

PRODEC event – Solutions to homelessness for mobile EU citizens

Event overview

[PRODEC](#) is a European project focused on protecting the rights of destitute EU mobile citizens. The aims of the project over the next two years include identifying existing good practice where services support destitute mobile EU citizens and working with local authorities to address homelessness among mobile EU citizens.

This event will bring together local authorities from across Europe and share examples of projects that are working with mobile EU citizens who are homeless to defend their rights, support them into employment and find ways out of homelessness.

The event will take place over two days:

- **Roundtable Discussion:** bringing together European local authority delegates, London local authorities and organisations working with EU migrant homeless people to share examples of good practice, discuss challenges and potential solutions - with breakout sessions to discuss identified issues in more depth.
- **Study Visit:** European local authority delegates will visit Croydon Skylight and meet with LB Croydon to discuss the Migrant Employment and Accommodation Service project.

The event will focus on bridging the gap between the legal framework which confers EU citizens' rights and the difficulties, in practice, to realise those rights and entitlements, such as accessing housing assistance, welfare benefits and any other support they might need.

The interpretation of the notion of “worker” is central to the enjoyment of EU free movement rights by destitute mobile EU citizens. However, there is evidence of a trend towards a narrow interpretation of “genuine and effective” employment, which is used to exclude mobile EU citizens engaged in low-wage jobs or precarious working conditions from claiming the entitlements they should get as workers. Without these, it makes it very difficult to find a way out of homelessness.

In the UK, the response to EU citizens sleeping rough has mostly been based on reconnection or enforcement. However, some projects are taking a different approach and working with people to help them realise their rights.

Aims and objectives

- Sharing best practice across Europe – providing opportunities for local authorities to learn from each other.
- Encouraging a different approach to ending rough sleeping for mobile EU citizens – shifting from reconnection and enforcement approach to a focus on employment and support.

Draft agenda

Monday 9 December, 2-5pm – Presentations and discussion

| Time | Allocation | Session | Notes and speaker/s |
|--------|------------|--|--|
| 2pm | 10 mins | Introduction/ opening remarks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Context of Brexit and how people's rights are changing. - Vulnerability to exploitation / modern slavery and the need for support & engagement. - Contrast between enforcement and support approaches. |
| 2:10pm | 40 mins | Presentations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FEANTSA – overview of PRODEC project and notion of 'worker' - PILC – rights- based approach - Camden Council/Roma Support Group – Routes off the Streets project - Croydon Council/Crisis – MEAS project, employment support - FLEX/Westminster Council – Labour exploitation, modern slavery |
| 2:50pm | 30 mins | Discussion and Q&A | |
| 3:20pm | 20 mins | Break | |
| 3:40pm | 60 mins | Breakout sessions to focus on topics in more detail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment support - Working with hard to reach groups - Labour exploitation |
| 4:40pm | 20 mins | Reflections on breakout sessions and closing remarks | |

Tuesday 10 December, 10am-1pm – Study visit to Croydon Skylight

| Time | Allocation | Session | Notes and speaker/s |
|------|------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | Tour of the Skylight | |
| | | Presentation of MEAS project | |
| | | Discussion and Q&A | |

Suggested invite list

| Organisation | Job |
|------------------------|---|
| Connection St Martin's | Migration Policy and Services Coordinator |
| Homeless Link | Assistant Director, Practice and Partnerships |
| St Mungo's | Head of Policy, Campaigns and Research |

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| St Mungo's | Head of Services (rough sleepers and migrants) |
| Thames Reach | |
| Glass Door | Migrant project coordinator |
| Praxis | Head of Services |
| Amnesty International | |
| Eastern European Resource Centre | CEO |
| Aire Centre | Director |
| FLEX | Networks & LEAG Officer |
| The Passage | Anti-slavery coordinator |
| RBKC | Modern Slavery & Exploitation Partnerships and Community Coordinator for the London Boroughs of Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Kensington and Chelsea |
| Croydon | Lead co-ordinator, Gateway Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Services |
| Croydon | Community Resources Delivery Lead, Rough Sleepers |
| Brent | |
| Luton | |
| LCR / Liverpool | |
| Bedford | |
| Milton Keynes | |
| London Councils | Principal Policy and Project Officer |
| GLA | Senior Policy Officer - Migration and Refugees |
| GLA | Senior Project and Policy Officer, Equality and Fairness team |
| GLA | Rough Sleeping Lead Manager |
| LGA | Homelessness policy lead |
| MHCLG | Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Advisor |