

European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless

Simona Barbu
Policy Officer
simona.barbu@feantsa.org

**Mutual Learning Conference on Integration of
migrants with a Spotlight on skills intelligence and
learning, housing, women and children**

Workshop 2 “Finding sustainable housing solutions for
migrants”

DG EMPL, 30th of November 2021



FEANTSA

European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless

- European coalition to end homelessness in Europe
- The only European NGO focusing exclusively on the fight against homelessness. Our ultimate goal is an end to homelessness in Europe.
- 120+ members from across Europe EU + EFTA + UK

→ Our work

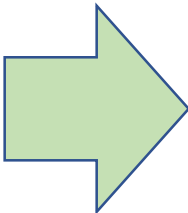
- Research
- Learning, expertise & knowledge
- Advocacy
- Awareness raising
- Thematical: Women, Youth, LGBTIQ, Migrants (EU & TCN), Participation, Health, Employment.



EXILED & HOMELESS: DATA



FOREIGN NATIONALS
OVER-REPRESENTED
AMONG THE HOMELESS



HOUSING
=
ESSENTIAL FOR INTEGRATION

Brussels: 25% of homeless
=
asylum seekers

Sweden: 43% of homeless
=
foreign nationals (x2 since 1993)

England: 32% of homeless
accommodated in NACCOM services
= refugees



IN FINLAND
A quarter of homeless families are
immigrants.



IN BARCELONA, SPAIN,
52.3% of homeless people are third-
country nationals.



IN GREECE
16% of the 3,774 unaccompanied
minors are sleeping rough.

Challenges regarding integration in the area of housing

- **Critical lack of affordable housing** across the EU
- In 2018, non-EU nationals were on average 2.4 times more likely to be overburdened by housing costs (24%) than nationals from reporting countries (9.9%). EUSILC (2020)
- Lack of comparable data & common definitions
- Economic and/or Social Marginalisation
- Insufficient time to search for accommodation after obtaining refugee status
- Discrimination
- Legal and administrative obstacles
- Inability to access public funding
- Lack of Support Legislation for Access to Housing
- Women specific:
 - Gender-based violence
 - Dependent migrant status

SOLUTIONS TO THE HOUSING CRISIS →

- Using social housing, identifying specific needs and individualised support
- Self-restoration of dilapidated housing, between reception policies and urban renewal
- Makeshift systems and civil society solutions
- Use of vacant private housing

Housing First has demonstrated unprecedented success in solving homelessness for those considered « hardest » cases.

Provide homeless migrants with long term housing solutions

- Affordable and adequate shelter.
- Facilitate integration overall.
- Allow for access to education/training and access to the labour market.

- ***“Since I am undocumented, I am entitled to nothing. Only the shelters of Red Cross and SamuSocial accept undocumented people, but just for one night. Every day you have to call them to know if they will have a bed for you, but you have to call them 200 times because lines are always collapsed... There is not a long-term accommodation option for me at all. How can I plan anything if I don’t know whether I will be sleeping on the streets tonight? How will I take care of my daughter? That’s why I am living with this man. Despite he is sometimes violent, at least my daughter and I sleep with a roof above our heads.”***
- ***– Woman attended by La Source asbl (Belgium)***

Thank you!
Simona Barbu

simona.barbu@feantsa.org



FEANTSA