

# ETHOS

## European Typology of Homelessness and housing exclusion

**Homelessness** is one of the main societal problems dealt with under the EU Social Protection and Inclusion Strategy. The prevention of homelessness or the re-housing of homeless people requires an understanding of the pathways and processes that lead there and hence a broad perception of the meaning of homelessness.

FEANTSA (European Federation of organisations working with the people who are homeless) has developed a typology of homelessness and housing exclusion called ETHOS.

The ETHOS typology begins with the conceptual understanding that there are three domains which constitute a “home”, the absence of which can be taken to delineate homelessness.

Having a home can be understood as: having an adequate dwelling (or space) over which a person and his/her family can exercise exclusive possession (*physical domain*); being able to maintain privacy and enjoy relations (*social domain*) and having a legal title to occupation (*legal domain*). This leads to the 4 main concepts of Rooflessness, Houselessness, Insecure Housing and Inadequate Housing all of which can be taken to indicate the *absence of a home*. ETHOS therefore classifies people who are homeless according to their living or “home” situation. These conceptual categories are divided into 13 operational categories that can be used for different policy purposes such as mapping of the problem of homelessness, developing, monitoring and evaluating policies.

### ETHOS – EUROPEAN TYPOLOGY ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING EXCLUSION

Conceptual Category		Operational Category		Generic Definition
<b>ROOFLESS</b>	1	People Living Rough	1.1	Rough Sleeping (no access to 24-hour accommodation) / No abode
	2	People staying in a night shelter	2.1	Overnight shelter
<b>HOUSELESS</b>	3	People in accommodation for the homeless	3.1	Homeless hostel
			3.2	Temporary Accommodation
	4	People in Women's Shelter	4.1	Women's shelter accommodation
	5	People in accommodation for immigrants	5.1	Temporary accommodation / reception centres (asylum)
			5.2	Migrant workers accommodation
	6	People due to be released from institutions	6.1	Penal institutions
			6.2	Medical institutions
	7	People receiving support (due to homelessness)	7.1	Residential care for homeless people
			7.2	Supported accommodation
			7.3	Transitional accommodation with support
			7.4	Accommodation with support
<b>INSECURE</b>	8	People living in insecure accommodation	8.1	Temporarily with family/friends
			8.2	No legal (sub)tenancy
			8.3	Illegal occupation of building
			8.4	Illegal occupation of land
	9	People living under threat of eviction	9.1	Legal orders enforced (rented)
			9.2	Re-possession orders (owned)
	10	People living under threat of violence	10.1	Police recorded incidents of domestic violence
<b>INADEQUATE</b>	11	People living in temporary / non-standard structures	11.1	Mobile home / caravan
			11.2	Non-standard building
			11.3	Temporary structure
	12	People living in unfit housing	12.1	Unfit for habitation (under national legislation; occupied)
	13	People living in extreme overcrowding	13.1	Highest national norm of overcrowding

For more information please see FEANTSA's 2005 *Review of Homeless Statistics in Europe* (Edgar et al.) at [www.feantsa.org](http://www.feantsa.org)

FEANTSA is supported financially by the European Commission.

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**FEANTSA**

European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless

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