



No one left behind

Web conference#2

26 June

UIA & URBACT

Q&A Report

Do we have an idea of the general total of migrants and refugees among the 700 000?

We have some data at certain local levels on people in shelters with nationalities out of EU (don't completely mean migrants/ refugees). But as said the 700 000 is an estimation so we don't have official knowledge on that point at European level.

As with so many issues, we seem to know what to do to tackle homelessness (as with air quality, climate crisis...) so what is the main barrier stopping cities or policymakers putting them into practice?

- The main barrier is to transform a step-by-step system on housing first model. It supposes training of professional, have another view of people, change the practices of all a system. It takes time and has a cost for the transition.
- Thanks for your question - I think the main barriers are linked to the problem of policies in "silos" - it doesn't work to have homelessness strategies separate from efficient policies on decent & affordable housing for all, youth policies (young people leaving care for instance are overrepresented).

To Chloe (Feantsa report): how does the increase of people sleeping rough compares to the general population growth? Has that been calculated? This could strengthen the argument that is made.

Hi. I can share that FEANTSA hasn't done this specific calculation. OECD has done some attempts to calculate proportion of population affected by homelessness. Nonetheless, it's clear that the trends of increasing homelessness in many contexts outstrip population growth. Pressure particularly important in high growth urban centres. Hope that helps.

How about homeless people who are also addicted to any drugs? How are cities dealing with it?

With the Housing first model, people with addiction can be supported directly in a house. You can read on this our [third overview of housing exclusion in Europe](#) giving you some good practices and don't hesitate also take a look at this [FEANTSA paper from 2017](#) on good practice guidance for working with people who are homeless & use drugs.

By what criteria are homeless people selected to participate in the Housing First programme?

This depends a bit on the specific project. Mainly it is aimed at structural homeless people with complex needs (addiction/ psychiatric problems/ social problems/...). The American model of Housing First is a



'treatment programme', aimed at a specific group. The Finnish model of Housing First is more of a general system for housing all structural homeless people...

To Tom (Odense, ROOF): has it been considered if the new Ghettoakken legislation could affect the homelessness trend in Denmark? Hi Michelle, the ghetto package is relatively new; it will have an influence on how citizens can solve their housing problem themselves. We are trying to develop more affordable housing spread throughout the city

Firstly, I would like to thank you for this important and interesting webinar. I have 2 questions:

1. Who do you think should be the leading player in addressing this issue? Should it be the municipal level/NGOs/cooperation etc.?
2. I see more and more data connecting LGBTQ and homelessness. Are there any projects dealing specifically with this matter?
 - FEANTSA is working a lot on LGBTQ homelessness. Happy to exchange further on this. Glasgow has LGBTQ youth commission on homelessness and many NGO's have specific support.
 - This is what many cities did. But now we all face the question what happens after corona - and possibly add new shelters for women who experienced male domestic violence during the crisis, this is a big challenge for all of us.
 - In Lyon, they sheltered everyone during corona and the state/Metropole agreed on a "zero return to the street post corona". The idea is to develop the housing stock, work with NGOs, social housing providers, different forms of support... Keep in mind that municipal elections are held on Sunday in France and policies can change, especially in Lyon

Epharisto Antigone! Thank you for your insights in this important project. A classical question: how can the achievements find a follow-up when the project ends, e.g. which partners from the UiA consortium can continue the efforts? It is a challenge for us to be able to assure the sustainability of the project overall. But some partners will continue regardless, just not in a joint effort.

To the UIA CURRANT project: How did you measure the change in tolerance levels of the families involved? We had an evaluation study by the University of Antwerp that you can find on <https://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/antwerp>. But this tolerance was something we did not mention as an aim of the project so it was initially not involved in the evaluation. The university followed and spoke the *buddies* regularly and unexpected this came out of the qualitative data (interviews). But a quantitative measurement there wasn't

A question to all panelists: Thank you all for the very insightful presentations. Touching upon the aspect of long-term sustainability of projects. A lot of UIA projects and URBACT Networks have difficulties continuing their paradigm-shifting work after project completion, due to the lack of national / EU funds.



Do you see specific ways that can lead to UIA / URBACT becoming precursors for larger scale funding and inform relevant policy (EU & National level) on the thematics the projects are working on?

In another migrant UIA project MiFriendly Cities in Coventry, Wolverhampton and Birmingham, the partners, especially the cities are working on the legacy of the project: ie identify the best added value, which is worth continuation. Health champions, Share My Language and others are seriously being considered. MiFriendly Cities, 1 year before closing is employing a “legacy specialist” in order to go further in this situation. However, I do think that all EU “projects” suffer from their lack of capacity to become mainstream financial realities. Working on Ruth Raworth’s donut economy model, I think this should be seriously reviewed. This would reorganise the question of legacy. Some migrants have been waiting for 13 years for the legalisation of their situation. In such cases cities are position in “direct opposition” to national institutions, who make these things last so long. This tension needs work on.