



HOMELESSNESS AMONG MOBILE EU CITIZENS

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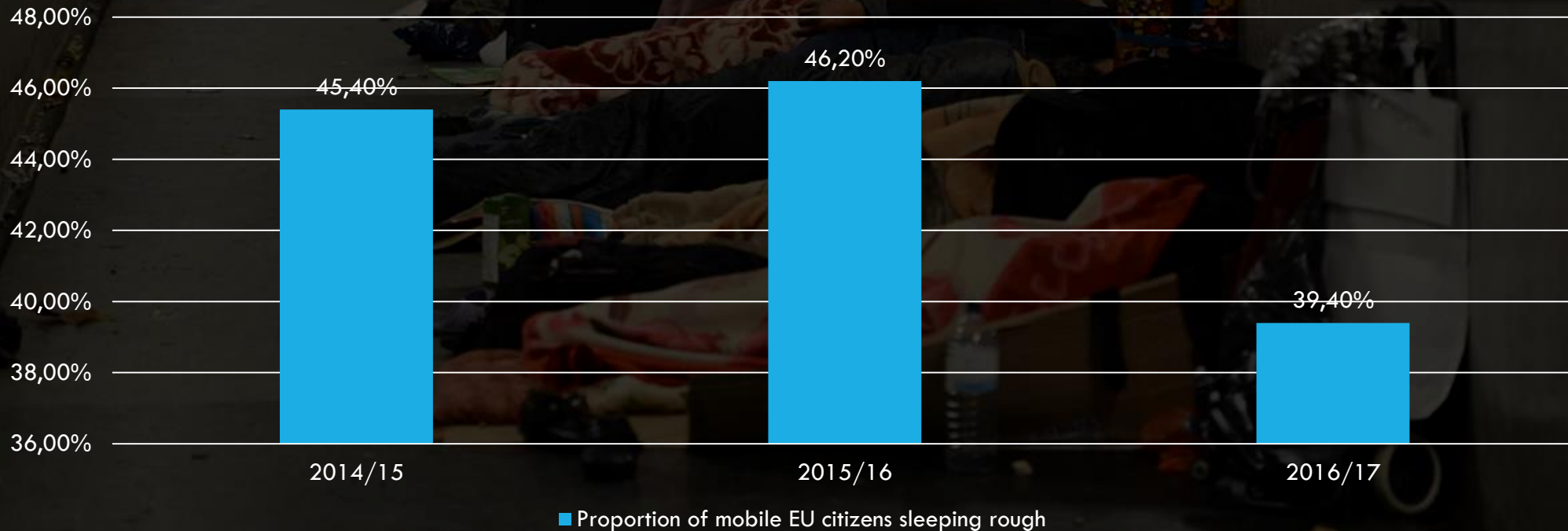
OVERVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG MOBILE EU CITIZENS

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

EXISTING DATA - LONDON

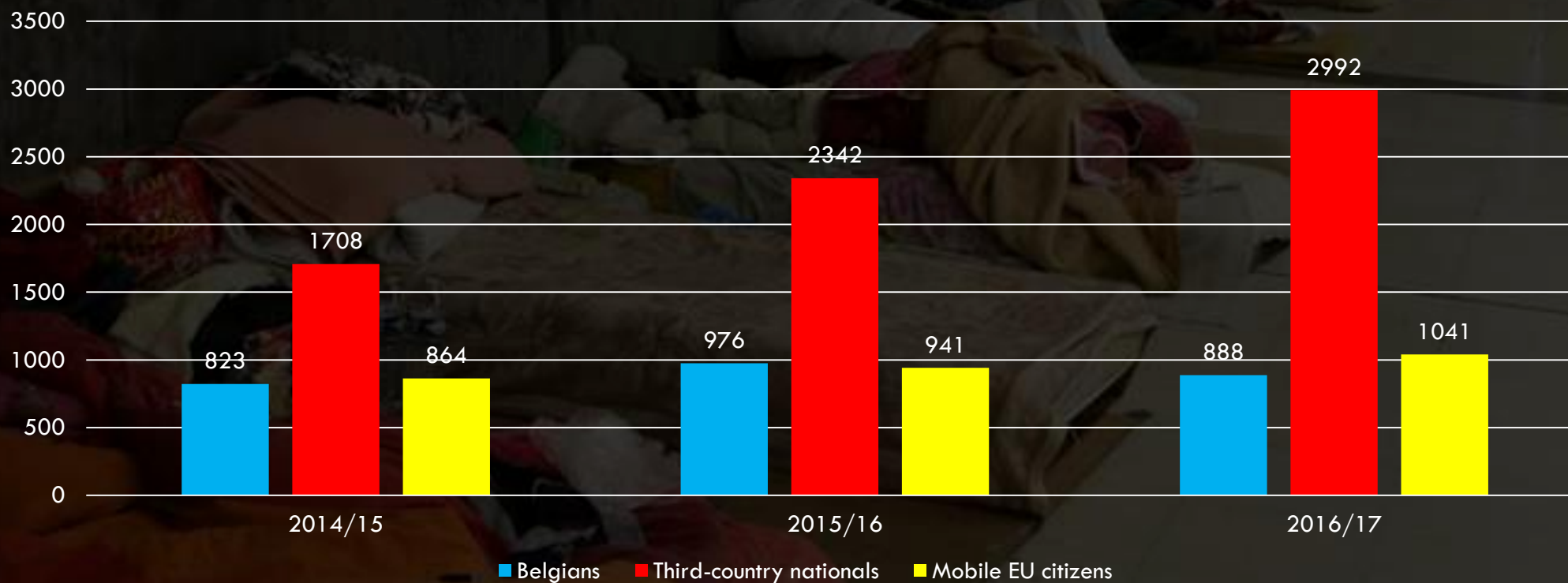
Proportion of mobile EU citizens among rough sleepers in London
Source: CHAIN database

Funded by the
Mayor of London
and managed by
St Mungo's



EXISTING DATA - BRUSSELS

Beneficiaries in Samusocial winter plan according to nationality





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



EXISTING DATA - ITALY

11.5% of homeless services users are from Romania, i.e. >5,000 (Italian Institute for Statistics, 2011)



EXISTING DATA - COPENHAGEN

Almost all people sleeping rough in Copenhagen are mobile EU citizens or TCNs with a residence permit from another Member State (Source: Projekt Udenfor)

Lack of
preparation
before departure

Administrative
obstacles

Fake promises of
jobs

Trafficking of
human beings

Obstacles in
registering as
self-employed

Precarious
working
conditions

REASONS OF VULNERABILITY TO HOMELESSNESS

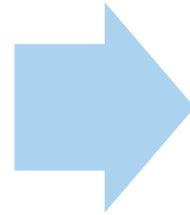


PRECARIOUS WORKING CONDITIONS

(...) 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

Crossroads – råd och stöd för EU-medborgare



EU ADVICE SERVICE — CROSSROADS MODEL

STOCKHOLMS STADSMISSION

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

VOLUNTARY RETURN SCHEMES

“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

Economic status	Access to social benefits	Expulsions
Not seeking work	Not entitled to social assistance nor labour market benefits	No automatic expulsion – assessment of burden
First-time job-seeker	Not entitled to social assistance; entitled to labour market benefits	No expulsions if evidence of job-seeking and genuine chance
Previously employed	Retain worker status on conditions set by EU law; entitled to social assistance and labour market benefits	No expulsion
Currently in work	Entitled to social assistance or labour market benefits	No expulsion
Permanent residents	Full equal treatment regarding benefits	No expulsion



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



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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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