

14th European Research Conference Helsingborg, 20th September 2019

VENUE: Helsingborg Campus of the University of Lund, Sweden
Bios and Abstracts

Seminar 16: Room C126 - Homelessness in Nordic Countries

Chair: Eoin O'Sullivan, IE

Jens Hauch, Ilja Sabaj-Kjær, DK: Nordic Homeless Monitor



Jens Hauch is Deputy Director of Kraka and responsible for Kraka's analysis work. Jens himself primarily prepares macroeconomic analyses. He is a Cand. Polit. and Ph.d. from the Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen. Jens has previously been chief consultant in the Danish Economic Councils.

The purpose of the study was to compare the development of homelessness in the four Nordic countries; Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland. The comparison is based on national data from the four countries and is presented in ten key indicators for homelessness. The study also includes interviews with leading experts from the Nordic countries and a literature review of the leading research on the field. Selected results from the study: Contrary to the development in Denmark and Sweden, the number of homeless people are going down in Norway and Finland. In Denmark, the share of homeless people has increased by 27 pct. since 2009, while it in Norway and Finland has fallen respectively 36 and 13 per cent since 2006 and 2005. Denmark has the largest increase in homelessness among young adults. The share of homeless young adults has increased from 150 to 263 for every 100.000-young adult from 2009-2017. Norway has almost half as many homeless young adults, with only 135 homeless young adults for every 100.000-young adults in 2017. The duration of homelessness is considerably longer in both Denmark and Sweden than in Norway. In Norway homelessness lasts seven months or more (i.e. long-term homelessness) for 41 per cent of all homeless people. The corresponding shares in Denmark and Sweden are respectively 67 and 76 per cent. With 10 and 11 pct. of the homeless population being rough sleepers, Denmark and Finland has the highest share of rough sleepers among the Nordic countries. More than 50 pct. of the homeless population in Denmark has a mental illness. In comparison around a third of the homeless population in Sweden and Norway has a mental illness.

Sten-Ake Stenberg, SE: Risk Factors for Housing Evictions: Evidence from Panel Data



Sten-Åke Stenberg is a professor of Sociology at the Swedish Institute of Social Research, Stockholm University. His research interest is focused on social marginalization in the housing and labour market. He is currently leading a national project about evictions and homelessness in Sweden.

A large number of individuals are evicted from their homes each year. Yet, virtually all prior studies addressing risk factors for being evicted have been based on individual-level, mostly cross-sectional, data. Using Swedish longitudinal municipal-level data, this study assesses whether the associations between various social and demographic risk factors and evictions found in previous studies hold when accounting for temporal and spatial variations. Panel regression analyses show that increased levels of unemployment, social assistance reciprocity, low education, single households with children, and crime are significantly associated with more evictions. Increased levels of single households without children, family disruption, and individuals



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with foreign background were not found to be significantly related to more evictions. The results of this study advances our understanding about the correlates for being evicted and may thereby inform policy efforts designed to prevent eviction and stem its consequences.