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# Editorial

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As the end of this decade, we are confronted with the paradox that we have an increasingly sophisticated evidence base on what works to end homelessness, with the provision of affordable housing central to policy responses. Enhanced inter-agency collaboration with health and allied services is important, particularly for those experiencing long-term entrenched homelessness, but for the majority of households who will experience homelessness across the European Union in 2020, the provision of affordable housing at scale can prevent households experiencing homelessness in the first instance, and facilitate rapid exits for those households placed in temporary and emergency accommodation, including those experiencing literal homelessness.

Yet, as Cameron Parsell highlights in his contribution to this edition of the Journal, a notable feature of responding to homelessness in recent years is the range of charitable initiatives providing various subsistence type services to those experiencing literal homelessness; responses to individual experiences of homelessness, that he argues that are counterproductive to efforts to achieve housing justice as they simply that soothe the consequences, rather than address the underlying causes. Furthermore, Niall Crowley and Rachel Mullen in their think piece argue that individualising homelessness and housing insecurity leads to debates about who is 'deserving' and 'undeserving' among those experiencing, or at risk of homelessness.

One country that has achieved housing justice for those experiencing homelessness is the increasingly well-known example of Finland, demonstrating that it is possible to achieve an effective functional zero in terms of those experiencing homelessness, and indeed, their ambition is to achieve an absolute zero by 2027. Another jurisdiction that aims to end homelessness is Scotland, and in 2018 an ambitious plan, based on robust research evidence was published that aims to end homelessness by 2023. As detailed by Isobel Anderson in her contribution, the aim is to ensure that no one is sleeping rough; no one forced to live in transient or dangerous accommodation such as tents, squats and non-residential buildings and no one living in emergency accommodation such as shelters and hostels without a plan for rapid rehousing into affordable, secure and decent accommodation. This is an important policy initiative, and the Journal will provide an annual update on the progress being made in achieving the 2023 target.

We also initiated a new section where aim to provide detailed reviews of homelessness policy in countries where there is an emerging research and policy literature, with the aim of providing our readers with a synopsis of trends and issues. In this edition, Maša Filipovič Hrast explores homelessness in Slovenia, outlining some of the determinants of the slow development of policies addressing homelessness. The context of Slovenia's housing market is portrayed as a particularly important determinant with high homeownership rates and poor development of the rental housing stock.

This edition also contains contributions on long-standing issues of interest to the readers of the Journal, such as migration and homelessness in the contribution by Zsolt Temesvary; mental health and homelessness in the contribution by Panagiota Fitsiou and Nikos Kourachanis, and different forms of housing and support for those experiencing chronic homelessness in the contribution by Daniel Cid and colleagues, with a response by Volker Busch-Geertsema. A number of book reviews concludes this edition of the Journal.

We hope that you find this edition of the Journal stimulating and informative, and look forward to further contributing to developing the evidence base for ending homelessness in Europe.