

A Harmonised Definition of Homelessness for Statistical Purposes

Sometimes referred to as ETHOS 'Light', this is a version of the ETHOS typology developed in the context of a 2007 European Commission study: *Measurement of Homelessness at European Union Level*. It is a harmonised definition of homelessness for statistical purposes. It is a pragmatic tool for the development of homelessness data collection, rather than a conceptual and operational definition to be used for a range of policy and practice purposes.

OPERATIONAL CATEGORY		LIVING SITUATION		DEFINITION
1	People living rough	1	Public spaces / external spaces	Living in the streets or public spaces without a shelter that can be defined as living quarters
2	People in emergency accommodation	2	Overnight shelters	People with no place of usual residence who move frequently between various types of accommodation
3	People living in accommodation for the homeless	3	Homeless hostels	Where the period of stay is time-limited and no long-term housing is provided
		4	Temporary accommodation	
		5	Transitional supported accommodation	
4	People living in institutions	6	Women's shelters or refuge accommodation	Stay longer than needed due to lack of housing No housing available prior to release
		7	Health care institutions	
5	People living in non-conventional dwellings due to lack of housing	8	Penal institutions	Where the accommodation is used due to a lack of housing and is not the person's usual place of residence
		9	Mobile homes	
		10	Non-conventional buildings	
6	Homeless people living temporarily in conventional housing with family and friends (due to lack of housing)	11	Temporary structures	Where the accommodation is used due to a lack of housing and is not the person's usual place of residence
		12	Conventional housing, but not the person's usual place of residence	