

FEANTSA ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE

*CONFRONTING HOMELESSNESS IN THE EU:
SEEKING OUT THE NEXT GENERATION OF BEST PRACTICES*

24-25 OCTOBER 2014
BERGAMO, ITALY

PROGRAMME



TWEET&FOLLOW USING

FEANTSA2014

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CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

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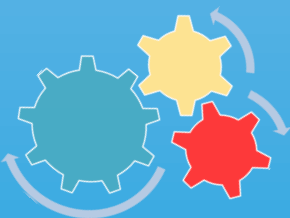
To support policy and practice in the field of homelessness, by driving innovation and seeking out the next generation of best practices.

2

To contribute to the implementation of the Europe2020 Strategy, and namely the EU Social Investment Package adopted by the European Commission in February 2013. One of the key priorities of the package is to “confront homelessness”.

3

To provide space to test new ways of pooling expertise and building networks.



BACKGROUND AND EU CONTEXT

Europe’s monetary and fiscal policies are intrinsically linked to Europe’s economic recovery, and despite actions taken in both fields over the last 5 years, unemployment in the Eurozone remained at a record high of 12 percent in January 2014. The latest Eurostat estimates show that 125 million Europeans are at risk of poverty or social exclusion (nearly a quarter of the population in EU28).

Rather than decreasing, poverty is on the rise and Europe is far from reaching its 2020 target to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion. In its 2013 annual economic growth survey, the European Commission acknowledged that “after several years of weak growth, the crisis is having severe social consequences. Welfare systems cushioned some of the effects at first but the impact is now being felt across the board”.

The latest reports of the European Federation of National Organisations Working with Homeless People (FEANTSA) confirm this, showing substantial increases in homelessness in 15 countries over the last 1-5 years, with an increasing number of women, youth, families and migrants experiencing homelessness. Transitional homelessness is affecting a greater part of the EU population as vulnerabilities are increasing. More than ten European countries have developed national homelessness strategies, and other strategies are in the pipeline.

The European Commission has stepped up efforts by publishing policy guidance to support Member States in their actions to confront homelessness, and programmes targeting homeless people are now eligible under the new European Structural and Investment Funds. The European Parliament has twice called for an EU homelessness strategy (in 2011 and 2014), and the EU Committee of the Regions reiterated this call end of June 2014.

PROGRAMME AND NETWORKING

We are organizing a 1,5 day conference on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 October 2014, in Bergamo, Italy (near Milan).

The first day of the conference (Friday) will gather the 300 participants in two plenary sessions, and in 12 parallel **Workshop Sessions** (with maximum 50 participants each). Each workshop will start with presentations from 2-3 keynote speakers, followed by space for group discussions looking both backward to successful best practices but also forward by reflecting on approaches needed in the future. Altogether these workshops will bring together 30+ keynote speakers from 15 different countries.

FEANTSA conferences are more than just the programming, they are an assembly of like-minded people (forward-thinkers open to European cooperation and exchange) with great intentions. Many FEANTSA conference-goers have claimed that great conference experiences also happen during the “downtime.” This year, we want to build on this positive networking experience, and therefore will dedicate the morning of 25 October to fostering new dynamics and projects through 10+ **Networking Hotspots**. This will include visits to local projects in Bergamo, information sessions about EU projects/developments, meetings of various FEANTSA partners (HABITACT, Ministries Forum, HOPE, etc), roundtables of experts, and some creative spaces.

23 October

17:30- 19:00

Pre-conference session: “Bergamo-Europa” - Venue: via Gallicciolli, 4 24121 Bergamo
Presentation of latest research on homelessness in Bergamo
 Roberta Bova & Stefano Tomelleri, University of Bergamo

Panel discussion of local social service Directors—what to expect from Europe?

Maria Carolina Marchesi - local social cohesion councillor for Bergamo
 Giacomo Invernizzi – Director of Opera Bonomelli onlus
 don Claudio Visconti – Director of Caritas Bergamo
 Gianni Chiesa - Director of Fondazione Casa amica
 don Davide Rota – Director of Patronato San Vincenzo

20:00

Welcome dinner – A Taste of Bergamo

24 October

8:00 – 9:00

Registration of participants and Start of the Information Hub - Centro Congressi Giovanni XIII

9:00 – 9:30

PLENARY I : Welcome

Moderator. Liz Gosme, FEANTSA Senior Policy Officer (Conference coordinator)

Giorgio Gori, Mayor of Bergamo
 Monsignor Francesco Beschi, Bishop of Bergamo
 Mara Azzi, General Director of Regional Public Health Agency of Bergamo
 Doreen Huddart, Member of the EU Committee of the Regions
 Mike Allen, President of FEANTSA
 Video message from President José Manuel Barroso, European Commission

9:30 – 10:30

Panel Discussion: Key objectives of homeless policies for the future

Moderator: Heather Roy, President of the European Social Platform

Volker Busch-Geertsema, European Observatory on Homelessness, Germany
 Lieve Franssen, European Commission
 Stefano Galliani, FioPSD, Italy
 Mark Kennedy, Mazars, Ireland
 Lenka Laubová, Labour and Social Affairs Ministry, Czech Republic
 Michel Pouzol, Member of Parliament, France

Key questions to the panel:

- What should be the ultimate objectives of homeless policy?
- What are the key barriers to ending homelessness today?
- What partnerships do we need to build in order to overcome these barriers?
- How would you apply the concept of social investment to homelessness?
- What role can Europe play in the fight against homelessness?

10:30-11:00

Coffee break

11:00–13:00

6 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS – SESSION I

Format : 2-3 keynote speakers followed by group discussions

◆ **Redistributing the power: Key steps for mainstreaming participation of homeless people**

Chair: Ian Tilling, FEANTSA Board member for Romania

Keynote speakers:

Presentation of FEANTSA participation toolkit

Michael Mackey, Ireland

“Shared solutions” as an innovative collaborative policy-making method

Margaret-Ann Brünjes, UK

Joint social and housing service planning through the “Own Keys” project

Sanna Tiivola, Finland

◆ **Embedding Housing First at service delivery level: key barriers and opportunities**

Chair: Danny Lescrauwaet, FEANTSA Board member for Belgium

Keynote speakers:

Results of the HF experimentation in France and next steps

Pascale Estecahandy, France

Capacity-building of local services to implement Housing First

Lars Benjaminssen, Denmark

◆ **Channeling EU funds to homeless services: is Europe doing enough to support the fight against homelessness?**

Chair: Aida Karčiauskienė, FEANTSA Board member for Lithuania

Keynote speakers:

Using the European Social Fund to develop homeless service standards

Jakub Wilczek, Poland

Introducing Housing First in the European Social Fund

Ulrich Wolff, Germany

◆ **Prevention of youth homelessness: ensuring smooth transitions into adulthood**

Chair: Samara Jones, FEANTSA Policy Officer

Keynote speakers:

“Veerkracht” – a method to support to children in shelters

Jantien Van der Meer, Netherlands

Introducing an aftercare guarantee for youth leaving state care

Catherine Maher and Mike Allen, Ireland

◆ **The dynamics of women’s homelessness: are different responses needed at service level?**

Chair: Kjell Larsson, FEANTSA Board member for Sweden

Keynote speakers:

Gender Perspectives on Homelessness: The Role of the Women’s Homelessness in Europe Network

Paula Mayock, Ireland

Gender-sensitive Housing First in Austria

Elly Loibl, Austria

◆ **Sustainable employability pathways for people experiencing homelessness: myth or reality?**

Chair: Peter Bakos, FEANTSA Board member for Hungary

Keynote speakers:

The pros and cons of job creation through social cooperatives

Paolo Brusa, Italy

Individual coaching to support work and financial independence

Jaana Watt, UK

13:00–14:00

Lunch

14:00–16:00

6 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS – SESSION II

Format : 2-3 keynote speakers followed by group discussions

◆ **Migration: Tackling the hidden phenomenon of homeless domestic workers**

Chair: Mauro Striano, FEANTSA Policy Officer

Keynote speakers:

Immigrants, native families and invisible welfare: emerging challenges in Southern Europe and elsewhere

Maurizio Ambrosini, Italy

Good practice related to prevention of homelessness of domestic workers

Lara Natale, European Network of Migrant Women

◆ **New forms of finance for homelessness services: threat or opportunity?**

Chair: Ruth Owen, FEANTSA Policy Coordinator

Keynote speakers:

The role of private funding in the struggle to combat homelessness

Ioanna Pertsinidou, Greece

Piloting Social Impact Bonds in homelessness services

Tim Gray, UK

◆ **Communicating homelessness without stigma**

Chair: Robert Aldridge, FEANTSA Board member for the United Kingdom

Keynote speakers:

Use of Twitter by homeless people to combat stereotypes

Luc Tanja, The Netherlands

Developing a media guide for journalists on how to report on homelessness

Jonás Candalija, Spain

◆ **Homelessness strategies: Reconciling national frameworks with decentralised responsibilities**

Chair: Rina Beers, FEANTSA Board member for The Netherlands

Keynote speakers:

NGO lobbying action for a national homeless strategy

Thomas Specht, Germany

Life after achieving national homelessness targets

Peter Fredriksson, Finland

◆ **Accessing housing supply to end homelessness**

Chair: André Gachet, FEANTSA Board member for France

Keynote speakers:

Key steps for setting up a social rental agency

Marco Hoffman, Luxembourg

Actions to convert empty housing into social housing stock

Maria-José Aldanas, Spain

◆ **Harnessing the full potential of homeless people with health needs through a recovery-oriented approach**

Chair: Dalma Fabian, FEANTSA Policy Officer

Keynote speakers:

Recovery oriented approach from individual to organizational level

Penille Tea Mau, Denmark

Peer support workers to help engagement with local recovery services

Jason Connor and Avril Pollock, Scotland, UK

16:00–16:30

Coffee break

16:30-17:00

PLENARY II

Video message from László Andor, European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs

Conclusions by Freek Spinnewijn, Director of FEANTSA

18:00-19:00

Visit to the Old Town of Bergamo (“Città Alta”)

20:00

Conference dinner

25 October

9:00 – 10:30

Networking hotspots – session I

Local project visits

Associazione Comunità Immigrati Ruah

Main focus: migration

Associazione Opera Bonomelli onlus

Main focus: housing and support

Caritas diocesana

Main focus: from emergency to resettlement

European network meetings

HABITACT steering group meeting (targeting local authority representatives)

Informal forum of national and regional ministries (targeting regional/national civil servants)

HOPE - A Network of HOMEless PEople in Europe (targeting people with experience of homelessness)

European Network of Homeless Health Workers (targeting professionals working in health and homelessness)

FEANTSA Youth homelessness network (targeting practitioners interested in addressing and preventing youth homelessness)

Information sessions on EU projects

ELOSH - European Core Learning Outcomes for the Integration of Support and Housing - Project developing a European training pack promoting the integration of support services with housing

EMIN - European Minimum Income Network - Project to build steps towards the progressive realisation of adequate and accessible minimum income schemes in EU countries

Promoting protection of the right to housing - homelessness prevention in the context of evictions - Research project in 28 Member States on housing rights, evictions, mortgages, and the prevention

Invisible EU migrants - Project to secure the EU law rights of vulnerable and marginalized Union citizens

Street to Home Project investigating how an integrated approach to housing provision and social support can reduce the threat of violence against women

10:30-11:30

Transport break

11:30–13:00

Networking hotspots – session II

Local project visits

Centro Servizi Bottega del Volontariato

Main focus: volunteering

Fondazione Casa Amica - Casa a colori

Main focus: social housing

Patronato San Vincenzo

Main focus: youth

Round table of experts

Mainstreaming homelessness in the EU structural and investment funds (targeting FEAD/ESF/ERDF managing authorities, and professionals working with EU funds)

Sharing key tools for shaping public perceptions of homelessness (targeting journalists and communications professionals)

Higher education partnerships to tackle homelessness (targeting higher education institutions)

Domestic violence and homelessness – strengthening links across policy areas (targeting practitioners and researchers working on domestic violence and homelessness)

Creative spaces

Building a European partnership of foundations on homelessness (targeting foundations)

Housing First: Making it a reality (targeting practitioners wanting to implement Housing First)

Coalition-building to prevent youth homelessness (targeting practitioners working on youth homelessness)

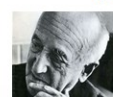
Building a regional homeless strategy for the Lombardy region – first reflections (targeting local and regional organisations active in the Lombardy region)

Taking the EUROsocial II programme as a starting point to launch a European-Latin American dynamic on homelessness (targeting practitioners with an interest in Latin America)

14:00–17:00

FEANTSA General Assembly (for FEANTSA members only)

REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AT WWW.FEANTSA.ORG



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SAN VINCENZO



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

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

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