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Don't forget to check the [Events Calendar](#) for the latest events on homelessness in Europe.

FEANTSA News

- ▶ **Call for Papers – European Journal of Homelessness: Open Edition on Aspects of Homelessness in Europe [02/02/2012]**

The latest call for papers for the European Journal of Homelessness asks for contributions that analyse and interpret homelessness policies and practices in Europe. Articles that explicitly address cross-national issues are particularly encouraged. To be considered for inclusion in this open edition of the Journal, papers must be submitted to Dr. Eoin O'Sullivan (tosullvn@tcd.ie) by the 7th of April 2012. [More information about the call for papers.](#)

► **Employability and Homelessness Newsletter** [02/02/2012]

The 6th edition of "Employability and Homelessness - News from across Europe" is now available on the [FEANTSA website](#). Contents include: a Parisian programme for Professional Integration; the "Work in Stations" project gets accepted by the European Commission; the launch of PARES – a Partnership between employment services in the EU and a FEANTSA Policy Paper on the Impact of Anti-Crisis Austerity Measures on Homeless Services across the European Union.

► **EU Citizenship, Homelessness and Free Movement – Seminar in the European Parliament** [02/02/2012]

Eurodiaconia and FEANTSA, with the support of Niccolò Rinaldi MEP, will hold an afternoon seminar on EU citizenship, homelessness and EU free movement on the 8th February 2012 in the European Parliament, Brussels. The aim of this meeting is to raise visibility of the issue of intra-EU migration and some of the problems EU citizens face in exercising their right to free movement which leave many in a situation of destitution. Representatives from the European Institutions will react to the presentations and there will be the opportunity to debate the issue.

► **FEANTSA Calls for Support from Hungarian Authorities Against Criminalisation of Homeless People** [02/02/2012]

FEANTSA has sent a [letter](#) with the logos of its members and signatures of its national representatives to Hungarian Embassies and Permanent Representations, calling for their support against the criminalisation of homeless people in Hungary.

► **FEANTSA Signs Joint Call for a Comprehensive Alcohol Policy Strategy in the European Union 2013 – 2020** [02/02/2012]

Alcohol is the world's number one risk factor for ill-health and premature death amongst the 25-59 year old age group in Europe. With this in mind, twenty-two European organisations, including FEANTSA, three international organisations and sixty national organisations, coordinated by the [European Alcohol Policy Alliance](#), have called on Health Ministers in Europe to acknowledge the need for a comprehensive alcohol policy framework.

► **How to Implement the EP Resolution on the European Platform against Poverty: Recommendations from the Homeless Sector** [02/02/2012]

On the 15th of November 2011, the European Parliament (EP) adopted a resolution on the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion (EPAP). FEANTSA welcomes this initiative and the focus on homelessness as one of the main challenges that the EPAP will tackle. The Resolution establishes a link to the EP Resolution of 14th September 2011 on an EU Homelessness Strategy. This would imply the development of an action plan on homelessness which could make a huge contribution to the resolution on the EPAP, by setting-up objectives as well as networks and structures required. FEANTSA has prepared twenty-one [recommendations](#) on how to implement the EPAP resolution, which take these issues into account.

News from the European Union

► **Danish EU Presidency** [02/02/2012]

The Danish Presidency of the European Council began on the 1st January 2012. Its [website](#) has information about the Presidency and its priorities for 2012, a calendar of Presidency meetings and events, and the latest news.

► **Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2011** [02/02/2012]

The European Commission has published a [review](#) of employment and social developments in Europe in 2011, which gives a comprehensive analysis of challenges facing the EU in the areas of both employment and social policy. The 2011 edition focuses on changes in Europe's employment structure, recent increases in income inequality, the varying patterns of poverty and social exclusion, the problem of in-work poverty and challenges and measures in the area of active ageing. It also provides an updated analysis of intra-EU labour mobility.

► **EPSCO Council Conclusions on Health Gaps** [02/02/2012]

At its [meeting](#) on "Closing health gaps within the EU through concerted action to promote healthy lifestyle behaviours", the Council of the European Union's Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council concluded that "Health gaps [...] arise in part from the major unhealthy lifestyle behaviours (i.e. tobacco use, alcohol related harm, unhealthy diet and lack of physical activity) which are often linked to social determinants" and that a 'Health in all policies' approach "should be used in specific policy areas and coordinated activities that have the greatest health impact" including "health, education, [...] economy, employment and social policies." The Council commits to "[p]romot[ing] strategies for addressing health determinants using population-wide intervention complemented by actions focusing on vulnerable groups."

► **European Commission publishes 2012 Work Programme** [02/02/2012]

The European Commission has published its [Work Programme](#) for 2012. The Commission's main goals still cover tackling the effects of the economic crisis and promoting growth and jobs. To achieve inclusive growth, the Commission aims to take steps to preserve the EU's social model in order to be able to finance welfare and adapt it to the challenge posed by ageing societies. Support will be given to Member States for the creation of jobs in the health care sector and strategic partnerships will be fostered between higher education and businesses. These initiatives are expected to have an impact on tackling unemployment, social exclusion and poverty.

► **European Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization and Transition to Community Services** [02/02/2012]

FEANTSA is in contact with Mental Health Europe and other European NGOs such as the European Disability Forum, Inclusion-Europe, Eurochild and the European Network of Independent Living, regarding the development of common European guidelines on deinstitutionalization. The project is intended to help organisations supporting and bringing together disabled people, children and people with mental health problems fight for the closing of institutions, while also providing technical and methodological support for decision makers, service providers and stakeholders.

► **HABITACT E-Bulletin Issue 9 Out Now** [02/02/2012]

HABITACT is a European exchange forum on local homeless strategies. Its quarterly e-bulletin aims to provide regular updates on news, initiatives, projects and trends relating to homelessness at local level in Europe and in other parts of the world, where relevant. [Issue 9](#) of the e-bulletin contains news on HABITACT activities and developments, local news on homelessness and news on European initiatives. This issue's focus is on criminalisation and homelessness with a selection of articles which illustrates recent trends in the use of repressive approaches to people using public spaces to survive, some of the challenges these cities are faced with, and the consequences of these actions leading to the criminalisation of the most vulnerable in our society.

► **Launch of Social Services Europe** [02/02/2012]

A new European network, Social Services Europe, has been launched to strengthen the profile and position of social services, and to promote the role of not-for-profit social service providers throughout Europe. Social Services Europe brings together seven Europe-wide networks of not-for-profit providers of social and health care services, of which FEANTSA is one. Recognising the increasing pressures on social and health care service providers around Europe, Social Services Europe aims to ensure that the specificity of not-for-profit social and health care service providers is recognised and that economic, social and legal conditions exist for quality social and health care services. [Read more.](#)

News from our Members

► **Austria: BAWO Conference on « Equality in Housing » Project** [02/02/2012]

Austrian FEANTSA member, BAWO, recently held a [conference](#) on its European project, "[Equality in Housing](#)", which aims to stamp out discrimination in the housing market. The project examines how it is possible to create a discrimination-free housing market, exploring issues such as social mix, [housing rights and human rights](#), EU anti-discrimination policy, transparency and accessibility. It also criticises the idea of having maximum quotas for people of migrant origin in housing, and favours instead the concept of having minimum quotas. [More information.](#)

► **Denmark: Humanitarian Organizations Call for Action to Help Homeless Migrants in Denmark** [02/02/2012]

Four private organizations, all working with vulnerable and homeless people, have started a campaign to persuade Danish politicians to take responsibility and solve the difficult situation concerning homeless migrants in Denmark. The four organizations are Kirkens Korshaer, Hovedstadens Red Cross Denmark, and FEANTSA members Missionen blandt Hjemløse and projekt UDENFOR. The organizations have, amongst other things, invited the mayor of Copenhagen the Danish Minister for European Affairs to a discussion about the situation. The organizations have the following proposals for improving the situation for homeless migrants in Denmark: proper advice to migrants about the Danish labour market; access to existing services such as medical and health services; political initiative to put strategies and concrete proposals to improve the situation for homeless migrants on the agenda during the Danish EU Presidency. Read the press release in [Danish](#) and in [English](#).

► **France: Annual Report on Use of 115 Emergency Telephone Number** [02/02/2012]

This report documents the calls made to the French emergency number for homeless people, 115, as well as the response and follow-up the calls received in 2010. It also draws a comparison between the statistics for the two winters 2009-10 and 2010-11. The report was drawn up as a result of joint working between several stakeholders and can be downloaded, along with other related material, from the [FNARS website](#). FNARS will also draw up an analysis of activity relating to the emergency number during the winter months in 2011 and 2012.

► **Italy: Fio.PSD Press Release on Italian Condemnation By Council of Europe** [02/02/2012]

Fio.PSD has published a [press release](#) in reaction to the fact that Italy has been condemned by the European Committee of Social Rights for not fulfilling Article 31 of the Revised European Social Charter which stipulates that that countries having signed the charter must guarantee the right to housing. Paolo Pezzana, Fio.PSD President, calls for more attention to the matter from the Government, institutions and journalists, and encourages them to look to good practices across Europe as an example.

► **Netherlands: Federatie Opvang Women's Shelters Win Prize for Improving Women's Lives** [02/02/2012]

The network of Women's Shelters that are part of Federatie Opvang, FEANTSA member in the Netherlands, has been [awarded](#) the Joke Smit Prize 2011 for pioneering work in the field of combating domestic violence. The prize, for good work, is awarded by the Dutch government to a person, group or institution who/that makes a fundamental contribution to improving the position of women in the Netherlands. Federatie Opvang's women's shelters have provided a safe haven and support for women and their children in the Netherlands for more than 100 years. Every year, the shelters' 2,500 enthusiastic social workers provide care, support and advice to around 14,000 people, of whom 3,700 are children. Read the [Press Release](#) (in Dutch). Read the [Jury Report](#) (in Dutch).

► **Poland: The “Problem of Homelessness in Poland - Some Aspects : Diagnosis of the Research Team”** [02/02/2012]

A new, in-depth research report, the “Problem of Homelessness in Poland - Some Aspects: Diagnosis of the Research Team” has been published with the participation of FEANTSA members. It is available in [English](#).

► **Spain : 30,000 Take Part in ‘Flashmobs’ to Call for Homeless People’s Rights** [02/02/2012]

On the 24th November, 2011, thousands of people took part in “flashmobs” – demonstrations or performances that begin and end suddenly – in the main squares of various Spanish cities. The simultaneous demonstrations marked the high point of the 2011 leg of the Spanish Ending Homeless Campaign, *Nadie Sin Hogar*, led by FEANTSA members FACIAM (Federación de Asociaciones de Centros para Integración y Ayuda a Marginados) and Cáritas Española and FEPSH (Federación de Entidades de Apoyo a las Personas Sin Hogar), the recently created national network of homeless organisations in Spain. The theme of the 2011 campaign was a reminder that homeless people deserve dignity and that their rights – their human rights, their fundamental rights, and their social, economic, cultural and civil rights – must be respected.

► **UK: Mediation and Homeless Prevention in Scotland: A Decade of Mediation Between Young People and Their Families** [02/02/2012]

6,000 young people become homeless in Scotland every year due to relationship breakdown with their parents. Mediation has been identified as a crucial tool for tackling this problem since it entered Scottish policy in 2001. At this point there was only one service delivering mediation in Scotland. Over the past 10 years, the country has witnessed an explosion in short- and long-term projects operating a variety of models with a wide range of success. A unique research [report](#) by Edinburgh Cyrenians is based on detailed interviews representing 27 of the 42 projects that have existed in Scotland. It maps the development of this important prevention tool and looks at what has been learnt – and unlearnt - through 10 years of practice, concluding with strong recommendations for future best practice in the field in order to prevent more young people from facing the nightmare of homelessness.

Homelessness in the Headlines

► **Austria: Increase in Numbers of Evictions in Vienna** [02/02/2012]

The number of people threatened with eviction is [increasing](#) in Vienna. Compared with 2010 figures, 3% more eviction notices were received. Similarly, the number of actual evictions also rose.

► **Belgium/Denmark: Reduced Prices and Free Metro Tickets for Homeless People** [02/02/2012]

The Belgian transport company, STIB-MIVB, providing transport services in Brussels, has made one thousand bus, tram and metro tickets available to homeless people in the capital. The idea behind providing the free tickets is to make it easier for homeless people to reach shelters.

Meanwhile, in Denmark, the Copenhagen transport company, DSB, is offering three-month passes to homeless people for a nominal fee. Three months' travel in the city's two zones will cost 50 kroner, as opposed to the full price of 971 kroner. DSB previously gave out fines to homeless people travelling without a ticket, who could not pay them.

► **Belgium: NGOs Provide Shelter for Homeless Refugees in Protest** [02/02/2012]

To combat the so-called “accommodation crisis” for asylum seekers, eight Belgian NGOs recently took the matter into their own hands. In the face of what they consider insufficient responses to the situation from the government and with state accommodation places reportedly full, these NGOs decided to provide their own solution to the problem by [organising](#) emergency assistance for people who have leave to remain in Belgium but who are sent away from services because there are not enough places. These NGOs hope that their humanitarian action will send a strong message to the new Belgian government – that it would be possible to accommodate these people if the initiative were taken by the authorities responsible and that no-one should be forced to spend winter on the streets.

► **France: Launch of Ten Housing First “Pilot Regions”** [02/02/2012]

A call for interest launched in July 2011 led to the selection of ten areas in France (regions, départements and cities and their surrounding areas) where concrete solutions to homelessness will be tested "on the ground" in order to facilitate access to permanent housing solutions for homeless people and people living in poor housing situations, favouring these permanent housing solutions over temporary accommodation.

The Housing First principle is one of the main policy points of the reorganisation of housing policy in France. The French Housing Minister has been careful to stress that the policy will not "lead from an inequality in accommodation to inequality in housing" and highlighted the "fundamental need to keep places in temporary accommodation available" as well.

Last year, the Ministry organised a series of seminars on the Housing First policy in response to the dissatisfaction of professionals working in the field of emergency accommodation who criticised budget cuts and the closure of places in temporary accommodation before sufficient numbers of permanent housing were available. NGOs working with homeless people and people in precarious housing still have concerns about the policy and call for promises to have enough emergency accommodation to be respected.

Demonstrations also took place around the time of the seminars, during which NGO representatives called for the French law on the right to housing to be properly enforced and for an end to evictions.

► **Hungary: First results of criminalisation of rough sleeping in Budapest – December 2011** [02/02/2012]

Despite national and international protests, the Hungarian Parliament has accepted a law that allows for the police to arrest, fine or imprison those found in the act of "rough sleeping" as of December 1st, 2011. The only modification to the original proposal was a half sentence, which only allows this in case "the local city hall provides services for the homeless".

Tizek Társasága, the umbrella of Budapest service providers has not heard of any case yet where a person was fined or imprisoned for (repeated) rough sleeping. There have been fines and even arrests, but all combined with other minor misdemeanours, mostly drinking in public or littering (and having no fixed abode on the side). However, they fear that the worst is yet to come.

The Budapest authorities have repeatedly said that homeless shelters have failed to reduce the number of rough sleepers or re-house homeless people, and yet they are opening new establishments with capacity for several hundred people. It is unclear what role the police will play in the new shelters. In one of them there is an office for a policeman (with a separate entrance), while in the other one there is a whole wing reserved for the police, making it possible to detain people – against their will.

Meanwhile, authorities in certain areas of Budapest have started to order the demolition of huts and other (illegal) temporary constructions which serve as the homes for some people. They claim it is because of the "pressure of local voters", or that they wish to "clear the forest/given area", and pledge to offer accommodation to the people thus evicted. In practice this has mostly meant telling them about existing homeless services – but most shelters are already full for the winter. [Read more.](#)

► **Ireland: Concern over shortage of women-only shelters** [02/02/2012]

Irish homeless services saw an increase in the number of women accessing services in 2011. However, women-specific services are due to be cut with changes to emergency homeless services in Dublin. 10 concerned groups wrote to the state's body for dealing with homelessness in the capital, the Dublin Region Homeless Executive. They say that having only mixed emergency homeless services is a retrograde step for homeless services in Dublin. "If all emergency accommodation was to be mixed, this would deter a great number of women from accessing these services, leaving them at risk in unsuitable accommodation and precarious situations. If they do access a male-dominated homeless service, there is a huge potential for problems." Researchers at Trinity College Dublin, who undertook 56 interviews with homeless women, found that many of the women expressed a desire for women-only accommodation.

► **Ireland: Homelessness a Priority for New Housing Minister** [02/02/2012]

The new Housing Minister in Ireland has said that tackling homelessness will be her [main priority](#), and that regeneration and supporting homeowners struggling to pay their mortgages were other areas she would focus on.

► **Lithuania: Capital City Bans Begging and Giving Money to Beggars** [02/02/2012]

Lithuania's capital city, Vilnius, recently introduced a ban on begging that not only punishes those who beg but also those who give, with fines of up to 2,000 litas (\$770).

Rights groups say the ban will only add to the difficult situation experienced by homeless people. Lithuania is one of Europe's poorest countries and, like other countries, it has been implementing severe welfare cuts that could affect homeless people negatively. However, the Mayor of Vilnius believes the ban will help beggars to find more sustainable ways to make a living. He said there are plenty of homeless shelters for the poor in Vilnius, "but they stay on the streets because it is a kind of business."

Police in Vilnius did not issue fines at the start of the ban. Instead they handed out cards to beggars with addresses and phone numbers of charities and homeless shelters. Stricter enforcement is expected to begin in January. It is estimated that there are about 10,000 homeless people in the capital.

► **Netherlands: Sharp Increase in Numbers of Homeless Young People** [02/02/2012]

Federatie Opvang (FO) has reported that a record number of young people have presented as homeless to the country's homeless services. The national figure is at 8,800 young people. Between 2008 and the end of 2010, the number of young people between 18 and 22 years using the nation's homeless services rose from 6,275 to 7,196 - a 16 percent increase. 1,595 children between 12 and 17 also made use of the services.

Some of the biggest problems faced by these young people are their general low levels of education and training and their financial position. FO predicts that governmental austerity measures will only make the problem worse and is concerned about the effects of reductions in young people's disability benefits, for example, and about cuts to supported employment services and the tightening of support budgets.

► **Norway: Fears Over Increase in Southern-European Street Homelessness** [02/02/2012]

Norwegian cities fear an increase in the number of Southern-European migrants in the country who become homeless. The [city of Oslo](#) predicts that it will see 2000 more homeless Southern-European migrants in spring 2012. The Oslo Urban Environment Agency is looking to design a strategy to deal with the predicted increase.

► **Portugal: More Street Homelessness and Full Shelters Challenge Institutions** [02/02/2012]

More homeless people, shelters running at capacity and more demand for organisations distributing food and blankets are an increasing challenge for institutions, some of which are already incapable to offer solutions in Portugal, say reports.

The profile of homeless people is changing in Portugal and experts now say that anyone can become homeless at any time – people who were previously in long-term employment, for example, or had a house by can no longer pay their mortgage, are now finding themselves homeless or needing to use free food services. The average age of homeless people has gone down by ten years in the past two years, and is now between 27 and 30 years old. A majority of men access homeless services but women find other ways to keep from living on the streets, such as resorting to prostitution or working as cleaners.

This situation has worsened as a result of the economic and financial crisis, but was already difficult before the crisis hit, say experts.

► **Sweden: National Mapping of Homelessness in Sweden** [02/02/2012]

A national mapping of homelessness in Sweden has been carried out by the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare. The mapping is based on data from municipalities, authorities, institutions and NGOs. The measurement period was limited to a week, 2nd-8th May 2011. The mapping shows that homelessness has increased in all homelessness situations since the 2005 mapping. However, fewer people were sleeping rough during the measurement week compared to 2005. This can be seen as a sign that one of the objectives in the Government's Homelessness Strategy 2007-2009 – that everyone shall be guaranteed a roof over his or her head – has been taken seriously. See a [summary](#) of the report (in English) for more information. [More information](#).

► **Switzerland: Rejected Asylum Seekers to Remove Belongings from Migrant Reception Centre to "Combat Drug Trafficking"** [02/02/2012]

An experiment run by a migrant reception centre in Vaud, Switzerland, will require the unsuccessful asylum seekers for whom they provide shelter to leave the centre every morning, taking all their belongings with them, and only return in the evening. This experiment will mean that these homeless migrants will not have a permanent bed in the establishment, and will not have a place to store their belongings. The reception centre says that this move is to combat drug trafficking.

► **UK: Six-Month Report on "No Second Night Out" Pilot Project Shows Reduced Risk of Return to the Streets** [02/02/2012]

Rough sleepers who visited the No Second Night Out (NSNO) hub were half as likely to return to sleeping on the streets than those who didn't, a [report](#) on the UK pilot project, being run in London, has shown. The findings show that only 16% of new rough sleepers who attended the London NSNO Hub were seen sleeping rough again in the city, compared to 34% of those who did not attend the Hub. Homeless Link have made a [summary](#) of the report findings. [More info](#).

Announcements

► **Call for Partners for Transnational Exchange Project on Housing First** [02/02/2012]

[L'association des Cités du Secours Catholique](#) plans to respond to a call for innovative transnational projects under the European Social Fund in France. They are looking for 2-3 partners from different Member States to share experiences in the area of social and professional inclusion of homeless people. Their response will be submitted by the end of March. Specifically, they plan to focus, within the context of a Housing First approach, on: social work practice in Housing First projects; different target groups in Housing First projects; the role of peer workers.

Funding secured in the framework of the call can only be used to organize activities in France, or to pay travel costs for participants from France to exchange with partners in other countries. Interested parties may therefore wish to explore whether similar calls under the ESF exist in their countries. Partners would need to make a commitment to receive French colleagues to visit their different projects within the 2nd half of 2012 and sign a cooperation agreement that would allow them to contribute to co-financing by using time spent on the project. For more information, contact Caroline.KLEIN@acsc.asso.fr

► **Homeless People Find a Voice at the Olympic and Paralympic Games** [02/02/2012]

Award-winning UK charity [Streetwise Opera](#) will be presenting an "Open Mic Showcase" during the London 2012 Festival, an event accompanying the 2012 Olympic Games, to platform the skills of 200 performers who have experienced homelessness from the UK and abroad. The [event](#), "With One Voice", will be hosted by the Royal Opera House in London. Its aim is to ensure that homeless people are involved in the activities and developments that will take place thanks to the London 2012 Olympics. This will be the first time in Olympic history that homeless people have been given an official platform.

▶ **Save the Date – 8th June 2012: Seminar on Funding Strategies to Tackle Homelessness** [02/02/2012]

The Committee of the Regions, HABITACT and FEANTSA will host the 2012 seminar on local homeless strategies in Brussels on Friday 8th June 2012. This year's seminar will address funding strategies to tackle homelessness, with a specific focus on budgeting and prioritising, diversification of funding sources and cost-effectiveness. Speakers will be from a cross-section of European countries with experience in the area of funding strategies to tackle homelessness. A programme will be available shortly.

Publications

▶ **"Quick Guide" to Preventing Evictions** [02/02/2012]

projekt UDENFOR, one of FEANTSA's Danish members, have produced a "quick guide" to preventing evictions. Visit project UDENFOR's [website](#) for more information and to download the guide.

▶ **Accompany Dying People - Illness, Death and Mourning in Facilities for Homeless People** [02/02/2012]

The Hamburg Regional Centre for Health Promotion in the Community, Germany has produced an informative [booklet](#) on illness, death and mourning and homeless services.

▶ **Fighting Poverty: Contribution to the Debate and Action on Policy** [02/02/2012]

The Belgian Service de lutte contre la pauvreté, la précarité et l'exclusion sociale (Service for combating poverty, precariousness and social exclusion) published its biannual report for 2010-11 in December 2011. The [report](#) explores the right to housing and the difficult situation endured by young people experiencing poverty. It is available in Dutch, French and German and a summary is available in English.

▶ **Homeless People and Neoliberal Policies in St. Petersburg** [02/02/2012]

A [study](#) from the University of Lund examines how survival strategies of homeless people in St. Petersburg, Russia, have been affected by the onset of neoliberalism. The researchers concluded that, since 2000, a thorough urban revitalization of the city has seriously reconfigured improvised spaces used by homeless people, "thereby jeopardizing their survival."

▶ **Promoting the Social Inclusion of Roma** [02/02/2012]

The EU Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion have produced a [synthesis report](#) which brings together the conclusions of 27 reports produced by the Network's national members on the social inclusion of Roma in EU Member States. These reports were drawn up at the request of the European Commission in the framework of its EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, launched in April 2011.

▶ **Social Housing Across Europe** [02/02/2012]

On the initiative of France's interministerial delegate for accommodation and access to housing for homeless or inadequately housed people, a publication has been launched which answers the questions: Who makes the decisions on social housing in general and 'disadvantaged' people in particular? Where is the focus? How do the various government tiers and regulating bodies interact, and how do decisions ripple across Europe?

▶ **Study on Life Expectancy and Homelessness** [02/02/2012]

[Homelessness: A Silent Killer](#) is a research briefing on mortality amongst homeless people in England. It shows the consequences of homelessness and the detrimental impact it can have on health and well being. It finds that the average age of death for homeless people is just 47 years old, which compares to 77 for the general population. The average age of death for homeless women specifically is 43, whereas for women in general, it is 80 years old. Whilst disease causes the vast majority of deaths amongst the general population, homeless people are more likely to die from external causes. There are much higher incidences of suicide and deaths as a result of traffic accidents, infections and falls are more common.

▶ **The State of Homelessness in America - 2012 Report** [02/02/2012]

"The State of Homelessness in America 2012" examines homelessness in the United States between 2009 and 2011, a period of economic downturn in the country. The [report](#) shows that, despite the bad economy, homelessness decreased by 1 percent during this period. It is likely that the reduction was thanks to significant State investment in homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing of people who did become homeless.

▶ **Welfare and Housing** [02/02/2012]

Why is it that the number of homeless people in a welfare state like Norway is still rising? Is it possible to solve complex social policy and social housing responsibilities towards poor people, criminals, drug users, people with mental health problems and prison leavers? The theme of this [book](#) is housing and welfare and it explores how broad, interdisciplinary social housing can contribute towards reducing homelessness.



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