
Editorial

In this edition of the European Journal of Homelessness(EJH), we not only describe, analyse and critique homelessness policies and practices across the European Union, from Spain to Poland, Ireland to Belgium, but also in our new international section, Fiorella Ciapessoni provides a detailed overview of homelessness in Uruguay. While striving to develop new sections in the EJH, we have also maintained core sections that our readers have found of value. In the very first edition of the EJH in 2007, Isobel Andersen reviewed the Scottish Homeless Strategy, and since then the Journal has reviewed homeless strategies in nine other member states, including the review of the Spanish Homeless Strategy by Isabel Baptista in this edition. These detailed county case studies not only provide valuable information on the policy approaches deployed to achieve decreases in homelessness and the degree of ambition in the strategies, but also document the diffusion of coherent, usually national, approaches to ending homelessness in member states.

Ireland, an early adopter of a strategic approach to ending homelessness, is reviewed in a contribution by Eoin O'Sullivan, where he analyses the failure to end long-term homelessness and the need to sleep rough in Ireland by the end of 2016 – a policy objective set out in 2013. The failure to end homelessness is not unique to Ireland. Many Member States, and indeed cities in Canada and the United States with various ten-year plans, have sought to reduce and ultimately end homelessness, but with the exception of Finland, have largely not succeeded. A common feature of the various analyses that attempt to account for the failure of such plans to achieve their objective is the failure of housing markets to deliver housing in sufficient supply and affordability.

The issue of measuring homelessness is a perennial topic in the EJH and Marjorie Lelubre and Maëlle Dewaele provide an informative overview of recent developments in Wallonia. Other regular topics include Housing First, the intersection of mental health, addiction and homeless services, and access to social housing. In this edition Julia Wygnańska provides a concise overview of the demand for Housing First in Warsaw, Ruth Ceannt and colleagues get the perspective of front-line workers in Dublin on the intersection of homeless services and mental health and addiction services, while Guillem Fernandez Evangelista explores access to social housing in Germany, Spain and the UK. This edition of the EJH also has a number of book reviews that we hope our readers find of interest.