

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

14h00 – 15h20

SEMINAR SESSION 4 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars

### Seminar 19: Measurement Methods III (Room: X) - Chair: Koen Hermans, BE

#### Hermund Urstad, Hilde Hatleskog Zeiner, NO: The National Survey of Homelessness in Norway – Problems and Solutions

Norway is among the countries in Europe that have the best knowledge about homelessness. This is largely due to the national surveys that have been conducted regularly since 1996. The surveys have also provided the basis for national and local measures and initiatives to combat homelessness for over 20 years. The survey has two purposes, the first is to provide data on the number of homeless people nationally and for the municipalities. Secondly, to gain a better understanding of homelessness and its development over time, i.e., the distribution of chronic and transitional homelessness and the situations described in ETHOS 1-6.

The 2024 survey in Norway has unfortunately been cancelled. For the 2024 survey, all agencies have given approval and exemption from confidentiality, except the Directorate of Labour and Welfare. The Directorate cites problems related to privacy and confidentiality in the social services, as well as requirements in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). In addition, there is legal regulation of confidentiality that sets limits on what information can be collected through a survey. This means that employees of the local social services cannot participate in the survey.

As a result, Norway lacks updated information on homelessness. This new situation makes it necessary to look at other approaches. Based on the OECD Monitoring framework we will compare the Norwegian survey with a selection of other countries. The methodology of the count in Norway is a service-based method and very similar to the mappings in Denmark and Sweden. The local city counts in the EU are very relevant, and in Norway Oslo and Bergen also carry out their own surveys. Other approaches may also be possible to use.



**Hermund Urstad** has worked as Senior Adviser in The Norwegian Housing Bank, the main agency for implementing Norwegian social housing policy on the national level. He has a particular responsibility for homelessness statistics, analyzes and data collection.



**Hilde Hatleskog Zeiner** is a senior researcher at NIBR, OsloMet. She was a project member in the 2020 survey of homelessness in Norway and is project manager for the 2024 survey.

The national survey of homelessness is initiated by the Housing Bank on behalf of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. The mapping is being carried out by researchers from Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research NIBR, Oslo Metropolitan University, in close collaboration with the Housing Bank.

#### Masa Filipovič Hrast, Jera Sernel, Hana Košan, SI: Homelessness Count in Ljubljana

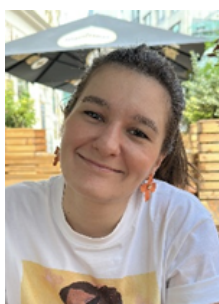
As part of the European Homelessness Count Project, the first comprehensive homelessness count was conducted in

Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. This study represents a significant advancement in homelessness research in Slovenia, where existing studies have been limited. While some national data are available (see Filipovič Hrast et al., 2023; Dekleva et al., 2010), previous local research has lacked a methodology conducive to broader comparability (e.g., Dekleva & Razpotnik, 2007).

The present study employed a service-based approach, conducting surveys in key services supporting individuals experiencing homelessness in the city. While the count primarily focused on ETHOS categories 1–3, findings revealed that a substantial proportion of respondents fell into ETHOS category 5. This presentation will discuss the key challenges linked to the first implementation of the count and challenges linked to inclusion of ETHOS categories 1 and 5 within the local context. Additionally, we will present key sociodemographic findings on individuals experiencing homelessness in Ljubljana and explore the policy implications of these results. These insights are particularly relevant in the context of preparation of Slovenia's first Strategy for Preventing and Ending Homelessness (2025–2035).



**Maša Filipovič Hrast** is an associate professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana and is a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness. Her research focuses on homelessness and housing policy as well as social policy.



**Jera Sernel** is a research assistant at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. She is actively involved in various (inter)national research projects, including the European Homelessness Counts.



**Hana Košan** is a president of Association for help and self-help of homeless people - Kings of the Street (Kralji ulice). She is also a higher education associate - assistant professor of Social Pedagogy at the Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana. As a research assistant at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana she is involved in European Homelessness Counts.

## Lucy Campbell, UK: Making a hidden problem visible: The Women's Rough Sleeping Census in England

In England, women's homelessness is compounded by systemic neglect, with homelessness policies, funding, and services failing to recognise and respond effectively to women's experiences. Due to the constant threat of violence and abuse, women are less visible than men when homeless, and are consequently underrepresented in data and less able to access services and housing.

Over the last three years, charities and researchers have joined forces to design, deliver and scale up a truly innovative action research project – the women's rough sleeping census. The census has collected the largest data set on women's experiences of rough sleeping in Europe, and has amplified women's voices to affect tangible practice change across England.

The census, delivered annually in a growing number of local authorities across England, uses a two-part methodology, co-designed by women with lived experience of homelessness. Firstly, a snapshot survey is undertaken by cross-

sector services with women over a seven-day period. The services are asked to follow gender-informed outreach practices to reach as many women as possible. Secondly, each local authority is asked to bring together cross sector data for women known by different services to be rough sleeping, to build an accurate and inclusive data set. The census has demonstrated that there are as many as nine times more women rough sleeping than government data shows, and that the ways in which women experience rough sleeping fall outside of the current government definition of rough sleeping in England. The census team are using the results of the research to lobby for changes to the way women's homelessness is recognised and responded to. Recently evidenced as a good practice approach in the OECD's 'Monitoring Framework to Measure Homelessness' report, the census is an innovative and replicable model for collecting data on women's homelessness, that could be of use across Europe. (300 words)



**Lucy Campbell** is Head of Multiple Disadvantage at the London based charity Single Homeless Project. Lucy has been working in the homelessness sector for 18 years, always with a focus on women's homelessness, and has led on a number of innovative approaches to better meet women's needs, including an award-winning piece of research in collaboration with researchers at the University of York.

*Lucy is the lead for the women's rough sleeping census in England, having led on the project since its inception.*