19th European Research Conference
18th and 19th September, 2025
Venue: Leeuwenbergh church and Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands

UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

19th SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

9h30 – 10h50	SEMINAR SESSION 2 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars

Seminar 7: Measurement Methods I (Room: X) - Chair: **Nóra Teller, HU**

Volker Busch-Geertsema and Marie-Therese Haj Ahmad, DE: Aligning an EU-wide Data Collection on Homelessness with Existing National Data Collection Systems

The aim of the project "European Homelessness Counts", commissioned by the European Commission, is to develop a common methodology of data collection on homelessness in the European Union. While this is necessary in order to verify whether the measures implemented to tackle homelessness in the EU are effective, this project nevertheless faces several challenges. One of them is to align an EU-wide data collection with already existing data collection systems on a national level.

In several member states there is a well-established, even legally implemented, national data collection in place, such as in Denmark or Germany. Since 2022 all municipalities in Germany are obliged by law to report the number of PEH in shelters and any form of temporary accommodation for PEH (ETHOS Light 2 & 3) on 31st of January each year. Additionally, the national government is committed to report on PEH sleeping rough (ETHOS Light 1) and PEH in so-called 'hidden homelessness' (ETHOS Light 6) every second year. Following the German debates and struggles for such a data collection, this law is a great achievement at national level, and it can be assumed that there is no 'way back'. This raises the question of how to Europeanize data collections on homelessness, so that neither additional data collections need to be conducted in these countries nor a methodology from a specific national context is transferred to other Member States.

Based on theoretical considerations on Europeanization in the field of Social Policy, on learnings from the project "European Homelessness Counts" as well as from other processes of harmonizing data collection within the EU, we suggest developing an understanding of 'common methodology' that goes beyond implementing the same method in every Member State. Rather, we propose establishing a methodological framework that takes into account the different local/national contexts.

Prof. Dr. Volker Busch-Geertsema has studied social sciences at the University of Bremen and is a senior research fellow and board member at the Association for Innovative Social Research and Social Planning (GISS, Bremen, Germany). Since 2015 he is an honorary Professor at Heriot Watt University Edinburgh. He has been a member of the European Observatory on Homelessness since 1995 and since 2009 he is the Coordinator of the Observatory and member of the editorial team of the European Journal of Homelessness. He has conducted a number of extensive research projects on different aspects of homelessness in Germany, Europe and further abroad.

Marie-Therese Haj Ahmad is research assistant at the Society of Innovative Social Research and Social Planning (GISS) in Bremen, Germany. Her research focuses primarily on (tackling) homelessness and the intersection of homelessness and migration. As a social worker she worked several years with people experiencing homelessness. In her ethnographic PhD research she analysed homelessness of mobile EU citizens in Germany in the light of critical migration studies.

Evelien Demaerschalk, Nana Mertens, Koen Hermans, Nóra Teller, BE/HU: The European Homelessness Count

The "European Homelessness Count" project commissioned by the European Commission aims to develop a uniform methodology for city-level homelessness counts. During the first year of the project a modular approach to data collection was developed, and tested across 15 European cities of varying size and service density in 10 countries, allowing cities to choose from three strategies: Basic Count (headcounts and administrative data), Elaborate Count (survey-based data collection), and Comprehensive Count (extended service-based approach). This flexibility ensures local adaptation while maintaining methodological rigor and comparability. In 2025, the methodology will be tested in

■ European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL
 Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri AISBL
194 Chaussée de Louvain ■ 1210 Brussels ■ Belgium ■ Tel.: +32 2 538 66 69 ■ Fax: +32 2 539 41 74 ■ office@feantsa.org ■ www.feantsa.org

19th European Research Conference
18th and 19th September, 2025
Venue: Leeuwenbergh church and Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands

European Observatory on Homelessness

UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

35 cities in 21 member states.

In this presentation, we present the main figures from the 15 counts in 2025. The figures reveal significant variations in homelessness prevalence and characteristics across cities. Rough sleeping is highly visible in some areas, while in others, homelessness is more concealed. In the second part of the presentation we present the main lessons learned about developing and implementing a common point in time methodology.

Evelien Demaerschalk *is a researcher at LUCAS, Center for Care Research and Consultancy. Her work focuses on the care and support for vulnerable and underserved populations in society. Currently she is involved in the development and organization of local and regional homelessness counts in Belgium and Europe.*

Nana Mertens *is a researcher at LUCAS, Center for Care Research and Consultancy, KU Leuven. She works on the research topics of care and support for vulnerable and underserved populations in society. In recent years, she has focused on the development and organization of local and regional homelessness counts in Belgium and Europe.*

Koen Hermans, *Belgium is Associate Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at the Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven. He is also project leader at LUCAS, Centre for Care Research and Consultancy. His research focuses on the care and support for vulnerable and underserved populations in society, such as homeless persons, persons with disability and youngsters with complex needs. He was the coordinator of the COST Action on 'Measuring homelessness in Europe' (2016-2020). In Belgium, he is responsible for the development and organization of local and regional homelessness counts.*

Nóra Teller *(PhD, Sociology) works at the Metropolitan Research Institute. She is member of the European Observatory on Homelessness and has co-edited the European Journal of Homelessness for 16 years. She has 24 years of research and consultancy experience in social inclusion and housing inclusion measures, homelessness research, and housing desegregation in the urban and rural context.*

Seminar 8: Health and Homelessness II (Room: X) - Chair: **Freek Spinnewijn, BE**

Michelle Cornes, Joanne Coombes, UK: Ending Discharge to the Street After Hospital - What Works?

Background

In England, older people receive step-down intermediate care after a stay in hospital. This provides short-term support for up to six weeks to help people recover and regain their independence. Between 2021-2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) tested different 'housing-led' models of intermediate care for people experiencing homelessness. This programme provided £16 million funding to 17 test sites. The aim was to facilitate learning around how to mobilise and sustain specialist out-of-hospital care. In this presentation, we focus on the different models that were tested and what works from the perspective of people experiencing homelessness.

Methods

The evaluation was mixed methods. Standardised data was collected from services across the 17 test sites. Metrics included patient demographics, process outcomes (e.g., the flow of individuals in and out of care services, staff composition, workload, and more), economic outcomes concerning the NHS and broader public sector budgets and investment costs. Quality of life outcomes, housing outcomes and care experiences were captured for 907 people. Informed by the data, 3 'positive practice' sites were selected for in-depth qualitative study using appreciative inquiry.

■ European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL
   Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri AISBL
   194 Chaussée de Louvain ■ 1210 Brussels ■ Belgium ■ Tel.: +32 2 538 66 69 ■ Fax: +32 2 539 41 74 ■ office@feantsa.org ■ www.feantsa.org

This involved 30 interviews with people experiencing homelessness and 30 stakeholders including frontline practitioners and commissioners of services.

Findings

The evaluation demonstrated the considerable benefits of providing specialist intermediate care. Step-down improved outcomes for most people and significantly reduced the numbers being discharged to the street. As compared to the larger more institutionalised models, smaller step-down houses providing homely accommodation for 5-6 'guests' with onsite support was the preferred model. The main implementation challenge was 'silting-up' due to the lack of move on accommodation. Sustainability was also an issue - longer-term funding was targeted at older people's intermediate care and there was a failure to address health inequalities and homelessness as part of routine transformation work to improve hospital discharge.

Michelle Cornes is Professor of Health and Social Policy Inequalities at the University of Salford and Visiting Professorial Fellow at King's College London.

Joanne Coombes is a Lived Experience Peer Researcher at King's College London. Michelle and Jo have worked together on a range of homelessness research projects for over ten years. Michelle met Jo when she was discharged to the street after a three month stay in hospital and they have been working to end discharge to the street ever since.

Jess Harris, UK: 'Mental Capacity' Assessments: Opening or Slamming the Door on Support for People Experiencing Homelessness?

People experiencing long term and repeat homelessness often experience multiple disadvantage, including mental ill health and substance use/addiction. This is associated with self-neglect and high risks of harm, alongside mistrust and at times 'refusal' of services. Cognitive impairments are also more prevalent in this population. These factors underline the complexity but necessity of understanding an individual's ability - their 'mental capacity' - to make decisions about accommodation, health treatment or social care, in order to better understand their individual support needs. In England and Wales, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides the assessment framework, with equivalents across the UK and Europe. However, reviews of homelessness deaths raise concerns about practitioner approaches to assessments. A 2023-2026 mixed-methods study is exploring assessment practice, what 'good' looks like and barriers to good practice in England. It includes evidence reviews, a national survey of practitioners, and interviews with national practice leads, practitioners and people experiencing homelessness. Lived experience advisors have contributed to all stages. The study has evidenced national concern about practitioner attitudes, and practice challenges including assessments lacking multidisciplinary input and knowledge of this population. The presumption, not assessment, of 'capacity' may be used to deny support. Other contextual pressures include resource constraints, which may influence assessments where services are not available to respond to any finding of 'incapacity'. Facets of good practice and areas where clarity is required have been identified. Emerging findings have informed the co-production of a specialist assessment tool, being piloted summer 2025. This evidence has implications for wider debates, beyond mental capacity. It is hoped that people experiencing homelessness will benefit from improved consideration of their individual circumstances, and responses which include both empowerment and also support and safeguarding.

Jess Harris is a Research Fellow at the Health & Social Care Workforce Research Unit (HSCWRU) at King's College London, and co-leads HSCWRU's Homelessness Research Programme. The HSCWRU webinar series on homelessness research and practice is open to all.

Seminar 9: Housing Programs I (Room: X) - Chair: **Maša Filipovič Hrast, SI**

Ivana Siglova, CZ: Medium-term effects of the Housing first intervention for families with children in Brno, Czech Republic

In 2017-18, the Rapid Re-Housing project offered housing in urban rental apartments to 50 homeless families in Brno. The project included a counterfactual evaluation (RCT) of impacts of the intervention on housing stability, health and social inclusion of the families; results at 6 and 12 months after 'settling in' showed higher odds of housing security, lower levels of psychosocial stress, lower use of emergency health services or lower levels of children institutionalisation compared to the control group. In contrast, intervention did not show impact on financial stability in the short term, nor did it show improvements in children's school attendance or performance.

Follow-up research in 2022-2023 evaluated with the same design impacts of the same intervention after five years. The RCT protocol remained unchanged with the researchers adding more extensive administrative data collection to the survey data, which was used mainly for cost-benefit analysis. The questionnaire survey is conducted using the CAPI method. In the presentation, we want to show and compare results of both evaluations - after 12 months and after 5 years, share our experience with the development of the research instrument and data collection, the mid-term tracking of respondents and present outcomes which the evaluations had on thedevelopment of Housing First programmes in the Czech Republic.

Ivana Siglová is coordinator of Housing First programmes support in Platform for Social Housing in the Czech Republic. In 2022 – 2023 she was a researcher and coordinator of Rapid Re-Housing project evaluation after 5 years from intervention. Before that she worked for governmental Agency for Social Inclusion on evaluations of local strategic plans for social inclusion made by Czech municipalities and she was also part of the team of the ESF project aiming at employment of long term unemployed people. She studied Political Sciences at the University of Economics in Prague.

Ciara Morley, IE: Approved Housing Bodies as Landlords to People Moving Out of Homelessness

The Housing First model has positively impacted long-term homelessness in Ireland and has proven itself to be the model of choice when supporting people with long histories of homelessness and street-based sleeping. In Ireland, Housing First nominations are typically allocated a home in local authority owned/leased social housing, or in properties owned or managed by an NGO Housing First service provider. As a result of chronic housing supply issues, third-party Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) have taken on a greater role with respect to the Housing First model. Despite extensive research on the Housing First model, there is little documentation of the issues arising for third-party AHB landlords in this sector, and different legal and regulatory jurisdictions hamper the ability to make comparisons with what little international evidence does exist. The purpose of this study, therefore, is to identify the challenges and opportunities that exist for third-party AHBs in supporting tenancies for individuals in receipt of Housing First. A mixed-method approach is used, with stakeholder consultations forming the primary analysis. Seven of the largest third-party AHBs; four local authorities; and one NGO Housing First service provider made contributions to the analysis. A SCOT analysis was then used to isolate key strengths, challenges and opportunities for third-party AHBs as landlords to Housing First tenants, as well as identifying broader threats to the overall roll-out of the Housing First model in Ireland. The analysis highlighs key areas, like communication and collaberation, that need to be addressed in order to entice greater numbers of third-party AHBs to engage with the Housing First model.

19th European Research Conference
18th and 19th September, 2025
Venue: Leeuwenbergh church and Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands

UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

Morley, Ph.D. is Founder and Director of Morley Economic Consulting Ltd., with over 15 years' experience working across the private and public sector in Ireland. Ciara has held a range of positions from Lecturer with**Ciara** Maynooth University, TU Dublin, and currently with ICD Business School, to Researcher with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Economist with EY. Over the years, Ciara has developed a keen interest in undertaking research for organisations that support vulnerable individuals and families in Irish society, and research has focused, in particular, on the Irish housing market, affordability, and homelessness.

Seminar 10: Family Homelessness (Room: X) - Chair: **Nicholas Pleace, UK**

Susana Batle Cladera, Núria Martínez Company, Jezabel Cartoixà Garcia, ES: Families Facing Residential Exclusion: A Case Study at Es Convent Residential Center (FSJD), Mallorca

Family homelessness is a growing social issue in Spain. The difficulties in accessing housing, particularly in areas strained by tourism, gentrification, migration, and real estate speculation, undermine rights beyond just housing, affecting health, education, and employment. Despite the increase in these cases, the profiles and needs of these families remain poorly understood due to their invisibility within categories C and D of residential exclusion according to ETHOS. In particular, the voices of children and adolescents are underrepresented in scientific literature, which limits the development of policies and programs that adequately address their processes of exclusion and inclusion.
This study outlines the results of a mixed-methods case study conducted at Es Convent residential center of the Sant Joan de Déu Foundation in Palma de Mallorca, a leading center in the field. Its aim is to analyze the profiles of these families and their needs to improve personalized care and encourage similar studies in other regions. To achieve this, five years of reports (2018-2022) were reviewed, semi-structured interviews were conducted with adult representatives from 12 family units (biparental, single-parent, and migrant), and a group walking interview was held with six children and adolescents.
The results reveal the housing trajectories of these families and the specific challenges faced by each profile as triggers for homelessness. They also highlight the importance of residential infrastructure and child well-being as key elements in family stability. Finally, the study identifies children's needs that often go unnoticed in support processes, impacting their bio-psycho-social health. This research underscores the urgent need to make family homelessness visible and amplify the voices of children and adolescents, preventing their reality from being interpreted solely through the lens of the adults in charge. Its findings are crucial for designing public policies and interventions that prioritize their well-being in contexts of residential exclusion.

Susana Batle Cladera is an applied social researcher specializing in the analysis of professional practice, social exclusion, and homelessness. She holds a PhD in Social Work from the University of Barcelona and has worked on the evaluation of programs such as Primer la Llar (Housing First) in Barcelona. Her work focuses on evaluating and redesigning social intervention projects to improve support for people in vulnerable situations. She has collaborated with multiple organizations on social inclusion projects. She has published research on intervention methodologies and received the Housing First Early Career Researcher Award in recognition of her work. She is a professor of social policies (Social Services) at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC). Currently, she is a partner at OLMA, a consulting firm specialized in applied social research and public policy evaluation.

Núria Martínez Company is a social project technician specializing in childhood, adolescence, and the supervision of social care teams. With extensive experience in socio-educational intervention, she has worked on preventing gender-based violence, protecting children, and supporting young people in vulnerable situations. She is a member of OLMA.COOP, where she coordinates human resources and supervises teams in the social sector. She has led awareness and training projects focused on working with minors, particularly highlighting her work in gender equality and child protection spaces. Her efforts are centered on transforming care models from a rights-based and equity perspective.

■ European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL
Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri AISBL
194 Chaussée de Louvain ■ 1210 Brussels ■ Belgium ■ Tel.: +32 2 538 66 69 ■ Fax: +32 2 539 41 74 ■ office@feantsa.org ■ www.feantsa.org

Jezabel Cartoixà Garcia is a sociologist and holds a PhD in Education and Society from the University of Barcelona. She specializes in applied social research and has worked on the analysis and evaluation of residential inclusion programs such as Housing First. Currently, she is a professor and researcher at the University of Barcelona and a member of the Social Work Research Group (GRITS). Her work focuses on homelessness, public policies, and participatory methodologies. She has collaborated on European projects related to social intervention and actively participates in publications and scientific conferences. Currently, she is a partner at OLMA, a consulting firm specialized in applied social research and public policy evaluation.

Michel Vols, NL: Evictions and Child Homelessness in the Netherlands: A Quantitative Court Case Study

Recent research by ETHOS indicates that nearly 20 percent of homeless individuals in the Netherlands are under the age of 18. This alarming statistic contrasts sharply with the country's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which mandates that the Dutch government must take all necessary measures to prevent child homelessness. This obligation extends to the judiciary, which has a vital role in preventing evictions—one of the primary causes of homelessness. In eviction cases, the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration for the judge. In 2025, the Dutch Supreme Court is expected to clarify the extent of this obligation.

This paper seeks to examine how courts address the obligation to consider the interests of children in cases where there is a risk of homelessness. It utilises a data science approach to analyse a unique quantitative database comprising over 6,000 Dutch court cases related to eviction. The paper investigates the role minors play in these court cases, whether and how their interests are assessed by the courts, whether the presence of a minor influences the court's decision, and how the risk of homelessness affects this decision. The findings will reveal that the protection against homelessness for minors varies significantly across different courts. Additionally, the paper will offer concrete recommendations for policies that courts could implement to enhance protection for minors at risk of homelessness.

Prof. Dr. Michel Vols is a professor of law at the University of Groningen, specialising in housing and legal methodology. He leads the EVICT project, funded by an ERC Starting Grant, which explores how legal systems handle evictions and their effects on vulnerable populations. His work combines legal analysis with data science to identify patterns in eviction cases. Previously, he received a VENI grant for research on tenant protection. Vols is a visiting professor at the University of Southampton. He co-chairs the Housing Law Research Network and is the editor of Studies in Housing Law.

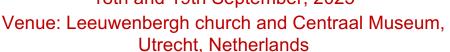## Seminar 11: Trajectories (Room: X) - Chair: Eoin O'Sullivan, IE

Philipp Schnell, Judith Schnelzer, AT: Pathways of Homelessness, Housing Transitions, and the Role of Social Services for Mediating Long-Term Housing Solutions

A longstanding research tradition has worked to understand how triggers of homelessness, housing conditions, and personal life-events interact to shape individual pathways of homelessness. However, analyses of long-term pathways into, through and out of homelessness into stable housing, including the succession of different forms of housing during phases of homelessness, seem scarce. Addressing these shortcomings, we researched transitions into homelessness, pathways through phases of homelessness and possible exits into stable housing, through an ex-post qualitative research design. We conducted 20 biographical interviews with persons who have experienced homelessness during their lifetime and are currently living in Vienna. Based on five causal dimensions of homelessness, we analyzed perspectives on transitions between different forms of housing (according to Ethos Light), personal pathways of homelessness and the cooperation with social services in stabilizing housing conditions.

From our results we identified different patterns of pathways of homelessness mirrored in a succession of different forms of housing. We traced pathways of persons who experienced homelessness as transitional, episodic or chronic phenomena. The groups differed in their use of services, the interplay of causal dimensions of homelessness, and their ability to combine scarce resources, influencing transitions into permanent housing. Also, they differed in the type

■ European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL
Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri AISBL
194 Chaussée de Louvain ■ 1210 Brussels ■ Belgium ■ Tel.: +32 2 538 66 69 ■ Fax: +32 2 539 41 74 ■ office@feantsa.org ■ www.feantsa.org

and extent of institutional assistance required and the combination of services necessary to enable these transitions. Finally, we drafted a typology of possible pathways of homelessness leading to permanent housing solutions based on the causal dimensions of homelessness, individual triggers of homelessness and identified pathway patterns. In sum, our work puts a new spotlight on the conception of pathways of homelessness adopting a long-term perspective that can help to improve service offers and to better understand the multidimensional issue of homelessness.

Philipp Schnell is a postdoctoral researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, where he is specialising on data collection methods on homelessness and precarious housing. He previously published work on lifeworlds of persons experiencing homelessness in Vienna and on novel approaches for researching the transformation of urban spaces. Currently, Philipp is working on a study on life-trajectories of persons formerly experiencing homelessness and is planning the realization of Homelessness Counts in multiple Austrian cities.

Judith Schnelzer is a researcher at the Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences. Their recent research interests revolve broadly around socio-spatial inequalities of urban development, housing studies, residential displacement, migration, and integration research and visual methods.

Veera Niemi, Jarkko Rasinkangas, Aleksi Karhula, Elisabetta Leni, FI: Longitudinal Analysis of Housing Histories and Service Utilization Among the Homeless in Turku, Finland

This study presents a longitudinal quantitative analysis of the housing trajectories and utilization of social and health services among individuals experiencing homelessness in Turku, Finland. Utilizing a dataset integrating national and regional population, social, and health registers, we examine a target group of approximately 400 individuals identified as homeless in the national homelessness counts of Finland in 2022 and/or 2023. A comparison group consists of non-homeless adult social work clients.

Through sequence analysis, we trace changes in housing tenure, family composition, geographical mobility, and engagement with social and health services over the two decades preceding homelessness. Our research seeks to uncover patterns and turning points in the lives of those who experience homelessness, identifying potential explanatory factors distinguishing their trajectories from those of non-homeless individuals.

Theoretically, our work integrates two strands of homelessness research. Drawing on David Clapham's concept of housing pathways, we emphasize the need for a nuanced understanding of individual agency and constraints in housing markets, particularly among vulnerable populations. While Clapham's framework originally calls for a more constructionist approach, we extend its application to a quantitative, register-based longitudinal analysis. This approach allows us to explore homelessness as a periodic phenomenon embedded within broader housing and life histories, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of housing instability and its determinants.

Veera Niemi is a PhD candidate of social work at the University of Turku, Finland. Her research focuses on homelessness, displacement, segregation, gentrification and social work in urban contexts.

Aleksi Karhula is a Senior Research Fellow at the INVEST Flagship Centre at the University of Turku. He has extensive expertise in research using register data on various forms of societal inequality, including life course disparities, residential segregation, and educational inequality.

■ European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL
 Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri AISBL
194 Chaussée de Louvain ■ 1210 Brussels ■ Belgium ■ Tel.: +32 2 538 66 69 ■ Fax: +32 2 539 41 74 ■ office@feantsa.org ■ www.feantsa.org

Jarkko Rasinkangas is a university lecturer in social work at the University of Turku, Finland. His expertise focuses on welfare inequalities, housing and policies in an urban context, especially segregation and homelessness issues.

Elisabetta Leni is a researcher at the Y-Foundation, Finland. After working several years in the non-profit sector in Italy, she obtained a PhD in Economics at the University of Essex, UK. The current focus of her research is on homelessness and social housing.

Seminar 12: Women and Homelessness II (Room: X) - Chair: Lars Benjaminsen, UK

Dóra Welker, Hyojin Seo, BE/NL: Gendered Homelessness in Europe

Women's homelessness has long been underestimated due to restrictive definitions, incomplete data collection, and entrenched gender biases in research. While previous studies have focused on 'visible' homelessness, such as rough sleeping, emerging evidence using broader definitions suggests that women's experiences of homelessness are more widespread than previously assumed. As data collection has improved, the gender gap in homelessness prevalence has continuously narrowed, as well.

This study draws on retrospective housing difficulty data from the 2023 wave of the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) to provide a more nuanced understanding of the scale, nature, and gendered dimensions of homelessness. Our findings indicate that lifetime experiences of homelessness are more widespread than conventional estimates suggest, particularly among women. While the overall prevalence of homelessness among women is similar to that of men, important differences emerge when disaggregating by ETHOS categories. Gendered pathways into and out of homelessness, as well as the role of poverty, further highlight the distinct experiences of women facing housing exclusion.

We see women's homelessness as not a matter of invisibility but rather a methodological challenge, and while we acknowledge the limitations of the EU-SILC dataset, we argue that leveraging retrospective survey data from a broad population sample can strengthen the evidence base for gender-sensitive policy interventions.

Dora Welker is a Project Officer at FEANTSA, working on the Equal House project analysing the scale and dynamics of housing inequality across European countries. She completed her PhD in Urban Studies at Heriot Watt University's Institute for Social Policy, Housing, Equalities Research (United Kingdom) with a research focus on gender-based violence and homelessness.

Hyojin Seo is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology, Tilburg University, working for the EqualHouse project. She has a PhD in Social Policy from the University of Kent, UK. Her expertise lies in gendered precariousness experiences in the labour market and the role of institutional contexts (e.g., social policy, norm) surrounding them. Methodologically, she has expertise in quantitative methods (e.g., Latent Class Analysis, Multilevel Modelling) and survey design, as well as cross-national comparison across Europe and East Asia.

Méabh Savage, Boróka Fehér, Dalma Fabian, IE/HU/BE: Exploring Homeless Women's Experiences of Safety Using Their 'Visual Voices'- An Introduction to and Preliminary Findings From Participatory Action Research in 7 European Countries

There is an absence of women's collective voices and experiences in European research on homelessness. This is

■ European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL
Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri AISBL
194 Chaussée de Louvain ■ 1210 Brussels ■ Belgium ■ Tel.: +32 2 538 66 69 ■ Fax: +32 2 539 41 74 ■ office@feantsa.org ■ www.feantsa.org

19th European Research Conference
18th and 19th September, 2025
Venue: Leeuwenbergh church and Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands

UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

because definitions, conceptualizations and methodologies used in research frequently reflect male centric norms (Bretherton 2017). This invisibilises women's voices and lived experiences and hence the possibility of collectivising their voices. Women's invisibility can negate the potentially transformative effect that research can have in producing more socially just policy and practice responses, in particular more gender responsive services for women. The absence of women's voices from research can prolong their experiences of homelessness and the depth of traumas they often experience (Savage 2022).

In light of the invisibility of women's collective voices, this presentation will discuss the work of a European transnational project, Women's Voices, which involves the work of the South East Technological University (Waterford, Ireland) in partnership with homeless service providers from several European countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, and Slovenia), a grassroots organization from Portugal (created by and for homeless women) and FEANTSA. Using an action research methodology, underpinned by critical feminist and participatory principles, the project aims to co-produce qualitative data on women's safety (captured as photographs and words, or visual voices), through a series of workshops facilitated at local service level (14 services), with women users and staff working there. This presentation will introduce examples of collective themes, and those emerging at local service level, relating to women's safety, co-produced by them in the workshops. The methodology used in this project can serve as a good practice example of co-production in transformative research, in particular, how to involve women who are using services in collecting data that has a direct influence on the services they (wish to) receive.

Méabh Savage works as a lecturer and researcher in the Department of Social Care and Early Childhood in the South East Technological University in Waterford. She has professional experience of working in the areas of women's homelessness and domestic abuse. Her research interests focus specifically on issues relating to care and social justice among people who experience intersectional inequalities, particularly homeless mothers/women/families, women experiencing domestic abuse and asylum seeker and refugee mothers living in direct provision. Méabh is very interested in participatory and emancipatory research methodologies which can produce transformative socially-just outcomes. Méabh holds a PhD in Equality Studies.

Boróka Fehér has worked with homeless people in Hungary since 1999. She is a policy officer of the Policy Department of the Budapest Methodological Centre of Social Policy (BMSZKI), the homeless service provider of the City of Budapest, and an associate professor at the Institute of Social Work and Deaconry of Károli Gáspár University. Her field of special interest is the support and services available for homeless women, their contact with their children, empowering and participative ways of working. She is a member of FEANTSA Women. She holds a PhD in Social Work and Social Policy.

Dalma Fabian is a Policy Officer at FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless. She specialises in women's homelessness and coordinates FEANTSA WOMEN, a community of practice bringing together professionals dedicated to ending homelessness among women. She holds an MA in Human Rights Law.

■ European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL
Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri AISBL

194 Chaussée de Louvain ■ 1210 Brussels ■ Belgium ■ Tel.: +32 2 538 66 69 ■ Fax: +32 2 539 41 74 ■ office@feantsa.org ■ www.feantsa.org