

Homelessness research: from a European overview to a Portuguese insight

Isabel Baptista, Senior
Researcher, CESIS, Lisbon.

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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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isabel.baptista@cesis.org