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# Foreword

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René KNEIP, President of FEANTSA

‘Governance’ or good ‘Governance’ is becoming a very commonly used concept in the domain of homelessness, just as in the social domain in general. Even though the concept is being used in different ways, it broadly refers to the emergence of new ways of thinking about, and organising responses to policy challenges, and how these “new” policies are being integrated within existing policy frameworks. These frameworks differ from country to country, and in larger countries even from region to region, and refer for example, to national or regional cultural differences, to the boundaries between the public and private sector or to the interaction of housing support services, health and social care services.

The third edition of the European Journal of Homelessness comprises a number of articles which allow a deeper insight in these differences and show their impact on developing and implementing policies aiming to reduce or even eradicate long-term homelessness. Collectively, the articles, policy evaluations and think pieces in the Journal show that over the last 20 years responses to homelessness have radically changed. Slowly, but steadily, such responses have moved away from institutional solutions to a broader approach and the development and implementation of processes trying to overcome traditional organisational boundaries.

More and more European countries have already put into practice, or are in the course of drafting, developing and implementing so-called national strategies to overcome long-term homelessness. FEANTSA is actively supporting all these efforts and hopes that through the publication of the European Journal of Homelessness, the debate can be enriched by the evaluation of already implemented experiences.

However, and this is my personal conviction after having participated for more than 15 years in developing and implementing homelessness policies, governance is always the result of an integrative process and mainly relates to implementation and management. The goals to achieve, within each member state, but also within the European Union as a whole, must be politically driven, through national strategies but also through a general strategy on the European level. In order to achieve equality and continuity, all these political goals must lead to legislative measures ensuring that every citizen can access affordable and decent housing just as well as health and social services that enable him (or her) to become or remain as independent and as autonomous as possible.