

EU's role in fighting homelessness

Presentation Freek Spinnewijn – FEANTSA
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EU instruments

- **Legislation**

- *Principle of subsidiarity*
- EU law on free movement, migration & asylum, anti-discrimination has impact
- Homeless people mentioned specifically
 - Right to water
 - Right to bank account

- **EU funding** and financing opportunities

- Framework at level of EU
- Implementation at national/regional level

- ***Soft policy***

- Transnational exchanges, research, policy evaluation and monitoring, ec.

EU social policy framework

- EU Pillar of Social Rights
 - All EU Member States
 - Homelessness is in
 - *Principle 19*
 - Action Plan
 - 2030
 - EU objectives
 - Employment
 - Education
 - Poverty
 - 15 million people less in poverty including 5 million children

EU social policy framework (2)

- EU Semester
 - Socio-economic policy monitoring
- Annual process
 - EU Commission country reports
 - National reform programmes
 - Country-specific recommendations
 - Link to EU funding and financing
 - Homelessness not well covered
 - Should change in the current cycle

EU Homeless Platform

- Is a sort of strategy
- Part of Pillar Action Plan
- Launched in June 2021
- Results of 15 years of hard lobbying by FEANTSA
- Buy-in from 27 Member States
 - Intergov
 - Lisbon Declaration
 - Ending homelessness by 2030
- Strong support from
 - EU institutions
 - NGOs
 - Commissioner
- Resistance from DG EMPL

EU Homeless Platform (2)

- Governance
 - Plenary – *decides*
 - 27 MS + stakeholders
 - Austria
 - Steering Boards – *prepares*
 - FEANTSA is member
 - EU Commission - *supports*
- Work programme
 - Validated
 - Mutual learning, Data collection, Monitoring, Access to EU funding
- Budget
 - Still a battle...

EU funding

- Unprecedented opportunities
- ESF+
 - ¼ for social inclusion
 - Child Guarantee – homeless children
 - Youth Guarantee – youth with complex needs
 - Social support & rent
 - CZ
- ERDF
 - Social infrastructure & housing
 - Difficult
 - FR
 - Innovative Urban Actions & Urbact
- Others
 - AMIF
 - Ukrainian refugees
 - EAGF
 - Housing on country side
 - ...

EU Funding (2)

- InvestEU
 - Loans
 - Social infrastructure window
 - Housing solutions for homeless are priority
 - EC & EIB are searching for pilot projects
- Recovery and Resilience Facility
 - Related to Corona
 - Grants & Loans
 - Homeless in handful of countries
 - IT – 160 million € for Housing First
 - PT, ES,...

Mainstreaming homelessness in EU policy

- IN

- EU Child Guarantee
 - Homeless children 1 of 6 target groups
 - National plans & funding
- EU Disability Strategy
- EU Roma Framework
- EU LGBT Strategy
 - Young homeless
- EU Social Economy Action Plan
 - Funding instrument with foundations

- OUT

- EU Gender Equality Strategy
 - But homeless covered by draft EU Directive on gender violence
- EU Migration Pact
 - But might change with Ukrainian refugee crisis
- EU Youth Strategy
 - Resistance from youth organisations...
- EU Health

- Opportunities for transnational projects, research, monitoring policy progress, etc.

Proactive approach needed

- EU Commission
 - Initiates in theory...
 - Blocks in practice...
- Keep pressure on EU Commission high
 - EU Homeless Platform
 - Generate *demand*
 - Key bodies
 - **Social Protection Committee**
 - High-level national civil servants
 - Steers social policy of EU
 - **Indicators Sub-Group**
 - Expert national civil servants
 - Data collection
 - **Social Affairs Working Party**
 - Social attachés of Permanent Representation to the EU
 - Collective and individual pressure useful

- Homeless Platform

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FEANTSA promotion

- Policy conference & AGM
 - Dublin – 2 & 3 June
 - www.feantsa.org
- Research conference
 - Bergamo – 22-23 September
 - www.feantsaresearch.org

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- Thanks for listening
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