



FEANTSA ENDING HOMELESSNESS AWARDS 2017

A HANDBOOK ON USING THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND TO FIGHT HOMELESSNESS



European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless



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About the Handbook

This handbook presents the FEANTSA 2017 Ending Homelessness Awards. The awards celebrate 60 years of the European Social Fund (ESF) by showcasing outstanding ESF-funded projects tackling homelessness. They are part of FEANTSA's [Be Fair Europe - Stand up for Homeless People](#) campaign, one aim of which is to promote the investment of EU funds in ending homelessness.

This handbook presents the background to the awards, the three winning projects, an explanation of the selec-

tion process and some lessons learned. We hope that this material can inspire policymakers, Managing Authorities, project promoters, organisations working with homeless people and other stakeholders to make more and better use of EU funding to advance the fight against homelessness in the future.

The 2017 Ending Homelessness Awards were awarded by Corina Crețu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, at the 2017 Regiostars Awards on World Homelessness Day, 10th October 2017.

Policy Context

Homelessness is a pressing social problem throughout the EU. In most Member States, it has increased significantly in recent years. It has also become a priority for various EU policies under the Europe 2020 Strategy & the 10 Priorities of the Juncker Commission.

The European Social Fund (ESF) is the EU's main instrument for investing in people. It is an important lever for solidarity, inclusion and the fight against poverty. The ESF can make an important contribution to tackling homelessness, alongside other instruments such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD). The primary responsibility for organising and funding measures to address homelessness lies at local, regional and national level. However, the ESF and other EU instruments can provide added value as leverage for improving policies and services.

2017 marks 60 years of the ESF. It is also a key moment in the preparation of the post 2020 Multi-Annual Financial Framework. Furthermore, a broader reflection on the future of the European Union, including its Social Dimension and Financing is ongoing. The priorities for

the next MFF are the subject of fierce debate, and there is significant downward pressure on resources.

With the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the EU and its Member States have committed to eliminating poverty in all its forms, leaving no-one behind. Currently, it remains unclear how this will be reflected in EU funding instruments. FEANTSA is campaigning to maximise the impact of European Structural and Investment on the fight against homelessness, now and post 2020.

The Ending Homelessness Awards celebrate good and promising practice in the use of ESF to address homelessness. FEANTSA is only too aware of the shortcomings of European instruments when it comes to improving the lives of people in the most excluded situations. With these awards, we want to showcase and celebrate some of the excellent work that is being supported by the ESF. We hope to inspire more and better take-up of the ESF for tackling homelessness in the current period; and to contribute to building a post 2020 framework that really delivers on the commitment to leave no one behind by reaching out to homeless people.

Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA Director:

“The Ending Homelessness Awards is part of FEANTSA's broader commitment to improving the take up of ESIF to tackle homelessness, and to ensuring that they deliver real change for people in the most vulnerable situations. We hope that in another sixty years, we'll be able to say that the European Union invested in ending homelessness and succeeded!”

The Winners of the FEANTSA Ending Homelessness Awards

Ending Family Homelessness through Housing First in Brno: A Randomised Control

GOLD

Brno, Czech Republic
Statutory City of Brno
2017-2018

ESF grant: €369,656

Total budget: €372,290

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(janecek.daniel@brno.cz)

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This project aims to test and showcase whether family homelessness of both Roma and non-Roma families can be ended through a Housing First approach. Housing First has been proven to end long-term homelessness among people with high support needs. Rather than granting housing to homeless people when they are deemed “ready,” (e.g. show sobriety and engagement with treatment), it provides the person with a house *first*, as well as a range of support services. Housing First takes a human rights approach which views housing as a right, not something you need to qualify for.



The goal of the project is to design an action plan to end family homelessness in Brno, based on the Housing First approach. The Municipality of Brno works closely together with IQ Roma Servis, a pro-Roma social service provider, the University of Ostrava and different other local authorities.



Fifty homeless families are provided housing and intensive Housing First case management. As Roma families make up for two thirds of all families experiencing long-term homelessness in Brno, the expertise of IQ Roma Servis is essential. So far, the project has demonstrated positive impacts on family well-being, children’s behaviour, security and employment. The project is expected to have positive effects in the future on family reunification, school attendance, physical and psychological health, family budgets, and the overall quality of life. These outcomes will be compared with those of a test group consisting of one hundred families. Both groups have been randomly assigned. If the results are positive after a 12-month evaluation, the city of Brno will adapt the Housing First approach to all homeless families in the city.

The project has been well received in the media. It is the first time a randomised control trial has been used in the Czech Republic to gather evidence on the impact of a social project. If the results of this implementation turn out to be positive, which seems to be the case so far, other municipalities and national actors will adopt the Housing First approach. The project contributes to shifting the narrative about Roma families, which is essential to prevent discrimination on the housing market.



A Home that Fits

Helsinki, Finland

Helsinki City Youth Department

2015-2018

ESF grant: €75 000

Total budget: €100,000 (2015), €50,000 (2016 and 2017)

Contact person: Miki Mielonen (Miki.Mielonen@hel.fi)

SILVER

The goal of A Home that Fits is simple, yet ambitious: making sure that by 2018 every young person in Helsinki has a place to call home. With a relatively small budget, The Helsinki City Youth Department decided to look for existing places that would allow young people between 18-25 years to be housed. They came up with five solutions: communal housing, living with the elderly, seasonal housing combined with a summer job, housing combined with working for the neighbourhood and a digital platform combining housing, work and social interaction. The Helsinki City Youth Department works in close cooperation with other actors in the housing field and encourages their young beneficiaries to take an active role in the project.



A Home that Fits has not gone unnoticed in Finnish media. It has successfully contributed to changing the narrative about young homeless people. Through interaction with the elderly or others via part-time jobs or volunteering work, young homeless people can prove they are able and trustworthy. The method itself, using retirement homes, empty villas or private properties as housing for youth, is now widely discussed as a solution for other homeless services. Foreign media have picked up the project as well, leading to a city in Sweden to adopt a similar project which will start soon. The project has stimulated creative thinking, policy debate and experimentation on addressing youth homelessness.



Housing First Transition

Glasgow, Scotland

Glasgow Homelessness Network

2017-2020

ESF grant: €46 923 (confirmed), €450 000 (projected)

Total budget: €18 million (approx)

Contact person: Margaret-Ann Brunjes (mbrunjes@ghn.org.uk)

BRONZE

The Housing First Transition project is a unique pilot project in Glasgow, intended to end repeated and multiple exclusion homelessness in Scotland. By researching, developing and testing a regional Housing First transition, the Glasgow Homelessness Network hopes to design a clear pathway for a safe Housing First transition, which can eventually lead to scaling up the method across the city. For this project, the Glasgow Homelessness Network collaborates with GNH, Heriot-Watt University, Social Investment Scotland, and Big Society Capital.

The Glasgow project aims to create more mainstream Housing First tenancies for homeless people and seeks to reduce the use of temporary accommodation for homeless people. It has been designed specifically for people with complex needs. This group makes up for about a fourth of all homeless households in Glasgow. In the Housing First Transition project, homelessness NGOs and social landlords are assisted in their transition towards Housing First. They are also supported in care management, allowing them to provide the appropriate clinical and social care support for new tenants. People with experience of homelessness play a key role in the project.



The project is a unique and exciting collaboration of agencies. It is the first time that a rotating Housing First Transition Fund has been designed to support the transition to Housing First. The ESF funding has provided a stable leverage for major social investors to get behind the underlying Theory of Change. The Housing First transition will provide safety and stability, much needed after the UK Government welfare reform measures. Once the Scottish pilot project demonstrates successful outcomes, a major Housing First Transition Fund will be opening for applications across the rest of the UK.



5 Lessons Learned

FEANTSA identified 5 lessons learned from the Ending Homelessness prize – the applications, winners, selection process:

1. Tackling homelessness sustainably and effectively is a sound social investment
2. ESIF can act as a lever to support better homeless policies and services, and a shift from “managing” to “ending” homelessness.
3. Multi-fund programming and projects can support integrated and people-centred approaches that facilitate social inclusion of homeless people e.g. by combining investment in social infrastructure with investment in support.
4. ESIF can support a shift from institutional to community-based care for homeless people
5. The potential and added value of social innovation in the field of homelessness is considerable.

Recommendations for the new MFF

1. The new MFF must include specific provision for people in the most deprived situations, like those experiencing homelessness.
2. The new MFF must facilitate integrated approaches, including through multi-fund programming.
3. The new MFF must create opportunities for social investment, including in the fight against homelessness. Financial instruments, for example, can be deployed to help tackle homelessness sustainably.
4. The simplification agenda must deliver genuine opportunity for NGOs working with the most vulnerable and not increase the burden or risk that they are exposed to.
5. Downward pressure on resources for the MFF cannot mean that the most vulnerable are left behind.

How were the winners chosen?

FEANTSA launched the call for applications for the FEANTSA Ending Homelessness Awards in March 2017. In order to be nominated, projects needed to address homelessness, have been co-financed by the ESF and have started in 2010 or later. Both ongoing and completed projects were accepted.

Once the applications were closed, a high-profile jury was assembled from NGOs, research bodies, Managing Authorities and European institutions. This jury met in September 2017 to discuss the applications and decide which projects would receive the gold, silver and bronze awards.

Jury members were asked to score projects according to the following criteria: Relevance, Sustainability, Innovation, Impact and Scalability.

Each project was scored from 1 to 5 on each criterion (1 = very poor, 5 = excellent) before the top three placed projects were each endorsed by the jury.

Gold prize

Ending Family Homelessness through Housing First in Brno: A Randomised Control
(Statutory City of Brno)

Silver prize

A Home that Fits
(Helsinki City Youth Department)

Bronze prize

Housing First Transition
(Glasgow Homelessness Network)

The Jury



Denis Haveaux Director of Red Cross EU

Denis Haveaux is the Director of the Red Cross EU Office in Brussels. He began his assignment in November 2015, representing the IFRC, 28 National Red Cross Societies in the EU and the Norwegian Red Cross vis-à-vis the European institutions. He oversees external relations, coordination and advocacy between the Red Cross Red Crescent and the EU institutions in the areas of humanitarian aid, development cooperation and programmes addressing vulnerable people within the EU.



Anna Ludwinek Research Manager at Eurofound

Anna Ludwinek is a Research Manager in the Social Policies unit at Eurofound. Since joining Eurofound in 2008, she has worked on issues related to youth, youth transitions and social inclusion, as well as on topics around migration and integration. At present, she coordinates work on social mobility and inequalities and is an activity coordinator for the area of public services. Other areas of work include reintegration of long-term excluded groups into the labour market and the impact of digitalisation on social services.



Marie-Anne Paraskevas Senior Policy Expert at the European Commission,
DG EMPL

Marie- Anne PARASKEVAS is a Senior Policy Expert at the European Commission and she comes from Greece. Since 1995, Marie-Anne has been working in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, firstly on gender equality issues and as from 2004 on issues relating to social inclusion and the fight against poverty. In September 2011, she took up the coordination of the team working on the transnational dimension of the European Social Fund. As from January 2013, she has been also in charge of other files which include the horizontal principles of the ESI Funds, in particular the European Conduct on Partnership and territorial cooperation, as well as for issues relating to employment, social inclusion, and social innovation.



Freek Spinnewijn Director of FEANTSA

Freek Spinnewijn has been the director of FEANTSA since 2001. FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with Homeless People, is a European network of NGOs working on the issue of homelessness. It has members in 30 European countries. FEANTSA is the only major European network that focuses exclusively on homelessness at European level.



Caroline Van der Linden

Caroline Van der Linden is part of the European Social Fund Agency for French Speaking Belgium. She holds a Master in Law (1999) and in Communication (2013) from UCL – Louvain-la-Neuve. At European level, she is currently following the themes of social inclusion and youth employment, with a particular interest in social innovation.



Leo Williams

Leo Williams is the Director of the European Anti-Poverty Network, (EAPN) the largest European network of national, regional and local networks, involving anti-poverty NGOs and grass-root groups as well as European Organisations, active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Previously he was the Director of Beyond 2015, a global campaign of over 1500 CSOs from more than 140 countries pushing for a transformative and ambitious post-2015 agenda, for nearly five years.



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