

What is ETHOS?

ETHOS is the European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion. It was developed by FEANTSA as a transnational framework definition for policy and practice purposes. It provides a shared language for transnational exchange. It does not attempt to harmonise national definitions of homelessness in Europe.

ETHOS classifies living situations that constitute homelessness or housing exclusion. ETHOS identifies 4 main categories of living situation: Rooflessness, Houselessness, Insecure Housing and Inadequate Housing. These conceptual categories are divided into 13 operational categories that can be used for different policy purposes, such as mapping the problem of homelessness, as well as developing, monitoring and evaluating policies.

	OPERATIONAL CATEGORY	LIVING SITUATION	GENERIC DEFINITION	
Conceptual Category	ROOFLESS	1 People Living Rough	1.1 Public space or external space	Living in the streets or public spaces, without a shelter that can be defined as living quarters
		2 People in emergency accommodation	2.1 Night shelter	People with no usual place of residence who make use of overnight shelter, low threshold shelter
	HOUSELESS	3 People in accommodation for the homeless	3.1 Homeless hostel	Where the period of stay is intended to be short term
			3.2 Temporary accommodation	
			3.3 Transitional supported accommodation	
		4 People in Women's Shelter	4.1 Women's shelter accommodation	Women accommodated to experience of domestic violence and where the period of stay is intended to be short term
		5 People in accommodation for immigrants	5.1 Temporary accommodation/reception centres	Immigrants in reception or short term accommodation due to their immigrant status
	5.2 Migrant workers accommodation			
	6 People due to be released from institutions	6.1 Penal institutions	No housing available prior to release Stay longer than needed due to lack of housing No housing identified (e.g. by 18th birthday)	
		6.2 Medical institutions (*)		
		6.3 Children's institutions/homes		
	INSECURE	7 People receiving longer-term support (due to homelessness)	7.1 Residential care for older homeless people	Long stay accommodation with care for formerly homeless people (normally more than one year)
			7.2 Supported accommodation for formerly homeless people	
8 People living in insecure accommodation			8.1 Temporarily with family/friends	
9 People living under threat of eviction		8.2 No legal (sub)tenancy	Occupation of dwelling with no legal tenancy illegal occupation of a dwelling	
		8.3 Illegal occupation of land	Occupation of land with no legal rights	
10 People living under threat of violence		9.1 Legal orders enforced (rented)	Where orders for eviction are operative	
	9.2 Re-possession orders (owned)	Where mortgagee has legal order to re-possess		
INADEQUATE	11 People living in temporary/non-conventional structures	10.1 Police recorded incidents	Where police action is taken to ensure place of safety for victims of domestic violence	
		11.1 Mobile homes	Not intended as place of usual residence	
		11.2 Non-conventional building	Makeshift shelter, shack or shanty	
12 People living in unfit housing	11.3 Temporary structure	Semi-permanent structure hut or cabin		
	12.1 Occupied dwellings unfit for habitation	Defined as unfit for habitation by national legislation or building regulations		
13 People living in extreme over-crowding	13.1 Highest national norm of overcrowding	Defined as exceeding national density standard for floor-space or useable rooms		

Note: Short stay is defined as normally less than one year; Long stay is defined as more than one year.

(*) Includes drug rehabilitation institutions, psychiatric hospitals etc.