



2016
ANNUAL REPORT



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President's Foreword

Since the economic crisis began in 2008, the number of people who have been forced to live in situations of residential exclusion, in any of its categories (ETHOS), has been growing. High unemployment, the increasing cost of housing and the austerity measures that most Member States have adopted, are all factors contributing to growing homelessness. Due to this phenomenon, an increasing number of states or cities in Europe are implementing and enlarging strategies to confront homelessness and residential exclusion (through adopting housing-led strategies or elements of them). It is important to remember that the people who face the most acute urban housing problem are those who have no housing or permanent shelter – those who experience unsheltered homelessness

The European Federation of National Organizations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) is the largest European network focused exclusively on homeless people. Since 1989, it has been fighting for the rights of these people, those who have seen their right to access a home violated, those belonging to the excluded, the invisible, the nobody, and whose cruellest face is manifested in the streets of our cities.

While many European countries continue to suffer cuts to their social policies, leaving thousands of people homeless, FEANTSA strives to combat this reality by working with European institutions and taking part in debates on housing and regional policies at the national and international level. The idea is not only to end and prevent homelessness, but to sensitize the population to this phenomenon and to influence policymakers so that they fight for the right to housing and stop feeding on inequalities.

2016 was the year homelessness was included in the United Nations' New Urban Agenda, with clear commitments by UN members to eliminate homelessness and progressively realise the right to adequate housing.

FEANTSA is ready and willing to work with the European Commission, EU Member States and European cities to make sure the clear commitment at international level to eliminate homelessness is matched in the EU Urban Agenda.

I want to show my sincere gratitude to all the team and members for their daily effort to make the invisible visible.

Joan Uribe Vilarrodona
President of FEANTSA

Director's Foreword

2016 has been a year with some important policy developments at EU level that concern homelessness. Below I have listed just a few of these developments. You can get a more complete picture reading through the whole report.

In the spring, the EU Commissioner responsible for Social Policy, Marianne Thyssen, launched a proposal to set up a European Pillar of Social Rights. The Pillar is likely to be the most relevant EU framework for social policy development for the years to come. FEANTSA helped to get an explicit reference to the right to shelter in the text of the Communication of the European Commission on the Pillar. The right to shelter does not stand on its own, but is part of the broader right to housing. The text stipulates that all people who stay in homeless shelters should have the right to support to move on to permanent housing solutions as quickly as possible. Following the launch of the Communication, FEANTSA made concrete suggestions on how to make the Pillar operational and ensure that EU actions under the Pillar contribute to the fight against homelessness. By the end of 2017, the final text of the Pillar and a detailed implementation plan will be adopted by the European Council. FEANTSA will work hard to secure some relevance to the fight against homelessness.

The lack of EU data on homelessness is a long-standing problem which is often invoked by EU authorities to justify the lack of policy progress on homelessness. 2016 was a sort of breakthrough year, in that we saw the first ever EU initiative on homelessness statistics. In the course of 2016, Eurostat developed, with the help of FEANTSA, a concrete proposal for a specific module of EU-SILC (large household survey) on material deprivation, which includes some questions on the past experience of homelessness. The proposal was adopted by the European Commission in early 2017 and binds all EU Member States. Even if the questions on homelessness are optional, FEANTSA

is hopeful that several member states will use them in the sample survey for the module in 2018. It is definitely a first important step towards more inclusive EU data collection in the future.

In the Spring of 2016, the Dutch Presidency of the EU brokered a deal between the 28 Member States on the role of the EU in the area of urban policy and launched the long-awaited Urban Agenda. A handful of urban partnerships were created to give the Agenda some focus including one on housing and one on urban poverty. These partnerships consist of representatives of Member States, cities, and other stakeholders. FEANTSA is a member of the Urban Poverty Partnership led by France and Belgium, and we have been asked to lead the working group on homelessness. We will work hard to get support for an ambitious set of actions on homelessness in the work programme of the partnership.

The European Parliament was, as in previous years, a strong advocate for the homelessness cause. Members of the current European Parliament (2014 – 2019) from the different mainstream political groups launched a Written Declaration calling on the European Commission to develop an EU homelessness strategy as requested by previous European Parliaments in several Written Declarations and Resolutions. With the help of FEANTSA members, more than 300 members of the European Parliament (MEPs) signed the Declaration - just 50 short of having it formally adopted. But the wide mobilisation around the Written Declaration helped to secure support from a large group of MEPs who are willing to push the homelessness agenda at EU level. This materialised into calls in different opinions and resolutions of the European Parliament to end the criminalisation of homeless people, to increase EU support for transnational work and learning on homelessness and to conduct research on the issue of women's homelessness.

The EU Semester, the process that helps to steer the economic and social policies of the Member States, is gradually becoming a little more social. Thanks to the lobbying work of FEANTSA members, homelessness was mentioned as an issue of concern in approximately half of the National Reform Programmes. Homelessness also appeared more frequently in other important EU Semester documents such as the Commission's country reports and the Joint Employment Report. It shows that even in large overarching EU processes there is a space for homelessness. It helped us to keep the fight against homelessness high on the EU social policy agenda and reinforce our demands for concrete actions.

In 2016, FEANTSA reinforced its connections with the Directorates-General of the European Commission responsible for health and migration policy. We were invited to contribute to the work of several intergovernmental expert groups on cancer and health inequalities, and we are increasingly recognised as an expert stakeholder on migration issues. We plan to further exploit our expertise on homelessness to break into other EU policy areas such as youth, free movement and child rights.

We worked closely with the Maltese Presidency of the European Union on domestic violence. We managed to get a strong reference to homelessness in the conclusions of the Council of Ministers in early 2017. It will serve as a solid basis to reinforce FEANTSA's work on women's homelessness.

Housing First is a promising intervention to address entrenched homelessness. We continued to make progress in 2016 to convince EU authorities to help promote it as a good practice. The Council of Social Affairs of the EU agreed on conclusions specifically on poverty in the Summer of 2016 which call upon Member States to adopt Housing First and Housing-led approaches to tackle and address homelessness.

FEANTSA has also been very active at UN level. We were involved in the preparation of the UN HABITAT conference in Quito and helped to secure a prominent place for the fight against homelessness in the UN Urban Agenda for the next 20 years.

2016 also saw the first proposal for an EU plan to deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Despite the clear reference to extreme poverty (SDG 1.1.) and the right to housing (SDG 11.1), the European Commission overlooked the growing problem of homelessness. This is all the more surprising because of the rapid increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in many Member States. We are hopeful that we can still influence the proposals from the European Commission before they are adopted by the Council.

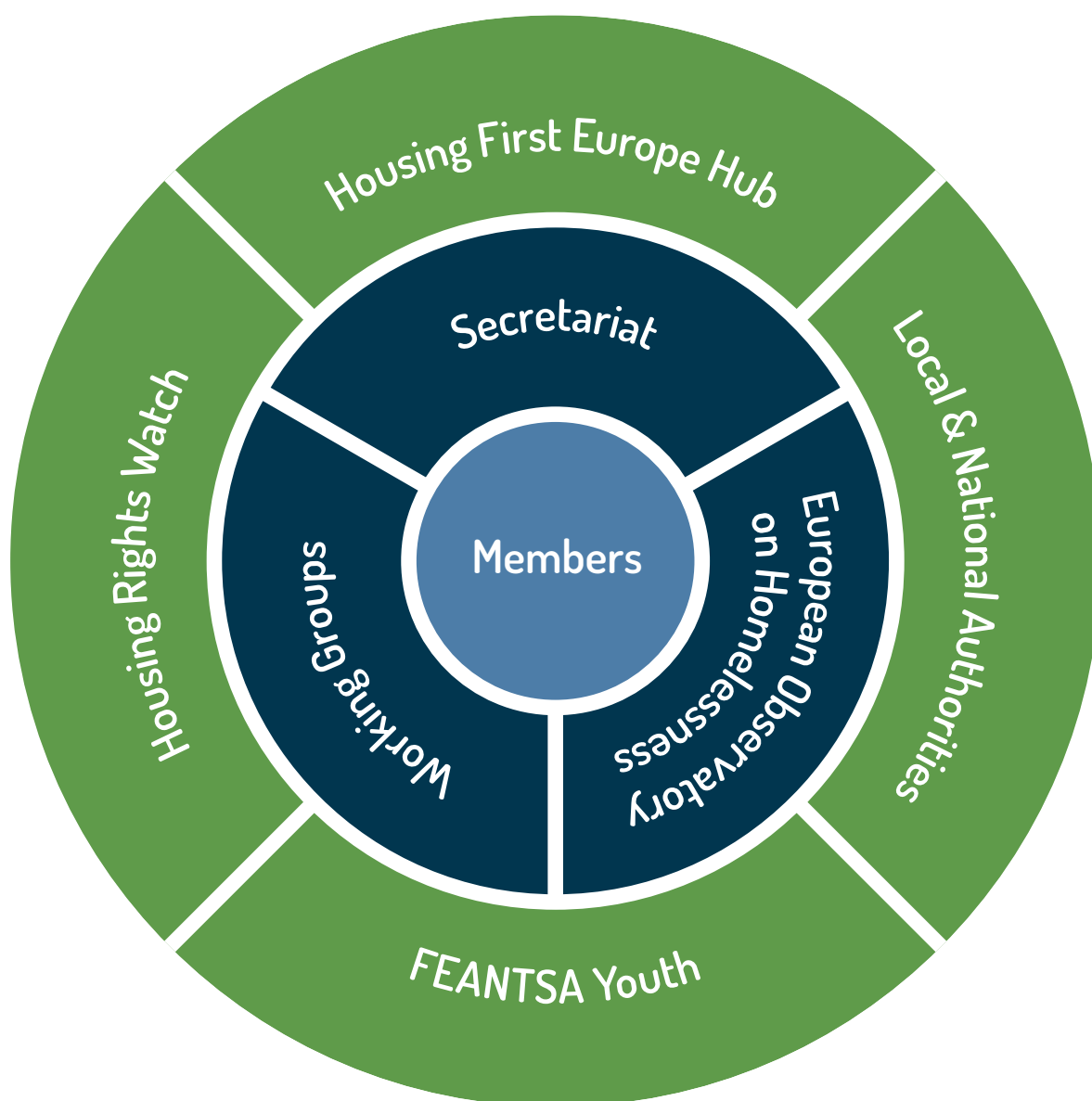
In order to sustain the promising developments at EU level, FEANTSA prepared a European campaign "Be Fair, Europe – Stand up for Homeless People" which was launched in early 2017. The campaign calls upon EU institutions and Member States to deliver concrete results on homelessness under various EU policy instruments.

The above is a short overview of our policy work at EU level. Of course, FEANTSA does much more. As in previous years, we organised conferences and seminars, conducted research and produced toolkits and analytical papers, among other work. You can read more about these activities in this annual report.

Freek Spinnewijn
Director of FEANTSA

FEANTSA's Organisational Structure

HOW IS FEANTSA STRUCTURED?



FEANTSA Membership

FEANTSA has 130 members working in 33 countries. Its democratic decision-making structures are composed of: the General Assembly, the Administrative Council and the Executive Committee.

Secretariat

The FEANTSA Secretariat is based in Brussels and is normally composed of 12 members of staff.

European Observatory on Homelessness

FEANTSA set up the Observatory in 1991 to support the production of high quality research on homelessness.

Working groups

FEANTSA has 5 Working Groups on Health, Housing, Migration, Participation and Housing as a Human Right. They help FEANTSA produce outputs on each of these themes.

Housing First Europe Hub

The Hub is a European platform which aims to further develop and promote Housing First in Europe. It is the result of a joint venture with the Y-Foundation.

Housing Rights Watch

FEANTSA facilitates this interdisciplinary European network of associations, lawyers and academics from different countries, who are committed to promoting the right to housing.

HABITACT

FEANTSA coordinates a European exchange forum on local homelessness strategies composed of cities across Europe.

Ministries' Forum

FEANTSA facilitates an informal forum of ministers responsible for homelessness.

FEANTSA Youth

FEANTSA coordinates a youth network which aims to prevent, reduce and end youth homelessness by advocating for housing rights, developing prevention strategies, raising public awareness, training professionals and building cooperation/coalitions within the service providers or other stakeholders.

2016 Timeline

JANUARY

DG SANTE Expert Group on Cancer

FEANTSA takes part in an expert group on cancer at the invitation of DG SANTE.

MARCH

Aftercare Guarantee

Aftercare Guarantee project comes to an end, in which policy guidelines were put forward to create a guarantee to stop youth leaving care becoming homeless or socially marginalised.

MAY

How to Guarantee Adequate Reception Conditions of Asylum Seekers? A Homeless Service Providers' Perspective

FEANTSA Position Paper published on the role played by homelessness services in providing services to asylum seekers.

FEBRUARY

No Free Movement for the Poor? A Strategy to Address Homelessness Among Mobile EU Citizens is Urgently Needed

Seminar and FEANTSA Position Paper published on the need to assist EU nationals homeless in another EU country.

FEANTSA Administrative Council Meeting – Palermo

APRIL

Youth Study Session

A study session for FEANTSA Youth takes place in Budapest, which focused on the ways to advocate methods to reduce youth homelessness.

JUNE

“Housing First Guide Europe published

The Housing First Guide Europe is published. The Housing First Europe Hub is officially established in a joint venture with the Finnish Y-Foundation.

FEANTSA Policy Conference

The annual FEANTSA Policy Conference is held in Brussels, Belgium.

JULY**Homelessness and Housing Exclusion in EU Semester**

FEANTSA Position published recommending changes to the way homelessness is treated in future EU Country Reports and recommendations.

SEPTEMBER**Filling Vacancies**

The *Filling Vacancies* overview of projects to convert existing buildings to social housing is published.

European Housing Exclusion Index

A league table of EU countries by housing exclusion is released in conjunction with Fondation Abbé Pierre

European Research Conference on Homelessness

The 11th Research Conference on Homelessness is held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

NOVEMBER**HABITACT Peer Review**

A Peer Review of homelessness services in Barcelona takes place

AUGUST**Toolkit on Homelessness among Mobile EU Citizens**

Toolkit published on causes of and solutions to destitution among EU nationals homeless in another EU country.

OCTOBER**Meeting EU Expert Group on Social Determinants and Health Inequalities**

FEANTSA invited to present Housing First Guide and discuss how health and homelessness are interlinked, as well as the impact of housing on health.

DECEMBER**Youth Rights, Right Now !**

A European version of the *Youth Rights, Right Now!* guide to ending youth homelessness with human rights is published.

2016 FEANTSA Highlights

HOUSING FIRST

Housing First Guide Europe

At the Housing First in Europe Conference on 9 June 2016, the Housing First Guide Europe, the result of a two-year project funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, was unveiled. Housing First is a policy approach to acute homelessness that has gained significant traction in Europe, due to its proven success in projects in the USA, Canada, Finland and France. The idea is to put people into permanent housing in which they have complete independence before treating other problems that they may have, such as mental illness, addiction etc. The Guide, available in six languages, will help those involved in implementing Housing First at the local level

Housing First Europe Hub

The month after the Housing First Europe Guide was launched, the Housing First Europe Hub was established, which will use the Guide as a resource in disseminating Housing First. As Housing First projects are established and enlarged over Europe, FEANTSA and the Y Foundation plan to provide ongoing information and support to those turning theory into practice.

FEANTSA POLICY CONFERENCE 2016

The 2016 FEANTSA Policy Conference was held at the Palais d'Egmont in Brussels on 10 June. It followed the Housing First Europe Conference held the day before, and brought homelessness workers, researchers and representatives together from across Europe and beyond, for discussions, workshops and networking on the theme of homelessness. The title of the 2016 conference was *Leveraging the European Consensus to Win the Fight against Homelessness*, which reflected on changes since the 2010 consensus conference on homelessness organised by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union that year.

EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY ON HOMELESSNESS

The 2016 European Research Conference on Homelessness was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 23 September. Delegates came from across the continent, as well as from the USA, Canada and Australia to take part in the conference, which focused on homelessness and social work in Europe. Organised by the European Observatory on Homelessness, the next research conference will take place in Barcelona on 22 September 2017.

2016 saw the publication of the tenth volume of the *European Journal of Homelessness*, and to mark the anniversary, the European Observatory on Homelessness published a special 10th Anniversary edition. This special edition focused on the theoretical side of homelessness research in Europe, looking at how research has influenced policy. The first two journals of the year continued in the usual thread of the European Journal of Homelessness, containing a mix of homeless research articles, research reviews, international reviews, think pieces and book reviews, including insights from Uruguay and the United States.

The Observatory also published the sixth edition of the Comparative Research Series which looked at the impact of the recent humanitarian crisis in Europe on homelessness services. The research focused on the role of the homeless sector in providing services for asylum applicants, refugees and those who have had asylum applications turned down.

NEW FEANTSA WEBSITE

In November 2016 FEANTSA launched its new website and logo. The new responsive site has been designed to address the need for European-wide information on homelessness and will facilitate the gathering of knowledge on the causes and reality of homelessness across Europe and the effective methods and strategies that exist to reduce it across the continent. The changes will allow people working for homeless organisations, members of the press and the general public to find information across multiple working areas of homelessness.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Filling Vacancies

In conjunction with the Fondation Abbé Pierre, FEANTSA published a report on innovative ways to make affordable housing available, looking at projects around Europe to bring vacant properties back into use. One in six properties in Europe are currently vacant, so there is a lot of potential to use vacant real estate to reduce housing exclusion.



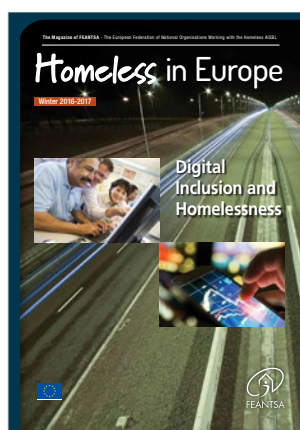
European Housing Exclusion Index

Ahead of the publication of the Second Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe 2017 in March 2017, FEANTSA and Fondation Abbé Pierre published a country-by-country breakdown of housing exclusion in Europe, ranking each EU member state by overall housing exclusion levels. This ranking took into account several indices of housing exclusion, among which are the proportion of the population spending over 40% of their income on housing costs, the change in this proportion over time, mortgage or rent arrears, overcrowding, the ability to keep housing adequately warm and the risks of housing exclusion based on gender and age. These rankings are based on EU SILC data from 2014, the most recent data available.



Youth Rights, Right Now!

A human rights approach to homelessness has been shown to be an effective way of improving access to services and housing for homeless people. Earlier in 2016 the Canadian Homeless Hub published the *Youth Rights, Right Now!* guide for using international human rights law to reduce and end youth homelessness. In collaboration with FEANTSA, the guide was adapted for the European context and translated into seven other languages. Intended for policymakers, frontline workers and researchers, the guide outlines the steps that can be taken to tackle homelessness with a human rights approach.



FEANTSA Homeless in Europe Magazine

Three editions of the *Homeless in Europe* magazine were published in 2016. A publication focusing on a certain theme related to homelessness, and containing articles written by contributors from around Europe. The 2016 editions covered the homelessness sector's perspective on the asylum crisis, case studies on preventing youth homelessness and perspectives on women's homelessness.

PROJECTS

European Homeless and Mobile Citizens Network

The European Homeless and Mobile Citizens network was created to come up with policy recommendations and a toolkit for helping nationals of one EU country who have become homeless in another. This is a common problem in Europe, and it was clear that cooperation between homelessness organisations in different EU states was needed to work on this problem. As a result of the project, an e-catalogue of organisations working on this issue was published.

Ways Out of Homelessness

The situation of homelessness and housing policy in newer EU member states often differs greatly to that of older members, meaning that policy interventions promoted in Western Europe are sometimes not appropriate for the newer member states. The Ways Out of Homelessness project was dedicated to improving vocational training for staff members of homelessness organisations in Hungary, Poland, Czechia and Romania. This was done by promoting methods of housing homeless people that were based on evidence relevant to the countries involved.

Aftercare Guarantee

Young people leaving state care are at heightened risk of homelessness. The Aftercare Guarantee project was aimed at building knowledge on ways in which young people can leave care and receive the support they need to succeed in adulthood. It was coordinated by the Flemish Agency for Youth Welfare, with the participation of FEANTSA, the European Network of Social Authorities (ENSA), The Regional Government of Carinthia, Azienda Speciale Consortile Ovest and the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport.

FEANTSA POSITIONS

FEANTSA published a series of policy positions throughout the year. FEANTSA Positions discuss what changes to policy need to be made so that homelessness can be reduced, or what can be done to improve the conditions that homeless people face. They are written in response to European policy developments or as the result of work that FEANTSA has undertaken on a particular thematic area.

Preventing the Destitution of Mobile EU Citizens

In March, as a result of the work of the European Homeless and Mobile Citizens Network, a position was published on preventing destitution among EU citizens who have moved from one country to another. This position was created in response to the reality that in many EU cities, a large proportion of the homeless population is made up of citizens of other EU countries who are not entitled to the same services as nationals of the country.

How to Guarantee Adequate Reception Conditions of Asylum Seekers?

The need for recognition of the role that homeless services play in helping asylum seekers formed the subject for a second FEANTSA position in May, due to the increased pressure on service providers from the increase in migration to the EU. FEANTSA felt that increased cooperation was needed between policymakers and homelessness organisations to ensure that services could cater to everyone's needs.

Homelessness and Violence Against Women

Addressing the link between domestic violence and homelessness was the focus of a position in June, as domestic violence is a leading cause of women's homelessness. FEANTSA suggested a list of policy steps that could be taken to better meet the housing needs of domestic violence survivors.

Turning Toxic Assets into Social Housing

In another position from the same month, FEANTSA outlined the way in which property empty due to bad loans can be turned into social housing, based on the example of the national asset management agency (NAMA) in Ireland. Housing solutions are an important part of FEANTSA's work, and finding innovative ways of providing affordable housing is necessary in the context of rising housing exclusion in the EU.

Housing Priority in the European Pillar of Social Rights

In response to the European Commission's consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights, a position in November outlined five key principles for implementing the Pillar's housing priority regarding homelessness and housing exclusion.

Homelessness and Housing Exclusion in the 2016 Semester

The place of homelessness and housing exclusion in the European Semester was analysed in July and November, as in previous years, to reflect on how the Semester can create a policy space for progress towards the 2020 European poverty reduction target and a "social triple A" for Europe.

Statutory changes

2016 saw the election of a new FEANTSA president, seven new Administrative Council members and the accession of four new FEANTSA member organisations.

New FEANTSA President

Joan Uribe Vilarrodona, Director of Sant Joan de Déu - Servicios Sociales Barcelona was elected President of FEANTSA in June 2016 at the FEANTSA General Assembly. Joan has worked for Sant Joan de Déu since 2005 and holds a doctorate in anthropology. In addition to managing two residential centres for homeless people in Barcelona, he is co-director of the Master's in Advanced Studies in Social Exclusion at the University of Barcelona, as well as being a member of the Spanish Federation of Entities that Work with Homeless People (FePsh) and Catalan Entities for Social Action (ECAS).

Administrative Council changes

There was a lot of change to FEANTSA's Administrative Council, with the addition of seven new members. They are Anne Delépine for Belgium, from CVFE, who replaced Danny Lescauwaeet; Ole Svendsen for Denmark, from SAND, who replaced Ask Svejstrup; Olivier Marguery for France, who replaced André Gachet; Kathleen McKillion for Ireland, from the Irish Council on Social Housing, who replaced Mike Allen; Cristina Avonto for Italy, from FioPSD, who replaced Stefano Galliani; Filipe Miranda for Portugal, from Norte Vida, who replaced Marta Oliveira and Bojan Kuljanac for Slovenia, from Kralji Ulice, who replaced Špela Razpotnik.

Coming in 2017



Second Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe 2017

The second in the biannual series of reports by FEANTSA and the Fondation Abbé Pierre, which uses the latest Eurostat data (EU-SILC) to assess EU countries' capacity to adequately house their populations."



FEANTSA Campaign: Be Fair, Europe – Stand up for Homeless People

This campaign will aim to put homelessness at the heart of the EU 2030 agenda, with the ultimate aim of putting an end to homelessness in Europe.

FEANTSA Publications

FEANTSA positions on harm reduction, irregular third-country migrants and trauma-informed care will be published, as well as a toolkit on psychologically-informed environments. As usual, two editions of the *European Journal of Homelessness* and one edition of *Comparative Studies on Homelessness* will be released.

European Housing Solutions Platform

A European Housing Solutions Platform will be created in collaboration with Friends of Europe and the Fondation Abbé Pierre. This platform will aim to find different and innovative ways of providing affordable housing, and act as a source of information for policymakers on the subject.



Conferences

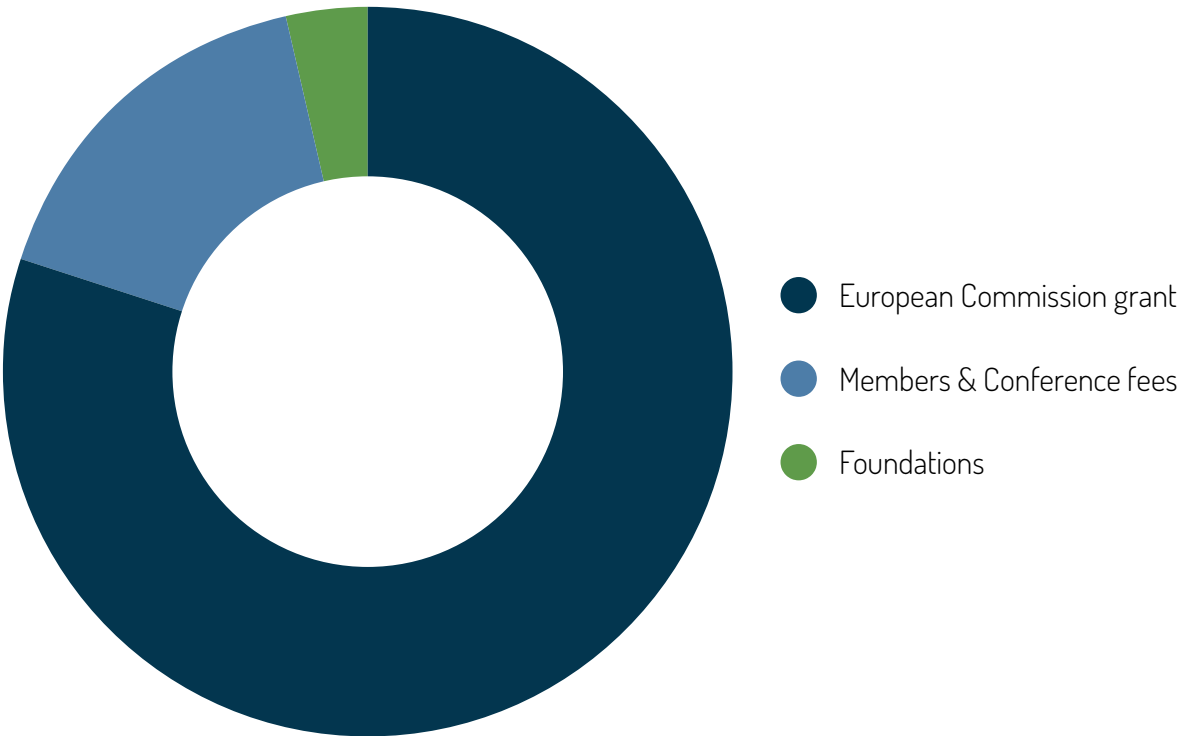
The 2017 FEANTSA Policy Conference will be held in Gdansk on 18-19 May, with the European Research Conference on Homelessness to be held in Barcelona on 22 September.

FEANTSA's finances

FEANTSA is a non-profit organisation registered in Belgian law as an Association Sans But Lucratif (ASBL). In 2016 FEANTSA's total income was €1,203,951. The majority of FEANTSA's income is from a European Commission grant made under the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI), with the remainder being made up from membership and conference fees and grants from foundations.

FEANTSA Budget 2016

SOURCE	TOTAL
European Commission grant	963,161
Members & Conferences fees	200,338
Foundations	40,452
Total :	1,203,951



Staff



Freek Spinnewijn
Director

Freek guides FEANTSA's strategic development and its overall management day-to-day.

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Policy Coordinator

Ruth helps plan and coordinate FEANTSA's policy work. She works on EU social policies, housing and monitoring homelessness.

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Mauro Striano
Policy Officer

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Robbie Stakelum
Policy Officer

Robbie works on youth and employment. He is also the coordinator of HABITACT and the annual FEANTSA Conference.

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Chloé Serme-Morin
Project Officer

Chloé works on the partnership between FEANTSA and Fondation Abbé Pierre, and is responsible for the coordination of the Report on Housing Exclusion in Europe and for the gathering of innovative affordable housing solutions in thematic publications.

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