



**FEANTSA**

Flash  
June 2012

## FEANTSA News

- ▶ [ENHW LinkedIn Group](#)
- ▶ [ETHOS in New Language Versions](#)
- ▶ [European Research Conference: Access to Housing for Homeless People in Europe – Programme and Registrations](#)
- ▶ [European Seminar on Local Homelessness Strategies 2012](#)
- ▶ [FEANTS Signs Joint Letter on Avoiding Imminent Health Crisis in Europe](#)
- ▶ [FEANTSA and Housing Rights Watch Campaign - Poverty is Not a Crime!](#)
- ▶ [More Than 1000 Twitter Followers](#)
- ▶ [National Reform Programme Statement – Homelessness High On the Agenda](#)
- ▶ [Social Innovation Guide](#)
- ▶ [Social Rental Agencies Toolkit](#)

## News from the European Union

- ▶ [Campaign: EU Money for Poverty Reduction NOW!](#)
- ▶ [Cyprus to Take Over EU Council Presidency](#)
- ▶ [EPSCO Council Urges Commission to Develop Adequate Schemes for Homeless People](#)
- ▶ [EU Employment and Social Situation Quarterly Review – June 2012](#)
- ▶ [Eurobarometer Report on the Social Impact of the Crisis](#)
- ▶ [HABITACT Policy Bank to Go Public](#)
- ▶ [Launch of Social Services Europe Website](#)
- ▶ [MEPs Call for Legal Right to a Bank Account for All EU Citizens](#)
- ▶ [PEP Conclusions Call for Action on Homelessness](#)

## News from our Members

- ▶ [Belgium: "Exiting Homelessness" Conference Proceedings](#)
- ▶ [Denmark: "What is Your Dream?"](#)
- ▶ [UK: Campaign for Homeless Women](#)
- ▶ [UK: Charities Warn Homelessness Rise if Housing Benefit Cut for Under-25s](#)

## Homelessness in the Headlines

- ▶ [Belgium: Doctors of the World Already Thinking of Winter – A Call to Regions](#)
- ▶ [Croatia: Legal Aid and Empowerment Project for Homeless People](#)
- ▶ [France: Rehousing for People in Emergency Accommodation](#)
- ▶ [France: Study into the Number of Deaths Among Homeless People and the Causes of Death](#)

- ▶ **Hungary: Another Budapest District to Evict Homeless People**
- ▶ **Italy: Legal Aid Group Propose Law on Right to Healthcare for Homeless People**
- ▶ **Latvia: Riga Considers Reducing Comfort in Night Shelters**
- ▶ **Luxembourg: National Homelessness Strategy**
- ▶ **Serbia: Homelessness Conference**
- ▶ **UK: Homeless Figures On the Rise**
- ▶ **UK: Hospitals Discharging Homeless People Back onto the Street**

## Publications

- ▶ **Affordable Housing for All – Policy Implications of Shrinking Budgets**
- ▶ **Household Debt Advisory Services in the European Union**
- ▶ **Losing and Finding a Home: Homelessness, Multiple Exclusion and Everyday Lives**
- ▶ **Re-Conceptualising Approaches to Meeting the Health Needs of Homeless People**
- ▶ **Rehousing Homeless People in the Wintertime**
- ▶ **Study on Migration and Homelessness in Nord-Rhein-Westphalia**
- ▶ **Sustain: A Longitudinal Study of Housing Wellbeing in the Private Rented Sector**

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

## FEANTSA News

- ▶ **ENHW LinkedIn Group** [29/06/2012]  
The European Network of Homeless Health Workers has a LinkedIn [discussion group](#).
- ▶ **ETHOS in New Language Versions** [29/06/2012]  
ETHOS, the European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion, is now available in [German](#), [Hebrew](#), [Portuguese](#), [Slovenian](#) and [Ukrainian](#).
- ▶ **European Research Conference: Access to Housing for Homeless People in Europe – Programme and Registrations** [29/06/2012]  
Registrations are open for the European Research Conference on “Access to Housing for Homeless People in Europe”. The conference will be held on the 21st September 2012 at the University of York, United Kingdom. You can consult the [Draft Programme](#) already. For more information and to register, please consult the FEANTSA Research [website](#).
- ▶ **European Seminar on Local Homelessness Strategies 2012** [29/06/2012]  
FEANTSA co-hosted a [seminar](#) focusing on funding strategies and relating to homelessness, with HABITACT and the EU Committee of the Regions on the 8th June 2012. The programme included: planning and budgeting; diversification of funding sources and cost-effectiveness. The seminar report and the seminar presentations are now online. This years' seminar was also on Twitter.
- ▶ **FEANTS Signs Joint Letter on Avoiding Imminent Health Crisis in Europe** [29/06/2012]  
Nine MEPs and 65 trade unions, civil society organisations, health organisations and industry associations sent an [open letter](#) to the June Summit of the European Council on health and austerity measures, which calls on European leaders to stop cutting essential health and welfare systems and to start focusing on ordinary people living in Europe coping with the dire impact of a financial crisis of which they are the first victims. The coalition is led by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), whose recent [briefing note](#) summarises the evidence of the impact of the financial crisis on human health. The evidence in rising suicides, mental health problems and rates of infectious disease are warning signs that current policies are leading Europe in a dangerous direction. FEANTSA was one of the signatories. See the EPHA [press release](#) for more information.
- ▶ **FEANTSA and Housing Rights Watch Campaign - Poverty is Not a Crime!** [29/06/2012]  
On 8th June 2012, FEANTSA and Housing Rights Watch launched a campaign against the criminalisation and penalisation of homelessness and poverty in Europe, called “Poverty is Not a Crime!”. The campaign was officially launched with parallel events in Belgium, France and selected cities across Europe. Visit [www.povertyisnotacrime.org](http://www.povertyisnotacrime.org) if you want to be involved in the campaign. Materials, including t-shirts and posters, will soon be available via the website.
- ▶ **More Than 1000 Twitter Followers** [29/06/2012]  
FEANTSA has more than 1000 followers on Twitter! [Follow us](#) for updates on FEANTSA activities and shared information about homelessness. You can also keep up with what we are doing on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).
- ▶ **National Reform Programme Statement – Homelessness High On the Agenda** [29/06/2012]  
In the framework of the EU2020 Strategy, EU Member States must submit National Reform Programme

(NRP) reports every year, documenting their progress on social inclusion and tackling poverty. FEANTSA analysed each report and extracted information on homelessness, housing policies for homeless people, employability initiatives and the quality of social services, which it includes in its [response](#) to the European Commission. Twelve countries explicitly mention homelessness, which shows that Investment in homelessness reduction is emerging as a priority in the Europe2020 growth strategy.

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► **Social Innovation Guide** [29/06/2012]

Social innovation is an increasingly central area of policy and research in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy. "[Social Innovation to Combat Homelessness: A Guide](#)" makes the case that homelessness is an important thematic priority for social innovation, and suggests areas of focus where social innovation can support the fight against homelessness in the EU. It argues that homeless service providers can be key actors in social innovation and makes recommendations as to how the sector can best be supported in developing, testing and scaling up innovations in order to combat homelessness and thus contribute towards progress on the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

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► **Social Rental Agencies Toolkit** [29/06/2012]

This [Good Practice Briefing](#), entitled "Social Rental Agencies: An Innovative Housing-led Response to Homelessness" was drafted by Pascal De Decker of Sint-Lucas School of Architecture in co-operation with the FEANTSA office and the members of the FEANTSA Housing Working Group. The FEANTSA housing working group believes that ending homelessness requires developing, testing and scaling up a range of effective housing-led responses to homelessness. This report puts forward Social Rental Agencies (SRAs) as an example of a housing-led innovation in the area of homelessness. It demonstrates that the SRA model has considerable potential to help meet the housing needs of homeless people in Europe.

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## News from the European Union

► **Campaign: EU Money for Poverty Reduction NOW!** [29/06/2012]

EAPN and members, FEANTSA, Caritas Europa, ENAR, Eurochild, Eurodiaconia, AGE Platform, the Salvation Army, plus Social Platform, Solidar, EWL, EDF, EASPD, ICSW Europe, Workability Europe and IFSW Europe [call](#) on EU leaders to respect the commitment they made when agreeing the EU poverty-reduction target and urge them to invest EU Money for poverty reduction by:

- Allocating at least 25% of the Cohesion Policy budget to the European Social Fund (ESF)
- Earmarking at least 20% of the European Social Fund to poverty reduction and social inclusion.

Support the campaign for 20% allocation of the European Social Fund for social inclusion and poverty reduction by signing the petition.

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► **Cyprus to Take Over EU Council Presidency** [29/06/2012]

Cyprus will take on the rotating Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers on 1st July 2012. In a recent [speech](#), the Cypriot ambassador to the EU said that the priorities for the six-month Presidency will be to adhere to the fundamental values of the EU, ensuring solidarity, social cohesion and a better quality of life for EU citizens, especially young people, as well as effectiveness and growth. One of the key issues that will be dealt with during the Cyprus Presidency is the negotiations of the new Multiannual Financial Framework covering the period 2014-2020, which is a mechanism for ensuring that EU spending is predictable and subject to budgetary discipline. More information is available on the Cypriot Presidency's [website](#).

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► **EPSCO Council Urges Commission to Develop Adequate Schemes for Homeless People** [29/06/2012]

In its [Conclusions](#) on "Responding to demographic challenges through enhanced participation in the labour market and society by all", the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council of the European Union (bringing together Social Affairs Ministers from all EU Member States), invites the Member States and the European Commission to "develop and promote adequate schemes for persons who are homeless".

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► **EU Employment and Social Situation Quarterly Review – June 2012** [29/06/2012]

According to the latest EU Employment and Social Situation Quarterly [Review](#) - which gives special focus to South-North mobility, homelessness, material deprivation, social protection expenditure and longer-term trends in EU labour markets - the labour market and social situation in the EU have continued to be unfavourable overall and shows signs of polarisation. The Review analyses the situation in the public and healthcare sectors and looks closely at the labour markets and social situation in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

According to the review, unfavourable labour market conditions, especially for some population segments, as well as insufficient social protection expenditure, aggravated social challenges for households. Among indicators of this are worsening household financial situations, material deprivation, homelessness, and forced south-north mobility. It also says that homelessness has grown across the EU as many people experienced a sudden job loss or income drop in the recession. Young people and foreign nationals have been disproportionately affected. However, some countries, e.g. the UK, Ireland and Estonia, suffering from recession and the collapse of the housing bubble managed to contain the spread of homelessness through effective assistance schemes.

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► **Eurobarometer Report on the Social Impact of the Crisis** [29/06/2012]

The latest European Commission Eurobarometer (public opinion survey) [report](#) on "Monitoring the social impact of the crisis: public perceptions in the European Union (Wave 6)" has sections on the perceived degree of financial difficulty experienced by European households, views on the future affordability of accommodation, opinions about the employment situation and changes in healthcare and social care affordability. While few people overall feel at risk of losing their home, the level of concern about losing one's home has increased significantly in some Member States. In relation to employment, nearly one respondent in five is not confident that they will manage to hold on to their job over the next 12 months.

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► **HABITACT Policy Bank to Go Public** [29/06/2012]

[HABITACT](#) compiles information in its online [Policy Bank](#) in order to facilitate information exchange on local

homeless strategies. The Policy Bank contains entries for cities in many EU countries giving information on their homelessness policies and services. Previously only available to members, the Policy Bank will become public on the 2nd July 2012 after a decision of HABITACT steering group to make more resources available to local civil servants responsible for designing homelessness policies. More information at [info@habitact.eu](mailto:info@habitact.eu)

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► **Launch of Social Services Europe Website** [29/06/2012]

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 healthcare services, of which FEANTSA is one. Its website is now [online](#).

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► **MEPs Call for Legal Right to a Bank Account for All EU Citizens** [29/06/2012]

Having a bank account should be made a legal right for the 10% of EU citizens who currently do not have one, including homeless people, those on very low incomes, students, people with no credit record and expatriate workers, the European Parliament has [said](#) in a Resolution. MEPs called on the European Commission to table legislation by January 2013 to tackle this financial exclusion. Low-cost payment accounts for everyday transactions must be offered to all, the resolution says.

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► **PEP Conclusions Call for Action on Homelessness** [29/06/2012]

The [Conclusions](#) of the Danish EU Presidency Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty say that more action on homelessness is needed. Key messages on the reality of poverty, homelessness and housing exclusion are that: poverty and homelessness can happen to anyone; discrimination is a major problem; the crisis has created additional profiles of people at risk; authorities should stop fighting the poor; homelessness and housing exclusion are a cause of poverty, social exclusion, unemployment and health problems as well as a symptom; there is a dramatic lack of access to social housing; the private rental market is currently insufficiently regulated or incentivised to offer a solution and shelters do not provide a long-term solution to homelessness.

Key messages on the approaches and solutions needed are that: access to housing is a basic human right, which needs to be enforced; Housing-First approaches are worth developing; the complexity of homelessness and housing exclusion requires integrated solutions; using unoccupied buildings could house millions; services must be joined up at the point of contact with homeless people; people experiencing homelessness and housing exclusion must be involved in the decisions that affect their lives and there is need for further development of integrated housing and homelessness strategies at local, regional, national and EU level.

The delegates called for real homelessness and inclusion strategies in the EU, including improved data collection and a better understanding of the realities facing people at risk of homelessness and housing exclusion and backed by strategic use of the European Structural Funds. A central message from delegates was that they have had enough of measures to combat the economic crisis that create more poverty and make the 'poor' pay for the crisis.

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## News from our Members

► **Belgium: "Exiting Homelessness" Conference Proceedings** [29/06/2012]

The Relais Social de Charleroi has published the proceedings of its October 2011 conference called "Sortir du sans-abrisme: Interrogeons les mythes de l'action sociale" ("Exiting Homelessness: Questioning the Myths Around Social Intervention") [online](#) and in book format.

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► **Denmark: "What is Your Dream?"** [29/06/2012]

Many dreams were shared when sixty Danish homeless people met up on FEANTSA member SAND's annual course: dreams such as "acceptance", "a healthy life", "a flat", "a hug", "a million".

In May this year, SAND, the national organisation of the homeless in Denmark, held a 2-day seminar on dreams. Under the headline "Homeless dreams – homeless people's dreams", sixty homeless people from throughout the country gathered and dived deeper into not only their own personal dreams but also their hopes and dreams for the future of all homeless people: How do we avoid people ending up in homelessness and, equally important: what form of support is required to get out of homelessness?

There was the dream of sailing away in a yacht, of travelling around the world, winning the lottery, but also of being reunited with long lost friends and family, of a flat, a hot meal... but most prevalent was the dream of being listened to and taken seriously instead of merely being treated as a case or a number when it comes to your own life. For more information, please contact the author, [Sofie Bay-Petersen](#), at SAND. Photos of the event, by Tina Arnakitsog, SAND, are available [here](#).

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► **UK: Campaign for Homeless Women** [29/06/2012]

St Mungo's has launched an 18-month campaign entitled [Rebuilding Shattered Lives](#), which aims to raise awareness of the issues faced by homeless women and find policy and practice solutions. The charity says more than ten percent of people sleeping rough in London are women and half of those living in temporary accommodation are women, but the services available to them have been mainly designed for men, so adapted solutions must be found.

Experts from different charity and voluntary organisations will gather evidence from practitioners and individuals across the UK on nine themes including domestic abuse, families and children, childhood trauma, employment and education. St Mungo's female clients will also contribute their ideas and experiences of what works. St Mungo's will to produce a policy report at the end of the campaign with the aim of improving the life of homeless women and create a national showcase of best practice.

In St Mungo's experience, homeless women can often face greater hurdles than homeless men. A 2012 survey of St Mungo's female clients found:

- 34 per cent that have slept rough say domestic violence led directly to their homelessness
- 45 per cent are mothers, many of whom have been separated from their children and are struggling to cope with limited contact with them
- 66 per cent have a mental health problem
- 55 per cent have a substance use need (either drugs and/or alcohol).

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► **UK: Charities Warn Homelessness Rise if Housing Benefit Cut for Under-25s** [29/06/2012]

Ten UK charities, of which Crisis, Homeless Link and Shelter are FEANTSA members, have sent an [open letter](#) to the Prime Minister warning that his proposal to cut housing benefit for people under 25 could drive up homelessness at a time where youth unemployment is already at record levels and households are struggling. They say that many young people don't have the option of living with their parents, for example people who have grown up in the state care system.

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## Homelessness in the Headlines

► **Belgium: Doctors of the World Already Thinking of Winter – A Call to Regions** [29/06/2012]

Doctors of the World Belgium has called on the country's three regions to use the summer months to "develop appropriate healthcare measures" for vulnerable people and people in housing need. They have reiterated the fact that 82% of vulnerable people do not have a personal doctor and call for measures to ensure that at least 80% of people leaving night shelters have access to a doctor. Shelters should use the time when people are in their shelters during the winter to help them with administrative problems they may have; 52% of them have no health insurance for example. Doctors of the World also call for a policy of prevention for people living on the streets, such as flu vaccinations. Lastly, they have repeated their call urging housing ministers to make sure each city has a list of housing that is adapted to the needs of people made vulnerable by homelessness.

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► **Croatia: Legal Aid and Empowerment Project for Homeless People** [29/06/2012]

A project run by the Law Clinic at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, Croatia, in cooperation with city libraries providing computer skills training to homeless people, targets homeless people, providing them with legal aid and informing them about their rights. At the Clinic, students provide free legal aid to citizens who need such help. So far, the Clinic has prepared several presentations covering social rights, health insurance, residence and domiciliation and veterans' rights, which can be given to people working with homeless people and homeless people themselves. The Clinic is thinking about expanding the project to other cities in Croatia.

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► **France: Rehousing for People in Emergency Accommodation** [29/06/2012]

The French Housing Minister has unveiled a series of measures that aim to guarantee housing-excluded people « a way out of the winter emergency accommodation system » and « to make sure that every person and every family can be rehoused ». The allocation of housing or other sustainable types of accommodation should be done on a case-by-case basis, said the minister.

In the Paris region, where there is greater demand for accommodation, three emergency accommodation centres will stay open after the 1st of July cut-off point, to "ensure sustainable accommodation especially for homeless women, of which some have experienced violence." The rest will close as normal - about which FEANTSA member FNARS has [expressed](#) its surprise.

The minister demonstrated her wish to break free of a « seasonal system, which reproduces the same distresses every year ». The Délégation interministérielle à l'hébergement et à l'accès au logement (interministerial committee for accommodation and access to housing) will be given the task of putting in place a system that can provide solutions all year round.

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► **France: Study into the Number of Deaths Among Homeless People and the Causes of Death** [29/06/2012]

A new project will study the number of rough sleepers who die in France and the causes of their deaths. The Collectif Les Morts de la Rue (Street Deaths Collective) draws attention to this reality and commemorates the homeless people who die whilst on the streets – 264 so far this year in France, 395 in 2011. Its aim is to raise awareness of the situation and encourage political action in favour of homeless people. The group wants to raise awareness about the fact that the average age of death for rough sleepers is 48 years, whereas for the general population it is 80 years. Contrary to popular belief, hunger and cold are not the main causes of death (they only account for 5% of all street deaths) – rather violence causes half of all the deaths. Suicide rates are also 100 times higher among this group than among the general population. In the absence of official statistics, the Collective analyses hospital, police and NGO records as well as relying on information given to them by local residents. They suspect these numbers are underestimated. One reason for the lack of official statistics is that pathologists are not obliged to record a death if the person is homeless. Another is that the homeless people who die are not necessarily in hospital, so their deaths can go unnoticed. Deaths among people living outside are only officially recorded during the wintertime when special measures are in place. The Collective also believes that deaths among homeless people are effectively hushed up because admitting their existence would admit the failure of public policy. However, a change is taking place – the Collective has managed to secure a long-term cooperation agreement with the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research which will study the existing statistics and carry out a large-scale evaluation of the situation.

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► **Hungary: Another Budapest District to Evict Homeless People** [29/06/2012]

Köbánya, the 10th district of Budapest, has joined those municipalities that are trying to get rid of homeless people living in forests. There are about 50 homeless people living in the Terebesi forest. Some of them live in wooden sheds or cabins and even have vegetable gardens or keep small animals. Even though they have no legal claim over the land, some of them have been there for more than 15 years. The mayor of Köbánya claims that evicting them would serve everyone's best interests, including the homeless people. He wishes to make the forest available as a leisure park. The District has asked a charity to offer alternatives for the people now living in the forest: which really means moving into the new hostel created by the infamous mayor of the 8th district of Budapest, one of the champions of the national bill criminalising rough sleeping, or to another homeless shelter.

Various NGOs – among them, Tizek Társasága, the umbrella organization of Budapest homeless service providers as well as FEANTSA member Menhely Foundation – have called on the District to stop the forced eviction. They warn the District that it cannot evict people without going through the normal channels and without officially notifying the people about what is going to happen. The NGOs agree that it is a shame

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that some Hungarians do not have the means to live in a proper home and have to build wooden cabins for themselves in forests in the 21st century. However, it would be a much bigger shame if authorities evicted them from these homes by force, while the Hungarian Parliament is planning yet another significant cut in the already slight level of housing support, and has closed the Public Cooperation Foundation, which was responsible for allocating public funds to homeless services. Tizek has called on the District to put the evictions on hold and to include local service providers in drafting a proposal that would offer a real, long-term solution to the homeless people living in the forest. [More information](#).

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► **Italy: Legal Aid Group Propose Law on Right to Healthcare for Homeless People** [29/06/2012]

In Italy, losing one's house also means losing the right to have basic medical assistance in the form of a general practitioner (family doctor), which is reserved by law for those who have a legal residence. People who lose their homes are deleted from the local register and only have the right to emergency healthcare after that. With 40 thousand Italians at risk of losing their homes as a result of the crisis, these criteria mean that the guarantee of a constitutional right to healthcare for all is under threat. The organization "Avvocato di Strada Onlus" has criticised this situation and has drawn up an ad-hoc proposal for a law to put it right. They have sent the proposal to a senator and a member of parliament, asking them to present it to parliament and the Health Minister.

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► **Latvia: Riga Considers Reducing Comfort in Night Shelters** [29/06/2012]

The Riga City Council welfare department is considering a possibility to reduce comfort in night shelters "so that homeless people have less wish to stay in them, especially young homeless people", according to the belief that special services should only be provided to people with a short experience of homelessness so that they do not get used to life as a homeless person. Statistics show that the number of visitors at shelters has risen by at least one third since 2008 - from 1,949 people in 2008 to 3,289 people in 2011. The number of young people staying in shelters is also rising. The city council will also ban begging in the city centre given the increasing numbers of tourists that visit it.

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► **Luxembourg: National Homelessness Strategy** [29/06/2012]

A parliamentary question in the Luxembourgish Parliament led to a discussion on the possibility of having a national homelessness strategy in the country. Reports say there was widespread agreement among the politicians that this was useful and that such a strategy should focus on Housing First. As a result, the strategy should be ready by the end of the year.

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► **Serbia: Homelessness Conference** [29/06/2012]

The Conference "Without House – Without Home: Homelessness in Serbia" held in Belgrade by the Housing Center and the DISC from United Kingdom, presented the findings of the "Social inclusion of the homeless persons in Serbia" project (financed by the EU under the "Support Civil Society in Serbia" programme) and launched a public debate on homelessness in Serbia. The conference showed that there are prevailing structural causes of homelessness in the country, such as migration, privatisation, a lack of measures and funds for protecting vulnerable people, low levels of information and the inaccessibility of social services for homeless people. Also, housing exclusion hides the problems of homelessness and reduces empathy of other people towards homeless people in Serbia.

Therefore, the recommendations from the Conference relate to: establishing a homelessness advocacy group; defining homelessness in Serbia in line with the [ETHOS](#) Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion; preparing a homelessness strategy, which will [rely on](#) and [continue](#) the National Social Housing Strategy; networking between key actors; establishing an integrated system of monitoring and recording homelessness in Serbia; developing an efficient social housing system; evaluating the existing social care system towards homeless; increasing access and coverage of social services; developing innovative and integrated social care services; supporting employment for homeless people; involving civil society organisations as providers of social care services; abolishing fees for issuing personal documents for homeless people and working on awareness raising about homelessness.

The related research [report](#) by the Serbian Housing Centre gives recommendations on how to improve homelessness services and policy in the country, including developing a homelessness strategy, focusing on prevention, shelter and support for a sustainable exit from homelessness; networking and involving all stakeholders; developing a definition of homelessness; collecting data on homelessness; evaluating existing and alternative support solutions; developing an effective social housing system; improving access to and support provided by of social protection; developing new social services; involving the NGO sector and raising awareness about homelessness.

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► **UK: Homeless Figures On the Rise** [29/06/2012]

Official figures show that 13,130 people were accepted as homeless between January and March 2012 in the UK, 16% more than the same period in 2011 and two per cent more than in the previous quarter. From May 2011 to May 2012, there were 50,290 acceptances, up from 44,160 in 2010-11. On 31st March there were 50,430 households in temporary accommodation, five per cent more than on the same date a year earlier, and two per cent more than in the previous quarter. Almost two-thirds of those households have dependent children, the highest proportion since records began in 1998. Last year, in the first rise since 2004, an extra 500 households who became homeless included a pregnant woman. The figures also show a rise in homeless lone parents - 25,620 compared with 21,870 last year. Commentators say that after years of falls this rise is an indirect result of the changes in the housing benefit system and people are finding it increasingly difficult to find affordable housing. At the same time, figures released by Homeless Link (FEANTSA member) reveal that almost 4,000 bed spaces have been lost in accommodation services for homeless people, while demand has risen.

The UK Housing Minister has now announced that funding will be increased for advice and support services for frontline staff helping families facing homelessness. The funding, to be shared between Shelter (FEANTSA member) and the Citizens Advice Bureau, will help provide: training for homelessness advisors; a National Information Service to keep advisers up-to-date on homelessness prevention law; help with mortgage debt and money advice for those at risk of repossession and legal services for local advice bodies like councils and voluntary organisations.

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► **UK: Hospitals Discharging Homeless People Back onto the Street** [29/06/2012]

A [report](#) commissioned by the UK government has urged UK hospitals to do more to help homeless patients. The report, "Improving Hospital Admission and Discharge for People who are Homeless", gives the results of a study of 85 homeless people, hospitals, local authorities and homelessness agencies, and is a guide for hospitals on the treatment of homeless patients. The report encourages interagency working between hospitals, local authorities and the voluntary sector in order to improve outcomes for homeless people. The report, by FEANTSA members Homeless Link and St Mungo's, revealed that more than 70% of homeless patients are being discharged from hospital back onto the streets. It therefore advises hospitals to identify homeless patients quickly, and involve housing teams or hostels in their care, in order to avoid this happening. Whilst acknowledging that some staff feel patients' housing needs are beyond the remit of hospitals, the report says an intensive approach to homeless can stop them repeatedly entering the emergency ward. Homeless patients are also thought to cost at least five times as much as other patients, because they often have multiple health problems and repeated admissions, so the report says that hospitals can save money by connecting homeless patients with services.

## Publications

► **Affordable Housing for All – Policy Implications of Shrinking Budgets** [29/06/2012]

The European Housing Forum has made [recommendations](#) to the EU, based on a series of four lectures on "Good housing for all: cities as frontrunners, or under pressure? EU policy recommendations from the URBACT II project SUITE", "Shaping or Shadowing? Understanding and Responding to Housing Market Change", "Freedom of Choice? The Role of Policy in Choosing Living Arrangements" and "Privatisation of Housing Stock in Europe – Implications for Policy". FEANTSA is a partner of this project.

► **Household Debt Advisory Services in the European Union** [29/06/2012]

This Eurofound [study](#) focuses on debt advisory services, especially on how access to and quality of services can be improved. The study identifies successful debt counselling measures and outlines the conditions that contribute to good practice. The study brings together international data and literature on the topic, providing an overview and a comparative perspective. The research draws on evidence from country studies in Hungary, Ireland, Portugal and Sweden. Each country study includes case studies of specific debt advisory services.

► **Losing and Finding a Home: Homelessness, Multiple Exclusion and Everyday Lives** [29/06/2012]

The [report](#) on a two-year study focusing on understanding the lives of people with experience of homelessness and/or multiple exclusion is now available. The new term 'multiple exclusion homelessness' was developed specifically to enable analysis of the lives of those people in society who are among the most vulnerable. Rather than creating a new layer of the homeless population, the 'multiple exclusion' focus aimed to bring into view the complex interplay of issues such as: worklessness, poverty, severe mental health problems, drug and alcohol dependencies, state care, the criminal justice system and so on. It was of central interest to the researchers to explore how coping and survival strategies were played out; for example, sex work, begging, criminality, street drinking and drug-dealing, and what connection, if any, these activities had to the prevalence and experience of homelessness.

► **Re-Conceptualising Approaches to Meeting the Health Needs of Homeless People** [29/06/2012]

The experience of homelessness not only affects physical health, but can also constrain access to required healthcare. In a number of European countries, national strategies to tackle homelessness have sought to deliver integrated solutions across housing, health and other social policy areas. This [article](#) examines approaches to meeting the healthcare needs of homeless people in relation to such strategies, drawing upon recent research in Norway and Scotland. It presents a comparative analysis of approaches to service provision in relation to welfare models and the concepts of universal and specialist provision. The analysis suggests a cross-national shift in the conceptualisation of appropriate responses to the healthcare needs of those who experience homelessness. The provision of some specialist health services, while reflecting a selective model of welfare, need not be solely interpreted as conflicting with a more universal model of ensuring access to mainstream services. Rather, the challenge is to recognise the need for a process approach which supports an effective transition from the (sometimes necessary) use of specialist services for this group, towards (the ideal of) full integration into mainstream healthcare.

► **Rehousing Homeless People in the Wintertime** [29/06/2012]

This report presents a case study of a landlord choosing to make accommodation units available to a homeless shelter during the cold winter months so that people without housing could rent them at minimal rent levels. The landlord provided the accommodation and the organisation provided social support to each tenant so that the experience proved positive for each of them. This experience led front-line workers to realise that the winter period, because of its harsh conditions, can be useful in persuading private landlords to make their accommodation available as well as encouraging homeless people to take up offers of accommodation even when they seem very far from this goal. The Relais Social de Charleroi won the 2012 Belgian Federal Government Combating Poverty Prize for this [project](#).

► **Study on Migration and Homelessness in Nord-Rhein-Westphalia** [29/06/2012]

The results of a [study](#) commissioned by the Nord-Rhein-Westphalia Ministry of Labour, Integration and Social Affairs, called "Homeless People with Migrant Backgrounds in North Rhine-Westphalia: Investigating their Circumstances", are now available. Its recommendations include: openness to interculturality; addressing homelessness among people with a migratory background as a cross-cutting issue; specific target group-oriented strategies and understanding the possible influence of EU migration policy on homelessness; recognising the fact that prejudice, discrimination and racism against certain ethnic groups can lead to homelessness and the fact that some migrants also become homeless for other reasons, common among many homeless people, rather than because they are migrants.

► **Sustain: A Longitudinal Study of Housing Wellbeing in the Private Rented Sector** [29/06/2012]

This research [summary](#) presents key interim findings from the Sustain project – a longitudinal qualitative

research study exploring the use of the private rented sector to accommodate homeless people and those in housing need, as well as exploring housing wellbeing. The research is working in three different regions with people who have received support to move into their tenancies from statutory, voluntary and charity agencies. The study is the result of a partnership project between Shelter and Crisis, UK FEANTSA members.



**The FEANTSA Flash is supported by  
the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013).**

This programme was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in these fields.

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 and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

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- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in employment, social solidarity and gender equality policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

For more information see:

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**FEANTSA is supported financially by the European Commission. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.**