

 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Social Affairs, Health, Care  
and Consumer Protection

MEETING  
DESTINATION  
VIENNA  
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Wohnen  
für alle



# FEANTSA FORUM 2024 programme

17th & 18th June | Vienna, Austria

## Monday - 17.06.2024

**09:00 - 12:00**

FEANTSA  
General Assembly

**12:00 - 13:00**

FEANTSA  
Administrative  
council

**13:30 - 14:30**

Lunch

**15:00 - 18:00**

Site visits  
Working spaces

**18:30 - 19:00**

Meet the Team

## Tuesday - 18.06.2024

**09:00 - 11:00**

Opening Plenary  
Welcoming Speech  
Plenary Debate

**11:30 - 13:30**

Breakout Session One

**13:30 - 14:30**

Lunch

**14:30 - 16:30**

Breakout Session Two

**17:00 - 18:30**

Closing Plenary

**Welcoming Speech: Kjell Larsson, President FEANTSA**

09:00-09:20

**Plenary Panel**

09:20-11:00

Speakers:

Prof Dennis Culhane, Professor University of Pennsylvania, US  
Elisabeth Hammer, Director neunerhaus & Chairwoman BAWO, AU  
Javier Buron Cuadrado, Managing Director NASUVINSA, ES  
Matthew Downie, Chief Executive Crisis, UK  
Mike Allen, Director of Advocacy, Communication and Research Focus  
Ireland, IE

# 18.06 breakout one

## **Making the right to adequate housing a reality**

11:30-13:00

### **Seminar**

The seminar brings together experts to look at the broader ambition to deliver the right to a decent home for everyone. This seminar will be an opportunity to discuss that ambition and the elements that need to be in place to fulfil the right to housing at national level with examples from Wales and Spain

### **Speakers:**

**Ruth Power**, Shelter Cymru, UK  
**Sonia Olea**, Caritas Spain, ES  
**María José Aldanas**, FEANTSA (Chair)

## **Energy poverty and homelessness**

11:30-13:00

### **Seminar**

In this Nicholas Pleace and Carolyn Snell, researchers at the University of York will share their research on the interrelations of energy poverty and homelessness and engage in a conversation with participants to share experiences on how the energy crisis impacts people facing or at risk of homelessness.

### **Speakers:**

**Nicholas Pleace**, University of York, UK  
**Carolyn Snell**, University of York, UK  
**Anna Bajomi**, FEANTSA (Chair)

## **The importance of alliances between social and housing sector to promote housing first and end homelessness**

11:30-13:00

### **Seminar**

One out of five people in Austria live in limited-profit housing. The sector provides affordable homes for many. Lately, it has become a close ally to Austria's homelessness service sector. "housing first austria – arriving home", a project initiated by BAWO, ends homelessness for over 2.000 people and establishes a model bound to eradicate homelessness in the country. It closely collaborates with limited-profit housing associations on all levels in order to make homes accessible where needed. And: Government funding provides a means for people affected by poverty to break down financial barriers to this affordable housing stock, making the housing market more inclusive for all.

Emine Özkan (BAWO) and Gerlinde Gutheil-Knopp-Kirchwald (GBV) give an overview on Austria's large limited-profit housing sector and the history and intricacies of "housing first austria's" cross-sectoral collaboration on

ending homelessness.

Emine Özkan is project manager of housing first austria – arriving home at BAWO – housing for all.

Gerlinde Gutheil-Knopp-Kirchwald is head of the department for housing economics and research at the Austrian Federation of Limited-Profit Housing Associations (GBV) in Vienna, Austria. She holds a master's degree in urban and regional planning and a PhD in housing economics.

### **Speakers:**

**Gerlinde Gutheil-Knopp-Kirchwald**, GBV, AT  
**Emine Özkan**, BAWO, AT  
**Alexander Machatschke**, BAWO, AT (Chair)

## Can Impact Investment Help to House Homeless People?

11:30-13:00

### Seminar

This workshop explores the concept of “Impact Housing” and its significance in addressing homelessness. Through presentations from the European Impact Housing Network, Habitat et Humanisme, and Hogar Si, participants gain insights into social impact investment within the housing sector. Case studies will be shared to illustrate how private investment can effectively deliver housing solutions for individuals facing homelessness or its threat. Throughout the workshop, attendees will have the opportunity to explore the opportunities and challenges inherent in these innovative approaches, fostering discussion and learning.

### Speakers:

**Matteo Robiglio**, President Fondazione Impact Housing, IT

**Sergio Serrano**, Hogar Si, ES

**Pierre Valentin**, Habitat et Humanisme, FR

**Ruth Owen**, FEANTSA (Chair)

## Towards improving the situation of Roma living in informal settlements

11:30-13:30

### Workshop

An unacceptably high number of Roma continue to face severe poverty and social exclusion, many living in informal settlements across Europe. Conditions in such places have been deemed in violation of human and fundamental rights as enshrined in the EU and UN law. This session will deliver on the situation across Europe and participants will be invited to explore legal and policy opportunities for improving the situation of Roma living in settlements.

### Speakers:

**Florin Botonogu**, Policy Center for Roma and Minorities Romania/ ERGO Network, RO

**Cristina de la Serna**, Fundacion Secretariado Gitano, ES

**Simona Barbu**, FEANTSA (Chair)

## Using AI to Improve Homelessness Services

11:30-12:30

### In conversation with

This talk will explore the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to improve the services provided to people who experience homelessness. It will begin by describing how AI can be used to support, not replace, front-line human staff in the housing and homelessness system of care. Practical guidelines will be provided regarding how agencies should combine their data with machine learning to minimise bias and maximise how well predictions fit the people accessing a particular service. This discussion will touch on important ethical considerations that include the representation of people in data and the accessibility of the data tools themselves. The discussion of tool accessibility will include how best to implement AI in a not-for-profit setting with limited access to advanced information technology (IT) infrastructure and expertise. Two case studies will be discussed in detail. The first involves using AI as an early warning system to identify people at risk and provide

them with supports before or soon after they enter homelessness. The second case study discusses using AI as a way to link fragmented data sets in order to better understand how one person interacts with many agencies within a system of care.

### Speakers:

**Dr Geoffrey Messier**, University of Calgary, CA

**Arturo Coego**, Housing First Europe Hub Coordinator (Chair)

**CANCERLESS Project: Using the 'Health Navigation' Model to Fight Cancer (and Health) Inequalities**  
11:30-12:15

**Spotlight on**

The CANCERLESS project is an EU-funded research initiative aiming to tackle barriers to access cancer prevention faced by people experiencing homelessness (PEH). This spotlight on session will focus on the unique Health Navigation Model that has been co-developed, implemented and evaluated in CANCERLESS, which aims to bridge the gap in healthcare access and quality for PEH. Participants will learn how this model facilitates early cancer detection and prevention by providing tailored, person-centred care. The workshop will also discuss strategies to adapt and scale this model to effectively address health inequalities for PEH in different regions. Emphasizing hands-on interaction and case studies, the session will be an informative platform for health and social care professionals as well as policy makers, encouraging collaborative efforts to extend the reach of the Health Navigator Model to this vulnerable population.

**Speakers:**

Tobias Schiffler, Medical University of Vienna, AT

Dr Lisa Lehner, AmberMed, AT

Honja Hama, Medical University of Vienna, AT (Chair)

**Hidden Homelessness and Trans Individuals**  
12:30-13:30

**In conversation with**

Conversation-style session open to any topic related to the experiences of homelessness (or the risk of it) among trans people, including research projects and examples of good practices at local level.

**Speakers:**

Mauro Striano, Alias, BE

Dr Alex Abramovich, Associate Professor at University of Toronto, CA

Sergio Perez, FEANTSA (Chair)

**In Conversation with Experts by Experience: Beyond Tokenistic Participation**  
12:30-13:30

**In conversation with**

All initiatives aimed at ending homelessness must ensure the involvement of experts by experience at all levels, from design to implementation and evaluation. This session will bring together three speakers with lived experiences of homelessness who will reflect on what it means to ensure genuine and respectful participation.

**Speakers:**

Michael Herzog, neunerhaus peer campus, AT

Omolayo Adekunle, Associazione I Tetti Colorati, IT

Primož Časl, Kralji ulice, SI

Paula Reid, neunerhaus, AT (Chair)

# 18.06 breakout two

## What Does It Take for Women to Strive in Services Supporting Women Exiting Homelessness?

14:30-16:30

### Workshop

Women's homelessness crisis is worse than ever. This interactive workshop will discuss how homelessness differs for women and how effective gender approaches can improve responses to women's homelessness.

### Speakers:

**Claire O'Sullivan**, Tintéan Housing, IE

**Julia Schratz**, Lila wohnt, AT

**Dalma Fabian**, FEANTSA (Chair)

## Unaccompanied Minors Experiencing Homelessness in Europe

14:30-16:00

### Seminar

Unaccompanied minors seeking protection across Europe have been seen sleeping rough and met in the homelessness sector. This seminar will shed light on the routes into homelessness for unaccompanied minors once they have reached Europe and potential support avenues.

### Speakers:

**Georgia Spyropoulou**, Solidarity Now Athens, GR

**Marjorie Lelubre**, Le Forum - Bruxelles contre les inégalités, BE

**Simona Barbu**, FEANTSA (Chair)

## Decriminalising Homelessness in Europe

14:30-16:00

### Seminar

Across Europe we are seeing disturbing attempts to criminalise homelessness. From fines to arbitrary arrest or imprisonment, minor offences related to survival activities such as begging, sleeping on the streets and eating in public are being punished, despite a lack of support or alternative solutions (such as shelters). This seminar will critique such punishment of homelessness from a human rights perspective, refocus attention on addressing the root causes of homelessness through effective policies, and highlight efforts across Europe to decriminalise such acts.

### Speakers:

**Olivier de Schutter**, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty

**Noemi Molnar**, Street Lawyers Hungary, HU

**Pia Justesen**, Aalborg University, DK

**María José Aldanas**, FEANTSA (Chair)

## Prevention of Youth Homelessness

14:30-16:00

### Seminar

This seminar will cover good practices in the prevention of youth homelessness, the role of coalitions at national level, and different learning tools. We'll also be looking at specific sub-groups among young people, such as LGBTIQ+.

### Speakers:

**Heidi Walter**, A Way Home Canada, CA

**Bill Rowlands**, Ending Youth Homelessness Cymru, UK

**Vesna Stefanec**, Ljubljana Pride, SI

**Lisa O'Brien**, Focus Ireland, IE (Chair)

## Using the Energy Transition to Reduce Costs for Homeless Service Providers

14:30-16:30

### Workshop

The workshop on the participation of homeless service providers in the green transition will start with a presentation practice-oriented presentation of the EU policy framework for renovations. The session will bring examples of greening and renovating buildings and services of organizations working with people experiencing homelessness in Italy and Vienna. Finally, participants will discuss their challenges and opportunities in greening their buildings and services.

### Speakers:

**Fabio Gerosa**, Fratello Sole, IT

**Cristina Pizzorno**, Fratello Sole, IT

**Martin Orner**, Volkshilfe Vienna, AT

**Anna Bajomi**, FEANTSA (Chair)

## What's Social in Social Housing?

14:30-15:15

### Spotlight On

Social Housing systems are seen as important to tackle homelessness. Rightly so. In the wider public, however, social housing is often portrayed with negative terms and attributions. Why is there a gap between aspirations and reality? A closer look at social housing systems reveals significant differences between them, and even within them. These refer to how housing is funded and provided and to what purpose; how it is maintained, and by whom; how and under which conditions access is organized; how it can be appropriated by its residents. Starting with an introduction to social housing in Vienna, we will use this interactive workshop to exchange and compare our experience and views on social housing and develop arguments on housing quality which are so needed in current policy debates.

### Speakers:

**Simon Güntner**, Technische Universität Wien, AT

**Alexander Machatschke**, BAWO, AT (Chair)

## Imprisonment and Homelessness – From Research to Practice

14:30-15:15

### Spotlight On

Combining research and practice, this session will explore findings from the latest Comparative Study by the European Observatory on Homelessness (EOH), examining the link between imprisonment and homelessness in the EU, followed by practical insights from the Finnish Foundation for supporting ex-offenders, RETS –Life without crime.

The EOH study explores the existing evidence on the relationship between homelessness and imprisonment and current policy and practice in trying to prevent homelessness on leaving prison in 13 EU Member States and draws comparisons with two further European countries, the United Kingdom, and Norway. A general overview of insights into the effectiveness of current strategies and the need for coordinated policy implementation will be discussed.

Following this, we will zoom in on the work of RETS, Finland, who have been presenting solutions to the homelessness of prison leavers

for over 20 years. Through national housing guidance and networking, they spread basic knowledge and encourage cooperation throughout the social system. RETS offers scattered, HF-based supported housing in the Helsinki Metropolitan area.

### Speakers:

**Mia Juselius**, RETS, FI

**Lars Benjaminsen**, The Danish Centre for Social Science Research, DK

**Nicholas Pleace**, Centre for Housing Policy, University of York, UK

**Freek Spinnewijn**, FEANTSA (Chair)

**Building resilience in the neighbourhood and creating housing solutions for homeless people using Mixed Living**  
15:30-16:15

**Spotlight on**

For over 30 years de Tussenvoorziening has provided low-threshold facilities, debt counselling, and housing solutions for people in a marginalised or homeless situation.

The main goal of the organisation is to build sustainable housing solutions. Over the last few years, hundreds of people have found their home in a welcoming neighbourhood in a Mixed Living project. Not a staircase model, but a home. Providing socialisation, inclusion, and normal living in the neighbourhood. The key to the approach is to facilitate neighbours in building their own welcoming society and at the same time providing durable housing first solutions for people who are homeless.

Learn more on their approach, the challenges, and how the Tussenvoorziening realise these projects in collaboration with municipalities and housing corporations.

**Speakers:**

Jules Van Dam, Tussenvoorziening, NL

Ruth Owen, FEANTSA (Chair)

**Support For Migrants with Precarious Status**  
15:30-16:15

**Spotlight on**

Regardless of status, country of origin, or country of residence, navigating the migration and housing system without support can lead already vulnerable migrants to deeper levels of destitution and alienation. This session shines the spotlight on two services, from Belgium and Germany, which both help migrants with precarious status navigate their situation, through guidance and counselling.

From Belgium we will look at the shelter 'Opvang en Oriëntatie mensen zonder wettig verblijf'. Here they offer guidance for people with irregular status. They provide shelter for 18 people (mostly men) and give them legal and perspective guidance. The focus of the project is gaining regular status, by helping people to provide documents or discussing voluntary return and other possibilities. Els Goossens of CAW Oost-Vlaanderen will present you with facts and figures from the first two years of the project and talk about how they have worked together with

migration services and the local government.

From Germany, we will look at the pioneering approaches of "MOCT – Berliner Brücke zur Teilhabe" at the interface between homelessness assistance and migration. We will highlight the challenges faced by homeless EU citizens in Berlin and present our action strategies aimed at improving their living conditions. Our main focus is on accommodation, social counselling and issues related to integration into the labour market. We explain how we can take effective action against discrimination and how we can achieve a stabilization of the living situation through intensive counselling, practice-oriented workshops in the help system and cooperation with a lawyer.

**Speakers:**

Monika Slobodzian, GEBEWO PRO, DE

Els Goossens, CAW Oost-Vlaanderen, BE

Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA (Chair)



# 18.06 closing plenary

## Closing Speech from Johannes Rauch, Minister for Social Affairs, Austria

17:00-17:15

## Presentation and reflections on the OECD Toolkit

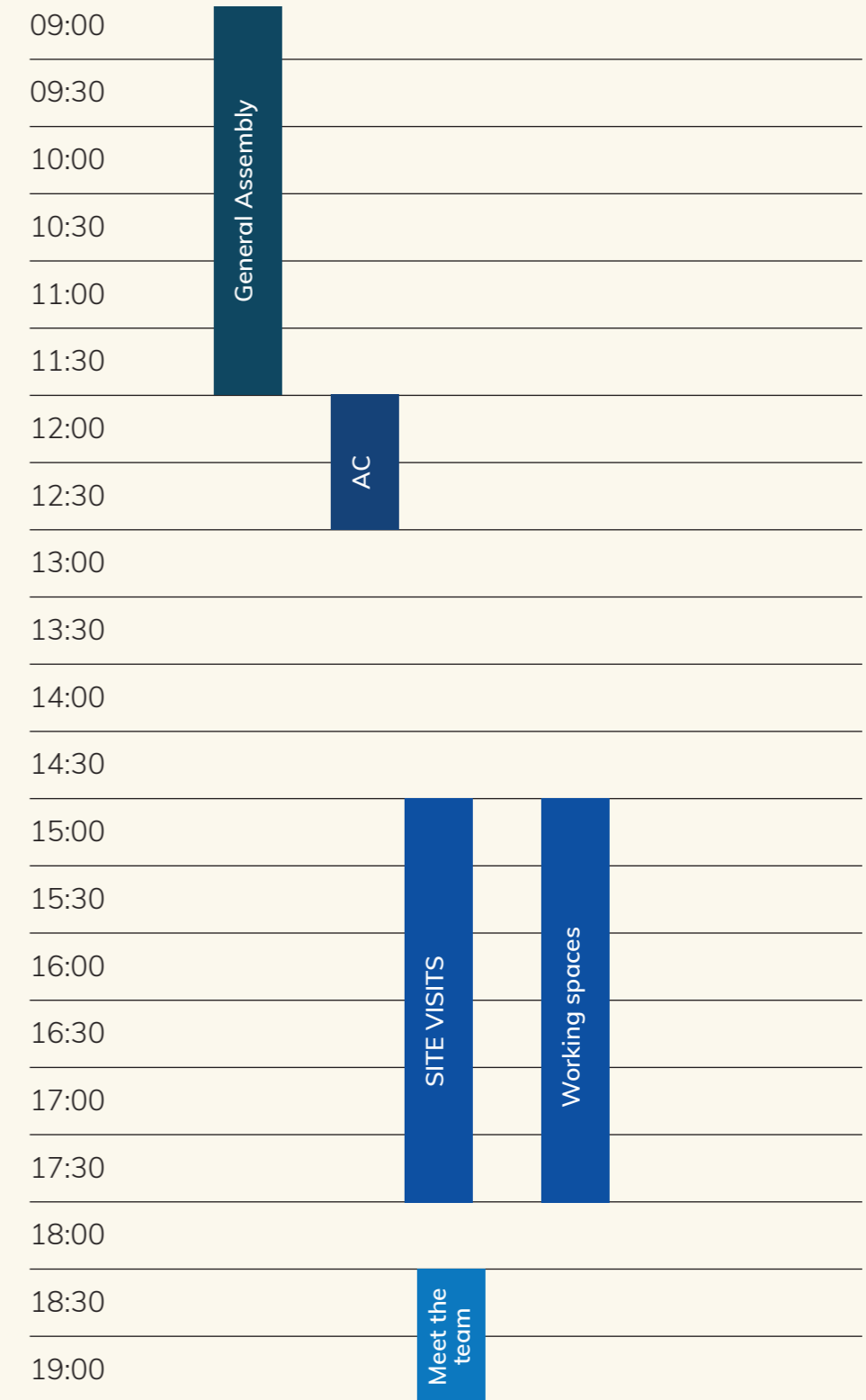
17:15-18:30

The latest Toolkit from the OECD as a part of EPOCH will be presented, with a detailed look at the nine building blocks developed for how States should go about ending homelessness.

Following the presentation, a small panel will offer reflections on the toolkit, what it promises and how it might be implemented, and a look forward at what is to come, and what must be done next.

Speakers: To be announced!

# visual timetable - 17.06



# visual timetable - 18.06

09:00	OPENING PLENARY							
09:30	OPENING PLENARY							
10:00	OPENING PLENARY							
10:30	OPENING PLENARY							
11:00	OPENING PLENARY							
11:30	Roma living in informal settlements	Making the right to adequate...	Energy Poverty	Limited Profit...	Impact Investment ...	Cancer-less	AI	
12:00						Trans Homeless-	Experts by Experience	
12:30								
13:00								
13:30								
14:00								
14:30	Renovations for homeless services	Services supporting women in Homeless-	Decriminalising Homelessness	Unaccompanied Minors	Youth Homelessness	Prison leavers	Social housing	
15:00						Mixed Living	Support for migrants	
15:30								
16:00								
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17:00	CLOSING PLENARY							
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