GERMANY

Homelessness Data

- There were an estimated 860,000 homeless people in 2016 according to BAG W. This marked an estimated increase of 150% between 2014 and 2016, which can be explained by the inclusion of refugees for the first time in the estimates.
- Excluding refugees, the number of homeless people increased by 25% between 2014 and 2016, from 335,000 to 420,000.

Housing Exclusion

- 50.3% of poor households spend more than 40% of their disposable income on housing (housing cost overburden). There are only 2 countries with a higher proportion of households so overburdened by housing costs – Bulgaria and Greece. The EU average is 42.1%. (Here ‘poor’ means having an average income lower than 60% of the national median income).
- The gap between the number of poor and non-poor households overburdened by housing costs widened by 13 percentage points between 2010-2016. This places Germany in the top 6 worst countries in terms of housing inequality.
- Housing quality indicators are, however, better than EU average, and slightly improved between 2010 and 2016.
- Age and nationality are clear factors of housing exclusion. Young people aged 16-24 years old and non-EU citizens are far more likely to experience housing cost overburden and overcrowding than the rest of the population. For example, non-EU citizens (26.8%) are 4.5 times more likely to experience overcrowding than German citizens (5.9%).