OVERVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG MOBILE EU CITIZENS

- Existing data
- Reasons of vulnerability
- Policy measures
- Expulsions and access to social benefits
- The role of the EU
EXISTING DATA - LONDON

Proportion of mobile EU citizens among rough sleepers in London
Source: CHAIN database

Funded by the Mayor of London and managed by St Mungo's
EXISTING DATA - BRUSSELS

Beneficiaries in Samusocial winter plan according to nationality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belgians</th>
<th>Third-country nationals</th>
<th>Mobile EU citizens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>1708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>2342</td>
<td>941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>2992</td>
<td>1041</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXISTING DATA - FRANCE

Mobile EU citizens 11.7% of the homeless population, i.e. >9,000 (French Institute for Statistics, 2012)

French members reported that around 40% of Paris’ rough sleepers are young people from CEE countries
11.5% of homeless services users are from Romania, i.e. >5,000 (Italian Institute for Statistics, 2011)
Almost all people sleeping rough in Copenhagen are mobile EU citizens or TCNs with a residence permit from another Member State (Source: Projekt Udenfor)
REASONS OF VULNERABILITY TO HOMELESSNESS

- Lack of preparation before departure
- Administrative obstacles
- Fake promises of jobs
- Trafficking of human beings
- Obstacles in registering as self-employed
- Precarious working conditions
(...) individuals who lose their living quarters recurrently due to seasonal unemployment, alcohol problems, illness or other incidents. In most cases their physical homelessness is temporary, but they face recurrent episodes of rough sleeping, they are in a state of constant flux between living on the streets and renting precarious accommodation (...) They might spend some nights at friends’ houses, other nights at the shelter, and sometimes are unable to secure any place to sleep and they stay on the street or at the railway station. They clearly see a breaking point that lead to their physical homelessness: being cheated by an employer, being robbed, a relationship breakdown. (Mostowska, 2012)
CONSEQUENCES OF VULNERABILITY FACTORS

Precarious work, undeclared work, administrative obstacles, ...

Challenges in accessing social benefits and services
PUBLIC AUTHORITIES’ POLICY MEASURES

EU ADVICE SERVICES

VOLUNTARY RETURNS SCHEMES
EU ADVICE SERVICE — CROSROADS MODEL

Information about how Swedish society works
Legal and administrative support
Language training
Housing support
Contacts with government, healthcare, embassies, trade unions
Support for job search
Health services (in cooperation with Doctors of the World)
Laundry, showers, breakfast
Women section
“Reconnections” can be part of the solution but very important:

- Genuine individual will
- Ownership of the decision - empowerment
- Preparation before the voluntary return takes place
- Establishment of a partnership with services in the ‘home’ country
UNLAWFUL EXPULSIONS

Most flagrant case: UK considering rough sleeping as misuse of treaty rights

But other examples:

- Roma expelled because they were living in shanty towns in France
- People arrested for begging and expelled
- Destitute people considered unreasonable burden to the social assistance system and expelled
EXPULSIONS

- Cannot be the automatic consequence of a Union citizen’s recourse to the social assistance system

- Before taking an expulsion decision, Member States have to consider, among other things:
  - how long the individual concerned has resided
  - his/her age
  - state of health
  - family and economic situation
  - social and cultural integration
  - the extent of his/her links with the country of origin
## EXPULSIONS AND ACCESS TO SOCIAL BENEFITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic status</th>
<th>Access to social benefits</th>
<th>Expulsions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not seeking work</td>
<td>Not entitled to social assistance nor labour market benefits</td>
<td>No automatic expulsion – assessment of burden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-time job-seeker</td>
<td>Not entitled to social assistance; entitled to labour market benefits</td>
<td>No expulsions if evidence of job-seeking and genuine chance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously employed</td>
<td>Retain worker status on conditions set by EU law; entitled to social assistance and labour market benefits</td>
<td>No expulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently in work</td>
<td>Entitled to social assistance or labour market benefits</td>
<td>No expulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent residents</td>
<td>Full equal treatment regarding benefits</td>
<td>No expulsion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT SHOULD THE EU DO?

- Ensure the respect of EU law on free movement as well as fundamental rights, among other things by opposing arbitrary expulsions.
- Promote EU legal advice services for destitute people
- Better define criteria to assess an unreasonable burden as well as genuine chance to find a job
- A system of compensation between Member States/ or the establishment of a new EU fund for destitute mobile EU citizens
- EU legal framework that provides basic standard obligations to all mobile EU citizens
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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