European Observatory on Homelessness

UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

18th SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

16h00 – 17h30	SEMINAR SESSION 1 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars

Seminar 6: Clusters and Groups of People Experiencing Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: **Lars Benjaminsen, DK**

Paula Mayock, Pathie Maphosa, IE: The Changing Landscape of Youth Homelessness: An Analysis of Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) Data, 2023, in Ireland

Youth homelessness is a growing problem in countries across Europe and one strongly associated with young people's exclusion from housing markets. Understanding the profile and characteristics of young people who experience homelessness is clearly important for the development policies, strategies and interventions that target youth who have vulnerabilities and who may require specific supports to ensure a speedy exit from homelessness. This paper analyses data from the Pathways, Accommodation and Support System (PASS), which is an administrative database operated by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE). PASS is used across all thirty-one local authorities in Ireland and by state-funded homelessness services to facilitate the monitoring and measurement of the homeless population in each region using key national performance indicators. Based on an analysis of PASS data, we present a profile of youth, aged 18-24 years, who accessed emergency homelessness accommodation in the Dublin region in 2023, focusing on gender, citizenship, household type, new entries to the homeless service system and reasons for homelessness. The analysis reveals greater diversity than previously recognized in the characteristics of young people accessing emergency accommodation (EA), particularly in relation to gender, citizenship and the profile of youth accessing EA as singles versus as a family unit. Notably, young women are strongly represented in the total youth homeless population, although gender disparities are evident among different cohorts of young people. Migrant youth account for a significant proportion of the total number experiencing homelessness, with youth with Irish citizenship only marginally outnumbering those holding EU(EEA) and non-EU citizenship. We compare this profile of young people experiencing homelessness in Ireland with available data in Belgium and Denmark, and ask: To what extent is the landscape of youth homelessness shifting? We conclude by considering implications for policy and service responses to youth homelessness.

***Dr. Paula Mayock** is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin. Her research focuses primarily on the lives and experiences of marginalised youth and adult populations, covering areas such as homelessness, drug use and drug problems. Paula is the author of numerous articles, book chapters and research reports and is an Associate Editor to the international journal Addiction.*

***Pathie Maphosa** is the Head of Research at the Dublin Region Homeless Executive. Her main work focus is working with data on homeless service use in the Dublin region. Pathie's previous research work includes Homelessness and the Housing Needs Assessment reports for Dublin; and research on new families entering homelessness in the Dublin region, 2020-2023.*

Gloria Puchol-Ros, Juan Mauel Rodilla, Sol Balsells-Mejía, ES: Identifying Subgroups in the Homeless Population: A Cluster Analysis of Individuals in Transitional Housing in Valencia

■ **European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL**
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This study explores individual differences among homeless individuals (N = 451) who received support from a transitional housing service in Valencia, Spain, between 2018 and 2023. Using a multi-dimensional approach, a cluster analysis using k-modes identified seven distinct subgroups within the sample: (1) young individuals with an irregular administrative status and no support networks; (2) individuals lacking support networks; (3) individuals with chronic physical conditions; (4) individuals struggling with addictions and without support networks; (5) individuals with an irregular administrative status but with support networks; (6) individuals facing both physical conditions and addictions; and (7) individuals without major risk factors.

To better understand these groups, the study examines differences in housing access rates following their stay in the transitional housing program, identifying key challenges in securing stable housing. Results indicate that an irregular administrative status represents the most significant barrier to housing, while addictions considerably increase the likelihood of returning to homelessness. The presence of these subgroups highlights the necessity of designing targeted interventions that address specific obstacles to housing and employment, alongside tailored social and health programs. Additionally, as 94% of the participants were men due to the non-mixed nature of the housing services analyzed, the findings are not fully representative of the broader homeless population in Valencia. Given that homeless women experience distinct challenges and life trajectories, future research should integrate a gender perspective to gain deeper insights into their needs.

Gloria Puchol-Ros holds a degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Development Cooperation from the Polytechnic University of Valencia. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Social Sciences at the University of Valencia and is also the Research Department Coordinator at Sant Joan de Déu Valencia (Spain). In recent years, her research has primarily focused on evaluating the effectiveness of interventions for homeless individuals through longitudinal studies. She has explored this complex issue through various theoretical frameworks, including the capability approach and emerging theories on homelessness. Her work aims to find innovative ways to address homelessness and inform evidence-based practices.

Juan Manuel Rodilla-Navarro is an Industrial Engineer, holds a PhD in Social Sciences, and has a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University. He works as the Director of Social Intervention and Innovation at Sant Joan de Déu Valencia and as an associate professor at the Polytechnic University of Valencia. His research focuses on the application of monitoring and evaluation structures to improve the effectiveness of care mechanisms for vulnerable populations. He has a decade of experience coordinating development, social, and humanitarian projects in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America with organizations such as Sant Joan de Déu, Doctors Without Borders, and the United Nations.

Sol Balsells-Mejía holds a Bachelor's Degree in Physics and a Master Degree in Data Science from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. He is a statistics specialist working at Fundació de Reserca, Sant Joan de Déu.

19th European Research Conference

18th and 19th September, 2025

Venue: Leeuwenbergh church and Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands