

# HOMELESSNESS IN EAST EU :

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# Definition

- Wide variety
- Focused on street & shelter
- Width of definition seems not to relate to quality of policy

BG (Bulgaria)	A homeless person is a person who does not own a home, is unable to rent a home with their own funds and is not placed in a <u>municipal dwelling</u> under the Municipal Property Act and/or who, due to <u>incidental circumstances</u> (fire, natural disasters, collapse of a building, etc.), has remained without shelter.
CZ (Czechia)	Homelessness is understood as a <u>process</u> , from losing one's home to the possibility of returning and the actual return to the common way of life, or as a situation which covers any stage of this process. The risk of losing one's home is a process which begins with the occurrence of the risk of being excluded from housing.
EE (Estonia)	A homeless person is a person who has <u>no legal relationship</u> (ownership, permanent contract, tenancy) with any building or room qualifying as a living space and who does not have the necessary <u>income or social skills</u> to change their situation.
HR (Croatia)	Homeless people are persons who have <u>no place of residence</u> , reside in a <u>public place or another place not intended for housing</u> and have no means to meet housing needs.
HU (Hungary)	Homeless people are persons without <u>any registered place of residence</u> , except for persons whose registered places of residence are <u>accommodation for homeless people</u> . They include any person who spends nights in public areas or premises not designed as accommodation.
LT (Lithuania)	There is <u>no official definition</u> used in policy documents related to HHE but there is a definition used for statistical purposes. In the latter, homeless people are persons who do not own accommodation or a building or have any other <u>right</u> to use such accommodation or building and reside in <u>temporary accommodation or public places</u> .
LV (Latvia)	There is <u>no official</u> (formal) definition or typology of homelessness in Latvian legislation.
PL (Poland)	Homeless people are persons who are <u>not living in a dwelling</u> as defined in the regulations on protection of tenants' rights and municipal housing and are <u>not registered for permanent residence</u> as defined in the regulations on population registry, or are <u>registered for permanent residence in a dwelling in which they are unable to live</u> .
RO (Romania)	Homeless people are singles or families who, due to singular or cumulative social, medical, financial, economic and/or legal reasons or due to an emergency situation: a) are living in <u>the street or, temporarily, with friends or acquaintances</u> ; b) are unable to pay the required <u>rent</u> or are at <u>risk of eviction</u> ; or c) are <u>residing in institutions or penitentiaries</u> , which they are expected to leave within two months, and do not have a place of residence or stable address.

# Trends & Numbers

- Total nr lower than in West Europe
- Service paradox
  
- Increase but more contained than in West Europe
- More “traditional” homeless
  - *Limited impact of migration*
  - *Emerging impact of housing*

Country	People living rough	People in emergency accommodation	Reference year
	Public space/external space	Overnight shelters	
BG (Bulgaria)	NA	NA	NA
CZ (Czechia)	NA	50,638	2017
EE (Estonia)	NA	1,546	2017
HR (Croatia)	NA	NA	NA
HU (Hungary)	2,300	NA	2019
LT (Lithuania)	NA	410	2017
LV (Latvia)	50	NA	2019
	NA	6,877	2017
PL (Poland)	2,551	4,299	2019
RO (Romania)	15,000	NA	2008-09
	NA	1,997	2017
SI (Slovenia)	NA	1,918	2017
SK (Slovakia)	2,064	NA	2016
	NA	7,158	2016

Table HC 3.1.1: Estimated number of homeless people, 2015 or latest year available <sup>1</sup>

	Year	Number of homeless	Homeless as % of total population <sup>2</sup>	Figures include <i>more than</i> persons 1) living rough, 2) living in emergency accommodation, and 3) living in accommodation for the homeless?
Australia	2011	105,237	0.47%	Yes
Austria	2014	14,603	0.17%	No
Canada	2011	150,000	0.44%	No
Chile	2011	12,255	0.16%	No
Croatia	2013	462	0.01%	No
Czech Republic (3)	2015	68,500	0.65%	Yes
Denmark	2013	6,138	0.10%	Yes
Estonia	2011	864	0.06%	Yes
Finland	2015	7,200	0.13%	Yes
France	2012	141,500	0.22%	No
Germany (4)	2014	335,000	0.42%	Yes
Greece	2009	21,216	0.19%	Yes
Hungary	2014	10,068	0.10%	Yes
Ireland	2015	3,625	0.08%	No
Italy (5)	2014	50,724	0.08%	No
Japan	2015	6,235	0.00%	No
Latvia	2011	2,342	0.11%	Yes
Lithuania	2011	857	0.03%	No
Luxemburg	2006	715	0.15%	Yes
Mexico	2010	40,911	0.04%	Yes
Netherlands	2015	31,000	0.18%	Yes
New Zealand	2015	41,207	0.94%	Yes
Norway	2012	6,259	0.13%	Yes
Poland	2015	36,161	0.10%	Yes
Portugal	2009	2,133	0.02%	No
Slovenia	2015	2,700	0.13%	No
Spain	2012	22,938	0.05%	No
Sweden	2011	34,000	0.36%	Yes
United Kingdom (6)	2015-16	(57,750 households)	0.25% (households)	Yes, but limited to certain priority categories
United States	2015	564,708	0.18%	Yes

# Strategies

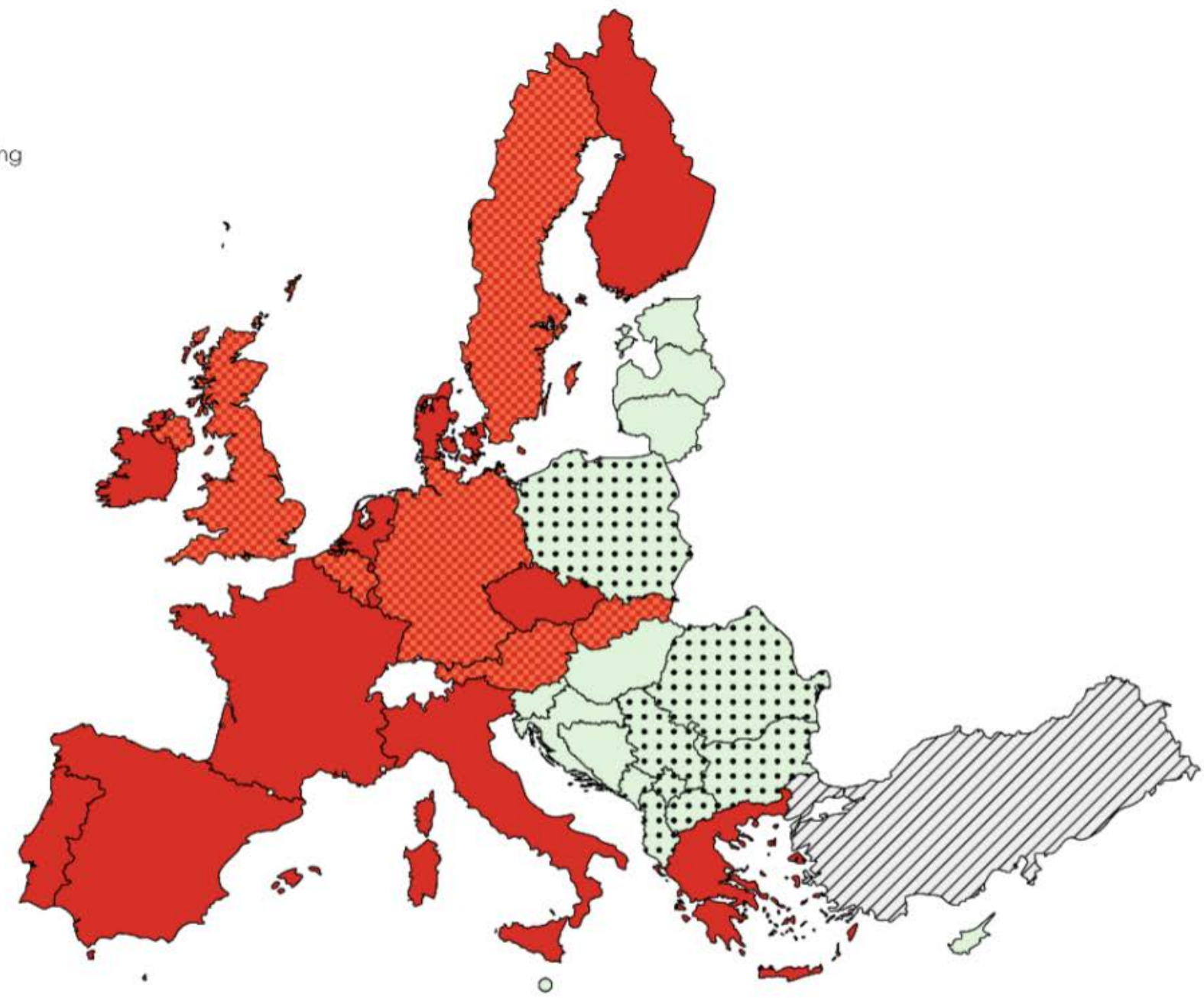
- Limited strategic policy development
- Managing rather than solving homelessness
- Staircase model is predominant
- Criminalisation is (growing) issue
- Czech Republic

	Specific homelessness strategies (1)		Specific approach within wider national strategies	Wider strategy only (non-specific approach)
	National	Regional		
Bulgaria			✓	
Czechia	✓			
Estonia				✓
Croatia			✓	
Hungary				✓
Lithuania				✓

	Specific homelessness strategies (1)		Specific approach within wider national strategies	Wider strategy only (non-specific approach)
	National	Regional		
Latvia				✓
Poland			✓	
Romania			✓	
Slovenia				✓
Slovakia		✓**		



- Specific national strategies
- Specific regional/municipal strategies
- Specific approach within wider strategies
- Only non specific approach within wider strategies
- Absence of approach regarding HHE



# Providers

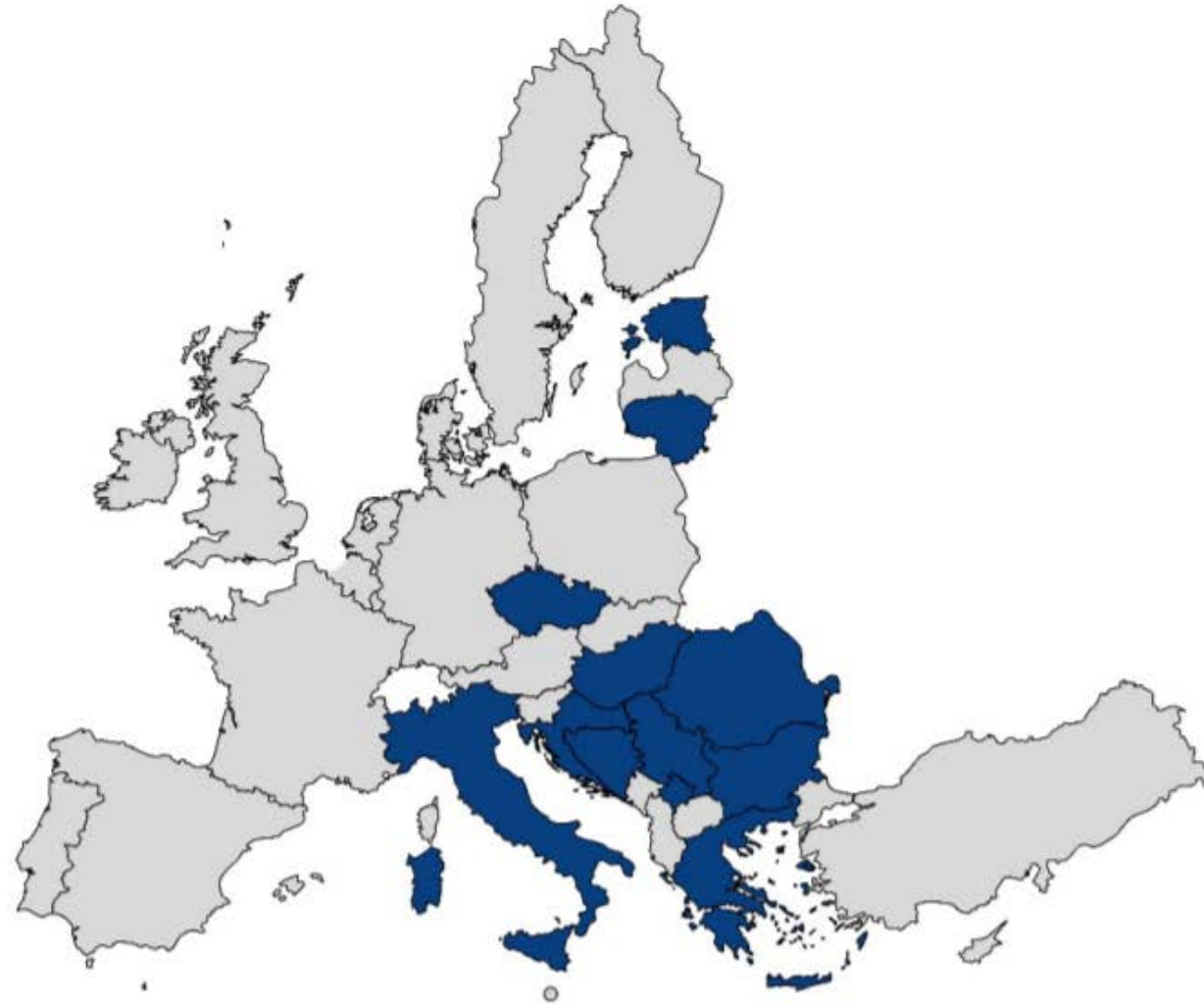
- Role public authorities
- Role religious organisations
- Role individuals
- Service provision rather than advocacy

# Money

- Considerably smaller budgets than West but growing
- Importance of EU funding

**Figure 3: Countries where EU funding is deemed important**

- EU funding deemed important
- EU funding not mentioned as important



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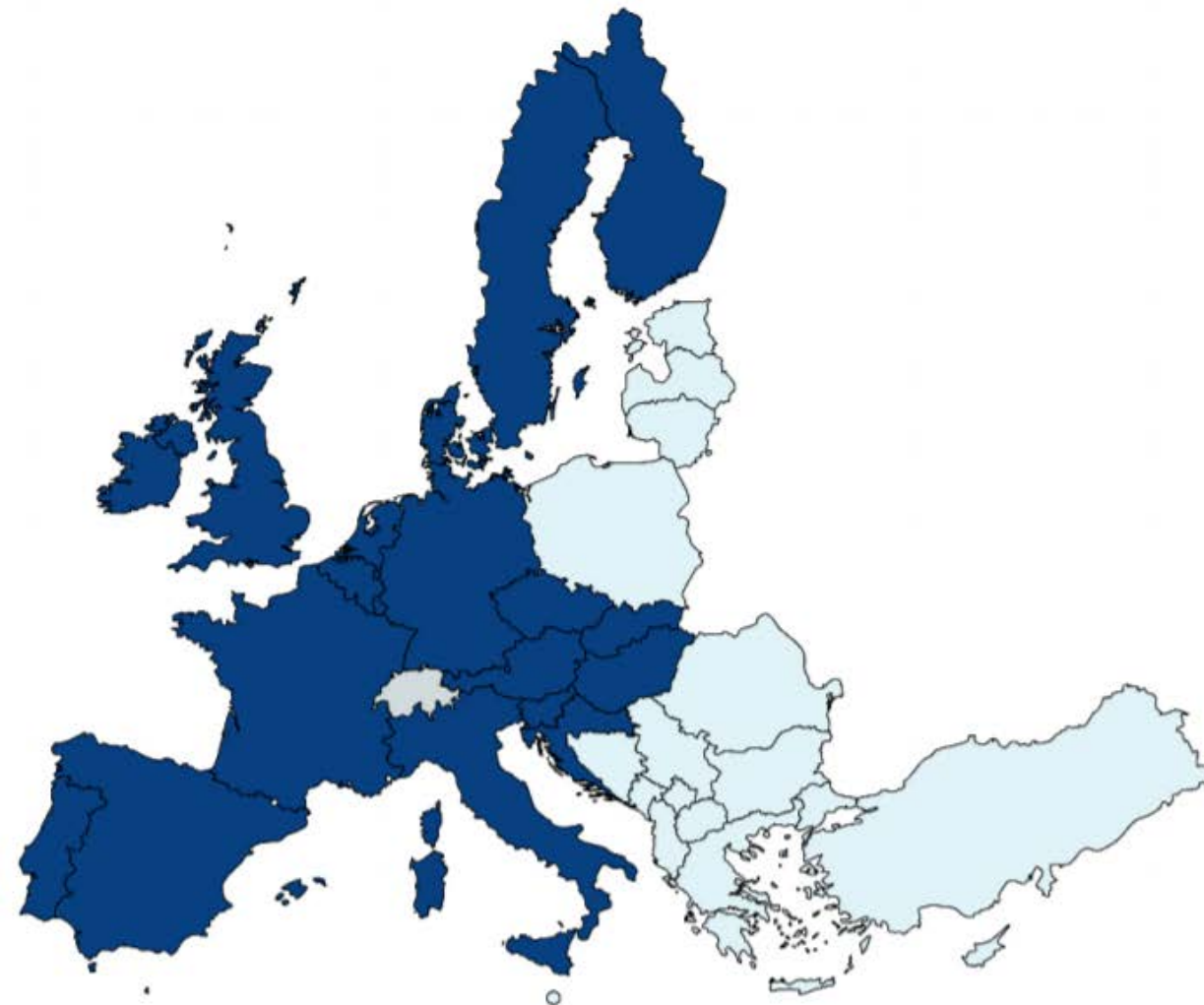
Source: ESPN national reports.

# Housing First

- Missed European “train”
- Makes no economic sense
- Hostel sector cheap and “booming”
- Focus on increasing quality of shelter accommodation
- Targeted restricted to DI

**Figure 5: Reported presence of Housing First services in Europe**

- Countries reporting HF services
- Countries not reporting HF services

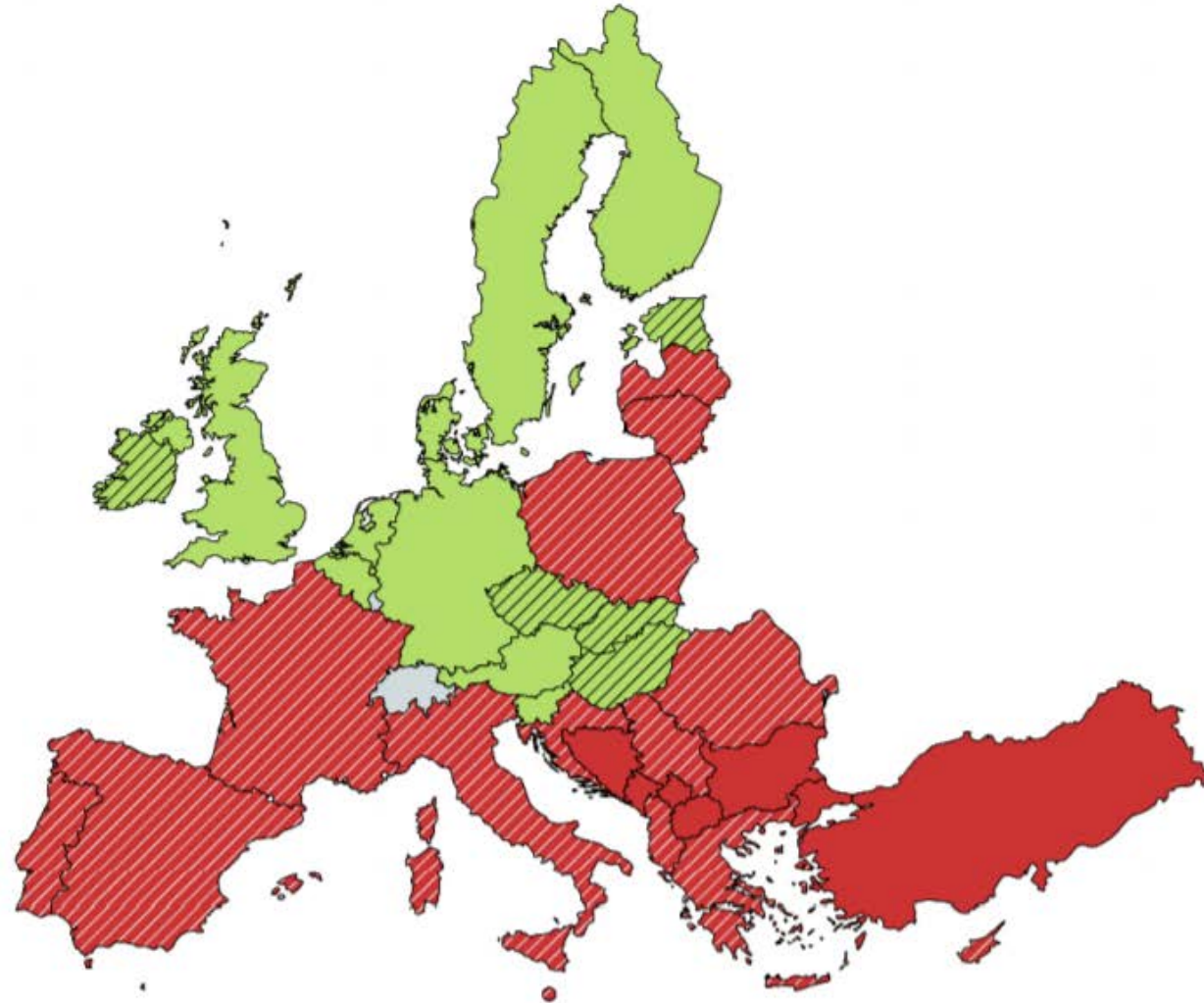


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Source: ESPN national reports.

**Figure 6: Provision of services preventing homelessness in Europe**

- No services
- ▨ Very limited provision
- ▧ Some services
- Extensive provision



# Free movement & Homelessness

- Issue in several MS & Cities
  - **Germany**, Belgium, France, UK, Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, ...
  - London – 1/3 rough sleepers
- Non-issue for the European Commission
  - Stain on free movement as “success story”
  - Opening “Box of Pandora”
  - Shifting responsibility



# EU Mobile Citizens : who are they?

- Limited research / data
- CEE countries
- Young
- Male
- Educational level & professional qualifications “surprisingly” high
- Work status
  - *Majority came for work*
  - *Many have worked & some still work*
- 2 main categories
  - *Employable homeless*
  - *Complex homeless*
    - Mental health / addiction

# Role Member States

- Properly implement and oversee respect EU free movement law
  - *Certain vagueness leads to variety of interpretations...*
- Tendency to restrict free movement for vulnerable groups
  - *Ex UK*
    - Rough sleeping abuse of free movement rights
      - *Repealed by High Court*
  - *Common*
    - Restrict concept “worker”
    - Restrict access to benefits for job seekers & people who lost job
    - Begging as threat to public order
    - Rough sleeping as threat to public health
    - Artificially long bureaucratic processing

# Role EU

- EC must be more pro-active
  - *Accept it is a problem & that it has competence to act...*
  - *But no pressure from MS & cities*
- What actions?
  - *Clarify legal concepts (see Citizens Rights Directive)*
    - Worker, Burden on social assistance, Genuine link to labour market, ...
  - *Oversee respect for free movement rights*
    - Infringement procedures
      - *Shies away...*
    - Answer on EP written questions is best we got ...
      - *Commissioner Jourova : “EU citizens who respect conditions of Directive have right to residence irrespective of whether they are homeless”*
  - *Facilitate cooperation between “receiving” & “sending” countries*
    - Prevention & return
  - *Provide funding*
    - Better use of FEAD/ESF
  - *New piece of legislation*
    - Unconditional right to shelter
      - *Pillar Social Rights/ Asylum law/ Istanbul Convention*
  - *Research and data collection*
    - Pool research questions...

- Thank you for listening
- Questions??? Comments!!!! Criticism ###
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