

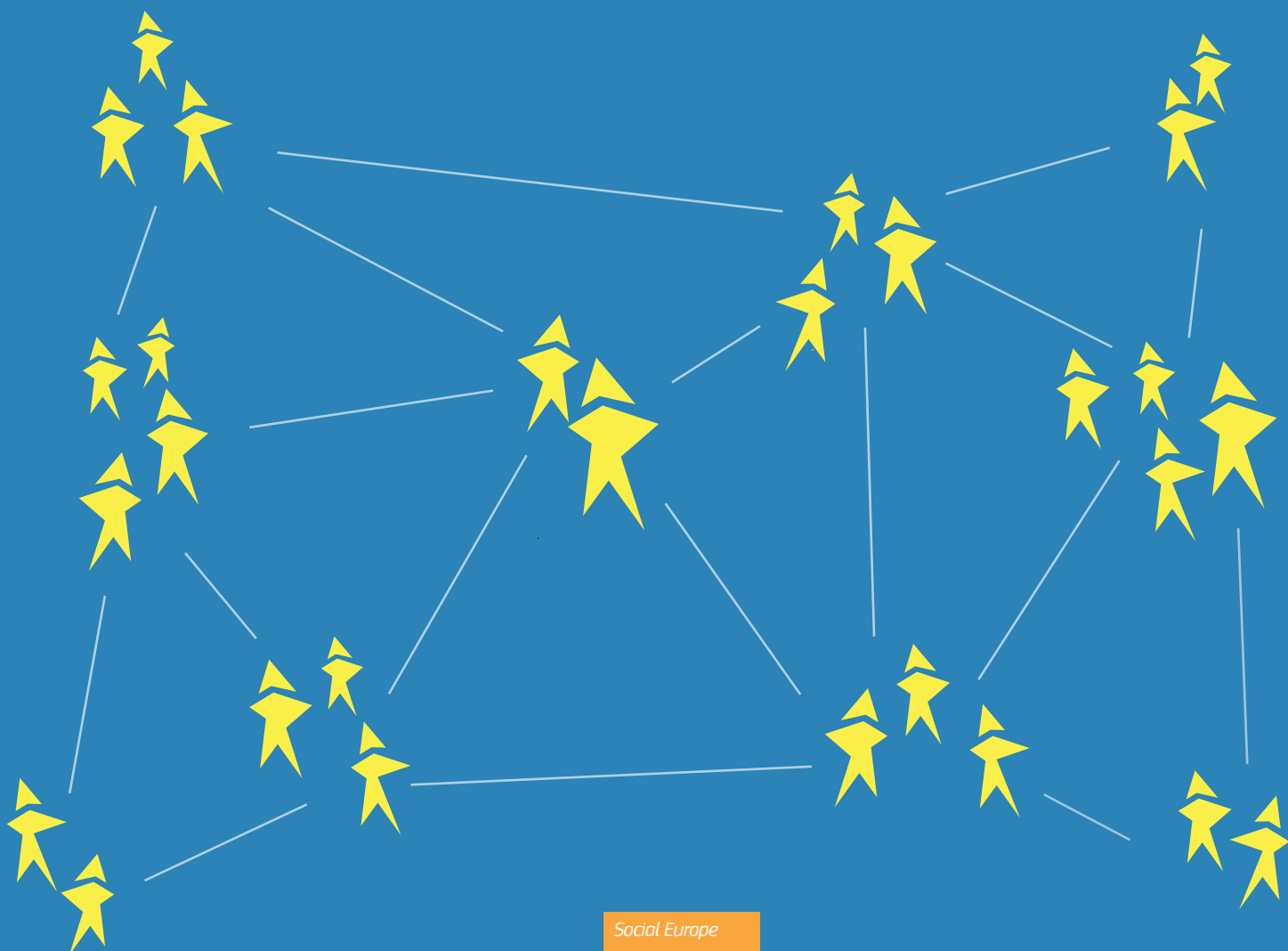


EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY NETWORK (ESPN)

# National strategies to fight homelessness and housing exclusion

## North Macedonia

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National strategies to fight  
homelessness and housing  
exclusion**

**North Macedonia**

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## Summary

Homelessness in North Macedonia has become more visible over the past couple of years. Although official statistical data suggest that in 2017 there were 65 registered homeless persons and 73 registered street children who used temporary accommodation and support from the social protection system, there are other types of homelessness (e.g. people living rough and people living in temporary structures). This indicates that a much larger number of persons and families are affected by this issue. For example, in December 2018, 85 persons (including 49 children) living in an improvised settlement were taken in and accommodated in a social protection institution. According to the experiences of homeless persons in shelters, the main reasons for homelessness include: substance abuse and addiction, poverty and delinquency, domestic family issues and mental health issues.

Street children are also a significant phenomenon, particularly in the capital Skopje. Data suggest that 95% of all street children in the country are Roma.

In North Macedonia, there is no official legal definition of homelessness. For the purposes of a national statistical survey, homeless persons are categorised as adult beneficiaries of social welfare who are 'socially excluded'.

Substandard housing conditions and housing deprivation are also present. According to Eurostat data for 2017, 47.3% of people in North Macedonia lived in overcrowded dwellings; this rate was even higher (64.1%) among the population at risk of poverty. Also in 2017, 10.1% of the population suffered from severe housing deprivation – i.e. apart from living in overcrowded conditions, they were also affected by at least one of the following factors: lack of a bath nor a toilet; a leaking roof in the dwelling; or a dwelling considered too dark. Finally, in 2017, 11.7% lived in households that spent 40% or more of their equivalised disposable income on housing. The Roma ethnic community is particularly affected by substandard housing conditions.

A key feature of the national approach and national policies that address homelessness is the focus on non-housing solutions, i.e. emergency/temporary responses. There is one public Centre for the Homeless, as well as four emergency shelters for homeless people. Due to the lack of housing on offer to homeless persons, some of the residents in the Centre for the Homeless have lived there for more than 10 years.

The limited explicit focus on the homeless in the social protection system is also reflected in the lack of capital expenditure related to housing. According to the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) and the data on expenditure by function, spending on housing in North Macedonia in 2016 amounted to EUR 0.02 million, which is far lower than the housing expenditure of neighbouring countries, e.g. Serbia (EUR 5.99 million in 2017) or Bulgaria (EUR 0.22 million).

In this respect, the main systemic weaknesses that limit an effective and sustainable way out of homelessness include: lack of legislative measures directly targeting the homeless; lack of a comprehensive framework aimed at assessing the needs of homeless persons and providing them with long-term support; lack of welfare benefits and employment services for homeless persons; and the predominance of emergency and ad-hoc support.

Some of the priorities for an improvement in the homelessness and housing exclusion situation in North Macedonia should comprised: legal stipulation of homelessness in all its forms and operationalisation of associated measures to tackle it in the main legislative acts; an increase in financing for social housing and a redefinition of social housing provision and associated financial support to target homeless people; a proactive role on the part of local municipalities in the provision of holistic and comprehensive support (educational, health and social services) to prevent homelessness and support the homeless; and piloting and testing of the Housing First approach to homeless persons, accompanied by comprehensive support from the social protection system.

## 1 The nature and extent of homelessness and housing exclusion

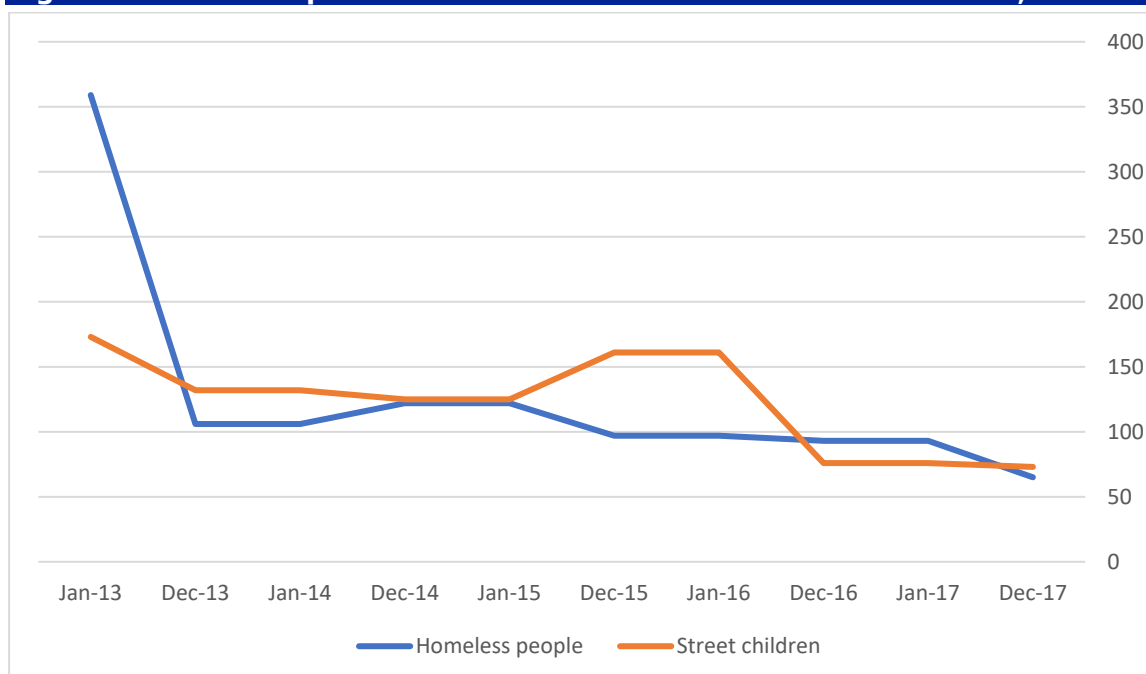
The legislative framework in North Macedonia does not stipulate an official definition of homelessness, or any operationalisation regarding the categories of homeless people (see Table A1 in the Annex).

The category of homeless persons is mentioned in the country's statistical publication *Social Welfare for Children, Juveniles and Adults* (State Statistical Office, 2018), which publishes data regarding the beneficiaries of social welfare by registration status. Data for this publication are collected as part of a regular annual survey, for the period 1 January to 31 December. For the purposes of this statistical survey, homeless persons are categorised as adult beneficiaries of social welfare, defined as 'any physical person who makes use of rights, measures and services of social welfare provided by social work centres, once or several times in the course of the reporting year' (ibid.: 8). Within this statistical survey, homeless persons are categorised as adult beneficiaries of social welfare who are 'socially excluded'.

On the basis of these data from the State Statistical Office, in the period 2013-2017 there was a downward trend in the number of registered homeless people; meanwhile, the trend regarding registered street children has been declining since 2016 (Figure 1). In December 2017, there were 65 registered homeless persons and 73 registered street children (see Table A2 in the Annex). The official data on homeless people and street children in North Macedonia do not present the whole picture, however, as these are only the registered cases that were provided with assistance through the Centres of Social Work. According to the Red Cross Skopje database,<sup>1</sup> in 2017 there were 180 homeless persons (i.e. almost three times the figure in the official data).

Some of the drivers that contribute to homelessness and housing exclusion in North Macedonia include: a constant high rate of those at risk of poverty and social exclusion; a high rate of material deprivation; and a lack of systematic and comprehensive support for housing costs among vulnerable households.

**Figure 1: Homeless persons and street children in North Macedonia, 2013-2017**



Source: State Statistical Office, *Social Welfare for Children, Juveniles and Adults* (2014-2018).

<sup>1</sup> Macedonian Information Agency, <https://mx.mia.mk/EN/Inside/RenderSingleNews/216/133900624>

Profile wise, the State Statistical Office only publishes disaggregated data on homeless people's age and gender. In 2017, the majority of homeless people were male (77%) and the two dominant age groups were those aged 26-45 (40%) and 22-25 (35%) (State Statistical Office, 2018).

According to the research undertaken by the private non-profit organisation Public, the main reasons for homelessness among those using the Centre for the Homeless in Skopje include: substance abuse and addiction (42%) and poverty and delinquency (26%). Other reasons are domestic family issues (15%), mental health issues (12%) and 'other' (5%). On the basis of their research involving 65 homeless respondents, Public identifies three types of homelessness in North Macedonia, including: public homelessness (covering 16.9% of respondents), hidden homelessness (38.5% of respondents) and non-conventional (potential) homelessness (44.6% of respondents) (Public, 2016: 187). These three categories of homelessness are defined as:

'Public homelessness refers to roofless people, who are deprived of any support in securing housing' (ibid.: 128).

'Hidden homelessness refers to people with or without institutionally supported housing, which they are expected to leave within a legally prescribed deadline: women accommodated in shelters for domestic violence victims, immigrants sheltered in centres/reception centres/subsidised housing, people who are about to leave prison, a healthcare or other institution, and who have no available housing' (ibid.: 134).

'Potential homelessness refers to people who live in insecure places (with relatives or friends, in a usurped place or in a home built on usurped land), people under threat of eviction (due to mortgage or rent arrears, and the eviction decision is active), people living under the threat of violence, and people with temporary, unconventional housing' (ibid.: 162).'

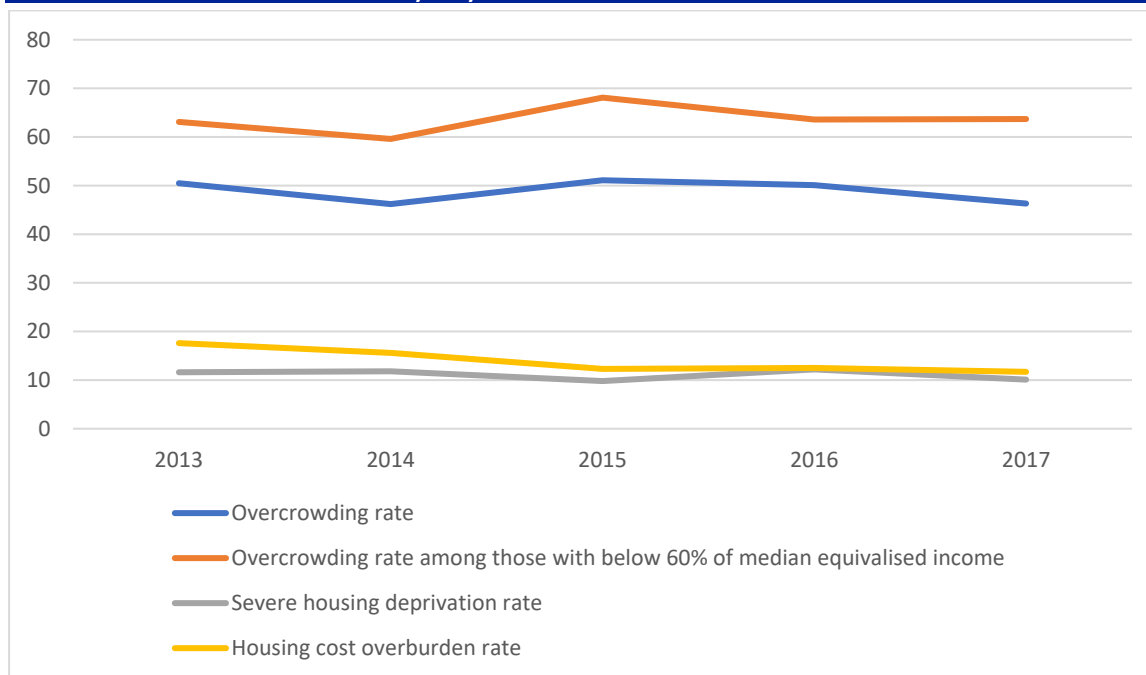
Street children are also a significant issue in North Macedonia, particularly among Roma: according to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, they represent 95% of all street children in the country. An analysis conducted by the national Ombudsman Office (2015) identified the following characteristics among street children in North Macedonia:

'Of the 233 assisted street children, 49% were registered in the capital city Skopje; the majority of them were Roma, with a very few ethnic Turks and Macedonians; 47% or more were girls; the majority of street children were involved in begging, while some were doing some street work, e.g. car cleaning or collecting bottle or plastic waste. The majority of children were living with their parents, while a small proportion of them were children without parents. Most parents were beneficiaries of social financial assistance. In the capital Skopje only 13% of street children were included in formal education. Among the reasons for educational exclusion was the lack of personal identification documents, such as birth certificates.' (Ombudsman, 2015)

Housing exclusion is another dimension, which in North Macedonia according to Kostov, can be attributed to: (a) substandard housing, i.e. lack of electricity, water or sewerage (b) housing affordability i.e. high housing costs and (c) legal housing insecurity, i.e. living in illegally constructed buildings (Kostov, 2010: 520-522). According to Eurostat data for 2017 (Figure 2), 47.3% of people in North Macedonia were living in overcrowded dwellings; this rate was even higher (64.1%) among the population at risk of poverty. Also in 2017, 10.1% of the population suffered from severe housing deprivation (i.e. apart from living in overcrowded conditions, they were also affected by at least one of the following factors: lack of a bath and a toilet; a leaking roof in the dwelling; or a dwelling considered too dark). Finally, in 2017 11.7% lived in households that spent 40% or more of their equivalised disposable income on housing. The proportion of the population whose housing costs exceeded 40% of their equivalised disposable income was highest for tenants with market price rents (56.2%) and lowest for persons in owner-occupied dwellings with a loan or mortgage (3.8%).



**Figure 2: Housing overcrowding, severe housing deprivation and housing cost burden in North Macedonia, %, 2013-2017**



Source: Eurostat, *ilc\_lvho\_or*; *ilc\_lvho\_hc*; *ilc\_mdho*.

Roma are the ethnic group most affected by poor housing conditions. According to existing sources, in 2016 'almost one third (28%) of Roma live[d] in poor neighbourhoods, in makeshift homes', while in 2013 'many Roma live[d] in illegal houses, with less than 5 sq. meters per person; they have ... sub-standard living conditions with little access to basic infrastructure' (UNICEF, 2016; Council of Europe, 2013).

The phenomena of homeless people, street children and housing deprivation are the most visible forms of poverty and social exclusion in North Macedonia. Lack of comprehensive assessments and official data related to these issues hinders any systematic policy approach towards these specific vulnerable groups.

## 2 Relevant strategies and policies to tackle homelessness and housing exclusion

One of the first strategic documents mentioning homeless people in North Macedonia was the 2004 Programme to Tackle the Problems of Socially Excluded Persons, which defined four categories as socially excluded: drug users and their families, street children and their families, victims of family violence and the homeless. These categories were identified on the basis that they were lacking systematic and targeted support from the social protection system (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, 2004). Despite the narrowly defined approach to social exclusion, this document paved the way for the National Strategy for Reduction of Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010-2020), in which homeless people and street children are recognised as separate vulnerable categories of citizens considered in the strategy. There is no specific definition of homeless persons in this document. Currently, this is the only *broad* strategic document which refers to homelessness and mentions housing as one of the seven policy areas to be addressed.

Some of the measures proposed in the strategy include: 1) Homelessness – new mobile, deinstitutionalised services; construction of new flats for social housing or reconstruction and adaptation of existing dwellings; and opening a larger number of hostels/day centres

in municipalities where homeless people have been identified; 2) Street children – scaling up the Patrol Social Work project, which has proven effective in identifying and supporting street children; greater involvement of local municipalities related to the opening of day centres or increasing financial support for existing centres; and 3) Housing – to achieve standardised and harmonious housing conditions for the categories of people deemed to be socially excluded in the area of housing, through: a) reducing the level of substandard housing conditions; b) reducing overcrowding; c) tackling the spatial segregation of ethnic and other types of communities, as a consequence of existing cultural and social matrices; and d) defining credible and transparent procedures for acquiring (and losing) rights related to social housing, as well as developing mechanisms for subsidising and helping people from vulnerable categories with housing problems (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, 2010).

However, the strategy was not accompanied by monitoring mechanisms, and nor did it have a fiscal scenario or budget. Hence its implementation could not be effectively scrutinised. If anything, the strategy only contributed towards declarative statements related to public concern in relation to homelessness or substandard housing conditions.

A more specific national strategy is the National Roma Strategy 2014-2020. This renewed Roma Strategy focuses on five priority areas: employment, education, housing, health and culture. The key strategic objective related to housing is 'Reducing the gap in quality housing between Roma and non-Roma ethnic communities in the country'. The Roma Strategy identifies three policy areas for achieving this objective, namely: legalisation and urbanistic documentation, communal infrastructure and legislative regulations. The Roma Strategy identifies specific monitoring indicators to assess progress in implementation. Indicators in the Housing field include: average number of rooms per household; share of population without access to water; share of population with neither a bath nor a shower in their dwelling; and share of population with access to electricity.

More specific measures and monitoring indicators related to the National Roma Strategy were proposed in the National Action Plan (NAP) for Housing 2016-2020 (as part of the overall Roma Strategy) adopted in 2016. Specific goals of the NAP for Housing include: (i) improved social housing for vulnerable Roma households; (ii) improved housing conditions among Roma through implementation of programmes for urban regeneration; (iii) systematic cadastre registration of property and land owned by Roma. The action plan also identifies the financial cost of implementing the measures, as well as the financing sources. According to independent research assessing the achievements of the National Roma Strategy (Centre for Economic Analysis and Romalítico, 2018), there has been progress in relation to some of the goals (e.g. in 2016 there was a 5% increase in Roma living in social housing, as well as 20% achievement of implemented programmes for urban regeneration in Roma settlements), but in many areas progress has either not been achieved or could not be assessed due to lack of data.

However, turning from 'soft' legislation, the laws that regulate housing policy and social housing do not identify homeless people as a separate category. The Law on Housing (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 99/09, 57/10, 36/11, 54/11 and 13/12) operates with the category 'persons at social risk' when it refers to special housing conditions for rent, purchase or housing subsidies. Even when it categorises some of the 'persons at risk', it refers to 'low-income families, young people, young married couples, single parents, pensioners over the age of 60 who do not have an apartment in their ownership and others' (art. 91).

Also, according to the law regulating the Council of Europe Development Bank loan to help house vulnerable groups (Official Gazette No. 133/2009), homeless people are not specifically targeted. The loan envisages the construction of 32 facilities, with a total of 1,754 dwellings (social housing) intended for people at social risk and other vulnerable groups. There is no specific time frame indicated for finalisation of the project. The total value of the project is €50,700,000 – 50% comes from the Government Budget, including the value of the construction land. The planned facilities are located all over the country, which is an attempt by the state to achieve a more balanced spatial development and, to

a certain extent, an equalisation of housing standards. According to the company that handles the construction and management of residential and business premises of importance for the country, up to 2018, 14 social housing buildings had been built, which were distributed among 678 socially vulnerable families.<sup>2</sup> The last public call<sup>3</sup> by the government for the distribution of social housing to vulnerable categories lists the following vulnerable groups as a priority: (1) Children without parents or parental care – persons who, up to the age of 18, were in residential or other forms of care; (2) Beneficiaries of social or permanent financial assistance; (3) Persons affected by natural disasters, regardless of the legal status of their existing (primary) habitats; (4) Disabled persons and persons who need help and care from another person and families with disabled persons; (5) Persons belonging to the Roma ethnic community who are socially vulnerable (in accordance with the National Strategy for the Roma); (6) Single parents; and (7) Blind beneficiaries of social or permanent financial assistance.

Moreover, homeless people are not explicitly covered by the social protection system as regards financial assistance. The Law on Social Protection (Official Gazette No. 104/19) stipulates the right to housing allowance. However, this right can be provided only to: beneficiaries of the guaranteed minimum assistance and persons who up to the age of 18 have had the status of children without parents and parental care – that is, following the termination of guardianship and up to the age of 26 (art. 57).

The only direct legal reference to homeless persons in the new Law on Social Protection relates to the 'right to a temporary accommodation' (art. 83).

The new Law on Social Protection also regulates the Day-care services (art.80), where 'children at risk and their families (among others) can be provided with: day care, individual educational, social, cultural and recreational activities.

This limited explicit focus on homeless people in the social protection system is also reflected in the lack of capital expenditure related to housing. According to ESSPROS data on expenditure by function,<sup>4</sup> housing expenditure in North Macedonia in 2016 amounted to EUR 0.02 million, which is far less than spending on housing in neighbouring countries, e.g. Serbia (EUR 5.99 million in 2017) or Bulgaria (EUR 0.22 million).

In relation to support for non-housing solutions (e.g. emergency/temporary responses), data from the Inter-Municipal Centre for Social Work Skopje (Figure 3) show that the public financing of the only centre for the homeless in the country increased in the period 2013-2018. However, the total financing of 6,727,106 Macedonian denar (MKD) (EUR 109,368.29) in 2018 covered only the basic needs of the homeless in this centre, and did not provide more high-intensity support services.

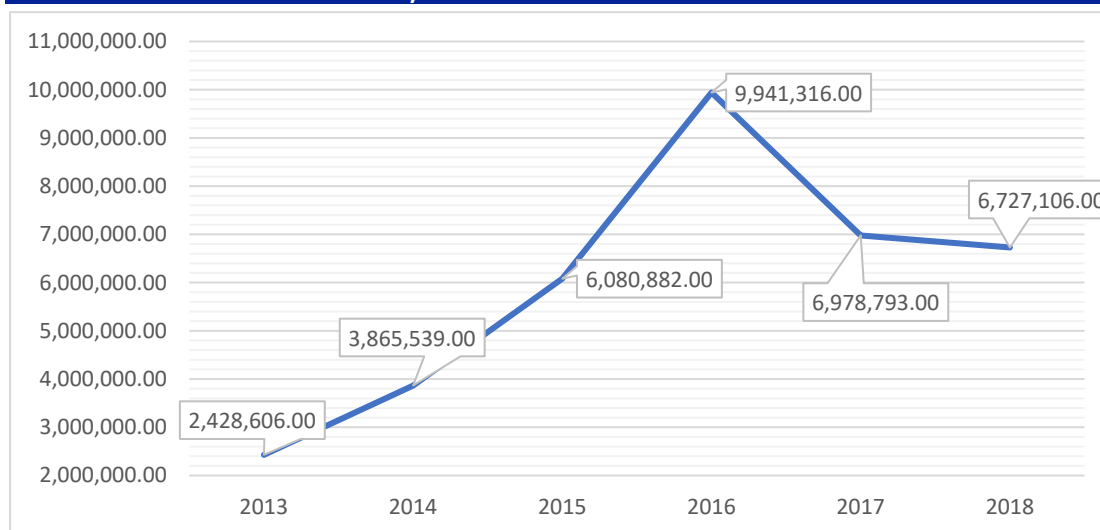
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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.adsdp.mk/adsdpmk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=339&Itemid=312](http://www.adsdp.mk/adsdpmk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=339&Itemid=312)

<sup>3</sup> <https://vlada.mk/?q=node/15137>

<sup>4</sup> Eurostat, ESSPROS, Expenditure housing function, spr\_exp\_fh.

**Figure 3: Total public financing for the Cicino Selo Centre for the Homeless, in million Macedonian denars, 2013-2018**



Source: Inter-Municipal Centre for Social Work Skopje, 2019.<sup>5</sup>

In addition, the annual cost for the functioning of the emergency shelter for the homeless in 2018 was MKD 1,700,000 (EUR 27,633), of which 41% was provided by the municipal budget of the city of Skopje, and the rest came from donations and from the non-profit organisation Red Cross Skopje.

EU funding (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, IPA) has also been used to support projects related to the improvement of Roma local action plans for housing. As already mentioned, the Council of Europe Development Bank loan has also partially financed the Project for the Housing of Vulnerable Groups to the tune of €25,350,000.

### 3 Analysis of the current patterns of service provision and challenges in implementing North Macedonia's responses to homelessness and housing exclusion

The current pattern of service provision for homeless people in North Macedonia is based on the provision of emergency/temporary accommodation. Apart from this, there are ad-hoc measures which involve project-type services related to psycho-social integration support, but these are not systematically sustained or developed.

The main temporary accommodation is provided in the *Centre for the Homeless – Cicino Selo*, which is under the auspices of the Inter-Municipal Centre for Social Work Skopje, a public body that serves the capital city Skopje. The Centre for the Homeless is funded through the general government budget. Following a fire in 2015, the accommodation capacity of the centre was reduced to only 36 rooms. Each room measures 13 square metres. The number of users varies from 50 to 60 persons. The procedure for accommodating homeless people in this centre is administered through the Centre of Social Work, which – after an on-site visit and a means-test assessment – issues a Decision on accommodation. The Decision is issued for six months, after which time it can be extended. According to research evidence, there are homeless people who have been residing in the centre for more than 10 years (Public, 2016: 135).

A Special Report issued by the national Ombudsman Office (2013) indicated that the living conditions in the Centre for the Homeless, in which children with their families are also accommodated, are inadequate and characterised by: an insufficient supply of food and

<sup>5</sup> Data obtained through a written request to the Inter-Municipal Centre for Social Work Skopje.

food storage facilities; an unacceptably low level of hygiene; problems with waste collection, healthcare and personal safety; and unequal access to education for Roma children (Ombudsman, 2013: 9-10).

The Skopje branch of the Red Cross NGO operates a Reception point for homeless people and a Temporary Shelter (called Center and Shelter for Homeless people). The Reception point has functioned since 2008 and is open two days a week – Monday and Friday – when homeless persons can avail themselves of the following services: bathing, barber services, clean clothes, free medical examination and medication, a conversation with a social worker and a psychologist, and a meal. On Fridays, transport is organised from the city centre to the shelter. According to the Red Cross Annual Report for 2018, '60 homeless people received services, and during 2018 a total of 3,033 visits were realised'. Support provided in this shelter throughout 2018 included: 1,290 visits for health check-ups and distribution of 2,852 medications; 60 homeless people provided with a hot meal with a total of 3,033 servings provided during 2018. With the assistance of a social worker, 97 persons were assisted in acquiring personal documents, including: 32 birth certificates, 13 citizenship documents, 39 ID cards, 3 marriage certificates, 2 death certificates, 3 health cards, 3 documents for non-conviction, and 2 requests from the penal institution Idrizovo. After the documents for these persons were provided, the process of obtaining social assistance or claiming other social protection rights could be initiated (Red Cross Skopje, 2019 69).

In 2017, the government initiated the pilot project Programme for Supported Living, which offers a number of activities aimed at facilitating the process of social inclusion. During the winter of 2017/2018, approximately 120 homeless people – most of them Roma living in makeshift housing around the foot of Skopje's Kale fortress – were provided with temporary accommodation. A total of 15 families who participated in the pilot programme moved to temporary accommodation in the settlement of Vizbegovo. According to information provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy,<sup>6</sup> in December 2018 some 85 people (including 49 children) who had been living in the makeshift settlement were taken in and accommodated in a social protection institution. While this proactive government approach of moving homeless families from improvised settlements and placing them in social protection institutions tackles the issue of extremely precarious living conditions, it also creates a fresh challenge for those families – namely, to live together with other vulnerable groups (e.g. minors in conflict with law, etc.) accommodated in the same institution.

To assist the homeless during the cold winter times, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, in cooperation with the Red Cross in Skopje, has activated an intervention centre for the homeless at Momin Potok (a suburb of Skopje), with sleeping accommodation for 32. In addition to this, there are three regional reception centres in the cities of Bitola, Strumica and Struga.

Apart from emergency accommodation and support from the central and local authorities, there are several ongoing non-governmental activities to provide homeless people with food, clothing, psycho-social support and similar services; all are based on voluntary support and donations. Some of the most prominent include:

- NGO Red Cross Skopje (which provides emergency shelter for the homeless, as well as other services, such as a drop-off point for clothing for socially vulnerable individuals and households);
- NGO Habitat for Humanity MK (which provides simple, decent and affordable housing solutions for those living in poverty);

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<sup>6</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, [http://www.mtsp.gov.mk/dekemvri-2018-ns\\_article-mtsp-obezbedeno-smestuvanje-za-85-bezdomni-lica-aktivirani-dezurni-timovi-na-punktovite-za-bezdomnic.nspix](http://www.mtsp.gov.mk/dekemvri-2018-ns_article-mtsp-obezbedeno-smestuvanje-za-85-bezdomni-lica-aktivirani-dezurni-timovi-na-punktovite-za-bezdomnic.nspix)

- NGO Public (analytical and consulting services related to access to the labour market for the long-term unemployed, exclusion from housing, social exclusion, etc.).

Some of the innovative entrepreneurial solutions include the launch of the magazine *Face to Face* (in 2012). Its vendors comprise different vulnerable groups, including homeless people, and receive 50% of the cover price. The vendors also participate in educational programmes to improve their communication and motivation skills. Besides the direct activation of vulnerable categories, the magazine also raises public awareness of challenges related to homelessness.

Based on the available support for homeless persons in the country, it may be said that there are no existing services in relation to preventing homelessness and housing exclusion. Providing access to permanent accommodation solutions is only available through social housing, but homeless persons are not a priority target group. Comprehensive and flexible support is hampered by a lack of both legislation and financial resources.

In this respect, the main systemic weaknesses limiting effective and sustainable ways out of homelessness include: the lack of legislative measures directly targeting homeless persons; the lack of a comprehensive framework aimed at assessing the needs of, and providing long-term support to, homeless persons; the lack of targeted welfare benefits and employment services for homeless persons; and the predominance of emergency and ad-hoc support.

The priorities for improvements in preventing and addressing homelessness and housing exclusion in North Macedonia should include a number of actions to enhance the legislative, financial and systemic climate, including:

- stipulating a legal definition of homelessness in all its forms and the inclusion of associated measures to tackle it in the main legislative acts, including the Law on Housing, the Law on Social Protection and the Law on Social Entrepreneurship;
- increasing financing for social housing and redefining social housing provision and associated financial support to target homeless people;
- a more proactive role for local municipalities in the provision of holistic and comprehensive support (educational, health and social services) to prevent homelessness and support homeless people;
- ensuring that all children in temporary accommodation for homeless people have access to education and adequate educational support; and
- piloting the Housing First approach with homeless persons in the Centre for the Homeless, as a number of residents use this facility on a long-term basis, through the provision of social housing and associated comprehensive support from the employment, education, health and social protection systems.

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## Annex

**Table A1: ETHOS Light categories defined as homeless in North Macedonia (\*)**

Operational category		Living situation		Definition	Defined as homeless in North Macedonia
1	People living rough	1	Public space/ external space	Living in the streets or public spaces without a shelter that can be defined as living quarters	1. Yes
2	People in emergency accommodation	2	Overnight shelters	People with no place of usual residence who move frequently between various types of accommodation	2. Yes
3	People living in accommodation for the homeless	3	Homeless hostels	Where the period of stay is time limited and no long-term housing is provided	3. Yes
		4	Temporary accommodation		4. Yes
		5	Transitional supported accommodation		5. Yes
		6	Women's shelter or refuge accommodation		6. No
4	People living in institutions	7	Healthcare institutions	Stay longer than needed due to lack of housing No housing available prior to release	7. No
		8	Penal institutions		8. No
5	People living in non-conventional dwellings due to lack of housing	9	Mobile homes	Where the accommodation is used due to a lack of housing and is not the person's usual place of residence	9. No
		10	Non-conventional building		10. No
		11	Temporary structures		11. Yes
6	Homeless people living temporarily in conventional housing with family and friends (due to lack of housing)	12	Conventional housing, but not the person's usual place of residence	Where the accommodation is used due to a lack of housing and is not the person's usual place of residence	12. No

(\*) There is no official definition of homeless people.



**Table A2: Latest available data on the number of homeless people in North Macedonia**

Operational category		Living situation		Most recent number	Period covered	Source
1	People living rough	1	Public space/ external space	n.a.		
2	People in emergency accommodation	2	Overnight shelters	2. 60 persons	2018	Red Cross Skopje (2019)
3	People living in accommodation for the homeless	3	Homeless hostels	3. n.a.		4. State Statistical Office (2018)
		4	Temporary accommodation	4. 65 persons	4. 31.12.2017	
		5	Transitional supported accommodation	5. n.a.		
		6	Women's shelter or refuge accommodation	6. 34 persons (15 of which children)	6. 2017	
4	People living in institutions	7	Healthcare institutions	7. n.a.		
		8	Penal institutions	8. n.a.		
5	People living in non-conventional dwellings due to lack of housing	9	Mobile homes	9. n.a.		11. Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, <a href="http://www.mtsp.gov.mk/dekempri-2018-ns_article-mtsp-obezbedeno-smestuvanje-za-85-bezdomni-lica-aktivirani-dezurni-timovi-na-punktovite-za-bezdomnic.nsp">http://www.mtsp.gov.mk/dekempri-2018-ns_article-mtsp-obezbedeno-smestuvanje-za-85-bezdomni-lica-aktivirani-dezurni-timovi-na-punktovite-za-bezdomnic.nsp</a>
		10	Non-conventional building	10. n.a.		
		11	Temporary structures	11. 85 persons (49 of which children)	11. December 2018	
6	Homeless people living temporarily in conventional housing with family and friends (due to lack of housing)	12	Conventional housing, but not the person's usual place of residence	12. n.a.		

