



## EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum ‘Inclusive cities: Ensuring social inclusion & well-being for all ages’

22-24 October 2019, Warsaw

### WG Homelessness updates

#### 1. WG Homelessness and Roma inclusion policy transfer on ‘How to support Roma to access adequate housing’

On 9-10 April, 35 city officers on homelessness and Roma inclusion from 15 European cities addressed the question of housing support for Roma during a policy transfer study visit in Toulouse. Through discussions with local policymakers, beneficiaries and practitioners, participants discovered how to transfer some inspiring practices from Toulouse’s policy to support Roma to move out of camps into adequate housing in the city. With the ambition to “do the impossible for better social inclusion at local level”, Toulouse showed their innovative approach which combined housing solutions and integrated social support (including schooling, healthcare, employment, citizen involvement etc.). Four pre-selected ‘transfer’ cities presented their own challenges with regard to Roma inclusion and already took follow-up actions based on the advice received. Read more [here](#). Participants have also developed integrated plans for a sustainable exit from camps into adequate housing. Read more [here](#).

#### 2. Highlights from WG Homelessness policy transfer in Poznan

On 30 September to 2 October, WG Homelessness met in Poznan for a policy transfer on ‘cities measures to support new groups at risk of homelessness’. With its score qualification system, Poznan has developed a fair and effective way to identify the applicants most in need of social housing. But housing alone is often not the solution. In collaboration with NGOs, the city has therefore created a social housing programme combined with training support. These innovative practices presented in Poznan’s pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights inspired the 40 participants from 9 cities which attended the policy. After in-depth discussions and site visits, city experts identified the successes and challenges of Poznan’s practice. They also co-created solutions to city-challenges on early detection of people at risk of homelessness and on mental health and substance dependency.

#### 3. Survey on the implementation of principle 19 on housing and assistance for the homelessness - European Pillar of Social Rights

On 17 July, EURO CITIES launched the second survey part of the ‘[Cities delivering social rights](#)’ initiative for SAF members to report on policy initiatives focusing on principle 11 - childcare and support to children and **principle 19 - housing and assistance for the homeless**. The aim is to collect data, evidence and good practices on the measures cities are taking in line with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The survey results will feed into an analytical report of EURO CITIES to be published in at the end of the year. They will also form the basis for the EURO CITIES upcoming ‘Social Europe’ statement and feed into our upcoming policy and advocacy priorities with the incoming EU institutions. 25 cities have provided data on housing and homelessness. Read more [here](#).

#### 4. Cities continue to pledge to the EU Pillar of Social Rights

After the official launch of the campaign ‘Inclusive cities for all: Social Rights in my city’ in February at the European Parliament, cities continue to pledge to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights. Bologna, Poznan, Hamburg, Birmingham and Amsterdam are the cities presented new pledges on principles 19 (housing and assistance for the homeless). The pledges will be presented to SAF members and high-level representatives from the European Parliament and the European Commission during the Social Affairs Forum in October in Warsaw. Find all pledges and learn more about how to pledge [here](#).

## 5. Strategic dialogue meeting on housing and homelessness

On 12 September, EUROCITIES took part in a strategic dialogue meeting on housing organised by the European Commission. The aim of a strategic dialogue is to provide structured input from the civil society on the European Pillar of Social Rights consultation stream. The following elements were highlighted during the discussions:

- Stakeholders communicated the need for stronger guidelines from the EU regarding local participation for fighting homelessness.
- The European Commission urged stakeholders the need to put housing on further up on the agenda and to set up an integrated housing approach with close links with education, employment, health and other priority areas under ERDF.
- Interinstitutional negotiations on ERDF are relaunched. The conclusions are expected for the beginning of 2020. For the period 2021-2027, actions taken under ERDF should contribute to desegregation of marginalized communities.
- InvestEU will be the main financial instrument for social inclusion in the next years.
- FEANTSA presented a study on the working poor and their situation in a context of low-wage and low-hour employment. Read more [here](#).

### Upcoming meetings and activities:

#### - WG Housing meeting - 20-21 November, Ghent

WG housing members are meeting in Ghent to discuss 'renovation and renewal of neighbourhoods: Housing policy towards homeowners and the problems of relocation and gentrification'. The meeting will focus on policy approaches to quality of housing, especially on enforcing the standards and on the quality control. Ghent will present also the 'Housing Task Force' which was established in 2017 to address the local housing crisis. During the meeting participants will have the chance to visit three renewal projects and to exchange views on the impact of AirBnB on affordable housing. More information [here](#).

#### - European Commission consultation on the European Social Fund in the 2014-2018 programming period, deadline to complete is 19 December.

EC has launched a 12-week public consultation to evaluate the support to social inclusion by the ESF. The consultation is available online in all official languages of the EU. The information collected will be used in assessing what has been achieved during the 2014-2018 programming period. It will also help the Commission draw lessons on how to reinforce this support in the future, making it more effective and focused. We invite our members to contribute to this consultation. Find all the information [here](#).



*This update has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020). For further information, please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>*