

Seminar 4: Monitoring Tools (Room: 00.08)

Chair: Freek Spinnewijn, BE

Gloria Puchol, Manuel Rodilla, Mercedes Botija Yagüe, ES: Operationalizing ETHOS for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Homeless Response Programs: The LongHome Tool



Juan Manuel Rodilla is the coordinator of homeless response programs at St. John of God Valencia and a PhD candidate at the University of Valencia. Rodilla holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University, a Master's degree in Development Policies from the Polytechnic University of Valencia, and a Postgraduate degree in Development Cooperation from the University of Valencia.



Gloria Puchol coordinates the research department of SJD Valencia. Puchol has a degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Development Cooperation from the Polytechnic University of Valencia.

Mercedes Botija Yagüe has a Doctorate in Social Sciences, is a graduate in Social Work, has a Bachelor's degree in Humanities, a Master's degree in Criminology, and a Master's degree in Emotional Intelligence. Mercedes Botija leads the GESinn research team, which specialises in homelessness, and is currently hired by the City Council of Valencia for data analysis on biennial homeless counts in the city of Valencia. Botija is the academic director of the International Congress on Housing Inclusion in Valencia.

Several authors have emphasised the lack of rigorous and systematic monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of homelessness services, particularly in the European context. Improving monitoring and evaluation mechanisms allows for a better understanding of intervention processes, and in parallel, enables the characterisation of internally homogeneous subgroups and identification of entry and exit pathways to homelessness.

The European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (ETHOS), created in 2005, is considered a milestone in improving European research on homelessness. However, to date, there has been limited use of the ETHOS in monitoring and evaluation of homeless response programs. To address this gap, the authors propose an operationalisation of the ETHOS for monitoring and evaluation purposes in homeless response programs. The LongHome tool utilises a longitudinal evaluation to identify the housing situation of individuals at three points in time: prior to admission in the homeless service, at the end of their stay, and two years after leaving, with the aim of assessing the long-term effect of the intervention.

The methodology is based on an understanding of homelessness of the new orthodoxy, which links changes in the ETHOS to variations in formal support, informal support, and individual capacity. This approach improves the understanding of variations in the housing situation and delves into the impact of homeless services. Moreover, the LongHome tool standardises a monitoring and evaluation methodology in homeless services, enabling it to be applied in different residential response programs and compare intervention results. The tool has been tested in two homeless services in Spain in 2021 and 2022, and has proven to be an effective mechanism for improving the monitoring and evaluation of homelessness services' effectiveness. The information provided by the tool has also enabled further research into the impact of formal support and earned income on homelessness reduction.

Clíodhna Bairéad, IE: Single Adults Transitions Into, Through and Out of Emergency Accommodation in the Dublin Region



Dr Clíodhna Bairéad is a postdoctoral researcher from University College Dublin. Her primary area of research is social policy through secondary analysis of administrative data for homelessness and social housing in Ireland. She holds a BA in Public and Social Policy from NUI Galway as well as a Masters of Public Policy and PhD in Social Policy from University College Dublin. Her doctoral thesis was funded by the IRC in partnership with Focus Ireland and her current postdoctoral research is funded by the IRC in partnership with the Housing Agency.

In this conference presentation, the speaker will present the findings from a recent research project, which utilises statistical analysis of administrative data on single adult users of emergency accommodation (EA) for people experiencing homelessness in the Dublin region. Drawing on theories of housing transitions and the factors that shape them, the presentation will introduce a new framework for analysing transitions of entry, usage and exit from homelessness and emergency accommodation use over the life course. The data analysed covers the period 2016-2018 and is drawn from the government-managed online database, Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS). This system records demographic characteristics, nightly EA use, and case notes of each person in the system. This database is relatively unique in the international context and this presentation demonstrates the usefulness of secondary analysis of such data in the field of homeless research. The speaker will discuss how the analysis of the data utilised in this project challenges existing literature on EA use and highlights the importance of stability of service use in predicting chances of exiting homelessness. Additionally, the presentation will explore how patterns of EA entry, usage, and exit vary significantly across the life course and depending on additional experiences of contributory events. The presentation concludes by emphasising how the analysis has the potential to inform the reform of homeless services to maximise rates of exit from homelessness and how it contributes to both empirical and theoretical understandings of homelessness.