Homelessness research: from a European overview to a Portuguese insight

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Introduction

• FEANTSA’s European Observatory on Homelessness: trajectory, achievements and challenges ahead
  - Network of national correspondents created in 1991 to carry out transnational research on homelessness and housing exclusion
  - Network enlargement and the two stage research programme evolution
  - National diversity and European perspectives: how to conciliate?

• CESIS research experience in the field of homelessness
  - The national context and the limited scope of research
European overview

• Main features

- Huge amount of research undertaken
- Different sources of research across Europe
- Innovation and guidance available for policy and intervention
- Uneven distribution of research
- Remaining gaps and repetitiveness
- International exchange of research and practice
European overview

- Main Research Themes
  - Definition and measurement
  - Understanding homelessness
  - Development and impact of policy
  - Homelessness pathways
  - Vulnerable groups
  - Homeless services
  - Emerging issues
  - European focus and country overviews
Portuguese insight on Homelessness research

- Homelessness: a legitimate issue for research?
- Social awareness, scientific interest and political relevance
- Increasing number of surveys and studies and the role of NGO’s and municipalities
- “Profiling” homeless users: descriptive approaches and the lack of comprehensiveness
- Recent involvement of central administration
- Knowledge transfer into policy development: still a long way to go
Thank you!

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