



### FEANTSA NEWS

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#### Call for Papers: Vol. 9, No. 2 of the European Journal of Homelessness

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The [Call for Papers](#) for Volume 9, Number 2 of the European Journal of Homelessness (Open Edition) is now open. Deadline: 8th May 2015

#### Job Vacancy

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FEANTSA are [recruiting](#) a [Communications and Information Officer \(full-time\)](#). To apply for the position, please send a CV and letter of application in English to Ruth Owen ([ruth.owen@feantsa.org](mailto:ruth.owen@feantsa.org)) by the 15th May. Start date: August 2015.

#### FEANTSA 2015 Policy Conference – Registration Open

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[Registration](#) is open for the [FEANTSA policy conference 2015](#): "Homelessness, a Local Phenomenon with a European Dimension – Key Steps to Connect Communities to Europe", taking place in Paris, from the 18-20 June 2015. The conference will bring together 300 homelessness practitioners to:

1. Support policy and practice in the field of homelessness, with a focus on social service/policy innovation, helping practitioners to learn from other EU countries.
2. Link local realities to different European policy/legal frameworks, demonstrating where synergies exist already and reflect on potential synergies.
3. Provide space for the emergence of new transnational dynamics through organised networking hotspots.

See the [conference infographic](#). The deadline for registrations is the 1st June 2015.

#### Call for Papers: European Journal of Homelessness Vol. 9, No. 2. 2015:

#### Special Section on the Implementation of Homeless Strategies at Local Level

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The Editorial team of the European Journal of Homelessness, as a contribution to enhancing knowledge on aspects of homelessness and housing exclusion in Europe, [seeks submissions](#) that provide case studies of the context and challenges in implementing national level homeless strategies at a city or regional level. It is envisaged that these contributions will form a special section in the European Journal of Homelessness. To be considered for inclusion in the Journal, papers must be submitted to the lead editor, Prof. Eoin O'Sullivan ([tosullivan@tcd.ie](mailto:tosullivan@tcd.ie)) before the 5th of June 2015. Informal contact with the editor in relation to potential submissions is welcome.

#### Press Release: Commit to Eradicating TB and Health Inequalities – FEANTSA

#### Message to Riga European Ministerial Conference on Tuberculosis

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On the occasion of the first European Ministerial conference on tuberculosis organized by the Latvian Presidency, FEANTSA

draws attention to the health inequalities that persist today in Europe allowing the spread of tuberculosis among the poorest and most vulnerable in society, homeless people. See our [press release](#).

## Press Release: EU Alcohol Strategy Must Address Alcohol-Related Health Inequalities Affecting Homeless Population

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In a [press release](#), FEANTSA welcomes the resolution adopted by the European Parliament today calling for a new EU strategy to tackle alcohol related harm in Europe and calls on the European Commission to show political commitment by swiftly developing a new EU Alcohol Strategy (2016-2022).

## FEANTSA Signs Joint Press Release: "Deaths in the Mediterranean - the European Council's Dishonor"

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FEANTSA signed a [joint press release](#) with 37 other organisations on the issue of deaths of migrants in the Mediterranean and the European Council's reaction to it.

## FEANTSA Signs Joint Letter: Migrants in the Mediterranean, 32 Organisations Across the EU Appeal to the European Council

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The signatory organisations of this joint letter were dismayed to learn of the decisions adopted on Monday 20 April by the EU Council of Ministers. Other than restating a commitment to facilitate the resettlement of refugees and develop relocation initiatives, the Council confines itself to a rhetoric that has not only demonstrated its ineffectiveness, but has led to growing human tragedies at Europe's maritime borders, says [the letter](#).

## "Homeless in Europe" Magazine on Participation

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Participation of people who have experience of homelessness is paramount and can have outcomes at different levels. Most importantly, participation should always have a positive impact on homeless people. Indeed, individuals can and should receive personal gain or empowerment from being involved through increased confidence, knowledge, skills or awareness. Empowerment, by which we mean enabling homeless people to claim their rights and to achieve their potential and aspirations, is therefore one of the intended outcomes of participation, because an empowered person can more easily find a sustainable route out of homelessness. "[Participation: Inclusion, Empowerment and Routes Out of Homelessness](#)", the Spring 2015 issue of *Homeless in Europe* magazine is out now.

## EP Intergroup Meeting on Homelessness in the EU 2020 Framework

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The European Parliament intergroup fighting against poverty met to discuss homelessness on Tuesday 21st April. The [meeting](#) was a great opportunity for MEPs who care about homelessness to get together and reflect on how to support better policies throughout the EU. Mr Sylvain Mathieu, the French inter-ministerial delegate general for shelter and access to housing for homeless people shared France's recent experiences and called on the EU to play a practical role in supporting MS address the challenge of homelessness. Ms Leilani Farha, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing presented key messages on the right to housing. Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA Director and Juan Jiménez and Dani García from ATD Fourth World Spain also gave input from an NGO perspective. Based on the discussion, the intergroup members will draw up a document with recommendations for Commissioner Thyssen. The event was very well attended by MEPs and stakeholders.

## Ways Out of Homelessness Project Meeting

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The partners of the [Erasmus + Project, "Ways out of Homeless in Central Europe"](#) met for the second time in Budapest on the 17 and 18th of April. The meeting on Friday the 17th was a full day starting with welcome words by Boróka Fehér and introduction of participants. Besides the FEANTSA office representative, around 20 people from the different countries involved in the Project were present.

Chaired by Luca Koltai from Habitat for Humanity, Hungary, the meeting started with an overview of housing and homelessness policies in Hungary by FEANTSA AC member, Péter Bakos. Later, several local solutions in Budapest were presented such as the Kocsis supported housing project (BMSZKI), the SRO Building (BMSZKI), the Housing First Project (Habitat) and Supported housing for rough sleepers (BMSZKI). Case studies were presented, followed by discussion among the participants.

On the Saturday morning, the project representatives met for a management meeting and the rest of the participants visited local projects.

## EUROPE NEWS

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### HABITACT Peer Review: Odense, Denmark

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The 2015 HABITACT [Peer Review](#) was hosted by the City of Odense on the 9th and 10th April. The [discussion paper](#), prepared by independent expert Dr Volker Busch-Geertsema, explores responses to homelessness and social exclusion at the European level, examines homelessness in the Danish national context and gives an overview of key elements of homelessness policy and wider urban policies to create an inclusive city with a view to characterising the Odense approach. The Peer Review was [reported on in Euronews](#).

### Implementation Handbook - Putting the Investing in Children Recommendation into practice

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The EU Alliance for Investing in Children officially launched its "[Implementation Handbook - Putting the Investing in Children Recommendation into Practice](#)" on 1st of April in the European Parliament, during an exchange of views with stakeholders in preparation for the draft EP report on "Reducing inequalities with a special focus on child poverty". The Austrian case study in the handbook, written by FEANTSA partner FAWOS, looks at the prevention of family homelessness and evictions.

### The Impact of the Crisis on Fundamental Rights in the EU

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A recent report prepared for the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament [report](#), "The impact of the crisis on fundamental rights across Member States of the EU: Comparative analysis" mentions homeless people as one of the groups who have been disproportionately affected by the crisis, including in terms of access to healthcare and the right to housing and states that there has been an increase in the occurrence of homelessness in the wake of the crisis.

### Social Investment Synthesis Report

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Two years after the adoption of the Social Investment Package, the Commission has decided to take stock of how Member States' policy reforms have supported the policy objectives set out in the package. The Commission asked European social policy expert network to assess the overall approach to social investment across 35 countries. The national experts' findings are collected in a synthesis report, [Social Investment in Europe: A Study of National Policies](#). Commissioner Thyssen

welcomed the report in a [press statement](#).

## EP and Social Service Provider Cooperation for Job Creation

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Social service providers and policy makers [met](#) at the European Economic and Social Committee in March to [work together](#) on how to put social investment on the European Commission's agenda. The session was organised by Social Services Europe. In a context where unemployment and poverty levels are so high, the Commission's 2015 Workplan is failing to adequately consider the need for social investment. Guest speakers discussed solutions to tackle this agenda change, as well as the additional challenges faced across the social and health care sector.

## From Institutions to Community Living: EEG Blog

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The European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-Based Care (EEG), of which FEANTSA is a member, has launched a [blog on its work and activities](#). The EEG is a coalition of stakeholders representing people with care or support needs and their families, including children, people with disabilities, homeless people, people experiencing mental health problems and service providers, public authorities and intergovernmental organisations. The blog will give updates on the work of the EEG and publications it produces.

## European Commission Agrees to Use Social Progress Tool Alongside GDP

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In a breakthrough for campaigners seeking a more holistic approach to measuring the health of nations, the European Commission has committed to integrating social and environmental considerations into its economic decision making. The Commission director general of regional and urban policy has agreed to use the Social Progress Index (SPI), which enables countries to evaluate how effectively they translate economic success into social progress, as a key tool in deciding how to allocate €63.4bn to deprived regions in the European Union.

## MEMBER NEWS

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### Denmark: Project UDEFOR Cooperates with Copenhagen City on Vulnerable Homeless Migrants

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Project UDEFOR and others have received funding from the City of Copenhagen so that they can target particularly vulnerable homeless migrants in their work. They will cooperate with the Copenhagen homelessness unit and others on a project called [Transit Programme 2015](#). The programme will focus on meeting homeless migrants' basic needs, and 'reconnection'.

### France: Winter Eviction Suspension Period Ends and Unclear Alternatives for Homeless People

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The 31st March signalled the end of the suspension of tenant evictions during winter and the closure of some emergency accommodation structures open for the winter in France. [In the words of FNARS](#), the risk that people will be evicted onto the street is still very high despite the creation or extended availability of 2,000 emergency bed spaces announced by the Housing Minister. The Minister's commitment to making sure « no-one will be evicted onto the street without appropriate support and everything is done to ensure there is no break in their case follow-up » will be difficult as stakeholders in many areas have no information at all about decentralised services, says the FNARS. In response to this situation, many NGOs have decided to protest. The 34 NGOs, including several FEANTSA members that make up the [Collective](#) of NGOs campaigning for a new

public housing policy for homeless people and those in poor housing, have criticised the policy and held a press conference on the 31st March. Several teams in charge of the emergency switchboard for homeless people [went on strike](#) on the 31st March too, to protest against the closure of winter spaces and the lack of positive responses available to homeless people.

## France: City of Paris Wants to Improve Reception Conditions for Unaccompanied Minors

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Paris City Council has announced its intention to improve reception conditions for single migrants, especially homeless sixth-form students. The Council approved a plan comprising 15 measures, including an overhaul of the reception service for unaccompanied minors arriving in France. Young people will be interviewed on arrival to ascertain whether or not they meet the requirements for receiving help (being under 18 and being unaccompanied) before the Ministry of Justice gives its verdict a few months later. To avoid young people becoming homeless before the first interview takes place, a plan to provide "shelter from day one" will be set up. Time is also available for a second interview if needed.

## Ireland: "No Change to Rent Supplement Will Mean More Homelessness"

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The Simon Communities have [responded](#) to news that the Irish government will not increase rent supplement levels. They said that it was disappointing and worrying for the people they work with, as rents have increased significantly in recent times and there is a substantial gap between rent supplement and the actual rents being charged, which can cause homelessness. They also pointed to the shortage of social housing as adding to the problem.

The Peter McVerry Trust say that the refusal to increase the rent allowance means that the private rental sector is shut off to homeless people and others who depend on the rent supplement, and that it will "lock people into homelessness."

The Irish government has defended its decision not to increase rent supplement, saying that a general increase would drive up rent levels across the board. Focus Ireland contested this view, saying that prices had already increased by around 20% over the past two years without the Government increasing rent allowance and that only 1% of landlords accept tenants receiving rent supplements, which means that there would be little effect on rents as a whole if the supplement were increased.

## Ireland: Reaction to Government Move to Prohibit Discrimination Against Rent Supplement Tenants

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Focus Ireland has [welcomed](#) news that the Irish Government wants to prohibit discrimination against tenants in receipt of rent supplement. However, the charity stressed that this move alone will not act to improve access to rented accommodation for people relying on rent supplement. Focus Ireland said that it is often the rent supplement system itself that landlords object to as they believe it will not work for them. This needs to be addressed to help more people who to gain access to a home on the rental market, say Focus Ireland. The charity also said that it is vital that rental assistance schemes work for tenants, landlords and the taxpayer alike, and has called for the Government to raise rent supplement rates and bring in greater rent regulation.

## Italy: New fio.PSD Board

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At its AGM on the 19th March, fio.PSD elected members of its Board. Cristina Avonto was elected President. Domenico Leggio will be Vice President, Danilo Tuccillo Treasurer and Alessandro Carta and Alessandro Pezzoni board members.

## Luxembourg: Social Almanac

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The Caritas Luxembourg [social almanac](#) has been published every year since 2007 and comes out before the Prime Minister's State of the Nation speech and is used to encourage dialogue with decision-makers in the political, social and economic fields.

The 2015 edition of the social almanac was presented on the 24th April. In it, Caritas Luxembourg analyses the social situation in Luxembourg in recent times and focuses on the theme of tax justice.

## Netherlands: Increase in Homelessness Levels Feared

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*Federatie Opvang* fears that there will be a significant rise in the number of homeless people in the Netherlands following a new law: a 'cost-sharing regulation'. If a person who is receiving benefits lives in a shared house with one or more adults his or her benefits will be reduced. The idea behind the regulation is that if people live together then they will share the living expenses and therefore need a lower level of social assistance benefits.

*Federatie Opvang* says that this is likely to result in situations whereby a homeless person's friends or family would like to allow the person to live with them but do not dare to as any benefits they receive will be reduced, as if they were being 'punished' for housing somebody. The Federation has already noticed increasing number of people using its services. As well as people in this type of situation, the 'cost-sharing regulation' is likely to cause problems for carers, says *Federatie Opvang*. A person who is caring full time for a parent or adult child will also have their benefits reduced.

## Portugal: Homelessness Strategy Concerns

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In March 2015, the Portuguese Ministry for Solidarity, Employment and Social Security received a delegation of representatives from organisations working with homeless people (AMI, EAPN, FNERDM, CAIS, AEIPS) who presented their concerns regarding the National Homelessness Strategy (ENIPSA), particularly the fact that the Monitoring Group of the ENIPSA has been halted and that none of the proposals made by the group has ever received a response from the Ministry. The organisations reported on all the work that has been developed on the ground in order to implement the strategy, despite the lack of central coordination and monitoring and highlighted the fact that the Strategy will end in 2015. Given the present situation, they suggested the extension of the implementation period. The group has now sought to arrange a meeting with the President of the Institute for Social Security in order to transmit their concerns to this body and hopefully get a concrete response.

## Serbia: "Social Housing in Supportive Environment" World Habitat Awards 2014 Finalist

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The concept "Social Housing in Supportive Environment", which FEANTSA member Housing Center in Serbia has been implementing for the past 10 years, was selected as one of the 10 finalists in a renowned global competition in the field of housing — World Habitat Awards (WHA).

## Spain: Response to Stigmatising Speech by Madrid Mayoral Candidate

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FEPSH has published a press statement criticising a speech by the Popular Party candidate for Mayor of Madrid, Esperanza Aguirre, in which she expressed a wish to study "why people are allowed to live on the streets", saying that homeless people damage tourism in the city. The FEPSH statement argues that homelessness is a matter of human rights, not of aesthetics and public nuisance. The statement says the Popular Party candidate's speech shows a lack of knowledge about the reality of homeless people's experience and repeats stereotyped beliefs which blame and criminalise people experiencing severe social exclusion, which is an affront to homeless people's dignity - already significantly eroded by the structural violence that homelessness represents.

The statement reiterates the fact that the Spanish National Social Inclusion Action Plan 2013-2016 puts forward measures for combating homelessness, including the drawing up and implementation of an Integrated National Strategy for Homeless people, which is currently being written by the Spanish Parliament. FEPSH ask all political parties taking part in the forthcoming local elections to include specific measures on housing, inclusion and homeless people's rights in their manifestos, and not aesthetic and exclusionary measures which, instead of dealing with the issue, stigmatise it further.

FEPSH also expressed concern about the way the news was relayed by the press: highlighting the use of discriminatory language to talk about homeless people, which is far away from the reality of these people's experience, reinforces existing

prejudices and denies society's collective responsibility regarding social exclusion.

San Juan de Dios posted a [blog entry](#) on the speech, reminding readers that public space belongs to everyone and criticising the tendency of speeches like this one to suggest that public space is the property of a powerful elite.

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## Spain: Dreams from the Pavement

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On the 17th April, *Solidarios para el Desarrollo* and *Acción en Red* carried out an awareness-raising action called "[¿Qué se sueña en una acera?](#)" (Dreams from the pavement) in Madrid, as well as in other cities where they are active. They read out a manifesto and performed a flashmob in order to raise awareness about the experience of homeless people. They demanded that government and local administration make adequate resources available in order to provide sustainable solutions to the problem rather than emergency responses.

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## Ukraine: Fundraising for ID Project

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The Ukrainian Charity Fund "Social partnership" is looking for funding to finance a [project](#) that will help homeless people renew their identification documents. If you are aware of bodies that may be able to provide funding, please contact Olena Polishchuk ([kig.socpartnerstvo.org](http://kig.socpartnerstvo.org)), Ukrainian Charity Fund President.

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## UK: Youth Homelessness Survey 2015

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Homeless Action Scotland's annual Youth Homelessness Survey is now into its third year and is growing both in reach and influence. Homeless Action Scotland are now preparing questions for this year's survey due to go out in May. In order to ensure they are representing the sector, Homeless Action Scotland want to ask you what you would like to see covered by the survey. They would also like to explore the development of a parallel survey for young service users to examine differences in perceptions between young people and professionals. If you would like to contribute to shaping the questions in the 2015 Youth Homelessness Survey or would be interested in working to ensure young people's thoughts and opinions are represented please contact [Nick Harleigh-Bell](#).

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## HEADLINES

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### Czech Republic: Social Housing Bill

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According to statistics presented to the Czech Parliament, there are an estimated 30,000 homeless people in the Czech Republic and 100,000 others are at risk of losing their home. The concept of social housing does not yet exist in the country but [that could change with the introduction of a social housing system from 2017](#), according to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. It is expected that this system will be effective in combating homelessness and housing exclusion in the country. The move would also be in line with the Fundamental Rights Charter which stipulates that the State must guarantee the right to housing.

Once this law, planned for implementation in January 2017, is in place, 500,000 people should be able to benefit from the progressive introduction of affordable rental housing. In order to do so, the Labour and Social Affairs Minister will require local authorities to guarantee a quota of social housing units on their land. The bill currently puts this quota at 5% but the actual amount will be subject to negotiation.

The bill is due to be discussed by the Czech Parliament next year.

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### Spain: Interior Ministry Report on Hate Crimes Against Homeless People

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Hatento, the Spanish Observatory of hate crimes against homeless people is pleased that a [publication by the Spanish Interior Ministry on hate crimes in the country](#), based on data from state, regional and local crime statistics has acknowledged that hate directed towards people experiencing poverty can be a cause of hate crime, even though this definition does not yet exist in the penal code nor was it taken into account in recent reforms on the subject.

Data collected from 2014 crime statistics count a total of 1,285 registered hate crimes. The police registered 11 cases of hate crimes against people experiencing poverty, which represents a 175% increase compared to 2013. However, the direct experience of the organisations that make up Hatento and the fact that the statistics only count registered cases suggest that the prevalence of these crimes is actually much higher.

## Switzerland: Report on Migrant Homelessness

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Since the economic crisis in 2008, migration from southern and eastern EU-member states to Switzerland has risen sharply. For different reasons, some migrants need support from migration authorities or institutions. In its report, "Migrant work in Switzerland: The living situation of nationals of an EU country in a state of hardship", available in [French](#) and [German](#), the Swiss Red Cross has analysed the living situation of those persons requiring help and has defined the need for additional action. FEANTSA was an interview partner in preparation of the report.

## UK: Benefit Sanctions and Homelessness: A Scoping Report

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A new, harsher system of welfare conditionality and sanctions was introduced in the UK in 2012 and there has been increasing concern in the homelessness sector about the impact on homeless people. This [report](#) assesses the impact of the system.

## World: Solidarity Marches Support Ending Homelessness

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Solidarity marches and candlelight vigils were held worldwide on the 15th April to raise awareness about the experience of homeless people as part of a protest campaign called the "March for the Homeless 2015". Solidarity protests were held Wednesday in UK, Irish, Canadian and US cities about the way homeless people, who often die on the streets from cold and exposure, are treated.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Studies (online)

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[This level 9 postgraduate course](#), delivered online, aims to provide graduates with an understanding of the role that social policies play in building just and functioning societies. Students will consider national and global responses to some of the 'wicked problems' that contemporary societies face. Wicked problems are complex, interdependent problems such as discrimination and poverty, which are often resistant to solutions put in place by Governments. Students will consider the theoretical and research basis for policy intervention and the challenges of implementing and changing policy at national and global levels. Whether you are interested in social policy, social services or social change this course will provide you with new knowledge and perspectives.

The programme is of interest to individuals:

- \* working in the delivery, management or funding of social services
- \* developing or implementing social policy
- \* advocating for social change
- \* interested in work related career development or seeking further study

The programme will be of particular interest to graduates who wish to pursue a Masters programme in the social sciences but who do not have a relevant undergraduate qualification. This online Postgraduate Diploma can act as a conversion course for such graduates and enhance their application for specialised programmes such as the Masters in Social Work and M.Sc. in

Disability Studies.

Click here for information and to register: [www.tcd.ie/online/socialstudies](http://www.tcd.ie/online/socialstudies)

## EU Project After Care Guarantee: Questionnaire for Social Authorities

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The Erasmus+ Project, "ACCELERATE TO INDEPENDENCE: 'After-care Guarantee' in Youth Care via Personal Budget" needs your input.

The project aims to find out which policies are in place in the EU to support young people leaving state care, whether there are after-care policies in place and, if so, whether they are effective. After-care means all measures and services in place to prepare young people who are leaving care for the transition to adulthood. The lead partner in the project is the Flemish agency for youth welfare and partners include: youth care agencies in Veneto (Italy), Carinthia (Austria), the Dutch ministry for Health, Welfare and Sport, ENSA (the European Network of Social Authorities) and FEANTSA.

You are invited to answer a [questionnaire](#) on the issue so that the project partners can have a better idea of after-care mechanisms in your context and if there are any strategies in place to tackle youth exclusion through them. The focus is specifically on financial support offered to young people leaving care. Please be as clear as possible about the context (national, regional, local) of the measures or strategies implemented.

Please send answers to [María José Aldanas](#) by 4 May 2015.

## Save the Date: Smart Homes and Urban Renewal Conference

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The [SHUR2015 conference](#) (22nd-26th June, Málaga, Spain) is the first event joining issues such as building automation, smart environments, energy efficiency, architecture and urban renewal. The main idea is to celebrate research meetings and an exposition fair about smart homes and urban renewal in the same venue.

## Housing First Italy Summer School 2015

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The Housing First Italia Network Summer School will take place from the 1st-4th July in Massa Pisana. The programme, costs, logistics and information on registration will be available soon.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Mapping Homeless Services for Women

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The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) commissioned a [Mapping of Homeless Services for Women](#) in Dublin, Ireland to review service provision for women in the region. The Survey was conducted in 2013 and 38 of the 41 services operating in the region responded. The report presents comprehensive data relating to the capacity and operations of the services that accommodate women. It also profiles service users before concluding that additional dedicated services are needed to address the specific needs of women.

### Prioritising Oral Health for Homeless People

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[The Smile4life research and report](#), looking at the homeless population in Scotland, has demonstrated the huge impacts oral health can have on someone's mental health and general wellbeing and the benefits of someone accessing oral health services; which can be life-changing. The initial research, now four years old, has been the starting point to bringing oral health

and homelessness together across the sectors. A [recent presentation](#) at a Smile4life event shows the work to date and future plans.

## Housing in Spain in the Twenty-First Century

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This [report](#) gives a diagnosis of the residential model in Spain and makes proposals for another housing policy.

Sonia Olea Ferreras, a member of the FEANTSA Housing Rights Expert Group and coauthor of the book, gives some background:

FOESSA Foundation and Caritas Spain, working with sociologists, architects, economists and lawyers, carried out this research over several years, resulting in a deep legal, social and economic analysis of the causes of the situation of emergency housing in Spain, as well as proposals that could make housing be seen as a human right and not just an economic investment, a state of affairs that has caused 500,000 families to be evicted in Spain and more than 35,000 people living in severe homelessness while more than three million houses stand empty.

Legal reforms in recent years have been superficial and today dozens of evictions continue to take place every week. Housing remains a market commodity and governments do not deal with this situation from the perspective of access to human rights for all.

Social organisations and people affected by evictions (especially LA and Stop Evictions PAH) are still fighting for there to be a change of residential model in the Spanish State.

## The Effect of Local Policy Action on Mortality Among Homeless People

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Homeless people have a 3–5-fold increased risk of mortality compared with general populations. After 2005, policy actions being implemented in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, have improved the living conditions of this group. This [register-based 10-year follow-up study of homeless people in Rotterdam](#), the Netherlands examined the effect of policies aimed at improving living conditions on mortality risks for homeless people. The participants were homeless adults who visited one or more services for homeless people in Rotterdam in 2001. Local policies after 2005 tried to get homeless people into housing, increase their participation in employment and other regular daytime activities, and control drug and alcohol addictions. The study measured the rate of mortality among participants and differences in mortality between 2001–05 and 2006–10. No significant difference in mortality was observed. The report concludes that five years of local policy efforts improved their living conditions, but left the mortality rate of a homeless cohort unchanged. The programme's incomplete reach and long previous histories of homelessness mean that additional policies beyond the provision of housing and other services are needed, and attention should be given to the prevention of homelessness, concludes the report.

## The State of Homelessness in America 2015 – Funding Leads to Reduction in Homelessness Levels

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During a period of economic growth for the nation when unemployment decreased in nearly every state, the rate of homelessness fell by 2.3 percent, but the number of people at risk of homelessness has yet to return to pre-recession levels, says "[The State of Homelessness in America 2015](#)" report by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. The report says that federal funding for programmes addressing homelessness is at its highest ever level, which is "probably in part" behind a decline in net homelessness. The report marks a decline overall and among every homeless subpopulation from when the alliance began publishing its findings in 2007.

However, the number of low-income people living in doubled-up situations with family and friends is growing, and the number of poor renter households who must pay more than 50 percent of their income toward housing remains at a historic high, demonstrating that the affordable housing crisis is threatening progress, says the report.

## Dementia and Homelessness

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The Victoria and Tasmania Dementia Training Study Centre has [released](#) a [dementia and homelessness report](#) that focuses on the education, training and resource needs of services providers who are supporting people who have dementia and are homeless. The report found that there is a lack of awareness of what homelessness means among some dementia service providers and health professionals. It also found that there is a lack of appropriate services and resources for assessing and treating a person with dementia who is homeless.

## Health and Wellbeing of People Living in Homeless Accommodation

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In the UK, there is limited understanding of the lived experiences of residents of 'large' Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), operating at the bottom end of the private rented market which cater for homeless people, and the inequalities associated with living in these properties. This [research](#) aims to address knowledge gaps regarding HMOs in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with a particular focus on: entry routes, the demographics and service needs of residents, property conditions, management practices and the impacts of living in HMOs on health and wellbeing. The findings outlined in this report are underpinned by 19 stakeholder interviews, 12 interviews with HMO residents and 19 interviews with supported accommodation residents.

## Reducing Homelessness Among Young Adults

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Tackling the transition to independence is a complex and challenging process for most young people. For those leaving local authority care this process can be even more problematic. [Research from Northumbria University](#) has found that people from care are over-represented in the North East UK homeless population. This has resulted in a new system at Newcastle City Council to identify and support the young people most at risk of homelessness. When someone is identified as at risk, the Council now has two members of staff dedicated to supporting these high-risk young people to prevent them ending up on the streets. So far this system has identified 30 young people as high risk and they are being supported to help them to successfully make the transition to independence.



This publication is supported by the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS (2007-2013). This programme is implemented by the European Commission. It was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment, social affairs and equal opportunities area, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Europe 2020 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-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

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

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