# The European Platform on Combatting Homelessness

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# Homelessness in the EU

- Lack of common legal/statistical definition
- Different monitoring and counting methodologies
- Difficult to assess the extent of the phenomenon in comparative terms
- Available data (FEANTSA,OECD) roughly 1 million homeless
- Rising tendencies among MS with exceptions

# European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)

- The EU compass for social fairness and inclusion

- Adopted in 2017 and EPSR Action Plan adopted in 2021

- **Principle 19** of EPSR calls for:

❑ Access to **social housing** or **housing assistance** of good quality

❑ right to appropriate assistance and protection **against forced eviction**.

❑ Adequate **shelter and services** for social inclusion of homeless

# The European Platform on Combatting Homelessness

- Launched by the Lisbon Declaration, signed in June 2021

- National governments, European institutions, civil society, social partners and cities (multilevel, multi-stakeholder community)

- A **deliverable** of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan

- A reference initiative and focal point for the battle against homelessness in the EU

# The goals of the Lisbon Declaration

- **no one sleeps rough** (open spaces)

- **no one lives in emergency or transitional accommodation** longer than is required

- **no one is discharged from any institution** (e.g. prison, hospital, care facility) without an offer of appropriate housing

- **evictions should be prevented**

- **no one is discriminated** due to their homelessness status

# A "housing first" policy approach

- The Platform promotes an **integrated "housing first" policy approach**, combining:
  - **Prevention**
  - **Stable housing solutions combined with socio-economic support services**
- Help homeless people maintain their tenancy, achieve stable living conditions, and avoid falling back into exclusion.

# The work programme

- Work programme adopted in 2022 (2022-2024)
- Describes governance, activities and deliverables.
- Activities in 3 **work strands**:
    - Strengthen evidence on homelessness
    - Mutual learning activities
    - Access to finance

# WS1: Monitoring and data collection

- **Overall objective:** strengthen analytical work and data collection to promote evidence-based policies

- Pilot project European Homelessness Count in 35 cities from 20 MS

- Policy Toolkit on homelessness and Monitoring framework drafted by OECD

- ESTAT EU-SILC ad-hoc module on housing difficulties

# European Homelessness Count

- Two-year pilot project funded by the EC, lead by University of Leuven

- Aims:

  1. Identifying a common operational definition and collection methodology

  2. testing it at city level in different Member States.

- Organisation and coordination of one common simultaneous European homelessness point-in-time count

- 35 cities from 20 MS (15 cities 1st year+ 20 cities 2nd year)

# European Homelessness Count (2)

- The count will collect data on the numbers and characteristics of homeless people

- ETHOS Light categories 1-3 (optionally also 4-6)

- Street counts and administrative/service data

- Engagement and ownership by local authorities

- Learning Network of cities

- Currently, in the stage of shaping the common methodology – counts end of October

# OECD Policy toolkit and Monitoring Framework

- A **Policy Toolkit** to provide evidence-based guidance to improve the measurement of and policy responses to homelessness.

- **A Monitoring Framework** which presents common approaches to collect data on homelessness, and identifies their key characteristics, strengths, limitations, and common implementation challenges

- **Country Notes on homelessness data** which provide information on statistical definitions of homelessness, available data, collection methods and national strategies.

# EU SILC ad-hoc module

- Ad-hoc module on well-being, material deprivation and housing difficulties

- The ad-hoc module's **section on housing difficulties** looks at the experience of persons having housing difficulties during their lifetime.

- Experience of housing difficulties (duration, reason, exit)

- Run in 2023, results to be published in second half of 2024

# WS2: Mutual learning

- **Overall objective**: support mutual learning of good practices for combatting homelessness and explore further the implementation of successful existing models

- 6 Mutual Learning Events organised the EC.

- Knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices

- Key elements of integrated, person-centered and housing-led homelessness strategies

- Mutual learning activities further evolved by the EPOCH Practice project, lead by FEANTSA and funded by EC action grant

- Social Innovation Call (EUR 15 MIL) to fund pilot projects.

# WS 3: Access to finance

- **Overall objective:** Promote the use of EU funding (ESF+, ERDF) for measures aiming at eradicating homelessness.

- Working group on access to finance, co chaired with CEB

- Representatives from central governments, local authorities and NGO's

- **Components**:
  - Discuss a strategic approach to optimise the use of finance (both repayable and nonrepayable forms of financing)
  - Mapping of public and private funding resources for homelessness
  - Work on a potential pipeline of projects promoting housing-led/Housing First approaches that could be financed by EU and/or public and private financing institutions

Thank you!