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Homeless policies from EU perspective



FEANTSA contribution

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FEANTSA



- 150 members - umbrella organisations of NGOs working with homeless people
- Brussels Secretariat
- Funded under PROGRESS programme
- Activities
 - Policy and advocacy
 - Transnational learning and mutual exchange
 - Research
 - Awareness raising

Homelessness

- European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (2005)
 - Defines homelessness according to living situation
 - Aims to support transnational analysis
 - Widely accepted & used within & beyond EU

- “Home” as starting point
 - Composed of 3 domains: **physical**, **social** and **legal**
 - Lacking 1 or more domains = **homelessness** or **housing exclusion**
 - 4 Conceptual Categories
 1. **Roofless**
 2. **Houseless**
 3. **Insecure housing**
 4. **Inadequate housing**

Conceptual category	Operational category		Living situation	
ROOFLESS	1	People living rough	1.1	Public space or external space
	2	People staying in a night shelter	2.1	Night shelter
HOUSELESS	3	People in accommodation for the homeless	3.1	Homeless hostel
			3.2	Temporary accommodation
			3.3	Transitional supported accommodation
	4	People in a women's shelter	4.1	Women's shelter accommodation
	5	People in accommodation for immigrants	5.1	Temporary accommodation, reception centres
			5.2	Migrant workers' accommodation
	6	People due to be released from institutions	6.1	Penal institutions
6.2			Medical institutions	
6.3			Children's institutions/homes	
7	People receiving longer-term support (due to homelessness)	7.1	Residential care for older homeless people	
		7.2	Supported accommodation for formerly homeless persons	
INSECURE	8	People living in insecure accommodation	8.1	Temporarily with family/friends
			8.2	No legal (sub)tenancy
			8.3	Illegal occupation of land
9	People living under threat of eviction	9.1	Legal orders enforced (rented)	
		9.2	Repossession orders (owned)	
10	People living under threat of violence	10.1	Police recorded incidents	
INADEQUATE	11	People living in temporary/ non-conventional structures	11.1	Mobile homes
			11.2	Non-conventional building
			11.3	Temporary structure
	12	People living in unfit housing	12.1	Occupied dwelling unfit for habitation
	13	People living in extreme overcrowding	13.1	Highest national norm of overcrowding

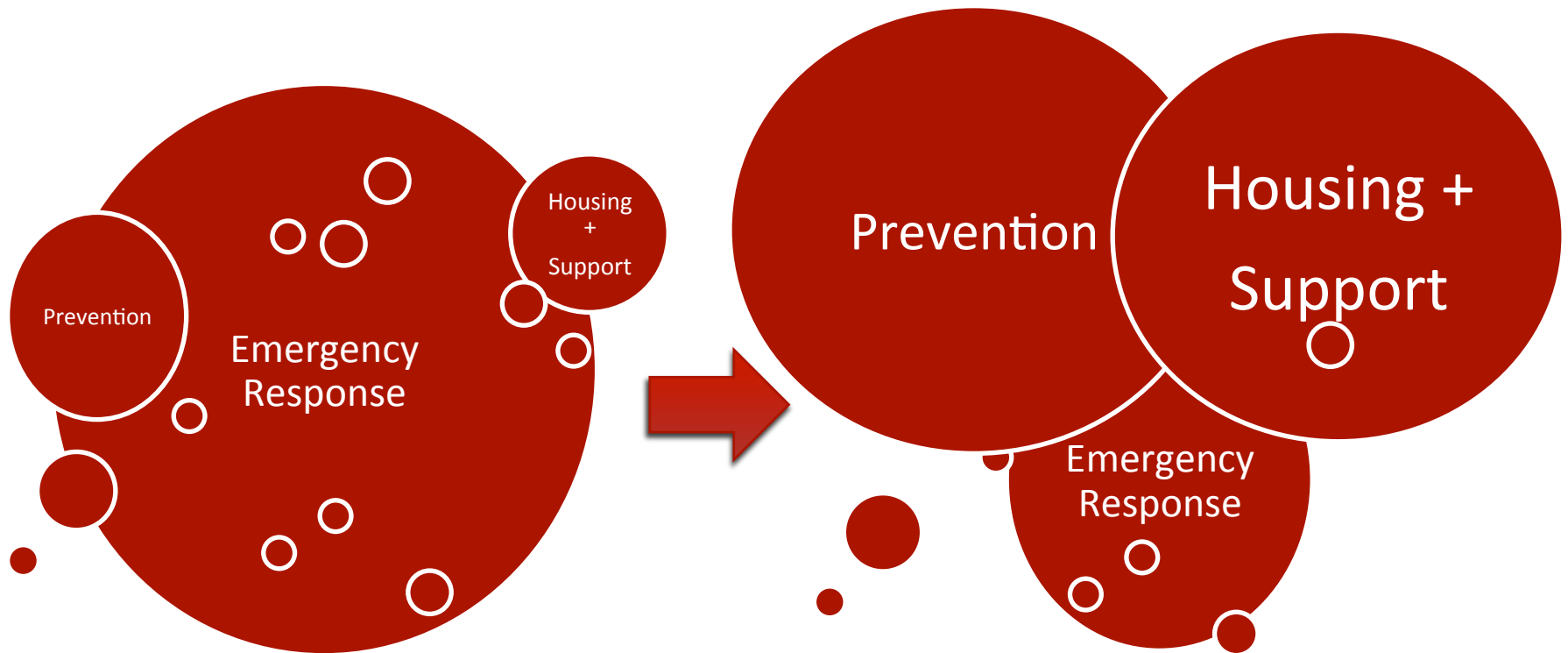
Importance of Integrated Strategies

- Countries with strategies have fewer homeless
 - Homelessness is **distinct** social problem
- Strategies need to be **effective**
 - Goal
 - « ending » rather than « managing » homelessness
 - Budget
 - Considerable but savings in longer run
 - Ineffective homeless policies = expensive (eventually...)
 - Emergency + integration + prevention
 - Housing-Led
 - Consensus ...
 - Political leadership
 - Cross-party
 - Trans-sectoral cooperation
 - Esp housing (solution) & health (savings) sectors

Examples of Strategies

- Finland
 - Housing First
- Netherlands
 - Large cities
- UK (Scotland)
 - Right to housing
- Denmark
 - Innovation
- Czech Republic
 - In development

Shift from Managing to Ending



Shift from Managing to Ending

- Improve Quality of hostel sector
 - Measure of quality = **time** in shelter
 - Important elements
 - Physical quality
 - Privacy
 - **Staff**
 - Qualifications
 - Ratio
 - Adaptation to needs of homeless people
 - *Service avoiders*
 - Couples
- Housing-led focus
 - Rapid access to housing as main solution to homelessness
 - Inspired by the success of Housing First
- Focus on Prevention

Challenges in Making Shift

- Inevitable policy process??
 - More beds
 - Better beds
 - (Physical) Quality
 - Adapted beds
 - Target group
 - Supportive beds
 - Integration process
 - Risk of ineffective/inefficient homeless hostel system
 - Cost --- >50.000€ (DK)
 - Size ---- >100.000 beds (FR)

- Role of hostels
 - Effective transitioning to sustainable solutions
 - How to argue for housing-led when shelter system is still cheap?

Beyond the Homeless Sector

- **Prevention of homeless is possible**
 - Housing
 - Proper eviction proces...
 - Education
 - School drop out is trigger ...
 - Health
 - Discharge can lead to homelessness...
 - ...

- **Solutions are possible**
 - Housing
 - Targeted social housing allocation ...
 - Hostel sector
 - Provide individualised social support at home
 - Health sector
 - *Respite* centers for homeless ...

- Consensus Conference 2010
 - Event BE Presidency of EU

- Social Investment Package 2013
 - European Commission
 - Invest in human capital for long term social, economic, human value
 - « Doing more/same with less »
 - Guidance on homelessness
 - Intergrated strategies, which are housing-led and focus on prevention

- 6 principles for effective homeless policies 2013
 - Homeless Ministers Meeting
 - 24 member states
 - Evidence-based, housing-led, focus on prevention, intergrated, aim to reduce homelessness over time...

EU Knowledge

- European Commission – DG EMPL
 - Housing First Europe social experiment
 - PROGRESS
 - Housing First Europe
- FEANTSA Observatory on Homelessness
 - European Journal & Conferences
- European Commission – DG Research
 - Social innovation research projects
 - Increasing interest in Housing First as cost-effective social innovation

EU Funding

➤ Structural Funds 2014-2020

➤ ESF

➤ 20% fr poverty

➤ Hamburg - Housing First

➤ Poland – Quality standards

➤ ERDF

➤ Health and social infrastructure in framework of transition from institutional to community based care

➤ Housing First as deinstitutionalisation (DI)

➤ Avoid/reduce shelter time as DI...

➤ EIB

➤ Interest in Social Investment Bonds

Role of FEANTSA

- Training
 - social workers
 - *neighbouring* sectors
 - innovative policy solutions
 - ERASMUS+

- Transnational learning and exchange
 - Working groups

- Cost-benefit
 - Better alternatives with same/less.
 - HORIZON2020

- EU Strategy on Homelessness
 - Exchanges/guidelines...
 - Strong demand BUT EC opposition



➤ Thank you for listening

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