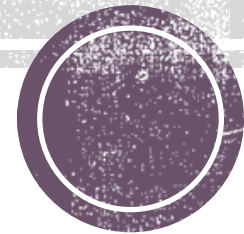


Big picture of homelessness in EU

Contribution FEANTSA/Freek Spinnewijn

**European conference : Promoting Rights-Based Work with
Homeless People with support from the ESF**

8 may - Warsaw



DEFINITION

- ETHOS (*light*)
 - Roofless
 - Houseless
 - Very Inadequate Housing incl *mobile homes & temporary structures*
 - Very Insecure Housing incl *sofa surfers & institutional release*
- Capture the reality of most extreme forms of exclusion
 - *Service paradox*
 - East – West
- Dynamic process



OPERATIONAL CATEGORY		LIVING SITUATION		DEFINITION
1	People living rough	1	Public spaces / external spaces	Living in the streets or public spaces without a shelter that can be defined as living quarters
2	People in emergency accommodation	2	Overnight shelters	People with no place of usual residence who move frequently between various types of accommodation
3	People living in accommodation for the homeless	3	Homeless hostels	Where the period of stay is time-limited and no long-term housing is provided
		4	Temporary accommodation	
		5	Transitional supported accommodation	
		6	Women's shelters or refuge accommodation	
4	People living in institutions	7	Health care institutions	Stay longer than needed due to lack of housing
		8	Penal institutions	No housing available prior to release
5	People living in non-conventional dwellings due to lack of housing	9	Mobile homes	Where the accommodation is used due to a lack of housing and is not the person's usual place of residence
		10	Non-conventional buildings	
		11	Temporary structures	
6	Homeless people living temporarily in conventional housing with family and friends (due to lack of housing)	12	Conventional housing, but not the person's usual place of residence	Where the accommodation is used due to a lack of housing and is not the person's usual place of residence



DATA

- 4 million
 - Stock vs Prevalence
- Growing
 - All EU member states
 - Except Finland
- Profile
 - Young
 - Family homelessness
- Beds
 - > 500,000



THE OTHER EUROPE

COLD REALITY FIGURES ON HOMELESSNESS

*NON-COMPARABLE



+150%
From 2014 to 2016

GERMANY
860,000
Homeless in 2016

+169%
From 2010 to 2017

ENGLAND
4,751
Homeless sleeping rough on one night in 2017

+32%
From 2008 to 2016

AUSTRIA
15,090
Statutory homeless people 2016

+96%
From 2008 to 2016

BELGIUM BRUSSELS
3,386
Homeless on one night in November 2016

+8%
From 2015 to 2017

DENMARK
6,635
Homeless (one week in 2017)

+20.5%
From 2014 to 2016

SPAIN
16,437
People per day on average in emergency shelters in 2016

-18%
From 2009 to 2016

FINLAND
6,644
Homeless people (one night in November 2016)

+17%
From 2016 to 2017

FRANCE
20,845
People called the 115 homeless helpline requesting accommodation (one month June 2017)

HUNGARY
10,206
Homeless (1 night in February 2016)

+145%
From 2014 to 2017

IRELAND
8,857
People in emergency accommodation (November 2017)

+16.2%
From 2016 to 2016

LITHUANIA
4,569
In temporary accommodation (one night in 2016)

+11%
From 2011 to 2016

THE NETHERLANDS
60,120
People in homeless accommodation services in 2016

CZECH REPUBLIC
68,500
Homeless in 2016

SWEDEN
33,000
Homeless (1 week in 2017)

POLICY

- Different approaches – often concurring
 - Criminalisation
 - *e.g. Hungary*
 - Staircase
 - *e.g. France*
 - Housing First
 - *e.g. Finland*
 - Prevention
 - *Underdeveloped*



Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 23 March 2016

31/9. Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context

5. *Further calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to eliminate legislation that criminalizes homelessness and to ensure an effective remedy and the right to access to justice for all for violations in the context of the realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, including measures necessary to ensure that women and persons at risk have equal access to justice;

6. *Calls upon* States to take positive measures with a view to prevent and eliminate homelessness by adopting and implementing cross-sectoral strategies that are gender-responsive and based on international human rights law;



HOUSING FIRST

- Housing as a tool for integration rather than reward at end of integration process
 - Immediate access to housing
 - Separation of housing and support
- Target group
 - Initially chronic homeless BUT
 - Chronicity as proxy of complexity
 - New target groups
 - Young, women fleeing domestic violence, ...
- Results
 - Housing retention
 - >80%
 - Subjective well-being up
 - Ontological security
 - Health mixed
 - Addiction
 - Cost-effectiveness
 - Depends...
- Geographical scope
 - Quid East Europe?!





Housing First Guide Europe

Nicholas Pleace



POLICY DYNAMICS

- Focus on QUANTITY shelter beds
- Focus on QUALITY shelter beds
 - Physical
 - Target group
 - Integration process
- Growing & Unsustainable shelter SYSTEM
 - Illusion of progress
 - Costs
- Paradigm SHIFT
 - Housing First
 - Rapid Rehousing
 - Prevention



Toolkit for developing an integrated strategy to tackle homelessness

European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL - Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri AISBL
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FEANTSA, the European Federation of organisations working with people who are homeless, has promoted and facilitated transnational exchanges between homeless services across Europe for the last 20 years. Analysis and reviews of homeless policies in this framework have revealed that a variety of approaches exist to combating homelessness. Most countries have integrated several of the 10 approaches listed below. FEANTSA believes that the most effective homelessness policies should include all these 10 approaches, but a balance should be found in accordance with the political context in which the authority developing and implementing the policy operates.

There is still much scope for improvement of homelessness policies, and FEANTSA believes that the following 10 approaches could be an interesting guide for policy makers, NGOs, and other stakeholders involved in the fight against homelessness.

1 Evidence-based approach

A good understanding of the problem of homelessness is key to developing effective policies. This can be done through:

- **Monitoring and documentation** of trends in homelessness and numbers of homeless people, and development of appropriate indicators
- **Research and analysis** on the causes of and solutions to homelessness should complement monitoring and documentation
- **Regular revision of policies** is necessary and most effective with a sound understanding of homelessness

2 Comprehensive approach

A comprehensive approach to combating homelessness includes policies on emergency services and resettlement of people who are homeless, and on the prevention of homelessness.

- **Emergency services** are a crucial first step to prevent people from living on the street for long periods
- **Integration** should be the objective for all people who are homeless and should be adapted to the needs and potential of the individual person who is homeless
- **Prevention** - both *targeted* prevention (evictions, discharges from institutions) and *systemic* prevention (through general housing, education, employment policies) are necessary

3 Multi-dimensional approach

Homelessness is acknowledged to be a phenomenon requiring solutions based on multi-dimensional approaches including:

- **Integrating housing, health, employment, education & training** and other perspectives in a homeless strategy, since the routes in and out of homelessness can be very diverse
- **Interagency working** and general cooperation with other sectors as a vital component of every effective homeless strategy since homelessness cannot be tackled in a sustainable way by the homeless sector only
- **Interdepartmental working** between relevant housing, employment, health and other ministries is crucial for developing effective strategies to tackle homelessness, and to avoid negative repercussions of policies developed in different fields

4 Rights-based approach

A rights-based approach to tackling homelessness promotes access to decent, stable housing as the indispensable precondition for the exercise of most of the other fundamental rights through:

- **Use of international treaties** on housing rights as a basis for developing a homeless strategy
- **Focus on enforceable right to housing** to ensure the effective exercise of the right to housing
- **Acknowledgement of the interdependence of housing and other rights** such as the right to live in dignity, the right to health

5 Participatory approach

Homelessness is a field where cooperation with service providers is crucial given their expertise on how to tackle the problem, and entails participation in the following ways:

- **Involvement of all stakeholders (namely service providers, service users and public authorities)** in policy development and evaluation is important for pooling all expertise and capacity available aiming to tackling homelessness
- **Involvement of all stakeholders in implementing policy** through a coordinated effort is the best way to achieve the objectives of any homeless strategy
- **Participation of people experiencing homelessness** should be used for the improvement of service quality and policy-making. Appropriate consultation structures should be created to take real account of the experience of people who are homeless

6 Statutory approach

A statutory approach aims to underpin homeless strategies with legislation through:

- **A legal framework at national level/regional level**, which allows for consistency and accountability in implementation of homeless policies
- **Statutory aims and objectives** serve to effectively monitor and evaluate policy progress

7 Sustainable approach

Three elements create a genuinely sustainable approach to tackling homelessness leading to sustainable solutions.

- **Adequate funding** is crucial for any long-term strategy to tackle and end homelessness
- **Political commitment** at all levels (national, regional and local)
- **Public support** generated through information and awareness campaigns

8 Needs-based approach

This approach is based on the principle that policies should be developed according to existing needs of the *individual* rather than structural needs of *organisations*.

- **Needs of individual** are the starting point for policy development on the basis of regular needs surveys and by means of individualised integration plans
- **Appropriate revision** of homeless policies and structures is necessary on a regular basis

9 Pragmatic approach

A pragmatic approach consists of the two following elements:

- **Realistic and achievable objectives** are necessary and possible when adequate research is carried out to fully understand the nature and scope of homelessness, the needs of the people who are homeless, the evolution of the housing and labour market and all other related areas
- **A clear and realistic time schedule** with long-term targets as well as intermediate targets

10 Bottom-up approach

A bottom-up approach is about developing policy responses to homelessness at local level (within a clear national or regional framework) based on two elements:

- **Importance of local authorities** for the implementation of homeless strategies through a shift towards greater involvement, more responsibility and more binding duties at local level
- **Bringing service delivery closer to people who are homeless** with local authorities in a strong position to coordinate partnerships between all relevant actors in the fight to end homelessness



EUROPEAN RELEVANCE

- Funds
 - ESF
 - FEAD
 - ERDF
 - Investment (EIB & CEB)
- Policy frame
 - EC Guidance Homelessness in Europe (2013)
 - EU Pillar of Social Rights (2017)
 - Right to shelter & integration as part right to housing (principle19)
- Targeted policy action
 - Free movement
 - Homeless mobile EU citizens
 - Health
 - Action plan infectious diseases
- Mutual learning
 - FEANTSA
 - Projects



European Pillar of Social Rights



Housing and assistance for the homeless

- a. Access to social housing or housing assistance of good quality shall be provided for those in need.*
- b. Vulnerable people have the right to appropriate assistance and protection against forced eviction.*
- c. Adequate shelter and services shall be provided to the homeless in order to promote their social inclusion.*



- **Thank you for listening**
- **!! Coments !! & ?? Questions??**



- www.feantsa.org



- @FEANTSA
- @ FreekSpinnewijn

