	50.4	3735	49.6	0	0.0
MILAN	224	88.5	29	11.5	0	0.0
MÜNSTER	1066	61.7	661	38.3	<10	
NAMUR	296	63.1	171	36.5	2	0.4
NIJMEGEN	193	77.2	57	22.8	0	0.0
PORTO	475	80.1	117	19.7	<10	
WEST-FRIESLAND	91	61.9	56	38.1	0	0.0

Comparing data of the EHC

	NATIONALITY					
	National		EU-citizen		Non EU-citizen	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
BOCHUM	221	21.3	21	2.0	788	75.9
BUDAPEST	3439	98.7	28	0.8	<10	
CATANIA	15	27.8	<10		36	66.7
CHARLEROI	453	78.3	25	4.3	101	17.4
CORK	323	59.4	81	14.9	140	25.7
DUBLIN	3476	45.7	1797	23.6	2337	30.7
KOŠICE	507	97.5	13 (other nationality)	2,5 (other nationality)	-	-
LJUBLJANA	171	77.7	14	6.4	34	15.5
LYON	1231	22.6	693	12.7	3527	64.7
MILAN	60	24.0	25	10.0	165	66.0
MÜNSTER	557	36.3	212	13.8	762	49.7
NAMUR	334	73.6	12	2.6	108	23.8
NIJMEGEN	146	62.4	28	12.0	54	23.1
PORTO	386	86.9	<10		52	11.7
WEST-FRIESLAND	106	77.9	11	8.1	19	14.0

Methodological challenges and future perspectives in Italy …

HOMELESS POPULATION (migrants, women, families…)

DATA COLLECTION (Different local Counts, National Count, Admin data…)

ETHOS Light Typology (1, 2, …6) and data comparison

EVALUATION of DATA and Policy Intervention (Prevention ….?)

INTEGRATED STRATEGIES for PUBLIC spaces, housing, knowledge, services

HOMELESSNESS data collection as a chance for REBORDERING the CITIES

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