

HABITACT is a European forum which facilitates policy exchange on local homeless strategies.

Upon the initiative of eight European cities, HABITACT was created in 2009 with the help of FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with Homeless People. It was established in response to growing interest and demand for information on homelessness from local authorities around Europe.

More than 100 million people in Europe are threatened by or living in poverty. In the framework of the “EU2020 Strategy” and its main initiative “European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion”, the European Union aims to reduce this number by 20%.

Poverty and social exclusion can be addressed most effectively at the local level - the crucial level for policy change and impact. Therefore, HABITACT aims to build capacity of local policy-makers to reduce homelessness in their local communities through facilitating transnational exchange and through driving evidence-based social innovation.

HABITACT is open to all local practitioners in EU/EEA countries who are working in the area of homelessness.

For more information and details on how to join contact

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or visit

www.habitact.eu



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supported by



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The European Exchange Forum on Local Homeless Strategies



HABITACT aims to build the capacity of local policy-makers to reduce homelessness in their local communities through transnational exchange and peer learning around common themes of interest.

The four main objectives are:

- HABITACT aims to be a reputable source of expertise on local homeless strategies.
- HABITACT aims to create effective means of tackling homelessness at local level through European policy exchange.
- HABITACT aims to induce a learning process between local level authorities based on a practitioner-focused approach to European exchanges.
- HABITACT pools expertise to allow for the joint development of common frameworks to address common challenges.

HABITACT research and policy tools

HABITACT policy exchanges are facilitated by European research and policy tools (such as the ETHOS Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion). HABITACT works closely with FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with Homeless People (www.feantsa.org). Through FEANTSA, HABITACT has access to the latest research and expertise on homelessness.

Since its launch, HABITACT has developed links with more than 80 local authorities across Europe and with EU level policy-makers. The expertise gathered through these exchanges is disseminated widely through relevant toolkits, publications and webtools (e. g. the HABITACT online policy bank <http://www.habitact.eu/activity/policybank>).

HABITACT e-bulletin

In addition to exclusive weekly mailings for member cities, HABITACT publishes the quarterly e-bulletin, a newsletter with local news on homelessness, relevant news on European policy developments, local trends and a special thematic focus every issue (e. g. Sports as a tool for social inclusion, ICT and homelessness, Structural funds and homelessness...). It can be downloaded from www.habitact.eu/news/news.

HABITACT peer reviews

In order to facilitate in-depth discussions between local civil servants on homeless policy-making, HABITACT organises peer reviews. The peer review method takes a local strategy, project or approach as the starting point for European exchanges on local homeless policy-making. The 2010 peer review was held in Amsterdam (Netherlands), the 2011 peer review was hosted by the Municipality of Gothenburg (Sweden). In 2012 we will review the Ghent model. Read more at www.habitact.eu/activity/peerreview.

HABITACT seminars

Once a year, HABITACT organises a seminar on local homeless strategies, in cooperation with the EU Committee of the Regions and FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with Homeless People. The last seminars were on “Homelessness in Public and Private Spaces” and “Governance of Homeless Service Provision at Local Level”. Read more at www.habitact.eu/activity/seminar.

HABITACT funding monitor

In order to facilitate European exchanges, HABITACT helps its members to find sources of funding for European homelessness projects. The HABITACT coordination unit is constantly monitoring various EU funding programmes (URBACT, Seventh Framework, PROGRESS, Lifelong Learning etc.) .

HABITACT projects

HABITACT supports the creation of European projects on homelessness. The latest project set up in cooperation with HABITACT cities is “Housing First Europe” (HFE). Led by the Danish National Board for Social Services (Servicestyrelsen) together with the German research institute GISS, HFE is testing and evaluating Housing First projects in five European cities in order to gain greater clarity on the potential and the limits of the approach. The project receives funding under the EU’s PROGRESS programme. For more information go to www.housingfirsteurope.eu.



Partner Cities

Århus (Denmark), Amsterdam (The Netherlands), Athens (Greece), Bærum (Norway), Copenhagen (Denmark), Dublin (Ireland), Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg), Ghent (Belgium), Gothenburg (Sweden), Madrid (Spain), Odense (Denmark), Venice (Italy) and Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain)

How to join

HABITACT aims to expand and include more cities in order to further promote policy exchange between local stakeholders across Europe.

HABITACT is open to all local practitioners in EU/EEA countries who are working in the area of homelessness.

To receive information about HABITACT (meetings, activities, fees, joining), please contact info@habitact.eu