Home, health and well-being for all: bridging sectors to solve homelessness
Summary

1. FEANTSA
2. What is homelessness?
3. Homelessness and current trends in the EU
4. Homelessness is a health concern
5. Housing is health care
6. Housing First
FEANTSA

- **Fédération Européenne des Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri**
  - 150 members - umbrella organisation of NGOs working with homeless people
  - Brussels Secretariat
  - Funded under Easi programme
  - Activities:
    - Policy and advocacy
    - Transnational learning and mutual exchange
    - Research
    - Awareness raising
What is homelessness?

• Not just street homelessness - the most visible form.
• Absence of a home in the physical, legal, social sense. Not static but dynamic phenomenon.
• ETHOS covers all living situations which amount to homelessness or housing exclusion:
  • Rooflessness
  • Houselessness
  • Living in insecure housing
  • Living in inadequate housing
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conceptual Category</th>
<th>Operational Category</th>
<th>Living Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLESH</td>
<td>1 People living rough</td>
<td>1.1 Public space or external space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 People staying in a night shelter</td>
<td>2.1 Night shelter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| SELESS              | 3 People in accommodation for the homeless | 3.1 Homeless hostel  
|                     | 4 People in a women’s shelter | 4.1 Women’s shelter accommodation |
|                     | 5 People in accommodation for immigrants | 5.1 Temporary accommodation, reception centres  
|                     |                       | 5.2 Migrant workers’ accommodation |
|                     | 6 People due to be released from institutions | 6.1 Penal institutions  
|                     |                       | 6.2 Medical institutions  
|                     |                       | 6.3 Children’s institutions/homes |
|                     | 7 People receiving longer-term support (due to homelessness) | 7.1 Residential care for older homeless people  
|                     |                       | 7.2 Supported accommodation for formerly homeless persons |
| CURE                | 8 People living in insecure accommodation | 8.1 Temporarily with family/friends  
|                     |                       | 8.2 No legal (sub)tenancy  
|                     |                       | 8.3 Illegal occupation of land |
|                     | 9 People living under threat of eviction | 9.1 Legal orders enforced (rented)  
|                     |                       | 9.2 Repossession orders (owned) |
|                     | 10 People living under threat of violence | 10.1 Police recorded incidents |
| EQUATE              | 11 People living in temporary/non-conventional structures | 11.1 Mobile homes  
|                     |                       | 11.2 Non-conventional building  
|                     |                       | 11.3 Temporary structure |
|                     | 12 People living in unfit housing | 12.1 Occupied dwelling unfit for habitation |
|                     | 13 People living in extreme overcrowding | 13.1 Highest national norm of overcrowding |
Evidence from across Europe points to a worsening homelessness situation. Finland is the only exception, showing the effectiveness of implementing a long-term homelessness strategy.
Current Trends

- Homelessness currently **increasing** in a majority of EU MS
  - **Declining** in a minority of MS/regions with ambitious strategies (Finland, Scotland)

- Changing profiles:
  - Young people, women, families, children, migrants increasingly represented
  - Broadening socio-economic profile as a result of the crisis

- Shift from traditional (stair case) to evidence-based responses
  - Integrated
  - Housing-led (focus on rapid access to housing, housing-related support and prevention)
  - Person-centred
  - Prevention
Homelessness is a health concern

- Extreme health inequalities
- Higher rates of premature mortality
- Multiple morbidity incl. problematic alcohol and drug dependence, mental health issues and physical health problems
- Disability
- Access barriers to quality health care
Health care use by people who are homeless

• Much higher use of A&E
• Higher hospital overstay
• Inadequate discharge to the street – return to A&E
• Non-compliance w/ treatment
• Distrust of the health care system
Addressing the health needs of people who are homeless

- Flexible and tailored services (Find and Treat)
- Support in accessing mainstream services (‘care navigators’)
- Supportive environment (Psychologically informed environment, Trauma informed care)
- Effective hospital discharge (London Pathways)
- Health Promotion, health literacy (Infirmieres de Rue, importance of hygiene)
- Harm Reduction approaches
- Participation and peer support
Housing is Health Care

• Housing social determinant of health
• Home as primary health care setting
• Stable housing – improved health and well-being – benefits patients and health systems
• Housing First – health intervention
• https://youtu.be/NM6MkGocV7A
Core Principles of Housing First

1. Housing is a human right
2. Choice and control for service users
3. Separation of housing and treatment
4. Recovery orientation
5. Harm reduction
6. Active engagement without coercion
7. Person-centred planning
8. Flexible support for as long as is required
Housing First

• Support – strongly health related
• Impact - housing stability, ontological security + improvement in physical and mental health
• Cost-benefit: important savings in hospitalisation
• Take up: from scattered experiments to policy (DK, FI)
Thank you!

• More on: www.feantsa.org
• Contact: Dalma.fabian@feantsa.org