

Homelessness Monitoring in Europe

2017 Updates



This document contains a non-exhaustive update on the state of homelessness in a number of different EU countries. To read the full country profile, either click here or on the title of the country below. As more data becomes available, we will update this document and the individual country profiles.

[AUSTRIA](#) (data from 2016 – published in 2017)

According to the Social Ministry, in 2016, 15,090 people were registered as homeless. This is 3,691 people more than in the base year of 2008, where 11,399 people were recorded (an increase of 32%)¹.

In October 2016, the Salzburg homelessness forum undertook a survey on homelessness, for the first time in the whole county of Salzburg and not only in the city of Salzburg.

Homelessness in the county of Salzburg:

- Men: 1,045
- Women: 446
- Children: 270
- Total: 1,761

- Inhabitants of the county of Salzburg: 545,742
- Homelessness in the frame of one month: 1,761
- Share of homelessness: 0.32%

There is a large number of homeless children and young adults (up to the age of 30 years) in the county of Salzburg. Their share of the homeless population is 47%. This is a much higher share than in the population of Salzburg, where the proportion is 33%.

[CZECH REPUBLIC](#)

The national register of social services provides information on the number of places in services. 2017: 216 long-term homeless shelters and 75 short-term shelters in the Czech Republic.

Czech children live in households that suffer from some housing problems (insufficient heating, humidity and leakage, lack of space, noise, dirt and vandalism in the child's surroundings).

The Government of the Czech Republic approved on 8 March 2017 a bill on social housing and housing allowance (Government of the Czech Republic, 2017).

[FRANCE](#)

In its January 2017 report on Housing Exclusion, the Fondation Abbé Pierre estimated that 4 million people were poorly housed in France. The number of homeless people was estimated at 143,000 people, with 896,000 suffering from severe housing deprivation and 2,819,000 living in very poor housing conditions.

An October 2017 article in Le Monde (French daily newspaper) estimated that there are 570 slums in France.

September 2017 figures from 115 (an emergency number people can call in order to find shelter) found that in one night, they received 4,007 requests for accommodation in 40 regions. Of these calls, 53% were from families, 32% from single men, 8% from single women and 5% from couples without children. Only 36% of these people were given shelter, of which 34% were families.

2017 was an important year in French politics, with the election of a new President and National Assembly. 2018 will see the start of the next five-year plan ("quinquennial") on homelessness and housing.

The previous five-year plan (2012-2017) has seen some improvements in homelessness and social housing policy, partly due to the increase in demand for support.

¹ Statistik Austria (2017): Armut und soziale Ausgrenzung in Österreich. Indikatoren 2008 bis 2016. Präsentation am 25. Oktober 2017.

Since 2012, 7,000 extra places in shelters were created, 4,000 reception centres for asylum seekers and 7,360 places in adequate housing.

GREECE

An ESF-funded Working Group was created in January 2017 in order to record and monitor the number of homeless people in Greece. The WG will focus on the design of the methodology, the definition of procedures and the creation of tools for recording and monitoring of homeless people living on the street and structures for homeless, according to international methodologies.

There will be a pilot at national level led by the Ministry of Labor, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity in collaboration with the University of Panteion and other public and civil society agencies. The pilot count at national level is expected to be launched in March 2018 in six cities/towns: Athens, Piraeus, Nea Ionia, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Iraklieion (Crete) and in two phases: Phase A, night count and Phase B: day count via the existing programmes and structures supporting homeless people. This count is supported by European Social Fund and is aiming at the creation of framework and tools to measure homelessness.

For the first time ever in Greece, a pilot head count of homeless people in the streets of the historic center of Athens was done by the municipality of Athens in collaboration with Bloomberg Associates and volunteers from the NGO sector. 182 people sleeping rough in the historic center of the capital city of Greece were counted on the night of 7th December 2017.

The increased influx of refugees and asylum seekers the past year that are living at camps all over Greece where the conditions are similar to the ones of sleeping roughly (lack of heating, privacy, hygiene etc). While the figure is dynamic and daily changing, depending on the entries, on the 13th of December 2017, according to the official registers, 14,792 people, including families and children, disabled, singles were blocked on Greek islands that had a

²<http://mindigital.gr/index.php/%CF%80%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%83%CF%86%CF%85%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%BA%CF%8C-%CE%B6%CE%AE%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BC%CE%B1-refugee-crisis/1788-national-situational-picture-regarding-the-islands-at-eastern-aegean-sea-13-12-2017>

³ Caritas Care Services (Centri di ascolto Caritas) is a specific service furnished by Caritas organizations at the local level (Diocesi). Diocesi

capacity to accommodate in camps or detention facilities, under humiliating conditions².

A new bill was introduced on housing allowance for 600.00 households under poverty (9.600 individual income) ~1000 euro/year (600.000 mil) to be implemented in 2019 (law 4472/2017).

ITALY

The Caritas Report 2017 describes the poverty and social exclusion-affecting people in Italy. Information is based on a "need survey" compiled by social workers and volunteers supporting some of the most vulnerable people. The survey was conducted in 1,801 Caritas Care Services, distributed over 180 Diocesi (more than 80% of the national territory)³.

On the basis of the data collected in more than 1.801 Caritas Care Services (50% placed in the Northern, 31% in the Centre and 19% in the Southern), 205,090 people have received support, 26,000 are homeless people (17%). They are male (74%), migrants (67,4%) living alone (45%).

Fio.PSDs Members Monitoring (2017)⁴ found that between 2014-2016, 48% of providers (municipalities, social enterprises, foundation, religious organizations) had managed a change of their services for the most deprived. More night services for new comers; help centres for asylum seekers; food and hygienic aid stations; accompanying measures for favouring inclusion (job orientation, legal assistance, counselling); housing led oriented projects (Housing First, co-housing, pilot projects to ensure housing rights).

At the same time, 46% of members declared that the number of the users has increased by 10% over the last three years.

From 2014 to 2016, the fio.PSD survey reveals two trends:

- The appearing of new profiles of homeless people;
- Increasing number of traditional shelter users.

corresponds to Italian town and cities or group of cities. For details see http://banchedati.chiesacattolica.it/chiesa_cattolica_italiana/regioni_diocesieparrocchie/00007907_Diocesi_e_Parrocchie.html

⁴ Members of fio.PSD are 125 units. They represent around the 20% of the national homelessness sector in the stricter sense (shelters, day centres, soup kitchen, outreach...)

On the one hand, young people (18-25 years old), asylum seekers, irregular, family homelessness and job seekers with lower skills, appear more and more as new users. The latter have a sort of “episodic homelessness” correlated to low income and frequent loss of “bad jobs”. The latter refers also to women working as domestic workers or caregivers for elderly people (when the person they are caring for dies, they lose their job and house at the same time). Irregular and temporary jobs, the loss of affordable housing and the loss of an “official residence” produces a drastic effect of marginalization.

On the other hand, the number of women, survivors of domestic violence and abuse, migrants and Italian people increased. There were more people asking for orientation, counselling and psychological support in homelessness services.

Lastly, looking at the Caritas Report (2017), it is important to pay attention to the increase in youth homelessness. Based on data collected into the 1.801 Caritas Counselling Centre, 7,484 homeless people are 18-34 years old. They are Italian (12%) and Foreigners (88%). Italian young homeless people are mainly boys (60%) with a lower degree of study, a complex social history (inherited from their family), without a job and with children. On the other hand, there are many young migrants with an intermediate level of school, with regular residence permit, unemployed and with children in 30% of cases. Their condition is often linked to the unsuccessful exit from “community for minors not accompanied”.

The #HomelessZero Awareness Campaign, promoted by the Fio.PSD and sponsored by the Ministry, was launched on 11 June 2016. On 17 September 2017, the Ministry LPS launched the Campaign again. This is to confirm engagement of policy-makers in raising awareness around this issue.

For example, the situation of irregular migrants (without a permit to stay, with a denial measure or waiting for an answer from the tribunal) gives cause for concern about homelessness. The recent law about migration and refugees (law n. 46/2017) aggravates this problem. Policies are oriented towards criminalisation (first as regards the security) and rather than real integration or the protection of rights.

⁵http://www.mfi.public.lu/publications/Solidarite/RecensementStructuresHebergement_15mars2017.pdf

⁶http://recompte.barcelona/?page_id=8.

LUXEMBOURG

The 2017 Ministry of Family and Integration shows that:

- People continue to use classical structures (day and night shelters for urgent situations), suggesting there are not enough long-term housing solutions.
- The total number of people using the hosting structures has increased steadily.
- In emergency accommodations, the male population predominates with 86%.
- In total, 420 people accessed services from about 17 organisations⁵.

In April 2017, two "Low-threshold night centres" for very vulnerable homeless people were established for 10 persons each, run by the Red Cross and by Caritas.

SPAIN

Locally speaking, Barcelona carried out a [one-night count of homeless people in May 2017](#) that was led by the council and the XAPSLL (acronym for the care network of homeless people in Barcelona).⁶

The counting carried out in Barcelona in May 2017, showed that in Barcelona alone, there are 1,026 people sleeping rough, 1,954 sleeping in residential centres or transitional houses and 415 in informal settlements. This makes a total of 3,395 homeless people, meaning the numbers have increased since 2016, despite an increase in the number of places offered in shelters (941 rough sleepers, 1,907 homeless in services and 383 in informal settlements were counted in 2016)⁷.

PORTUGAL

On July 25, 2017, the new [National Strategy for the Integration of the Homelessness People](#) (ENIPSSA 2017-2023) was published.

⁷ To know more about the numbers and the increases explanations: <http://sensellarisme.cat/es/el-recuento-2017-visualiza-1-026-personas-durmiendo-en-la-calle-y-1-954-alojadas-en-equipamientos/>

The new strategy is based on 3 strategic objectives:

1. Promoting knowledge, information, awareness raising and education regarding homelessness;
2. Strengthening intervention aiming at promoting the integration of homeless persons;
3. Strengthening coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The new revised policy plan, which was approved by the Portuguese Government, clearly promotes housing solutions for homeless people through programs that support access or maintenance of housing for individuals and families, and prioritises permanent housing solutions based on the Housing First approach.

The strategy will be implemented according to bi-annual action plans. The implementation plan for late 2017 and 2018 is [available online](#) (in Portuguese).

There are still no figures regarding the Strategy's budgeting. The implementation plan is currently being worked on. One of the issues raised is the need to identify budgets that will enable the implementation of the activities foreseen.