



5th September 2023

Housing Exclusion in Europe: Fondation Abbé Pierre and FEANTSA present the 8th Overview on the 5th of September 2023

With the release of the 8th *Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe*, Fondation Abbé Pierre and FEANTSA reveal new estimates on the number of people living in homelessness in Europe and shine a light on unfit housing.

A Worrying Increase in Homelessness

In 2022, at least 895,000 persons were still experiencing homelessness in Europe:

- In Germany, which executed its first-ever national census, 84,500 people were recorded as living on the street or in hidden homelessness.
- In Spain, 28,552 people were without a home, a 24% increase from 2012.
- In Ireland, between the 24th and 30th of December 2022, 11,632 persons stayed in an emergency shelter; the number of people using such services increased by 40% in the last two years.

Policy responses to the rising number of people without a home in European countries remain insufficient. **While emergency management methods have been stretched to their limits, it's now imperative to implement the new policies announced in the wake of the pandemic and establish a sustainable response to homelessness.**

The European Union demonstrates an awareness of the worsening situation by including homelessness on the political agenda, and countries such as Finland, Denmark, and Austria even serve as exemplars with a **slight decrease in the number of people in homelessness**. Initiatives launched by the **European Platform on Combatting Homelessness (EPOCH)** represent positive developments, but **efforts by the Member States need to be increased.**

Unfit Housing in Europe: A Public Health Concern

In the study conducted among **FEANTSA members and their partners**, Fondation Abbé Pierre and FEANTSA outline the state of unfit housing, still largely invisible and difficult to measure.

In Europe, 19.2 million people live in unfit housing according to Eurostat.

While the average quality of housing has been steadily improving over the last twenty years, unfit, poorly insulated, non-functional and cramped housing remains a reality for millions of Europeans. According to the World Health Organization, inadequate housing is responsible for more than 100,000 deaths each year in Europe.

Faced with these facts, it is necessary for governments and EU institutions to recognise unfit housing as a public health issue. The EU's housing 'Renovation Wave' may be an opportunity to eradicate this phenomenon in Europe if sufficient support and funding is offered to the most vulnerable.

Press:

Français : Angèle Roblot et Raphaëlle Graffion - Fondation Abbé Pierre

media@fondation-abbé-pierre.fr / +336 23 25 93 79

English : Rocio Urias - FEANTSA

rocio.urias@feantsa.org / +34 674 79 01 01