



Contribution FEANTSA

BAWO Fachtagung
16/05/2014 - Graz



Right to housing
NO PANACEA
TRIGGER fr BETTER
POLICY

Right to housing in Europe



■ Council of Europe

- Revised Social Charter
 - Art 31 right to housing
 - Austria did NOT ratify ...
- Convention of Human Rights
 - Indirect right to housing
 - Right to life, right to privacy, right to dignity,...
- Housing rights caselaw is growing
 - Collective Complaints (rev ESC)
 - FEANTSA ex
 - Strassbourg Court

■ UN & EU

- But more difficult to use...

Right to housing in France: unrealistic...



- Justiciable
 - First admin procedure then court procedure
 - Wide target group
 - From homeless to ppl on social housing waiting list
 - Overly ambitious?!
 - Housing & Shelter
 - Seems shelter is ok for reasonable period
 - Not defined
 - More shelter beds to deliver on right?!
 - National States is guarantor of the right
 - Power to deliver??

Right to housing in France (2)



- Impact
 - Growing caselaw
 - NGO mobilised on litigation
 - Change of homeless policy
 - More focused on housing solutions
 - Pressure on social housing sector to prioritise
- BUT
 - Violations of right to housing continue
 - Esp Paris area
 - Lack of housing

Right to housing in Scotland: pragmatism...



- Guarantor of right are local authorities
 - Duty to deliver rather than enforceable right for ppl
 - Close to reality ...
- Almost no case-law/litigation
 - Focus on enabling local authorities
 - Focus on monitoring of progress
- More successful than FR approach ?!
 - Sustainable??
 - Political context too defining ??



EU 2020 Strategy RELEVANCE ?!

EU Poverty Target

- EU
 - 20 million less ppl in poverty
 - Regress !
 - 6 million more in poverty since 2010
 - Austria
 - 235.000 ppl less in poverty
 - Stability BUT ...
 - Important increase in income poverty
- Homelessness NOT measured
 - EU-SILC
 - Household survey
 - « Creaming »



EU Semester

- National Reform Programmes
 - Focus on economy
 - Social parts small
 - Focus on employment/activation
 - Homelessness in app 1/2 of NRPs
 - Austria
 - No mention of homelessness...
- National Social Reports
 - Parallel reporting cycle
 - Since 2014 – obligatory reporting on homelessness
 - Austria
 - Change to housing-led/first



Country Specific Recommendations

- Dozen on poverty/exclusion
 - Austria
 - Not on poverty but on employment (young)
- Vague / not very influential
 - See reactions of some MS
- Potential of CSR on homelessness
 - ??
 - EC does not want
 - BUT is priority issue in NRPs for growing nr of MS
 - Let us stay hopeful
- FEANTSA proposals for CSR
 - Nothing in Austria (yet)



European Platform against Poverty



- Flagship Initiative of EU 2020
- To deliver progress towards EU poverty target
 - Support member states
 - Knowledge, exchanges, data,...
- Includes relevant actions on homelessness
 - Follow up EU consensus conference
 - Use of Structural Funds
 - ...
- But Dormant
 - DG EMPL did not take leadership
 - Likely to disappear after mid-term review

EU homelessness strategy

- Need for separate/dedicated space on homelessness in EU
 - Semester process too vague/political
- EU strategy
 - Called for by EP – twice !!
 - Austrian MEPs all in favour e
 - Except anti-EU
 - FPO and List of Dr Martin...
 - Called for by CoR, EESC, and EPSCO
 - BUT Commission does not want it
 - Lazy?!
 - Pressure increases
 - Hope with new Commission 2015 - 2020





- Thanks for listening
- www.feantsa.org
- @FREEK_SPINNEWIJN