

Homelessness – a pan European perspective

Contribution FEANTSA

International Conference: Homelessness, health and Inclusion – improving the health of the poorest fastest

London – 27-28 Feb 2013

Recent trends in homelessness

- ▣ Moderate increase
 - ▣ But sustained decrease in Scotland, Finland, Netherlands
 - ▣ More than average in *Programme countries* & England
- ▣ Increasing youth homelessness
 - ▣ Link with crisis & increasing youth unemployment
- ▣ Impact of migration
 - ▣ Flaws in migration policy increasingly lead to homelessness
 - ▣ Intra-EU migration
- ▣ Housing costs as cause of homelessness
 - ▣ Housing bubbles

Recent trends in homeless policies

- ▣ National/regional strategies
 - ▣ Integrated
 - ▣ Growing number of MS develop/experiment with *Housing-led* strategies
 - ▣ But shelter system remains focus...
- ▣ Public budget cuts
 - ▣ More than average in England
 - ▣ *Hit* sustainable solutions to homelessness more than emergency solution
- ▣ Mobilisation/Responsibilisation of local policy makers
 - ▣ Are often faced with budget constraints
 - ▣ Increasing diversity within countries
- ▣ Evidence-based policies
 - ▣ Growing importance of data collection

Some interesting country examples

- ▣ Finland
 - ▣ Solving homelessness by 2015...
- ▣ Netherlands
 - ▣ Leading role for big cities
- ▣ Denmark
 - ▣ Alternative approaches to homelessness
- ▣ France
 - ▣ Enforceable right to housing
- ▣ Belgium
 - ▣ Role of the private rental housing market
- ▣ Austria
 - ▣ Prevention of evictions
- ▣ ...

Role of the EU on homelessness

- EU social investment package (Feb 2013)
 - EU support for MS to prevent & address homelessness
 - Funding
 - ERDF; ESF; FEAD
 - Policy & practice exchange
 - Research & data collection
 - Steering & Monitoring progress
 - Possible Country Specific Recommendations
- European Round Table of Ministers resp for Homelessness
 - 1 March
 - Irish Presidency
 - Call for EU framework on homelessness
 - England & Scotland present
 - Occasion to indentify common challenges and common actions

Some common health & homelessness trends

- ▣ Importance of mental health & addiction problems
 - ▣ Dual diagnosis
 - ▣ Suicide
- ▣ Underdeveloped cooperation between *homeless sector* and health sector
 - ▣ Uncoordinated & Unsustainable use of public health services
 - ▣ Emergency health care
- ▣ Ageing of homeless population
 - ▣ Health problems related to rapid ageing process
- ▣ Chronic diseases
 - ▣ HIV, Hepatitis
- ▣ Domestic violence

Some health & homelessness divergences

- ▣ Harm reduction vs Abstinence
 - ▣ Street medicine vs Mainstream health care
 - ▣ *Housing Ready vs Housing First*
 - ▣ Institutional solutions vs DI
-
- ▣ Confrontation of ideas as source of inspiration
 - ▣ Need for more evidence
 - ▣ No simple north-south divide

Some common challenges

- ▣ Bridge gap between health and homeless sectors
 - ▣ Role of **training** health care professionals...
- ▣ Access to health care
 - ▣ Coverage / Affordability
 - ▣ Useful **EU comparison**...
- ▣ Communicable diseases
 - ▣ Homelessness as public health threat
 - ▣ Role of the EU fr **early warning**...
- ▣ Incorporate homelessness health research in policy & service development
- ▣ Prevention
 - ▣ Life style; Housing
 - ▣ Potential for **exchange of good practices**
- ▣ End of life support
- ▣ Adherence to treatment
 - ▣ Peer support
 - ▣ Room **for experimentation**

Housing First as new paradigm

- ▣ US origin
- ▣ Key features
 - ▣ Immediate & Unconditional housing
 - ▣ Separation housing and support
 - ▣ Individual support
 - ▣ ACT, CTI,...
- ▣ Results
 - ▣ Housing stability
 - ▣ Well being
 - ▣ Cost saving
 - ▣ Health

EU & Health: opportunities

- ▣ Transnational projects & research
 - ▣ DG SANCO
 - ▣ Health Programme
 - ▣ 2007-2013
 - ▣ 2014-2020
 - ▣ Relevant priorities
 - ▣ Mental health; health inequalities; addiction
 - ▣ DG JUST
 - ▣ DAPHNE
 - ▣ Domestic violence
 - ▣ DG EMPL
 - ▣ SIP
 - ▣ Investing in health
 - ▣ SIB
 - ▣ EUPSCI
 - ▣ Social experimentation
 - ▣ RCT

FEANTSA & Health

- ▣ 2008 European report on homelessness & health
- ▣ Expert group
- ▣ ENHHW
 - ▣ Newsbrief
- ▣ Cost-benefit analysis 2013
 - ▣ European Observatory
- ▣ Research conference social/health support in Housing First
 - ▣ Berlin - Sept 2013
- ▣ Cooperation European health sector
 - ▣ EPHA



- ▣ Thanks for listening

- ▣ www.feantsa.org

- ▣ Freek.Spinnewijn@feantsa.org

