EU Homelessness Count

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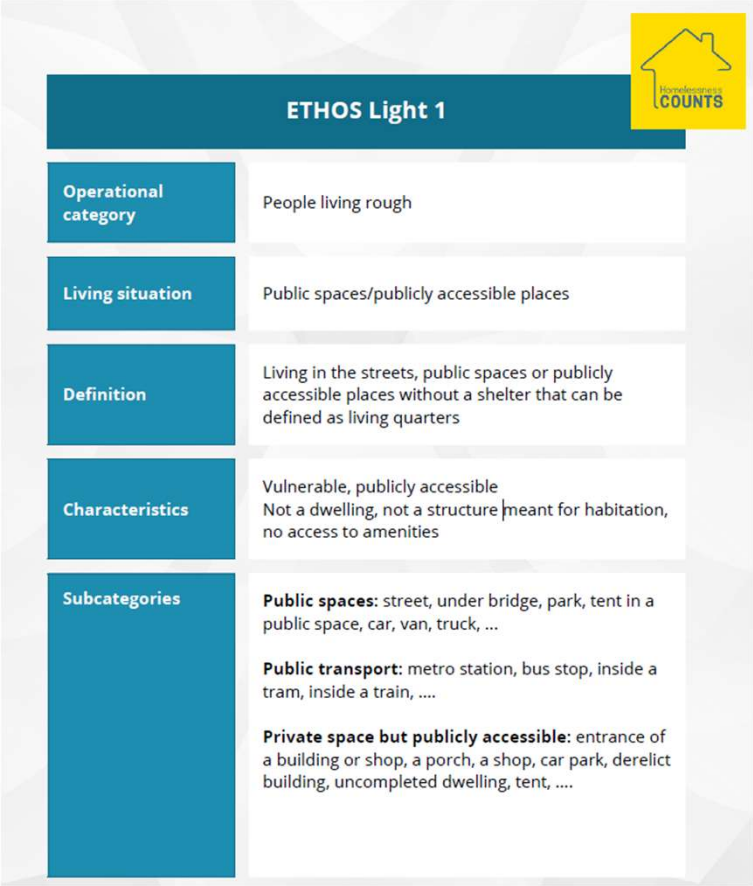
EU Homelessness count

- Project aims :
  - Development and implementation of a common methodology to measure ETHOS Light 1-3 at city level
  - 15 point-in-time counts in 10 member states in year 1
  - 35 point-in-time counts in 21 member states in year 2

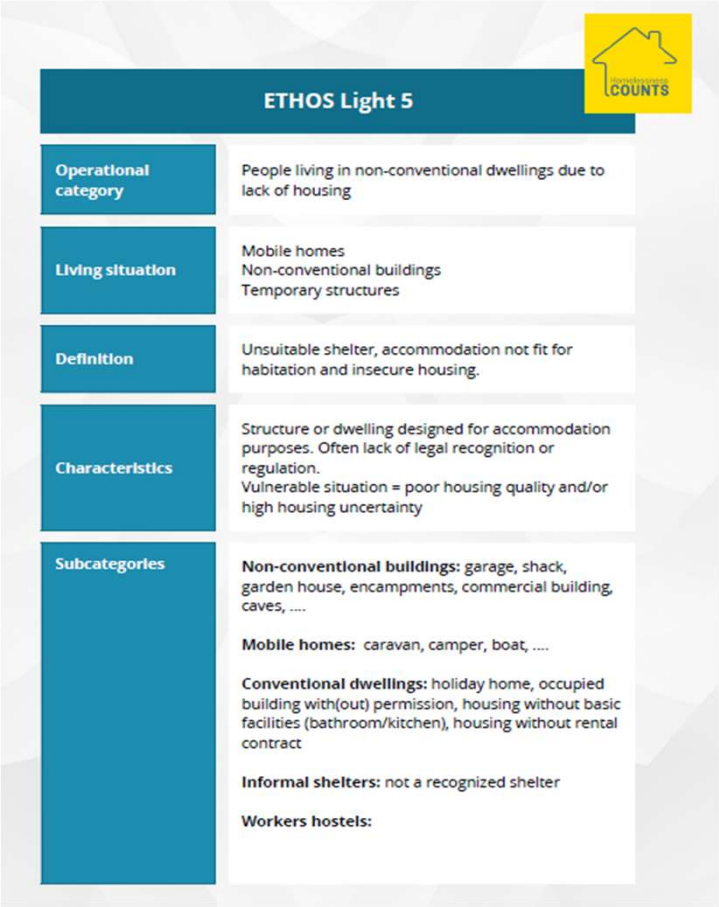
Steps

- Common operationalisaton of ETHOS Light
- Methodology: modular approach
- ETHOS 1: street count methodology
- Questionnaire and data collection methods
- Analysis of the results
- Feedback on methodology and lessons learned

Common operationalisation of ETHOS Light



ETHOS Light 1	
Operational category	People living rough
Living situation	Public spaces/publicly accessible places
Definition	Living in the streets, public spaces or publicly accessible places without a shelter that can be defined as living quarters
Characteristics	Vulnerable, publicly accessible Not a dwelling, not a structure meant for habitation, no access to amenities
Subcategories	**Public spaces:** street, under bridge, park, tent in a public space, car, van, truck, ... **Public transport:** metro station, bus stop, inside a tram, inside a train, ... **Private space but publicly accessible:** entrance of a building or shop, a porch, a shop, car park, derelict building, uncompleted dwelling, tent, ...



ETHOS Light 5	
Operational category	People living in non-conventional dwellings due to lack of housing
Living situation	Mobile homes Non-conventional buildings Temporary structures
Definition	Unsuitable shelter, accommodation not fit for habitation and insecure housing.
Characteristics	Structure or dwelling designed for accommodation purposes. Often lack of legal recognition or regulation. Vulnerable situation = poor housing quality and/or high housing uncertainty
Subcategories	**Non-conventional buildings:** garage, shack, garden house, encampments, commercial building, caves, ... **Mobile homes:** caravan, camper, boat, ... **Conventional dwellings:** holiday home, occupied building with(out) permission, housing without basic facilities (bathroom/kitchen), housing without rental contract **Informal shelters:** not a recognized shelter **Workers hostels:**

Methodology: modular approach

	BASIC COUNT	ELABORATE COUNT Services-based Count	COMPREHENSIVE COUNT Extended service-based count
ETHOS Light	1-3	1-3	1-3 + 4 , + 5, + 6
Services involved	Services for PEH: • Night shelters • Hostels • Temporary accommodation • Transitional accommodation • Women's shelters • Refuge accommodation	Services for PEH • Night shelters • Hostels • Temporary accommodation • Transitional accommodation • Women's shelters • Refuge accommodation	Services for PEH All relevant services in the city: • Low-threshold services • General social services • Public social services • Health care institutions • Housing agencies
Data source **ETHOS Light 1**	HEAD COUNT Focus on extent	SURVEY PLUS Questionnaire filled in by services for PEH or by persons themselves	Main method: Questionnaire filled in by all services Additional SURVEY PLUS
Data source **ETHOS Light 2-3**	Available administrative data from services	Additional data collection by services Survey and/or admin data	Additional data collection by services Survey and/or admin data
Profile data	Limited coverage	Extensive	Extensive

Why a modular approach ?

- Balancing local ownership and comparability
    - Local ownership: local data collection, needs, traditions,…
    - Comparability: between cities, countries
- Scale and role of local service network
- Tradition of data collection at local and national level
- Ethical prerogative: avoiding harm

ETHOS 1: THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

- a street count is a method of data collection about persons sleeping rough on a specific night/day by visiting pre-defined zones in the city or metropolitan area/region.

*A **street** count*

- Public spaces: street, under bridge, park, tent, car, van, truck
- Public transport: metro station, bus stop, inside a tram, inside a train
- Private space but publicly accessible: entrance of a building or shop, a porch, a shop, car park, derelict building, uncompleted dwelling, tent

*is a method of **data***

- extent (number and very basic visible demographic information)
- profile data
- additional data

collection

- people report themselves
- social workers or professionals with them
- services report on clients based on existing data
- unprofessional volunteers
- experts by experience

*about **persons sleeping rough***

- unsheltered homeless adults
- unsheltered families with children
- "self-identified" vs. "hetero-identified" unsheltered homeless people

*on a specific **night/day***

- opening hours of emergency services
- seasonal variations
- limitation of profile data collection possibilities

by visiting ***rough sleeping places in the city.***

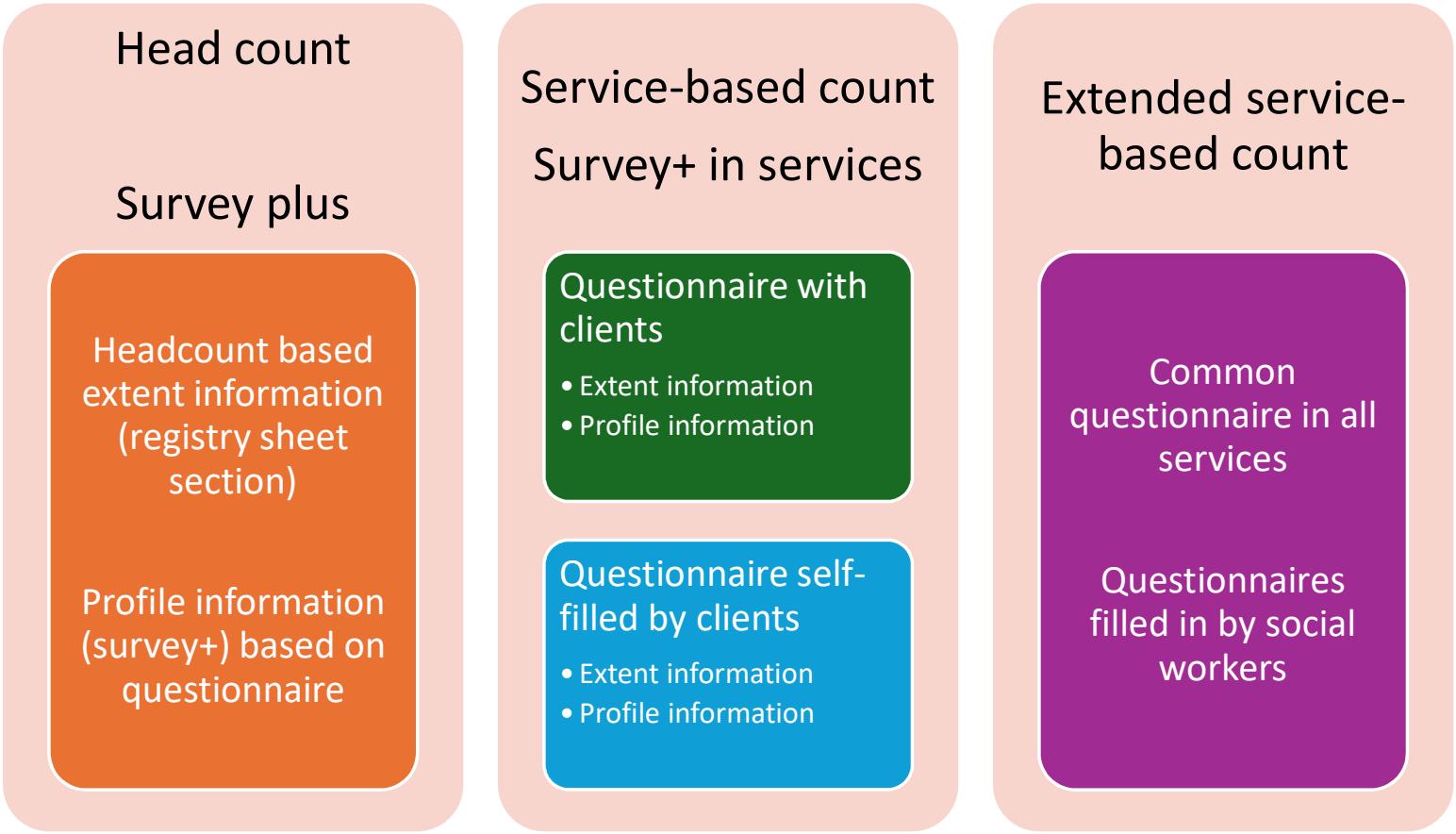
- enumerators go physically around in predefined zones

     	A: HEADCOUNT (EXTENT FOCUSED) carried out in the late evening and night hours, focusing on (just about to be) bedded people covering selected zones of the cities comprehensively. The approach is to visit (defined) **publicly accessible places** with the help of social workers, professionals and volunteers and to **count people who are defined as experiencing unsheltered homelessness**. Optional collection of profile data is possible if the homeless person is available and willing to engage into conversation, but it is not the primary goal.
   	B: SURVEY+ (EXTENT AND PROFILE FOCUSED) carried out during the day / over a period of time among people who may not be using emergency/night shelters, and in the evening / night hours; focusing on people in addition to those who are in touch with services, including outreach teams and day centres that offer services primarily for homeless people, there are additional selected zones within the city / known to services where people are visited and interviewed. The approach complements the results of the (extended) service based count which includes unsheltered clients of outreach services with the help of social workers, and unsheltered clients of day centres and other services. Thus, additional data will be collected **to count those who are defined as unsheltered homeless people but have, so far, not been in touch with any services**. The main goal is to collect extent and profile information by visiting and walking through predefined zones where such groups are likely to be found.

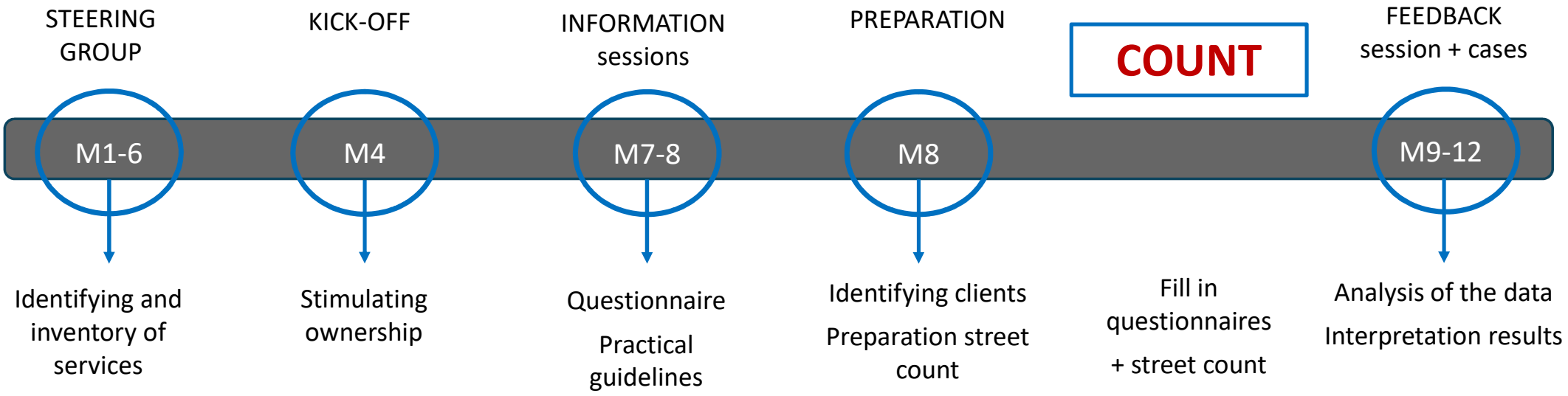
Mandatory profile variables

- **Gender**: the gender of the person experiencing homelessness and housing exclusion
- **Age**: the age of the person experiencing homelessness and housing exclusion expressed in a range of a few years/ decades
- **Nationality / citizenship**: whether the person experiencing homelessness and housing exclusion is a citizen or a national of the country where the data collection is taking place
- **Residence status**: the status of the person experiencing homelessness and housing exclusion in the given country to assess the set of potential rights the person may possess in terms of access to services
- **Actual living / family situation**: the type of partnership and family arrangements the person experiencing homelessness and housing exclusion is living in
- **Living situation on the night / day of the count**: the category of the living situation on the reference date of the data collection, expressed as an ETHOS category
- **Triggers of homelessness:** the mechanisms and life events that are deemed to have played a role in the process of becoming homeless
- **Duration of homelessness**: the time span spent in homelessness and housing exclusion expressed in months/years

Data collection methods



A process of 12 months



Participating cities in year 1

	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

	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

	AGE					
	16-17 yrs %	18-24 yrs %	25-29 yrs %	30-49 yrs %	50-64 yrs %	65+ %
BOCHUM	1.9	16.3	12.1	42.4	19.3	8.0
BUDAPEST	0.1	2.3	4.0	30.4	39.7	23.6
CATANIA	0.7	4.6	11.8	35.9	34.0	6.5
CHARLEROI	0.9	16.2	8.0	52.2	21.1	1.5
CORK	0.0	13.2	14.5	56.8	13.4	2.0
DUBLIN	0.0	17.6	13.7	50.7	16.2	1.8
KOŠICE	0.0	8.3	6.9	36.2	36.3	12.1
LJUBLJANA	0.0	5.4	7.2	51.8	22.5	13.1
LYON	5.1	15.9	14.1	48.8	13.4	2.7
MILAN	0.4	4.7	8.6	41.6	34.5	10.2
MÜNSTER	1.6	13.7	9.4	44.1	24.7	6.5
NAMUR	0.6	12.9	10.7	51.1	20.8	3.9
NIJMEGEN	-	-	-	-	-	-
PORTO	0	0.2	5.2	30.6	32.2	31.5
WEST-FRIESLAND	-	-	-	-	-	-

	HOUSEHOLD							
	Single		Lone parent with child(ren)		Couple without child(ren)		Couple with child(ren)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
BOCHUM	666	65.4	86	8.4	80	7.9	185	18.2
BUDAPEST	2579	76.2	170	5.0	292	8.6	312	9.2
CATANIA	46	85.2	<10		<10		<10	
CHARLEROI	350	68.1	79	15.4	42	8.2	32	6.2
CORK	342	67.5	61	12.0	26	5.1	78	15.4
DUBLIN	4419	59.0	1127	15.0	308	4.1	1591	21.2
KOŠICE	300	57.9	70	13.5	77	14.9	53	10.2
LJUBLJANA	151	68.0	28	12.6	<10		<10	
LYON	1828	24.3	2112	28.1	239	3.2	1801	23.8
MILAN	211	86.8	<10		<10		<10	
MÜNSTER	521	63.9	58	7.1	60	7.4	173	21.2
NAMUR	238	59.0	85	21.1	20	5.0	47	11.7
NIJMEGEN	212	88.3	15	6.3	<10		<10	
PORTO	332	75.1	<10		35	7.9	<10	
WEST-FRIESLAND	114	81.4	22	15.7	<10		<10	

	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

	CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS	
	≥ 5 yrs	
	n	%
BOCHUM	<10	
BUDAPEST	1669	50.6
CATANIA	<10	
CHARLEROI	86	16.0
CORK	-	-
DUBLIN	-	-
KOŠICE	261	51.9
LJUBLJANA	76	35.2
LYON	876	13.2
MILAN	94	38.2
MÜNSTER	-	-
NAMUR	39	9.7
NIJMEGEN	-	-
PORTO	192	43.1
WEST-FRIESLAND	-	-

Figures demand contextualisation

Impact of :

- Methodological choices and existing data collection
- Supply of emergency shelters and temporary accommodation
- Formal and informal access rules of shelters and temporary accommodation
- Migration patterns and migration policies
- Access to affordable housing
- Local and national criminalisation policies
- Local and national social policies

Some lessons learned

- ETHOS Light as guiding framework, but operationalisation is needed
- Less consensus on ETHOS Light 4-6
- Local ownership: political will, involvement of broad network of services, involvement of social workers
- Strengths AND limitations of point-in-time counts
- No golden standard to cover ETHOS Light 1
- The need for harmonisation and coordination with national data collection
- GDPR: informed consent or public interest

Website project :

- Handbook
- City reports 2024
- Global report 2024