



## FEANTSA NEWS

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### New FEANTSA Policy Assistant

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Paula Caballero began working as a volunteer in April 2014 and as a Policy Assistant at FEANTSA in September 2014. She is from Madrid, Spain. She is an urban sociologist, has a Masters in Human Settlements and has been researching social innovation, community development and the right to the city at KU Leuven. She worked as a technical assistant in the Social Observatory of Rubi City Council (Catalonia) on housing and urban issues in 2010. In 2013, she worked with the UN-Habitat Office for Liaison with European Institutions. Today she is engaged in different civil society initiatives in the city of Brussels, in the field of housing, social innovation and social economy.

### Policy Conference Material

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The workshop presentations from the 2014 FEANTSA Policy Conference "Confronting homelessness in the EU: Seeking out the next generation of best practices" are now [online](#). A [souvenir video](#) is also available. A German version of the [press release](#) makes specific reference to the needs of homeless women. The Bergamo [Declaration](#) (in English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Slovenian and Spanish), adopted by the FEANTSA General Assembly, brings together political messages from the conference and calls for them to be included in Member State and European Union policy on homelessness in future.

### Violence Against Women Leads to Homelessness and Continues During Homelessness

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The main reason women become homeless is violence. This is a fact, yet there is little awareness of this widespread and growing problem across Europe. On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25th November, FEANTSA drew attention to the increasing number of women who find themselves in homelessness because of violence and called for improved responses to the problem at all levels in a [press release](#). The release appeared in French in the [Lëtzeburger Journal](#).

### Collective Complaints Against the Netherlands

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FEANTSA has won its Collective Complaint against The Netherlands on access to shelter. First lodged with the Council of Europe in July 2012, the Collective Complaint (no. 86/2012) against the Netherlands alleged violations of several rights under the Revised European Social Charter. This is a landmark case that should determine how homelessness is addressed in EU Member States. The [decision](#) states that homeless people must have unconditional access to shelter of adequate quality. Read our [press release](#) on the issue. Our members Federatie Opgang also issued a [press release](#) (in Dutch). Housing Rights Watch, The Hague University of Applied Sciences and FEANTSA held an [Expert Seminar](#) on the outcomes of Collective Complaints 86/2013 - FEANTSA v. The Netherlands and 90/2013 CEC v. The Netherlands on the 14th November in The Hague. The decision has also led to some changes: Haarlem city council (The Netherlands) adopted a [motion](#) on homelessness on the 27th November calling for access to basic shelter for all in the city (document in Dutch).

# FEANTSA Statement: European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020: Supporting Pathways out of Homelessness

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This statement, available in [English](#) and [French](#), contains:

- Preparation of 2014-2020: State of Play
- Monitoring of ESIF and FEAD use to create pathways out of homelessness
- First Recommendations to European institutions and National/Regional authorities
- Annex: Key EU legislation

## Call for Papers: European Journal of Homelessness - Volume 9 Issue 1

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The [Call for Papers](#) for Volume 9 Issue 1 of the [European Journal of Homelessness](#), "Homelessness in Times of Crisis" is out now. Please send abstracts to [Professor Eoin O'Sullivan](#) by 2nd January 2015.

## Second FEANTSA Study Session with Council of Europe Youth Department on Advocacy Training

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FEANTSA will hold a second [study session](#) for young people working with homeless youth or young people at risk of homelessness with the Council of Europe Youth Centre next year. Please contact [Samara Jones](#) with any questions. The deadline for [applications](#) is the 3rd December.

## FEANTSA Online Guide to Housing First in the EU

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FEANTSA received a grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to [develop an online resource](#) on Housing First in Europe. The [project](#) will last two years and began in September. The main objective of the project is to create a European resource to help service providers and policy makers in the homelessness sector to understand Housing First and its implementation in the EU.

The project Advisory Board met for the first time at the 2014 FEANTSA Policy Conference in Bergamo. The group includes Sam Tsemberis (Pathways to Housing, USA), Pascale Estecahandy (Coordinator of the "Un Chez Soi d'abord" programme, France), Juha Kaakinen (Y Foundation, Finland), Eoin O'Sullivan (Trinity College Dublin), Vic Rainer (SITRA, UK), Birthe Povlsen (National Board of Social Services, Denmark), Patricia Bezunartea Barrio (Rais Foundation, Spain), Marc Iazzolino (Senior policy officer in fioPSD, Italy), Judith Wolf (Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, The Netherlands), Teresa Duarte («Casas Primeiro», Portugal). The group had a very fruitful discussion on content and design of this resource on Housing First.

Nicholas Pleace from the University of York also participated in the meeting as he is responsible for the written material that will be the basis of the online resource structure. The online guide is currently at the design and planning phase.

Please contact [María J Aldanas](#) for more information.

## ENHW Newsletter

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The latest issue of the European Network of Homeless Health Workers newsletter is now [online](#).

## New HABITACT Bulletin

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Issue 20 of the HABITACT e-bulletin is now [online](#).

## Conference: Europe, Protector of Social Rights?

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Housing Rights Watch, Human Rights Institute Lyon, Jurislogement, Fondation Abbé Pierre, Université Lumière Lyon 2, UNITWIN / UNESCO Chairs Programme, Université Catholique de Lyon and FEANTSA held a [conference](#) in Lyon on the 27th November, entitled "Europe, Protector of Social Rights?" It discussed the right to housing as an example of international and European law on providing protection for social rights.

## "Ways Out of Homelessness" Erasmus+ Project – First Meeting

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The first meeting of the "Ways Out of Homelessness" Erasmus+ Project, which aims to encourage the use of evidence-based practice to support pathways out of homelessness in specific local policy contexts, took place on the 14-15 November in Budapest. The FEANTSA office was present.

## FEANTSA and PICUM Joint Workshop on Undocumented Migrants and Homelessness

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PICUM and FEANTSA held a workshop for their task force on undocumented migrants and homelessness, "Mapping barriers for undocumented migrants and EU citizens in accessing emergency accommodation". Themes discussed were strategies for working with irregular migrants and emergency accommodation. FEANTSA presented case law.

## FEANTSA Speaks at Housing Finance Event

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FEANTSA presented at the Housing Europe and Finance Watch [event](#) "Housing Finance - Property Bubbles or Social and Ecological Resilience – it's a Choice!" on 5th November.

## FEANTSA Speaks at EESC Event on Better Roma Inclusion

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FEANTSA spoke on housing exclusion at a European Economic and Social Committee event on its "Better inclusion of the Roma community through civil society initiatives" project on education, employment and housing on 7th November.

## FEANTSA Attends EURO CITIES Meeting on Homelessness

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FEANTSA attended the EURO CITIES Homelessness Working Group meeting on 26th November. The meeting focused on homelessness prevention with twelve cities.

## FEANTSA Attends 4th Annual Convention of the Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion

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FEANTSA was present at the 4th [Annual Convention](#) of the Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, which took place on the 20th-21st November 2014 in Brussels. FEANTSA President Mike Allen chaired a workshop on housing exclusion and evictions.

## EUROPE NEWS

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### 120 Million Risk Poverty or Social Exclusion in 2013

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More than 120 million people were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in EU28 countries, almost 1 out of every 4 persons in the EU, according to [figures](#) published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, based on data from the EU-SILC survey. This means that these people were in at least one of the following three conditions: at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers (income poverty), severely materially deprived, living in households with very low work intensity. The proportion of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU28 (24.5%) has slightly fallen since 2012 (24.8%), but is higher than in 2008 (23.8%). The reduction of the number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU is one of the key targets of the Europe 2020 strategy.

## MEMBER NEWS

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### France: 35 Years Alpil

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Alpil celebrated 35 years of existence at an [event](#) in Lyon on 22nd November. The day was dedicated to thinking about the challenges and opportunities of today – an economic crisis, lower availability of affordable housing but a legally defendable right to housing and the evolution of social work involving service users - and reflecting on the future, with workshops and an expert panel.

### France: Homeless People Facing an Emergency Situation with the Onset of Winter

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In a [press release](#), FNARS has raised the alarm about the 'explosive' situation homeless people face this winter. The information sent to FNARS by social NGOs are 'worrying', says the federation: hundreds of women, men and even children are sleeping on the streets in Paris and other French cities. Homeless families are waiting for accommodation that is not forthcoming and people are accommodated in hotels or temporary shelters in gymnasia. FNARS has been campaigning against this 'seasonal' approach to homelessness, which ends with scores of people being sent back to the street when winter is over. FNARS calls for an end to the systematic use of emergency accommodation and for the provision of affordable social housing units and permanent housing that allows people to be supported all year round into autonomy in their housing and social inclusion.

### Ireland: Simon Communities 'Stand and Deliver' Campaign

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One in four people in Ireland say they are worried about the risk of becoming homeless because of difficulties in fulfilling payments or mortgages while over 20% of people say that they fear losing their own home, according to figures reported by the Simon Communities in Ireland as they [launched](#) their national advocacy campaign 'Stand and Deliver' in advance of Simon Week 2014 (September 29th – October 5th). The campaign asks the public for their support in asking the Irish Government to stand and deliver on their promise of ending long term homelessness by 2016.

# Ireland: Vulnerable Women Falling through the Cracks into Homelessness

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The Simon Communities in Ireland highlighted new [research](#) into women and homelessness at a conference entitled 'Home Truths: Women, Homelessness and Risk'. The charity said that women's homelessness is underexplored in Ireland and that it can differ significantly from men's in terms of the causes, experiences and pathways out of homelessness. Niamh Randall, National Spokesperson for the Simon Communities in Ireland said "Women make up around one third of the adult homeless population in Ireland yet female homelessness is poorly understood and women who are homeless remain largely 'hidden'. There are many different reasons why a person becomes homeless. What is clear is that in the case of women, there is a gender specific dimension to their experiences with high levels of childhood trauma, violence and sexual violence." The study also highlights the complex nature of women's homelessness and the overlap between women's homelessness and other support needs, for example pregnancy, mental health issues, domestic violence, drug use and trauma.

# Ireland: 'Young People, Homelessness and Housing Exclusion' Book

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Focus Ireland has published a [book](#) entitled 'Young People, Homelessness and Housing Exclusion'. The qualitative [study](#), designed to track the experiences of 40 'out of home' young people over time was funded by Focus Ireland and carried out by the Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin. While the research privileges these young people's accounts, it makes an innovative departure from existing research on homeless youth in Ireland by including the perspectives of the families of ten of the participants, which has the potential to shed new light on the complex and under-researched family dynamics that may propel young people to leave home prematurely, as well as on those family processes that facilitate a resolution to their homelessness. The book was officially launched by Ms Sylva Langford, Homelessness Oversight Group member and former Director General of the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

# Italy: New fio.PSD President

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The new fio.PSD [President](#), Cristina Avonto, who replaces Stefano Galliani, began her mandate at the fio.PSD General Assembly meeting held on the 25th October in Bergamo.

# Spain: Homeless Portraits

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The [Retrats Sense Sostre](#) (Homeless Portraits) project, [launched](#) by Arrels Fundació and involving cooperation with famous artists (painters, writers, DJs) and the Barcelona Homeless Network aims to give homeless people a voice through art, research and communication. A [workshop](#) on the realities of homelessness at the University of Barcelona, featuring a contribution from our members Orden Hospitalaria Sant Joan de Deu, was also connected to the project.

# Spain: Flashmob and Campaign – Decent and Adequate Housing for All

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FEANTSA Members in Spain organized and took part in a series of flashmobs on National Homelessness Day, the 27th November, to demand decent and adequate housing for all. The flashmobs were part of the Ending Homelessness campaign. This year's campaign, run by our members, promotes a new housing supply model based on decent and adequate housing as a human right. The campaign focuses in particular on people who do not have access to this right, those who are rendered invisible by society and experience the worst levels of exclusion: people sleeping rough.

## Spain: Housing First Seminar

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Our members [Arrels Fundació](#) and the [Universitat de Barcelona](#) held a [Seminar](#) on Housing First in Barcelona on the 2nd of December.

## Spain: Opticians to Display Art by Homeless People

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As part of a new Arrels Fundació awareness-raising [campaign](#) about the realities of homelessness, 2,000 opticians across the world will display art by people with experience of homelessness.

## UK: More Action Needed to Address Youth Homelessness

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Homeless Link has called for more action to address the high number of under 25s becoming homeless in [new research](#). [Young and Homeless 2014](#) shows that more than half of those who approached councils and charity services for help in August 2014 were under 25. This suggests the scale of youth homelessness is higher than reflected in official figures. The report suggests work to prevent young people losing their home is not good enough in many areas. It calls for mediation, advice and support services to be available in every local authority area to families and young people at risk of homelessness. Schools and other agencies working with young people should also play a part in preventing homelessness through education, as well as early identification and appropriate referral of those at risk.

## HEADLINES

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### Czech Republic: Number of Socially-Funded Funerals Rising

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The number of funerals paid for by the government social fund, for people who have died and have no contact with possible family members or are unable to pay for a private funeral, a situation which affects many homeless people, is increasing in the Czech Republic.

### France: March for Recognition of the Right to Housing

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On the 19th November, people classed as priority cases under the right to housing law, which states that the government must find housing for them, marched in Paris, along with Droit au logement (Right to housing, a pressure group), the Abbé Pierre Foundation and Secours Catholique (FEANTSA member) to call for the application of this right as many people are still waiting for their housing.

### France: Paris Consultation on Homelessness Data Collection

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In preparation for the Paris "pact" to reduce homelessness, to be adopted early 2015, different working groups have been formed, one of which will focus on homelessness data collection. The group met on 12th November to: agree on the variables to use to develop an evidence base for effective policies; take stock of existing and relevant data collection systems in Paris; consider methods of coordinated data collection to build knowledge about the profile of homeless people in Paris; discuss preferred methodologies and implementation of data collection tools and discuss how best to use the expertise available at Paris organisations working on data collection.

# Hungary: Commissioner for Fundamental Rights Annual Report

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The Hungarian Commissioner for Fundamental Rights has published his 2013 [Annual Report](#). It includes a section on homelessness in which he makes the following observations: the treatment of homeless people in the country is a cause for legal concern and "social issues can only be addressed with social responses based on social solidarity. This is a universal obligation on the political community in a constitutional state, the task of the current government and municipality leaders."

## Ireland: Social Housing Strategy

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The Irish Government six-year Social Housing Strategy was announced on the 26th November. It includes a strong focus on constructing new social housing and reforming social housing delivery and management. 35,000 homes are to be built across the country by 2020. 75,000 households are to be housed in the private rented sector – using Housing Assistance Payment and a Rental Accommodation Scheme. The government also intends to establish a Dublin Social Housing Delivery Taskforce, to respond to the current supply and delivery difficulties in the Dublin area. The strategy aims to accommodate everyone on the housing waiting lists (90,000 households) by 2020.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Call for Papers - "Homelessness in a Global Landscape"

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The [Institute of Global Homelessness](#) will hold its first bi-annual research conference from June 1 – 2, 2015 in Chicago. The conference, Homelessness in a Global Landscape, will explore broad themes in global homelessness, with an eye to narrowing the focus in subsequent years. The [Call for Papers](#) is now available. Paper titles and abstracts are due on 20th December 2014, 5pm GMT. Please send all materials to [kjohnson@ighomelessness.org](mailto:kjohnson@ighomelessness.org). [More information](#).

### Launch of Observatory on Hate Crimes Against Homeless People in Spain

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An observatory on hate crimes against homeless people, [Hatento](#), involving ASSÍS Centre d'Accollida, Asociación Bokatas, RAIS Euskadi, RAIS Fundación, La Unión Nacional de Jefes y Directivos de Policía Local (Unijepol), Asociación Zubietxe, Defensor de Pueblo del País Vasco – Ararteko, Amnesty International Spain, FEANTSA, FEPSH and The state LGBT federation (FELGTB) has been launched in Spain. It aims to collect data on hate-related incidents and hate crimes against homeless people, train professionals, design tools to improve detection and intervention, awareness-raising campaigns, organize community meetings to bring the issue closer to citizens.

### Save the Date: BAWO 2015 Conference: No Borders - Connected – Cooperative

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The next BAWO Annual Conference will take place in the in the Festpielhaus in Bregenz from the 11th to the 13th May 2015. Central themes will be working on cooperation, networking and relationships in homelessness services, tackling and comparing international methods and best practice models in a superregional context. BAWO goes international!

### Save the Date: World Conference of Women's Shelters

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The [World Conference of Women's Shelters](#) will take place from the 3rd–6th November 2015 in The Hague, The Netherlands.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Homelessness Prevention

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Dr. Ekke-Ulf Ruhstrat of [GISS Bremen](#) and Dr. Volker Busch-Geertsema, also of GISS Bremen and Coordinator of the European Observatory on Homelessness, have published a [study](#), commissioned by the North Rhine-Westphalia Social Ministry, on prevention of homelessness in North Rhine-Westphalia was recently [presented](#) to the NRW Regional/Legislative ! Assembly (Landtag). The study shows that the imminent loss of housing was a problem for a growing number of citizens in North Rhine-Westphalia. Other results show that single men are most at risk of homelessness. The high proportion of young people under 25 years came as a surprise in the report.

### Prejudices About Poverty

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ATD Quart Monde France and Astrapi magazine have published a [brochure](#) for children on prejudices about poverty and opened a [poster exhibition](#) with 15 different posters called "Fighting Poverty Means Fighting Stereotypes".

### Better Support Needed for LGBTQ People in Youth Homelessness Projects

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Research [published](#) by the charity Porchlight and the University of Kent shows that better support is needed for people identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ) in youth homelessness projects. It is widely recognised that as many as 30% of homeless youth in the UK could be LGBTQ, however, there is very little specialist housing provision. Porchlight's [report](#) discusses the multiple and complex reasons for LGBTQ youth homelessness and makes a number of key recommendations as to how housing providers can support this vulnerable and stigmatised group.

### Research on EU Migration: "Open Borders – Closed Societies?"

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This [Master thesis](#) by Andrea Zierler, Vienna, Austria on the topic of EU free movement is entitled "Challenges of Social Inclusion in Times of Free Movement: A Sociological Analysis of Views and Experiences from Local Homeless Services across Europe". The report contains information on the reasons for mobility, structural barriers and individual problems, as well as some existing good practices to tackle this "new kind of homelessness in Europe".

### The State of Homelessness in Canada 2014

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The [State of Homelessness in Canada 2014](#) sets the course for ending homelessness in Canada. It discusses the factors that have contributed to the dramatic increase in homelessness over the past 25 years and proposes solutions to it.



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The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

For more information see: <http://ec.europa.eu/progress>

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