

## 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

11h30 – 12h50

**SEMINAR SESSION 3 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars**

### **Seminar 13: Measurement Methods II (Room: XX) - Chair: Koen Hermans, BE**

#### **Oona Kenny, IE: Attempting to Count Hidden Homelessness in the Dublin Region; A Methodological Account**

Ireland collects and reports data on people experiencing homelessness (PEH) in categories 1-3 of Feantsa's ETHOS Light framework. Since 2014, the Irish Government have published monthly and quarterly statistics on the number and profile of people in state funded homeless accommodation (ETHOS 2 & 3) based on the Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS), and a point in time count of rough sleepers in the Dublin region has taken place twice yearly since 2007 (ETHOS 1). There is currently no systematic approach to counting the number of PEH in ETHOS Light categories 4, 5 or 6 i.e. those in institutions, unconventional accommodation or staying with family and friends.

Previous research has attempted to enumerate those in ETHOS Light categories 4-6 by relying on proxy variables from administrative data such as the number of households qualified for social housing who are in overcrowded, unsuitable and unfit accommodation or data for those in hospitals and prisons recorded as having 'no fixed abode'. However this information is not comprehensive, fully accurate or reliable.

In 2024, the Dublin region participated in the EU Homelessness Count project coordinated by KU Leuven, which aims to develop a common method for counting homelessness in the EU. While it was mandatory as part of this project to include a count of PEH in ETHOS Light categories 1-3, Dublin along with some other cities, included an experimental attempt to also count those in ETHOS Light categories 4-6. The methodology for this was based on the European Service Based Survey and while this was successfully implemented in a sample of services within and beyond the homeless sector in Dublin, it was unable to provide sufficient data for analysis. The main reasons for this were challenges due to relying on informed consent, overburdened staff and lack of resources in services and time needed to gain ethical approval.



***Oona Kenny** is a Research Analyst at the Housing Agency where her work focuses on social housing and homelessness with specific experience in Housing First, homeless migrants and homelessness policy. She is currently on secondment to Focus Ireland where she leads the EU Homelessness counts for Cork and Dublin.*

#### **Teresa Consoli, Fiorenza Beluzzi, Elisabetta Sciotto, Alessandro Venezia, Caterina Cortese, IT: Experiencing Street Count in Italy**

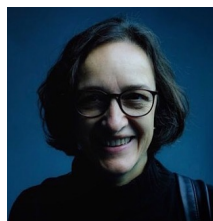
The project of the EHC gave the possibility to focus on the value, the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology of a street count in cities where the process was already experienced and well-structured but also in cities where a street count has never been realised before. This is precisely the case of Italy, the country participated in the project through the University of Catania as research partner in strong collaboration with the FioPSD and involved the city of Milan and Catania.

The two cities have rather different experiences on homelessness but also on welfare service provision for PEH as well as involvement of the voluntary sector and cooperation with welfare institutions. The city of Milan encountered its fifth count (RacCONTAMI) realised by the De Benedetti Foundation (Bocconi University) while the city of Catania has never counted the PEH hosted in the services and living in the street.

The results were extremely interesting for both cities concerning the process of organizing the street count (the coverage of the administrative area, the involvement of the administration, the building of new maps of the city, the role of the voluntary sector) but also on the experience of the methodology used (teams, volunteers, contacts with PEH, exchanges among different actors).

Finally, we will try to focus on pros and cons of the street count in such different cities, opening the debate about the

effects of counting PEH at local and national level and profiling integrated strategies for combatting homelessness in Italy.



**Teresa Consoli** is Full Professor in Sociology of Law at the University of Catania, Dept. of Education. She headed a University Research Centre on Social and Public Policies (<http://www.lpss.unict.it>) and elected in the Executive Committee of the European Sociological Association ([www.europeansociology.org](http://www.europeansociology.org)). She is member of the scientific Committee of the Italian federation of services for homeless people (Fio.PSD) and monitored the first implementation of Housing first in Italy, she edited with A. Meo, *Homelessness in Italia*, FrancoAngeli 2020 and published "Homelessness in Italy. Old private stories and New Public opportunities", in *Routledge Handbook of Global Perspectives on Homelessness, Law and Policy* by Bevan C.(ed.) 2024.



**Alessandro Venezia**, Cooperativa Sociale Mosaico is a sociologist and coordinator of the Street Unit service provided by the municipality of Catania since 2019, under the administration of the Mosaico Social Cooperative. Dr. Venezia has dedicated himself to combating extreme poverty and severe adult marginalization and various services dedicated to this issue since 2014. He also collaborates with local Third Sector services and entities in the study of the issues of interest and develops skills in working directly with the people who benefit from the interventions. Since 2024, he has participated in the European Homelessness Count EHC research project, in collaboration with the Municipality of Catania, the University of Catania and Fio.PSD.



**Elisabetta Sciotto** holds Degrees in Law (University of Florence) and Sociology (University of Catania). She also holds a PhD in Political Science (University of Catania) with a research on collaboration between public administration and third sector in co-design of social services. She currently collaborates with the Regional Department for Family and Social Policies of the Sicilian Region for implementation of policies to combat poverty and with LaPoss - Research Centre of the University of Catania on Public Policies and Services to People. Since 2024, she has been involved in the "European Homelessness Count (EHC)" project as a member of the local research team and street count coordination.



**Fiorenza Beluzzi** holds degrees in Sociology (University of Catania) and Architecture (Polytechnic University of Milan). Thanks to her interdisciplinary background, since 2024 she has been involved in the European research project European Homelessness Count (EHC), in collaboration with the Municipality of Catania, Fio.PSD, and third-sector cooperatives. Within the project, she has played a bridging role between local institutions and the academic world, contributing to the methodological design of the fieldwork and to the analysis of collected data. Beyond the EHC project, her research interests include social research methodology and the social impacts of generative artificial intelligence