



FEANTSA

Ending Homelessness Awards 2021

3rd Edition

A handbook on using EU funds to fight homelessness

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH THE HOMELESS



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#EndHomelessness



INTRODUCTION

This Handbook presents the winners of the FEANTSA Ending Homelessness Awards 3rd edition, 2021. These awards recognise projects, funded by the EU's structural and investment funds (specifically the European Social Fund, Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived and European Regional Development Fund) that contribute to ending homelessness.

The Handbook presents the background to the awards, the three winning projects, the importance of using European funds to tackle homelessness, recommendations for the 2021-2027 funding period, and an explanation of the selection process and the jury.

The FEANTSA Ending Homelessness Awards have been organised three times since 2017. The aim is to raise awareness about how to use EU funds effectively to support progress in the fight against homelessness. The prize aims to inspire effective use of EU funds as a lever to help end homelessness.

The 3rd edition of the awards comes at a unique moment:

- Firstly, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for solutions to a rising tide of homelessness.
- Secondly, 2021 marks the beginning of a new Multiannual Financial Framework for the EU; a 7-year window of opportunity in which to make ending homelessness an investment priority and deliver real progress. The boost given to the EU's budget by the Next Generation Recovery Package makes this an even more favourable moment to invest in ending homelessness.

- Thirdly, the European Commission and the Portuguese Presidency launched a new European Platform on Combating Homelessness on the 21st June 2021. This Platform establishes a joint ambition between Member States to end homelessness.

It provides a framework for European cooperation, and for using EU funds to deliver progress. The Ending Homelessness Awards celebrate the use of EU funds for projects that help end homelessness. The Awards were launched in 2017 with the first edition focusing on the European Social Fund. The 2018 Awards focused on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD). This year the Awards reflect the use of the ESF, the FEAD and the European Regional Development Fund.

We hope that this material can inspire policymakers, Managing Authorities, project promoters, organisations working with homeless people and other stakeholders to use European instruments to improve the lives of people in the most excluded situations of severe exclusion.

We hope that this will contribute to more and better take-up of the EU budget for tackling homelessness in the context of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and the Next Generation EU recovery instrument.

The Ending Homelessness Awards 3rd edition were awarded on 21 June 2021, as part of the high-level conference Combating Homelessness - A Priority for our Social Europe, organised by the Portuguese EU Presidency in Lisbon, Portugal.

02

MEET THE WINNER

Housing First for the Moravian-Silesian Region

- Run by Romodrom o.p.s. and Nová možnost, z.ú.
- Location: Moravian-Silesian region, Czech Republic
- Timeframe: 2019-2022
- Grant: EUR 66 904 ESF
- Contact person: Eva Nedomová, evanedomova@romodrom.cz
- Website: <https://romodrom.cz/cs/co-delame/bydleni/housing-first>



The Romodrom's Housing First for the Moravian-Silesian Region project addresses homelessness and housing deprivation of people of Roma origin who are socially excluded or at risk of social exclusion. The project is set up to help people who need the most support, i.e. people in severe housing need. The target group includes households (individuals, couples, and families) that do not have housing or are at immediate risk of losing their homes.

The project includes several activities, such as finding apartments, contacting private homeowners, establishing cooperation with owners, addressing the target group, finding and selecting clients, establishing a confidential relationship with clients, moving assistance and complex support after moving. Emphasis is placed on a partnership approach with the client, empowering them and supporting them.

The project applies the principles of the Housing First model. There is a connection between the non-profit sector and the private sector, which is unique in the Czech Republic. The NGOs involved conclude lease agreements between the owners and the clients, allowing the clients to receive additional social benefits that they would otherwise not be entitled to. The apartments are spread throughout the towns of Karviná, Orlová, Havířov and Ostrava. Thanks to the project and cooperation with private apartment owners, it is possible to find housing for Roma clients in vulnerable situations, who often do not meet the conditions for the allocation of city apartments, or do not have enough own means to find housing, or who often face discrimination. 21 households have been successfully supported by the project so far.

02

MEET THE WINNER

É Uma Mesa

- **Run by** Crescer Na Maior, Associação de Intervenção Comunitária
- **Location:** Lisbon, Portugal
- **Timeframe:** 2020-ongoing
- **Grant:** EUR 134 335.42 ESF
- **Contact person:** Florencia Salvia, florenciasalvia@crescer.org
- **Website:** <https://crescer.org/project/e-uma-mesa>



The É UMA MESA project aims to improve the quality of life of vulnerable groups, namely people experiencing homelessness, through an innovative employment response. Housing is considered as a basic human right and is the first issue that is addressed once people are integrated into the project. Throughout the project's duration, beneficiaries are trained, and referred to the labour market, which promotes their capacity to be financially autonomous and prevents them from falling back into a situation of homelessness.

É UMA MESA is a restaurant in Bairro Padre Cruz, a neighbourhood in Lisbon, with a menu designed by a well-known Portuguese Chef, where the service is carried out by the beneficiaries, with due professional support. Whilst the project has a social integration objective, it also boosts a socioeconomically disadvantaged neighbourhood and promotes its economy.

The project's beneficiaries participate in a tailor-made training programme, designed together with the Portuguese Institute for Employment and Vocation, which provides tools for beneficiaries to develop their personal, social, and technical skills. The programme includes training in social and relational capacities; in technical and professional skills focused on restaurant professions; and on-the-job exercises at the restaurant itself. Following their learning experience beneficiaries are integrated into internships or jobs in partner restaurants to consolidate the competencies they acquired, allowing a new group of beneficiaries to start their training. Beneficiaries are supported by a psychologist caseworker throughout the entire period.

This project is the replication and intensification of a previous project, É UM RESTAURANTE, developed in Lisbon by CRESCER, which proved to be highly effective in the integration of homeless people in the labour market and in the community.

The project É UMA MESA has the capacity to support 75 people per year.

02

MEET THE WINNER

Housing First Trieste

- Run by Fondazione Diocesana Caritas Trieste Onlus
- Location: Trieste, Italy
- Timeframe: 2019-2021
- Grant: EUR 362,861.75 FEAD + ESF
- Contact person: Marco Aliotta, marcoaliotta@caritastrieste.it
- Website: <https://caritastrieste.org>



The Housing First Trieste project promotes the implementation of Housing First in Trieste, spreading the methodology within the municipal social service, based on the first three-year trial that Fondazione Caritas had carried out.

Its beneficiaries have all experienced former housing autonomy breakdowns and were either homeless, or living in unsafe, or inadequate accommodation.

One of the most important aspects in Housing First Trieste is the complementarity between the ESF and FEAD funds which gave the possibility to guarantee a wide range of services and activities within the project without dispersion of resources in various separate projects. The introduction of the Housing First model in the reception system for homeless people has been very positively received by the municipal social workers who have seen its effectiveness directly.

Another important element was the support of the fio.PSD Network Housing First Italia in the training of teams, the evaluation tools made available and the analysis on the progress of the projects.

The increased involvement of beneficiaries in the implementation of the project was an important innovative factor which improved local community work and has fostered individuals' sense of belonging. The project successfully accompanied 30 people in their transition into apartments. The dwellings were made available by the Municipality of Trieste through ESF funds, which were coupled with support for primary needs with access to solidarity supermarket Emporio della Solidarity, through FEAD funds.

HOMELESSNESS AND EU FUNDING

Local, regional and national authorities have primary responsibility for funding measures to address homelessness. EU funds can play an additional and transformative role when used as a lever for the improvement of policies and services. They should not replace national and regional funding but should be used to innovate and improve on existing responses to homelessness.

The 2021 – 2027 MMF offers a favourable context for investment of EU funds into ending homelessness.

« The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) is a key vehicle for triggering and scaling up inclusive approaches for addressing homelessness, in particular through investing in people and services.»

It is the main instrument for delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights, which includes homelessness and access to housing as a specific priority (19). 25% of the 88 billion Euros (2018 prices) ESF+ is reserved for social inclusion, including of the most vulnerable. The new regulation offers further links to support certain target groups. In addition to the socio-economic integration of the Roma, marginalised communities and third country nationals, the fund has new and strong emphasis on supporting children in need (through the Child Guarantee) and vulnerable youth (links to the Youth Guarantee) in their access to decent housing, as well as on social innovation.



HOMELESSNESS AND EU FUNDING

The former Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) has been integrated into the ESF+ regulation. Material assistance will still be possible through this strand of ESF+, as well as accompanying supportive measures and social inclusion efforts for the most deprived.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) will continue to be a resource for investing in infrastructure, including to support the shift from managing to ending homelessness through housing solutions. The European Pillar of Social Rights is a reference framework also for the ERDF. In fact, in the case of both ESF+ and ERDF the same enabling condition applies requiring that homelessness is part of a national strategic policy framework for social inclusion and poverty reduction (Common Provisions Regulation, thematic enabling condition 4.3.1 and 4.3bis).

The projects celebrated by the Ending Homelessness awards are case-studies in using the EU funds to end homelessness.

« They show that it is possible to use the funds to invest in people, material assistance and infrastructure in order to support the fight against homelessness.»

The funds can be combined with investments in the scope of the Next Generation recovery programme. This third edition of the Ending Homelessness prize selected projects funded during the last seven years.

We hope that it will inspire stakeholders to make the most of the unprecedented opportunity of the next seven. Much more is possible in terms of volume and quality of projects, strategic approach, integration of different funds etc. Some Member States such as Italy and Czechia stood out for their strategic programming of EU funds to support the scale up of Housing First in the 2014 – 2020 period.

We expect and support stakeholders and managing authorities in many other countries to undertake similar work in the next period.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021 – 2027 FUNDING PERIOD



1. A PRIORITY FROM START OF PROGRAMMING

The 3rd edition of the award is a reminder to Member States to prioritise investing in addressing homelessness and housing exclusion through the structural and investment funds in the new programming period. The changed regulations offer even more opportunities for such investments under both ERDF and ESF+. The FEAD now integrated under ESF+ should trigger further synergies for inter alia social inclusion and supporting measures accompanying strategic investment of the ESF strand in housing inclusion.



2. USE THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE NEW EU POLICY FRAMEWORK

On 21 June 2021 the European Platform for Combatting Homelessness was launched. Member States should make use of the opportunities offered by this new form of collaboration to deepen knowledge exchange, mutual learning, define areas of research activities, and innovative approaches for funding.



3. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Member States are encouraged to design national strategies for ending homelessness. It not only facilitates the use of EU funding but generates ownership from all actors involved from national to local authorities, civil society, private sector and financial actors to realise a joint vision.



4. AIM TO REACH THE MOST VULNERABLE

When designing calls for proposals, awarding projects or sharing best practices on access to affordable housing, social inclusion or poverty reduction, Member States are invited to target people in vulnerable situations and experiencing homelessness in their interventions.

HOW WERE THE WINNERS CHOSEN?

As in previous years, the criteria for the Awards were that the projects needed to have been funded by the chosen EU fund(s), this time the European Social Fund (ESF), the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), and/or the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), to have started in 2014 or later, and to be either ongoing or completed.

The selection process operated with the call for applications opening on 5th October 2020 and closing, with an extension in the context of the pandemic, on 10th April 2021. The FEANTSA Ending Homelessness Awards Jury then met to discuss and choose which projects would receive the gold, silver and bronze awards.

As in other years, jury members were asked to score projects according to the following criteria: **Relevance, Sustainability, Innovation, Impact and Scalability.**

The jury was composed of 5 members with a range of profiles and expertise on homelessness and EU funding.



THE JURY



HENRIQUE MANUEL MARQUES JOAQUIM

EXECUTIVE MANAGER AT THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL

Henrique Joaquim is a social worker by training and holds Social Work PhD from the Portuguese Catholic University. He is currently Executive Manager of the National Strategy for Social Inclusion of Homeless People (since January 2020) in Portugal. He coordinates the monitoring and evaluation of the national strategy, and its links to other policy objectives. Previously he was General Director of “Comunidade Vida e Paz”, Portuguese NGO for Homeless People (2012 -2019).



HEATHER ROY

SECRETARY GENERAL OF EURODIACONIA

Heather Roy has been Secretary General of Eurodiaconia since 2008. Prior to this she worked for an international youth organisation but started out in social policy by working with homeless young people in her native Scotland.



MARIE- ANNE PARASKEVAS

SENIOR POLICY EXPERT AT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,
DG EMPL

Marie- Anne Paraskevas is a Senior Policy Expert at the European Commission and she comes from Greece. Since 1995, Marie-Anne has been working in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, firstly on gender equality issues and as from 2004 on issues relating to social inclusion and the fight against poverty. In September 2011, she took up the coordination of the team working on the transnational dimension of the European Social Fund. As from January 2013, she has been also in charge of other files which include the horizontal principles of the ESI Funds, in particular the European Conduct on Partnership and territorial cooperation, as well as for issues relating to employment, social inclusion, and social innovation.



KATRIN LANGENSIEPEN

MEP, GREENS/EFA GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
(GERMANY)

Katrin Langensiepen was elected in the European Parliament in 2019. As the only woman with a visible disability in the Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, she fights for a social and inclusive Europe. Her focus lies on the implementation of the UN-Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the EU, the fight against poverty, homelessness and for better housing.

In 2011, she became councillor in Hannover for Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen and worked as speaker for social affairs. She was also the speaker of her party’s working group for persons with disabilities.

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THE JURY



ANTOINE SAINT-DENIS

DIRECTOR EUROPE AND INTERNATIONAL, COORDINATION AUTHORITY
OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND IN FRANCE

A European expert, social entrepreneur, committed to the service of initiatives for social well-being, Antoine has 15 years of experience in strategic decision-making processes and public policy-making at the European Commission and in France. He is currently working at the Managing Authority of the ESF and Youth Employment Initiative national programmes, linked to the Ministry for Labour, Employment and Integration of France.

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USEFUL RESOURCES

WEBSITE ON THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=325&langId=en>

WEBSITE ON REGIONAL POLICY AND STRUCTURAL FUNDS

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en

COUNCIL REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) 2020/2093 OF 17 DECEMBER 2020 LAYING DOWN THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE YEARS 2021 TO 2027

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3A0J.LI.2020.433.01.0011.01.ENG>



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For more information see: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>

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