

COMPREHENSIVE POLICIES FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

Attention to homeless people in Latin America

EUROsociAL collaborates with the Social Development Ministries from Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay in new policies for attention to homeless people contributing with European experiences.



ADDRESSING THE PHENOMENON IN LATIN AMERICA

The phenomenon of homeless people exists throughout Latin America, although in different forms and with different response degrees from public institutions. Countries as Brazil, Uruguay and Chile have a better knowledge of the proportion and characteristics of the population affected by this problem and they develop specific programmes or services to address it. Instead, in other countries this issues are less known: they don't have accurate data and the work is still performed with occasional interventions, and it brings as a result that homeless people is still in situation of exclusion, without an adequate access to health care services and other basic social protection services. In these countries, civil society or religious organizations are usually providers of these reliefs, often

without enough resources in financial and human terms, and with intervention methodologies that are not always appropriate.

Although the advances made in recent years vary in each national case, a regional trend towards a stronger public commitment and the adoption of a more comprehensive approach coordinating welfare actions with other fields within social protection systems areas, as housing, employment, health, etc are consolidating.

EUROSOCIAL'S SUPPORT

EUROsociAL is supporting the efforts from the region towards forging social protection comprehensive systems. One of the edges of this process is integrating into the systems populations traditionally

SOCIAL PROTECTION



COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

BRAZIL, URUGUAY, PARAGUAY



unattended or only taken into account under residual actions. Since 2013 and in response to demands made by the countries, the Programme has started working with the Social Development Ministries from Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. EUROsociAL has contributed to the improvement of the tools focusing this population, mainly easing the experiences exchange and the knowledge of models used in other countries, primarily European.

'HOMELESSNESS' IN EUROPE, AN OPEN ISSUE

In Europe, the economic and social crisis from recent years has tangibly increased the problem. Although there are no accurate statistics, studies reveal the increase in the number of homeless people, proportionally in younger people and children, as well as in migrants and Roma population. In addition, many families are at risk of living on the street. In order to address this problem, the European Strategy 2020 and the Social Investment Package recommend the adoption of national strategies to fight this and suggest the use of EU funds for this purpose.

BRAZIL: HOMELESS CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

The Ministry of Social Development from Brazil has a Single System for Social Assistance (SUAS) to improve quality of life of homeless people, particularly paying attention to children and adolescents. However, the system lacks of specific methods to address the situation of this population group.

EUROSociAL has supported the creation of an inter-ministerial working group driven by the National Secretariat for Social Assistance from the Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger and the Secretariat for Human Rights from the Presidency of the Republic, where other involved ministries also participate. In this group, the policy management for homeless children and adolescents is analysed and coordination between different institutions is promoted.

In addition, in the National Council for Children's and Adolescent's Rights, a working group, that together with civil society, was created to redefine actions, services and programmes from the concerned public policies and institutions, in order to achieve a uniform design and a coordinated implementation system.

URUGUAY: REVISION OF PASC

The Programme for the Attention of Homeless People (PASC), from the Ministry of Social Development, has significantly expanded in the last decade extending its coverage capability. However, it is still characterised by the application of occasional actions and the absence of a specific addressing methodology.

In 2014, with the collaboration of EUROsociAL, the Attention System Coordination department has been created. It centralises the different actions that bring the services for homeless or at risk of ending up on the streets population, in order to obtain a more comprehensive approach.

In addition, there has been a contribution to the definition of new working lines, particularly:

- ▶ Resettlement of an Inter-Institutional Board for the launching of a comprehensive and coordinated strategy between different ministries.
- ▶ Drafting of a theoretical framework for PASC.
- ▶ Establishment of a registry and tracking system.
- ▶ Coordination with the Ministry of Housing in order to submit a pilot project of strategy aimed at housing.

EUROSOCIAL'S SUPPORT ITINERARY

- ▶ Visits to the United Kingdom, Romania and Mexico focused on policies and intervention for homeless children.
- ▶ Visits to France and Finland focused on policies and actions addressing homeless adults.
- ▶ Technical workshops in Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- ▶ Drafting of visits systematisation documents.
- ▶ Drafting of recommendation documents to review the programmes for monitoring homeless people in these three countries.

- ▶ Regional workshop about policies for monitoring homeless people and participation on the Annual Conference of FEANTSA (European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless).
- ▶ The constitution of a permanent working group of the Ministries of Social Development for Latin American countries in FEANTSA.

VIDEOS



Meeting: Towards comprehensive policies for homeless people

PUBLICATIONS



- ▶ "Recíprocamente" Magazine. Dialogues for social inclusion in Latin America and in Europe

ADDRESSING MODELS

Two are the main current models for addressing the phenomenon of homeless people: one of them is more traditional, also known as "ladder", and another one, more innovative, called Housing First.

Ladder model

It addresses the problem as a social policy issue, implementing solutions through specialised arrangements for housing. It involves a multi-disciplinary approach for the attention of each case, and in a second phase the individual shift to a housing.

'Housing First' model

It is based on the idea that many of the problems associated to homelessness can be addressed in a more effective way once a stable housing is granted, and it supports a methodology based in granting permanent housing to homeless people.

THE BERGAMO MEETING



In October 2014, the "Towards comprehensive policies for homeless people in Latin America" meeting was held in Bergamo, Italy. The event convened Latin American officials from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay, as well as Latin American and European experts in order to define guidelines for attention policies for homeless people in Latin America. This activity comes from the urge for a deeper examination into the results of international experiences within this area. In this Conference, the debate was focused in the *Housing First* and *Housing Led* policies and in the advances achieved with the adoption of this European approach. Spaces for discussion with the main Ministries for Social Policies in Europe and many councils from European cities were developed. As a result of this meeting, Latin American officials have drafted a consensus document that includes policies guidelines for attention to homeless people in Latin America.

Coordinating Partner



Operating Partners

