

**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**

Conceptual category	Operational category		Living situation	
HOMELESS	1	People living rough	1.1	Public space or external space
	2	People staying in a night shelter	2.1	Night shelter
HOMELESS	3	People in accommodation for the homeless	3.1	Homeless hostel
			3.2	Temporary accommodation
			3.3	Transitional supported accommodation
	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	
INSECURE	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	
IN-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	

IRELAND 

DUBLIN



families in homeless accommodation in 1 year

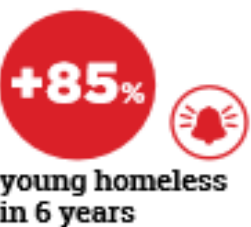
FINLAND 



single homeless in 3 years

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.

DENMARK 



young homeless in 6 years

POLAND 



homeless people in 2 years

BELGIUM

GERMANY

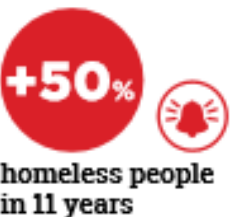
AUSTRIA

LONDON



people sleeping rough in 1 year

FRANCE 



homeless people in 11 years

SPAIN 



homeless people in 7 years

BARCELONA



homeless people in 2 years

ITALY

GREECE 

ATHENS



9,000 estimated homeless people were forced to live on the streets in the past 5 years

GREECE

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
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