e-bulletin

HABITACT

European exchange forum on local homeless strategies

This e-bulletin is available online at
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habitact news

HABITACT at EU events in Autumn 2010

This Autumn, the HABITACT coordination team attended a number of EU events in Brussels and nearby cities in order to learn more about local anti-poverty policies, to develop HABITACT's Europe-wide network of contacts and to get new ideas for funding and developing EU projects on homelessness. These events included:

- 16 September 2010 – Lille (France): "Seminar on the governance of social cohesion and anti-poverty policies" >> Details
- 11 October 2010 – Brussels: "EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum Meeting" >> Details
- 18 October 2010 – Brussels: "Ninth Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion" >> Details
- 15 November 2010 – Brussels: "ELISAN Conference – Social issues: a real investment against crisis!" >> Details
- 16 November 2010 – Brussels: "SIRG The Individual First – Local Innovative actions for Quality Social. Services and Decent Housing." >> Details
- 17 November 2010 – Brussels: "Wielkopolska Region seminar on migration and cohesion" >> Details
- 9/10 December 2010 – Brussels: "European Consensus Conference on Homelessness"
>> Details

Steering Group Meeting

A HABITACT Steering Group Meeting was held on 9 December 2010 in Brussels.
Items discussed during the meeting include recent EU developments relevant for HABITACT, future projects and 2011 activities.
See more in the Members' area of the HABITACT website.

Gothenburg Peer Review 2011

The next HABITACT Peer Review – a way of common "peer" learning taking a local homeless strategy as the starting point for European exchanges between cities – will be hosted by the City of Gothenburg on 31 March and 1 April 2011. Gothenburg's approach to homelessness is housing-led, and involves three main parties: social services, property owners and Gothenburg City Mission (local NGO).
When an individual or a family experiencing homelessness want to change their lives they approach the municipal social services. Depending on the applicant's needs (health, housing advice, employment, etc), the municipal social services cooperate with landlords to decide who is eligible to move into housing. As a next step the applicant meets the City Mission to discuss the conditions of the rental agreement (main condition: the residents have to respect the requirements of the tenancy agreement).
More about the Gothenburg model is available in the HABITACT online policy bank (see Members' area of the HABITACT website).

HABITACT to set up new European research project

In cooperation with FEANTSA and a team of Dutch researchers from the Verwey-Joncker Instituut and Movisie, we intend to submit a new proposal in February 2011 for a European research project on local homeless strategies. The focus this time would be on the risks of homelessness, taking into account different areas of poverty and social exclusion (housing, welfare policies, income, social cohesion, domestic violence, etc). See more in the Members' area of the HABITACT website.

European seminar 2011 - Save the date!

The Committee of the Regions, HABITACT and FEANTSA will host the 2011 seminar on local homeless strategies in Brussels on Friday 17 June 2011. Be sure to save the date!

HABITACT Partner Cities:

Amsterdam (NL), Árhus (DK), Athens (GR), Bærum (NO), Copenhagen (DK), Dublin (IE), Esch-sur-Alzette (LU), Ghent (BE), Gothenburg (SE), Madrid (ES), Odense (DK), Venice (IT), Vitoria-Gasteiz (ES)

Go to the website for more info.

local news

LetFirst scheme: Finding solutions in the private rental market in Edinburgh

The UK-based national property group Orchard & Shipman launched a letting scheme on 9 November 2010 together with Edinburgh City Council. The "LetFirst with Orchard & Shipman" scheme provides a rental payment guarantee to private landlords who agree to renounce the initial deposit, whilst tenants are occupying their property. This way, people are encouraged to move into private rented housing, as there is no deposit that places financial constraints on the tenants. Furthermore, the process of letting and renting is made faster and landlords can save money and time, not having to deal with lengthy void periods. In case the tenant experiences financial hardship, the rent is covered by Orchard & Shipman. This approach also aims to prevent evictions. Read more here.

Freiburg: Re-structuring of services to curb homelessness amongst women

In the framework of an administrative reform, which aims to save 1.8 million euro, the Municipality of Freiburg in Southern Germany plans to restructure its homelessness services from 1 January 2011. The Freiburg City Council which has one of the highest rates of homelessness amongst women in Germany (100 homeless women per 100.000 inhabitants), plans to start this reform by establishing a steering and consultation unit for homeless women. One major issue this unit wants is to control the flow of homeless women from surrounding municipalities. Until now, the consultation service for homeless women has been offered by the Diocese, which also runs a day centre and a shelter for women. The Diocese heavily criticises the Council's plans as it believes that the homeless women, who are often scared of authorities, have come to trust the Diocese's service during the last ten years. Establishing a new coordination unit would be de-rooting a well-established support service.
Read more here (in German).

Gijon City Council joins forces with five NGOs in order to tackle homelessness more efficiently

In order to tackle homelessness more efficiently, the Municipality of Gijon (Spain) has joined forces with five NGOs (the Association of Charity, Floro/Proyecto Hombre, Covadonga Youth Foundation, Siloam Foundation and Diocesan Caritas), the buzzword being an "integrated approach to homelessness".
The five stakeholders, led by the Municipal Social Services, will cooperate and try to develop a homeless policy with the following aims: Monitoring the situation in Gijon with regular homeless counts, offering different types of services to meet different needs, and making better use of the resources available.

The model used in Gijon is a staircase-model with three levels. The first level concerns low-threshold services (shelters, soup kitchens and information offices) as a gateway to the service network directing homeless people to the second level (short-term accommodation, day centres, shelters, treatment programmes). The third and final level is providing access to permanent accommodation but still providing a close network of support to help people become autonomous.
Read more here (in Spanish).

Project EU Citizen launched in Stockholm

The City of Stockholm just received the green light to launch "Project EU Citizen" in cooperation with the Public Employment Agency of Sweden, Stockholm City Mission, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, Föreningen Ny Gemenskap, the Church of Santa Clara and Médecins du Monde.
The project aims to open day activity centres for approximately 70 to 130 homeless people from other EU countries and thus fighting the social and economic exclusion of this target group. The project will focus on network-building and resource management. The project started on 1 November 2010 and will run until 20 February 2012.
On 1 March 2011, the project is expecting to open an Advice and Support Centre that will be able to provide the target group with:
• support for some basic needs such as showers, laundry, and simpler meals in a safe environment;
• relevant information about Swedish society with individual guidance and mediation of contacts with Swedish public authorities and organisations;
• increased knowledge and other interventions such as volunteer-led courses in Swedish, translation of school grades or employment certificates;
• practical possibilities for the return of individuals to their country of origin through collaboration with public authorities and organisations in Europe.
Read more here (in Swedish).

Ostrava city council adopts Community Plan 2011-2014

In October 2010, Ostrava City Council (Czech Republic) adopted "The Third Community Plan of Social Services and Related Activities in the city of Ostrava for the period 2011-2014". The plan covers services offered to different target groups of citizens, including "citizens at risk of social exclusion (homeless people)". As part of the community plan, there is a clear overview of how services for homeless people in Ostrava are structured and coordinated. For more information, see the online HABITACT policy bank in the members' section of the HABITACT website.

City of Lahti hosts seminar on homelessness

On 15 October 2010, a seminar on homelessness was held in the City of Lahti (Finland). The city co-organised the seminar together with ARA (The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland). The seminar's main focus was the implementation of the Housing-First principle in the framework of Finland's homelessness project "Name on the Door", which is co-financed by ARA and co-ordinated by SOCCA (The Capital Region's Centre of Social Expertise). Four Finnish cities (Helsinki, Vantaa, Espoo, Tampere) and three NGOs (Helsingin Diakonissalaitos, Silta-valmennusyhdistys and Vailla vakinaista asuntoa ry) are involved in the project. It is inspired by the Housing First model used by the organisation "Pathways to Housing" in New York City. The basic principles of Housing First ("Asunto ensin") in Finland are:

1. Housing First: The individual is placed into housing and then other support needs (financial, psycological etc.) are tackled.
2. An integrated system of services: Services the homeless individual has access to at different stages of homelessness are coordinated in a better way.
3. Provision of same service chain in all municipalities.

Read more here (in Finnish).

BARKA streetworkers in Hamburg city

As a way to deal with the rising number of Polish rough sleepers (more than 120), Hamburg city council, the Polish General Consulate and the Polish organisation BARKA joined forces.

One Polish BARKA-streetworker is now acting as the link between Hamburg city council and Polish rough sleepers. So far, reaching out to homeless Polish people has been difficult due to language issues. BARKA compares the often difficult situation of Eastern European migrants to the one of the first European settlers in North America. Migrants come to Western European cities searching for work and a better future – but often they are badly prepared for what expects them and can therefore fail. This is why, according to BARKA, services have to move with the migrants.

BARKA's work has two strands: either they reach out to people and reconnect them with their home country (i. e. the people are sent back to their home country, encouraged to solve their problems and home, and emigrate again but better prepared) or they are integrated into the local host community (i. e. given language classes and helped to find a job).

Read more here (in German).

news from europe

Committee of the Regions opinion on combating homelessness

On 6 October 2010 the Committee of the Regions (CoR) adopted an opinion on combating homelessness. In this opinion the CoR is calling on the European Union to develop an European homelessness strategy. Moreover, the CoR is asking the EU to support European local authorities in their fight against homelessness in the framework of the future EPAP (European Platform against Poverty, Europe2020). The European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion has been a special one as it marked the beginning of a decade for combating poverty and social exclusion in the framework of the new strategy of the EU from 2010-2020 (referred to as "Europe2020"). Tackling poverty and homelessness are a top priority in Europe2020.

European Journal on Homelessness vol. 4 is out

The fourth volume of the annual European Journal of Homelessness, published by the FEANTSA Research Observatory, is now available. It focuses on "Homelessness, Poverty and Social Exclusion" and it contains many articles which can serve as an important basis for reflection on homelessness across Europe. A number of articles look at the role of local homeless services and policies, e.g. a thorough analysis of Groningen's shelter system, the Danish national framework for developing effective initiatives against homelessness at the local level. For ordering the journal, please contact info@habitact.eu.

European Parliament Written Declaration 61 on calling for an EU homelessness strategy

In September 2010, a group of European Parliament members (Britta Thomsen (S&D, Denmark), Liz Lynne (ALDE/UK), Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL, Portugal), Karima Delli (Greens/EFA, France) and Jacek Protasiewicz (EPP, Poland) launched a declaration calling on the EU to adopt a homelessness strategy, aiming to end street homelessness by 2015.

The Written Declaration has now been adopted with 391 signatures.

This is a clear call on the European Commission to keep homelessness on the agenda of the European Platform Against Poverty and to support national/regional/local governments in their fight against homelessness by providing a European framework for exchange and innovation.

Read the Written Declaration 61 in all languages here.

European Consensus Conference on Homelessness

On 9-10 December 2010 the European Consensus Conference on Homelessness (organised by the Belgian Presidency of the EU and the European Commission, in cooperation with FEANTSA) took place in Brussels. Seeking to establish common understandings on fundamental questions about homelessness, it marked the beginning of an innovative policy process at EU level.

Almost 400 stakeholders were present at the Consensus Conference to take part in the hearing and share their opinion on the following six key questions: What does homelessness mean?/Ending homelessness - a realistic goal?/Are housing-led policy approaches the most effective of preventing and tackling homelessness?/How can meaningful participation of homeless people in the development of homeless policies be assured?/To what extent should homeless people be entitled to access services despite of their legal status and citizenship?/What should be the element of an EU strategy on homelessness?

The consensus will be published in mid-January 2011. See more here.

European project meeting of "Hope in Stations"

The "Hope in Stations" consortium held its second plenary meeting in Brussels on 16 December to take stock of progress to date.

In the research strand of the project, a first socio-political analysis of the different test sites involved in the project (namely capital city train stations in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, and Spain) was carried out. A social mapping of homelessness in stations is also underway (through consultation of different organisations present in train stations such as railway companies, services, public authorities, NGOs). Finally, a survey of homeless people in the test site stations is being conducted to collect their views on life in stations.

In the action-oriented strand of the project, some stations have already nominated a focal point who is responsible for coordinating relations with all relevant stakeholders (services, public authorities, NGOs, etc) and to raise awareness of train station users about homelessness. A common training course is being developed by the project to raise awareness of station employees on how to work/interact effectively with homeless people – this course will be tested in the different test site stations in 2011.

EU peer reviews on homelessness

The European Commission has hosted 8 peer reviews on social inclusion policies this year. Some of these covered homeless policies, especially the peer review with the Portuguese government in November 2010 and with the Finnish government in December 2010.

All meeting documents are available online, and include information in English about the national homelessness strategies of both countries, as well as the role of local authorities in the strategies.

Moreover, in October 2010 a peer review on "local plans for social inclusion in Catalonia" was held in Barcelona. Some of the local plans presented also include homeless people as their target group.

For more information about the peer reviews, click here.

European Platform against Poverty 2010-2020

On 16 December 2010, the European Commission published its Communication on the Europe 2020 Flagship Programme: European Platform against Poverty. The Commission sets out a framework for action "to ensure social and territorial cohesion, such that the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared across the European Union and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society".

Under section 2 of the Communication, homelessness and housing exclusion are mentioned as one of the key challenges for the future.

Under section 3 on key actions to tackle poverty, several initiatives on homelessness are referred to:

- As part of actions to develop social protection and access to essential services, the Commission will "Develop the Voluntary European Quality Framework on social services at sectoral level, including in the field of long-term care and homelessness."

- As part of actions to promote social inclusion and tackle discrimination, the Commission states that "Developing appropriate and integrated responses, both to prevent and tackle homelessness shall remain an important element of the EU's social inclusion strategy." To this end, the Commission will "Identify methods and means to best continue the work it has started on homelessness and housing exclusion, taking into account the outcome of the consensus conference of December 2010."

- The Commission will launch in 2011 an initiative to pool a range of European funds to promote evidence-based social innovation, including in the area of homelessness.

- The Commission wishes to promote a partnership approach by supporting « regular exchanges and partnerships between a wider set of stakeholders in specific priority areas, such as active inclusion, child poverty, Roma inclusion, homelessness and financial inclusion."

This Communication paves the way for a genuine European framework on homelessness which will enable the wider community of experts on homelessness across Europe to promote innovative and effective solutions to homelessness, thereby contributing to the general reduction of poverty by 2020. Read the details here.
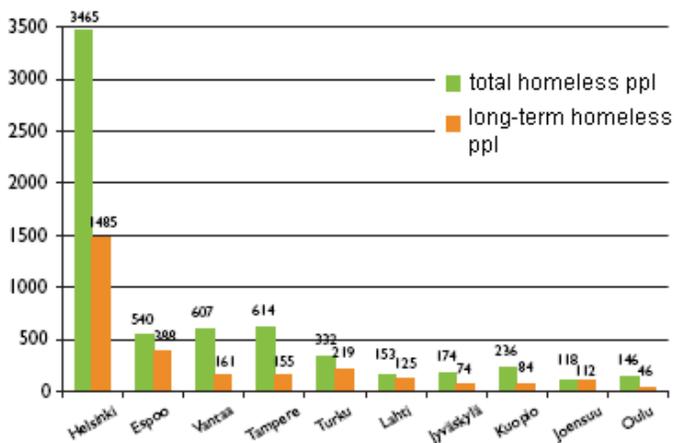
local trends

Homelessness (2009) trends in Finnish cities

The Finnish Housing Finance and Development Centre *ARA* has recently published the yearly statistical report on 2009 homelessness numbers in Finland.

The report contains homelessness statistics of ten Finnish municipalities (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Tampere, Turku, Lahti, Jyväskylä, Kuopio, Joensuu and Oulu), who made a commitment to reduce homelessness and are part of a Finnish project called *PAAVO* (long-term-homelessness reduction project). The *PAAVO*-project is supposed to run until 2011, the cities are trying to implement the national homelessness strategy and also setting up Housing First projects.

The statistical report 2009 shows that homelessness in Finland is on the rise. Whereas homelessness numbers decreased between 2000 and 2006 (from 9999 to 7399 homeless people) since 2007, it has been increasing again. In 2009 8153 homeless people were counted in Finland.

A closer look at the city-specific numbers shows that homelessness is on the rise in almost every Finnish city, but Helsinki and Kuopio are most affected by this development:

The *ARA* report mentions the homelessness numbers for every Finnish city, and homeless numbers of different ETHOS categories.

Most of the people counted are experiencing hidden homelessness. Alone in Helsinki, 2460 out of 3465 homeless people are living with family or friends.

The report also gives information on how many people are regarded as long-term homeless and the most common reasons for homelessness, which differ from city to city. Read more here (in Finnish).

Brussels report 2010 on the fight against poverty

The Health and Social Observatory of Brussels Capital Region has published its biennial report on the fight against poverty. The 2010 report comprises four thematic journals, each of which focus on a different dimension of poverty.

One of the thematic journals looks at homelessness in Brussels: « Vivre sans chez-soi à Bruxelles ». This report is based on 41 group interviews and focuses on the issue of homelessness. It examines the different reasons which might lead to a person becoming homeless (i. e. domestic violence, debts, addiction...), the living conditions homeless people are faced with and the services available to homeless people in Brussels . The journal shows that homelessness services tend to provide temporary accommodation to homeless people who have few support needs, which means that people with more complex support needs to do not always have access to these services. Moreover, the journal shows that many people not targeted by homeless hostels often end up in these hostels (such as people with disabilities, people with psychiatric disorders) because they were unable to access other more appropriate services.

Another thematic journal focuses on the Brussels Action Plan against Poverty (« Plan d'action bruxellois de lutte contre la pauvreté) » , which defines and explains the 34 objectives of the Brussels Action Plan against Poverty. Objective 17 is about "Realising the right to housing". Some of the most important measures to be taken in this respect are: increasing the amount of accessible housing, preventing evictions, giving people who are homeless the possibility of actively participating in decision-making. Read more here (in French).

1600 families threatened with eviction in Murcia

In the Municipality of Murcia (Spain), 1600 families are under threat of eviction, because they are unable to pay their mortgage. A further 4400 families in the region of Murcia are faced with the same problem.

Ten years ago the Spanish housing market was in a much better state than it is now, with banks having to provide long-term mortgages to families earning only a little more than 1000€ a month. But this mortgage bubble burst with the economic crisis in 2008, and now 200.000 families in Spain are under threat of being evicted.

A few months ago, the platform "El Palmar" was founded for families who cannot deal with their mortgage problems on their own. The platform wants to draw attention to the problem and try to prevent evictions.

The spokesperson for the municipality of Murcia, Esther Herguedaz, said that there were plans to create special offices and provide legal advice to those concerned. Read more here (in Spanish).

Study on homelessness and crime in Milan and Turin

A survey was carried out of homeless people in the cities of Milan and Turin to assess the relation between homelessness and crime rates. The results are now available. Out of the 1010 people surveyed, 24% had been to prison at least once. 13% had been to prison before experiencing homelessness, while 17% had stayed in prison after/during homelessness.

Table: Homelessness and criminality

	Total	Italians	Immigrants
Never been in prison	76	63,96	82,27
At least one time in prison	24	36,04	17,73
Never been in prison before becoming homeless	86,54	77,87	90,99
At least one time in prison before becoming homeless	13,46	22,13	9,01
Never been in prison after becoming homeless	83,11	76,39	86,6
At least one time in prison after becoming homeless	16,89	23,61	13,4

The study concludes that the crime rate among the homeless population is much higher than among the general population. However, the study results also show that the state of homelessness is a cause, rather than a consequence, of criminal behaviour therefore concluding that in order to tackle crime rates, action needs to be taken to reduce poverty. Read more here (in Italian).

Exeter City Council feels impact of Government funding cuts

In October 2010, the British Conservative-Liberal Government announced unprecedented social cuts. Not only will public-sector jobs be cut, but spending on welfare benefits will be reduced by £18 billion. These cuts are affecting homelessness services in cities across the UK.

Steve Warran, head of housing of Exeter City Council, warns that the effect of the cuts combined with a large increase in demand on services due to the economic crisis could be dramatic. The City Council will support fewer people and many will not be able to sustain a tenancy. With the economic crisis far from over, the number of people who approached Exeter homelessness services increased by 20% in Spring/Summer 2010. Moreover, there has been an increase in the number of rough sleepers. Exeter homelessness services fear a reduction in the local housing allowance – estimated at up to 20 per cent next year – could see arrears soar, and many families will be unable to pay their rents.
Read more here.

Homelessness count 2010 in the city of Malmö

The yearly homelessness count carried out in Malmö (South Sweden) showed that homelessness in the municipality is on the rise. In 2010 there were 900 homeless persons in Malmö, 40 more than in 2009. The majority of the homeless people in Malmö are between 25 and 39 years of age. Especially the number of homeless women in this age group has increased, from 86 in 2009 to 170 in 2010 – whereas homelessness amongst 25-39 year-old men decreased by 52 people. There are currently 196 homeless children in Malmö. Read more here (in Swedish).

Numbers of children in homeless households 2010

Part of city	Total	0 - 6 years	7 - 12 years	13 -18 years
Centrum	11	3	2	6
Södra Innerstaden	27	18	6	3
Västra Innerstaden	3	2	0	1
Limhamn - Bunkeflo	4	1	0	3
Hyllie	34	19	10	5
Fosie	37	20	5	12
Oxie	5	5	0	0
Rosengård	51	32	9	10
Husie	12	6	3	3
Kirseberg	12	3	1	8
Total	196	109	36	51

focus: ICT and homelessness

Information and communication technology (ICT) and homelessness

In May 2010, the European Commission launched the "Digital Agenda for Europe", which aims to "bring Europe back on track" after the economic crisis and reach the social and economic goals set out in the Europe2020 strategy.
In today's digital age, information and communication technology (ICT) plays a major role in the life of many EU citizens: it can enhance learning, provide quick and easy access to information, and allow people to express opin-

ions. In recent years, the potential of ICT has paved the way for new means of tackling homelessness. Moreover, it has begun to play a role in homelessness policies, which is why we have chosen this focus for the fifth issue of the HABITACT e-bulletin.

The following articles illustrate some ways in which ICT is used in the area of homelessness, namely to empower homeless people, to enhance their digital literacy skills, to generally raise awareness on homelessness, to facilitate outreach work at grassroots level, and to promote participation of homeless people in everyday life.

Enhancing digital literacy skills of homeless people through "eInclusion"

Homeless people, especially rough sleepers, rarely possess laptops and other digital gadgets, since they are often preoccupied with urgent matters such as finding a place to stay the night or a job. Often they do not have the possibility to use ICT to their advantage.

eInclusion (often also referred to as digital inclusion) is a term used mainly within the European Union. It refers to activities aiming to develop an "inclusive information society" where everyone has access to information and communications technology (ICT). In this spirit, eInclusion should break down digital barriers and help promote full participation of all in society, including people experiencing homelessness.

Thus, an increasing number of cities across Europe are trying to facilitate access to ICT for homeless people by setting up eInclusion projects. The cities working together in the HOME04 partnership believe that providing easy access to ICT will not only contribute to finding solutions to housing/employment problems, but can also empower homeless people to reconnect better with society at large. Over the last year, the four European cities in the HOME04 partnership (Venice, Stockholm, Granada and Seville) have developed small projects (often web training courses or setting up Web Info Points in key services). >> For more info on the HOME04 project click here.

ICT as means of fund- and awareness-raising

Information and communication technology also brings forward innovative means of fund- and awareness-raising on homelessness

In summer 2010, iPhone drew attention of fans all around the world with an application called iHobo. iHobo virtually "puts a homeless man into the user's pocket". Comparable to a Tamagotchi, the gamer has to care for iHobo, by giving him food and keeping him warm. If the user fails, iHobo spirals down further into homelessness, addiction and finally dies. The game includes a link, via which the user can give money for charity. The game combines awareness- and fund-raising in an unprecedented way, all the same still being respectful of homeless people. >> Watch a video on iHobo here.

There are also other ways of raising awareness, e.g. by using highly frequented and visible websites like Facebook to give more visibility to the homelessness phenomenon. Many national platforms of homeless organisations have Facebook profiles with discussion walls and links to important webpages on homelessness.

Facilitating outreach and social work through ICT

For homeless people, it can be a challenge to turn to local authorities or NGO service providers for help. The virtuality of the World Wide Web can offer a solution to this problem and make the first step a little easier.

The organisation "Pomeranian Forum in aid of getting out of homelessness" in cooperation with the University of Gdansk and FIDO intelligence is preparing a project called "NETWORKER" for the Pomeranian Province of Poland. The project aims to develop virtual street and outreach work through central access points (such as train stations), allowing homeless people, service providers and the general public to get information about places in shelters and other relevant information.

Another interesting initiative is the "Virtual Rucksack" project launched in February 2009 by the City of Birmingham. The "Virtual Rucksack" can be compared to a virtual drive, in which homeless youngsters can keep important documents such as CVs. This way, even though they live on the street, they can keep their documents in a safe place. >> For more details click here.

"eParticipation"

Not only public authorities or NGOs can use digital means of communicating. Often, also homeless people profit from ICT benefits, for example by writing blogs or setting up homepages.

For example, some homeless people write blogs or use Twitter. The blogs can raise awareness, give homeless people a project and possibly can even have therapeutic effects similar to diary-keeping.

For instance, people selling the homeless street paper *Situation* in Sweden write blogs about how they are experiencing homelessness and about their way out of homelessness. >> Read more here (in Swedish).

Another example is http://www.berber-info.de, a website created by two German homeless men (Dieter Hamann und Jürgen Schneider) with the help of social worker Rüdiger Fäth (of the evangelic-Lutheran community in Sulingen). The website contains huge amounts of "survival tips" for homeless people, as well as news and thorough analysis of homelessness policies. >> Read more here (in German).

Blogging, twittering and creating websites allow homeless people to actively participate in society and opinion-making. This arguably goes beyond the concept of eInclusion and is possibly even a form of "*eParticipation*".

More Links

• Paper on e-inclusion, which includes examples on the use of ICT and homelessness in the Netherlands >> Details

• If you are a member of the social network LinkedIn, join the group called "Web 2.0, social networking and homelessness" >> Details

• European Commission website describing eInclusion in different EU countries >> Details

• Analysis of eGovernment practices in EU member states >> Details

• FEANTSA Facebook page, which includes links to many interesting websites >> Details

For any reactions/comments/contributions to the **e-bulletin**, please contact us at info@habitact.eu