



**FEANTSA**

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# FEANTSA LINK

**Issue 8 - June 2011**

## **FEANTSA's Membership Bulletin**

Welcome to the eighth issue of the LINK, which rounds off spring with news of FEANTSA developments.

So far this year, FEANTSA's work has included following up on last year - the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The year was the background for several commitments from the European institutions on including homelessness as a priority in strategies to end poverty and social exclusion, and ended on a high note with the very well-received European Consensus Conference on Homelessness, the conclusions of which are now available (see European News for more information). This year will see the continuation of the "Ending Homelessness" Campaign, which will carry on until 2015, at the request of members who had seen positive outcomes and sometimes commitments from national authorities following their campaign work in 2010.

2011 will also be a year of conferences. The season kicked off with the Housing Rights Watch Conference on Migration and Housing Rights in Europe on the 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Following that will be this year's European seminar on local homeless strategies (the sixth one already!) on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011, at the Committee of the Regions.

The 6<sup>th</sup> European Research Conference on Homelessness will be held in Pisa, Italy, on the theme of "Homelessness, Migration and Demographic Change in Europe", on the 16<sup>th</sup> September.

FEANTSA's annual conference will be on Quality of Services and will take place in the city of Luxembourg in October.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the LINK, and that you will help us to keep up-to-date for future editions by sending us information regarding projects, staff exchanges, events, new reports, recent studies, etc, to be shared with FEANTSA members. Feel free to send any updates to FEANTSA Communications Officer, [Suzannah Young](mailto:Suzannah.Young@feantsa.org).

## **CONTENTS**

<b>FEANTSA UPDATES.....</b>	<b>p. 2</b>
<b>COMING SOON.....</b>	<b>p. 3</b>
<b>EUROPEAN NEWS.....</b>	<b>p. 3</b>
<b>OUTCOMES OF STATUTORY MEETINGS.....</b>	<b>p. 4</b>
<b>SPOTLIGHT: TRANSNATIONAL PROJECTS.....</b>	<b>p. 6</b>
<b>SAVE THE DATE!.....</b>	<b>p. 8</b>

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## FEANTSA UPDATES

### Staff Changes in the FEANTSA Secretariat

2011 has brought a number of changes to the FEANTSA Office. [Ruth Owen](#), previously European Consensus Conference Project Officer, is now Policy Officer for Housing and Monitoring Progress on Homelessness at EU Level, including the follow-up of the Consensus Conference. [Mauro Striano](#) has joined us as Policy Officer on Migration and Participation. Mauro previously worked at SOLIDAR as Decent Work and Industrial Relations Project Assistant and at the Platform for Intercultural Europe. [Liz Gosme](#) went on maternity leave in mid-April and will be back in mid-October 2011. [Katrin B uchler](#), formerly HABITACT Policy Assistant, is taking over Liz's duties for 6 months until her return.

Another change – Stefania Del Zotto, Policy Officer working on Health and Social Protection, Housing Rights and Relations with the European Parliament, left FEANTSA at the end of April. We would like to thank Stefania for all her hard work over the past six years – she has had a very positive influence on FEANTSA's success and development – and wish her well for the future.

Dalma Fabian, currently working on Housing Rights Watch, will take over the Policy Work on Health.

### Updating the FEANTSA Website - Consultation

The secretariat plans to update the FEANTSA website this year. Several members and other visitors to the current website have expressed the opinion that it should be easier to navigate. We would therefore be grateful for suggestions and comments from members as to what they would like to see from a new and improved website – what can be kept, what should go, what could be added, what should be rearranged. Please send all comments/suggestions to [Suzannah](#) by the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011.

### Ending Homelessness Campaign to Continue

Thanks to extensive take-up and positive [results](#) from last year, the FEANTSA "Ending Homelessness" Campaign will continue this year, with an aim to keep going until 2015 (date by which European Parliament Declaration 111/2008, reiterated by Declaration 61/2010, requires an end to rough sleeping in Europe (the first of the five campaign goals)). For information, please see the website or contact [Suzannah](#).

### FEANTSA Policy Statement on Free Movement

The right to free movement is one of the fundamental rights of EU citizens. Numerous people make use of this right every day and many people have permanently established a new life abroad, thus contributing to the wealth and growth of the host society. However, there is a small but significant proportion of EU citizens for whom moving to another Member State has become a poverty trap. They are destitute and homeless and face difficulties in accessing the right support. Their vulnerable situation is closely linked to EU policies and legislation in the area of free movement of citizens as well as internal migration law and its interpretation at national level. Given its responsibility in this field, FEANTSA [calls](#) on the EU to guarantee access to emergency accommodation and emergency support to EU citizens who find themselves destitute in another Member State than the Member State of which they hold nationality. This support should be provided until a sustainable solution that ensures dignity of the person and his/her family has been found.

### Homelessness Research in Europe – Festschrift for Bill Edgar and Joe Doherty

More than a decade ago, Bill Edgar and Joe Doherty took on the role of co-coordinators of the European Observatory on Homelessness, a role that continued until 2008. This [collection of essays](#) provides a robust base to assess future research priorities on homelessness in Europe, and is a tribute to Bill Edgar and Joe Doherty.

### RISKHOPE Research Proposal Submitted with FEANTSA Support

The Dutch research bodies Verwey-Jonker Instituut and Movisie, in cooperation with HABITACT and FEANTSA, have submitted a proposal for a European research project on local homelessness

strategies called RISKHOPE. This research project would focus on the risks of homelessness within the wider framework of anti-poverty policies, and the partnership would include 11 research bodies and 20 local partners. A number of FEANTSA members and HABITACT cities would take part in the project. If the application is successful, the project will run over three years starting from January 2012.

### **6<sup>th</sup> European seminar on local homeless strategies – Brussels – 17th June 2011**

On 17th June 2011 in Brussels, the Committee of the Regions (together with HABITACT and FEANTSA) will host the 6<sup>th</sup> European seminar on local homeless strategies on the theme of **“Governance of homeless service provision at local level: One-size-fits-all or diversity of models across Europe?”**.

The EU is increasingly intervening (directly or indirectly) in the area of social services, including homeless services, through the adoption of EU legislation on public procurement of services, on State aid rules, and on the establishment of a European market of services. Moreover, these services are facing mounting pressure as a result of budgetary and austerity measures, leading to funding cuts in many parts of Europe. There is increasing interest therefore in new ways of working and new forms of governance, as local organisations adapt to the new emerging economic, welfare and political context in their country. The objectives of the seminar are: to reflect on the different forms of organisation and provision of homeless services across the EU and the impact of European legislation on their work; to give examples of different models used to provide homeless services, with concrete/practical information for local organisations attending the seminar, looking at the advantages/disadvantages of each model, as well as the financing of these different service provision models.

Registrations are now open, and there are up to 120 places which will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. For the programme and more information, click [here](#).

We encourage all FEANTSA members to forward this information to their contacts in local and regional authorities who have an interest in social innovation and European exchanges. This can be a good opportunity to introduce local authorities from your country to their counterparts in other EU countries. Please note that the HABITACT cities ([www.habitact.eu](http://www.habitact.eu)) will meet the day before the seminar on 16th June from 4-6pm. More information/questions: [info@habitact.eu](mailto:info@habitact.eu)

### **Housing Rights Watch Conference – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Housing Rights Watch held a [conference](#) on “Migration and Housing Rights in Europe” in The Hague, the Netherlands.

### **6th European Research Conference, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011, Pisa, Italy**

FEANTSA’s European Observatory on Homelessness, the ENHR Working Group on Welfare Policy, Homelessness and Social Exclusion, fio.PSD and the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Pisa, are pleased to announce the 6th Annual Research [Conference](#) on Homelessness in Europe. The key theme for this year’s Conference is “Homelessness, Migration and Demographic Change in Europe”. Registration is now open.

## **COMING SOON...**

- Spring 2011 edition of *Homeless in Europe* [magazine](#), on “Health and Homelessness: Overcoming the Complexities”

## **EUROPEAN NEWS**

### **European Consensus Conference on Homelessness – Policy Recommendations of the Jury: Out Now**

The Policy Recommendations of the Jury of the European Consensus Conference on Homelessness are now available. The full report is available in [English](#) and [French](#). An [executive summary](#) of the

report is available in all EU languages. You can find full details of the conference (programme of the public hearing, experts' contributions, video, press release and background info) [here](#). The report was presented during a Press Hearing attended by Frank Vandenbroucke, former minister for social affairs in the Belgian federal government and chair of the Consensus Conference Jury, László Andor, European Commissioner for employment and social policy, who welcomed the report, HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium and Philippe Courard, Belgian Minister for Social Integration.

The European Consensus Conference on Homelessness was an initiative of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, organised with the European Commission and FEANTSA (the European Federation of Organisations working with the Homeless), and with the support of the French government. It used an innovative policy process, seeking to establish common understandings on fundamental questions about homelessness in order to provide a basis for future policy progress.

### **MEPs Adopt Written Declaration 61 on an EU Homelessness Strategy**

On the 16th December 2010, the European Parliament adopted a cross-party Written Declaration calling for an ambitious EU homelessness strategy and support to Member States in their efforts towards ending homelessness. The European Parliament, as the only directly elected body of the European Union, sent a strong political message that homelessness is an urgent issue and an unacceptable violation of fundamental human rights. The adoption of the Written Declaration coincided with the closing of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Read FEANTSA's [press release](#) on the subject. [Details](#) of the Declaration are available on the European Parliament website. A list of signatories can be found in a footnote to the [full text](#).

## **OUTCOMES OF STATUTORY MEETINGS**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (AC) MEETING, VIENNA, 18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

The meeting [documents](#) and [minutes](#) are available on the [FEANTSA website](#).

#### **Membership**

##### **New FEANTSA Member (Full) – Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (Ireland)**

The AC accepted the Society of St Vincent de Paul, a network of social concern giving practical support to those experiencing poverty and social exclusion and the largest, voluntary, charitable organisation in Ireland, as a full member of FEANTSA.

##### **New FEANTSA Member (Corresponding) – Ukrainian Charity Fund “Social Partnership”**

The application for corresponding membership from the Ukrainian Charity Fund “Social Partnership”, dedicated to improving the lives of homeless people in Kiev and providing “reintegration programmes” for people with various addictions, was accepted by the AC.

##### **Removal - Kofoeds Skole (Czech Republic)**

Czech FEANTSA member, Kofoeds Skole, has ceased to exist after being declared bankrupt. The AC made the decision to remove them officially from FEANTSA membership.

#### **Consensus Conference Report**

The Policy Recommendations of the Jury of the European Consensus Conference on Homelessness are now available. The full report is currently available in [English](#) and will be issued shortly in French. An [executive summary](#) of the report is available in all EU languages.

The publication of the report has been widely covered in the international press and has been given attention by EU bodies. Monitoring the follow up of the report by European bodies will be an important part of FEANTSA's work on monitoring progress on homelessness at EU level.

Support from members will be useful in deciding how the Consensus will be followed up and this follow-up be ensured in each country.

## Translation of Report

One way to ensure follow-up is by translating all or part of the Consensus Conference report. It was agreed that the FEANTSA translation budget can be used to assist members wishing to translate the report. Members wishing to do so should find their own translators and let the FEANTSA secretariat know of the expected cost, 50% of which can be paid by FEANTSA. Members should pay the other 50%. Members doing so, please keep us updated with your actions, as they could give an example to others wanting to do the same.

## Changes in Statutory Bodies

The FEANTSA internal guidelines (bylaws) will be updated to include changes to minute-taking procedures and to the preparation of documents for statutory meetings, as well as and changes to the procedure of electing EC members. The procedure will subsequently be that the AC elects a president, two vice presidents, a treasurer and a secretary and two remaining members of the EC, using 6 votes each and a secret ballot, the numbers of which will not be announced. Candidates will still have to put themselves forward for election. See the minutes of the [February meeting](#) for further information.

## Adopted Documents

### Policy Statement: Free Movement of European Citizens and Homelessness

The FEANTSA [Policy Statement](#) on Free Movement of European Citizens and Homelessness was adopted (see “FEANTSA News” for more information).

### Questionnaire: Quality of Services

The questionnaire on Quality of Services, to be used in order to compile this year’s European reports on Quality, was adopted. The questionnaire is flexible and members can choose which parts are most relevant and important for them and which are not. They can also choose whether they wish to make their country’s report public or not. Members are requested to let the secretariat know of their choice. It is also possible to send additional annexes if deemed necessary.

The Participation Working Group is to produce a shadow report on Quality, with a shadow questionnaire going to Service User groups.

The draft programme of the FEANTSA conference of Quality of Services was also discussed and can be viewed, along with the adopted questionnaire, on the [meeting website](#). Comments on the programme can be sent to [Karolina Krzystek](#).

## EU Context

In December, the European Commission published a Communication (see [meeting documents](#)) outlining the focus of the European Platform against Poverty (EPAP), which will provide the EU framework for anti-poverty policies for the next ten years (until 2020, the time spanned by the EU2020 strategy.) The AC discussed the [opportunities](#) available in the EPAP for FEANTSA to further the European focus on homelessness.

It is possible to link the EPAP with Quality of Services – see the discussion paper on the [meeting website](#).

## Research

An update on the activities of the FEANTSA Observatory signalled the publication of a Festschrift for Bill Edgar and Joe Doherty on twenty years of research into homelessness, as well as of the call for papers for the next Research Conference in Pisa this October. It was also mentioned that the Observatory will also explore cooperation on research with the USA and Canada in the future.

## Southern Europe Report Impact of Migration

Following an initiative by FIO.psd (Italy) FEANTSA AC members from the South of Europe (Italy, Greece, Portugal, Spain), will meet to discuss and produce a report on the impact of migration on homelessness in this part of Europe and discuss possible solutions.

## Workshops On the Impact Of The Crisis

The minutes of the AC workshops on the impact of the crisis on policy, the impact of the crisis on services and the impact of the crisis on the profile of the homeless population are available on the [FEANTSA website](#).

## Next Meetings

The dates for the following FEANTSA meetings will be:

### June - Brussels

16<sup>th</sup> June – EC Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> June – *CoR/FEANTSA Seminar on Local Homelessness Strategies*

18<sup>th</sup> June – AC Meeting

### October - Luxembourg

19<sup>th</sup> October - EC Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> October - AC Meeting *and site visits in Luxembourg on Quality of Services*

21<sup>st</sup> October - *FEANTSA Annual Conference on Quality of Services*

22<sup>nd</sup> October - *General Assembly and Seminar on Housing Rights*

## SPOTLIGHT: TRANSNATIONAL PROJECTS

FEANTSA is and has recently been involved in several ongoing, external research projects and tenders. An outline of the projects is included below and is divided into recently finished projects, ongoing projects and possible future projects. More information is available on the [FEANTSA website](#) and in other FEANTSA publications.

Additionally, a large research project on local homelessness strategies in which FEANTSA and several Observatory members were involved was recently rejected by DG Research. However, given that the project proposal finished very high in the selection process, the EC agreed to amend the project and resubmit it at the next occasion, probably in early 2011.

### Recently Finished Projects:

- **[Research](#) on the “causal” relationship between welfare, employment and housing markets, and Homelessness**, led by the University of York, UK and involving the UK, Portugal, Sweden, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands. FEANTSA was on the Steering Group of this project. Interesting conclusions include: homeless policies can be useful and have an impact even if the welfare and housing contexts are weak; housing allowances are a more effective way of combating housing poverty than bricks and mortar subsidies.
- **General research on skill gaps in social services**, led by the University of Leuven, Belgium and involving the UK as the country involved on homelessness. FEANTSA was also on the Steering Group for this project. Interesting conclusions found were that: gaps exist concerning hard (technical) and soft (interpersonal) skills and “neighboring” sectors’ resources are limited. As a follow-up to this project, FEANTSA are working with [Cedefop](#) to ensure making the most of the fact that “Skills” is now one of the priorities for the Barosso Commission. The final report of this project is on the [October EC meeting page](#).
- **[Mphasis](#)** (Mutual Progress on Homelessness Through Advancing and Strengthening Information Systems), led by the University of Dundee, UK and involving 22 EU member states. It brought key stakeholders together in 20 countries to discuss their national approach

to the definition, measurement and evaluation of homelessness. FEANTSA was on the Steering Group of this project. Interesting conclusions include: homelessness should continue to be a key theme of a renewed Social OMC and Monitoring and reporting on progress should be greatly enhanced by: strengthening political commitment; developing national strategies on homelessness and setting and monitoring quantified targets for the reduction of homelessness; defining, measuring and monitoring homelessness and exchange and learning.

- **Prometheus project** on quality of social services, aiming to test the EQUASS quality assurance system on the homeless sector and other social sectors, led by the [European Platform for Rehabilitation](#). FEANTSA was on the Steering Group and FEANTSA members from Romania (Casa Ioana) and Luxembourg (Caritas) were involved. Casa Ioana was awarded with a prize in 2010. As a follow-up, there have been discussions on developing a quality standard for homelessness based on the EQUASS framework, but this has not been universally accepted by the FEANTSA board given the potentially big differences regarding homelessness situations and services.
- **Study on Social Services of General Interest (SSGI)** including social housing, aiming to get an overview of the organization of four SSGI (social housing, child care, employment support, and care for elderly) in order for the European Commission to decide on the need for legal or other action at EU level. Led by BBI Consulting and involving all EU member states. FEANTSA was involved as an external expert on social housing. Possible follow-up could include a Study on access to social housing for vulnerable groups. No documents are available yet.
- **COPIL (France)**, to compare the role of French social housing providers for vulnerable groups with other countries, led by Alain Regnier, French government commissioner on homelessness and involving Finland, the UK, France, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden and FEANTSA on the Steering Group. The final Conference programme and research table of contents are available on the [EC website](#).

#### Ongoing Projects:

- **Hope in Stations** on developing the role of railway companies in the fight against homelessness (the impact of a training course for railway staff on homelessness and the establishment of a “desk” for issues concerning homelessness in stations), led by ANSA (Agence Nouvelle des Solidarités Actives), France and involving Italy, France, Germany, Belgium (and, as associate partners, Luxembourg and Poland). FEANTSA is on the Steering Group. The project will end in December 2011 and may include Partnership with railway companies as a follow-up for FEANTSA. Some interesting documents are on the [October EC meeting page](#).
- **HOME 4 (ERDF)** on the use of new technologies in services for homeless people, aiming to identify best practices. FEANTSA is involved as an external expert and the cities involved are Stockholm, Venice, Granada, Seville.

#### Future Projects:

FEANTSA is involved in the following submitted projects which are awaiting approval:

- **Housing First experimentation project** [submitted](#) under the European Commission Call for Proposals on Social Experimentation (2011-2012), led by the Danish board for Social Welfare and involving Amsterdam, Budapest, Copenhagen, Glasgow, Lisbon (test sites) and Dublin, Helsinki, Ghent, Gothenburg, Vienna (peer sites). The evaluation would be carried out by Volker Busch-Geertsema, FEANTSA Research Observatory Coordinator and FEANTSA would be on the Steering Group. The aim would be to pool the different test sites in Europe concerning Housing First, evaluate them, and get a better understanding of whether the Housing First approach to homelessness works and if so, how. Possible follow up could include using ERDF funding for Housing First and working with the EPAP.

- **Study on the role of social services as employers in social dialogue**, [submitted](#) under the EC Social Dialogue Call for Proposals, aiming to identify good practices related to involvement of social service providers in social dialogue at national level and to promote such involvement in EU social dialogue and led by EASP (European network of disability services). The countries that would be involved are: France, Belgium, Portugal, and others. FEANTSA would be on the Steering Group. Follow-up could include more influence on EU social dialogue issues including working time and skills.
- **Training on the Open Method of Coordination (OMC )**, [submitted](#) under the PROGRESS Tender, led by BBI consulting and involving all EU member states. Several FEANTSA members/partners will be involved in providing training on homelessness and FEANTSA will be on the Steering Group. Follow-up could include the promotion of FEANTSA policy tools (ETHOS Typology, Participation Toolkit, etc.)
- **A Journalist guide on poverty**, [submitted](#) under PROGRESS, aiming to integrate a section on homelessness in the European journalist guide, in which FEANTSA would be consulted as an expert on homelessness.
- **Research on local homelessness strategies, lead by the Verwey-Joncker Institute** (Netherlands) and aiming to develop a template for local homelessness strategies. Several FEANTSA researchers and HABITACT members would be involved. Follow-up could be a basis for further development of the [HABITACT](#) network. A proposal was [submitted](#) under the Seventh Framework Programme Research and Development Call but not selected, so will be resubmitted in 2011.
- **Research on migration and destitution:** There will be a Call for Tenders under PROGRESS for research on this issue, thanks to lobbying from FEANTSA, which will open in the first half of 2011. FEANTSA and the Observatory will apply.

## SAVE THE DATE!

- **6<sup>th</sup> European [Seminar](#) on Local Homeless Strategies, 17th June 2011, Brussels, Belgium**
- **6th European Research [Conference](#), 16th September 2011, Pisa, Italy**
- **FEANTSA Conference on [Quality of Services](#), 21st October 2011, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg**