

EN  
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Answer given by Ms Thyssen  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(1.8.2018)

The Principle 19 of the European Pillar of Social Rights states that "(A)ccess to social housing or housing assistance of good quality shall be provided to those in need". The Commission has long encouraged Member States to use cost-efficient, integrated, accessible services for homeless with a preference to one-stop-shop solutions, as well as the Housing first approach<sup>1</sup>.

The Commission works in close partnership with the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) in the fight against homelessness and housing exclusion, as its task has been supported for several years through annual operating grants under the European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI).

While the competence for the design and implementation of strategies to eradicate homelessness and combat housing exclusion lies with Member States, the EU supports Member States' efforts in this field through policy guidance and advice as well as financial support through EU funds.

The European Social Fund co-finances programmes promoting the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons, including homeless people. Similarly, the European Regional Development Fund supports, within regional operational programmes and in the context of Sustainable Integrated Urban Strategies, investments in housing solutions that can benefit vulnerable groups affected by housing exclusion.

Through EaSI, the Commission also supports innovative projects that test the integrated delivery of employment, housing, health and other advice and support services to tackle high levels of homelessness, in local municipalities in the United Kingdom, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> "Confronting homelessness in the European Union" (SWD(2013)042 final), accompanying the Commission Communication "Towards Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion - including implementing the European Social Fund 2014-2020".

<sup>2</sup> Call for proposals for social policy innovations supporting reforms in social services, applications (VP/2015/011/0375 and VP/2015/011/0380).