

EYES ON EY2010

Issue 6 – 20 November 2009



FEANTSA¹ European Conference 2009 in cooperation with projekt UDENFOR

Sharing the Power - Working Together: Participation as a tool to solve homelessness

Copenhagen, 23 October 2009

This highly successful conference was organised by FEANSTA, in conjunction with projekt UDENFOR and aimed to demonstrate the significance of involving service users at all levels in homeless services.

Opportunities

This event provided an opportunity for people with direct experience of homelessness, academics, key stakeholders in the Government, voluntary and community sectors across Europe to share information, best practice and views regarding homelessness. Service providers and service users, together with other homelessness experts, discussed different forms of participation and how to make them work in practice. The conference addressed issues such as: Why is participation important? What are the challenges to user participation and how can they be tackled? What can service users and service providers do together to change the ways of working in homeless services? What is the role of service user organisations? How can public authorities create an effective framework for participation? A series of homeless case studies and project videos were also made available for viewing throughout the day in a dedicated cinema room.

Event highlights

- a panel of homeless service users describing, on stage, their first hand experience of homelessness and what improvements they felt needed to be made in terms of homeless service delivery.
- a series of homeless case studies and project videos made available for viewing throughout the day in a dedicated cinema room.

Keynote speakers at the conference included:

The President of FEANSTA
Founder and chair of the Board of projekt UDENFOR
Head of Division, Ministry of Interior and Social Affairs,
Denmark
Danish academics

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Editorial Team: Sharon Cooper & George Bell

Future challenges and questions:

- How to ensure that residents get support and social assistance that they need without creating an institution type environment
- How, despite the best intentions, to avoid infringement on the personal freedom of residents
- To what degree do residents want interventions and social workers in their lives?
- What measures need to be taken to ensure that social housing do not become squats?
- What measures need to be taken to achieve safety and security?
- Instead of high rise flats, we need to be more innovative and consider other types of housing such as summer houses, pavilions and boats etc

Speaker presentations, examples of best practice, strategies to combat Homelessness, useful tools and toolkits, Project Visits, Cinema Room material and a copy of the agenda are available on the FEANTSA website.

» [FEANTSA European Conference 2009](#)

» [projekt UDENFOR](#)

¹ FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless was established in 1989 as a European non-governmental organisation to prevent and alleviate the poverty and social exclusion of people threatened by or living in homelessness.

(Article courtesy of Karen Deeming of the DWP European Social Inclusion Team)

Next issue

The next issue of this newsletter will be published on **4 December**. If you wish to submit articles or details of events please submit by **noon on 2 December** via email.

Current news

Carers Rights Day – 4 December

Every year 2.3 million people will be caring for a family member or friend who becomes disabled, chronically ill or sick. Many of these people don't realise they are carers and don't know what advice and support is available to them. This year Carers Rights Day will be focussing on making sure that people recognise that they are carers and get the information and advice that they need, get benefits to which they are entitled, protect their pensions, and get vital care services which may help them stay in work, keep up contact with friends and family and protect their health.

Carers UK is working in partnership with the Department for Works & Pensions to ensure that as many carers as possible know about their rights and entitlements.

New resources will be available for people who care, unpaid, for family and friends who are disabled or sick. One will focus on protecting pensions, the other is a Carers Rights Guide – a comprehensive run through of basic financial and practical support that is available. Both will be available from their website and from local Lloyds Pharmacy stores.

» [Carers UK](#)

Information kindly submitted by Emily Holzhausen of Carers UK – she can be contacted on Emily.Holzhausen@carersuk.org

Upcoming Events

November 2009

- **24 & 25 November – 'Rights, Indicators and Outcomes: Measuring the Well-being of Children and Young People in Wales'**. 2 day conference at the Christchurch Centre in Newport, South Wales. Confirmed speakers include:
 - Dr. Brian Gibbons AM** – Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (with a lead on poverty).
 - Jane Hutt AM** – Minister for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning (with a lead on Children & Young people).
 - Richard Thurston & Dr Beverley Morgan** – Office of the Chief Social Research Officer, Welsh Assembly Government.
 - Catriona Williams** – Chief Executive Children In Wales (and President of Eurochild)
 - Tracey Lee** – Managing Director, Newport City Council
 For further information: please contact Ms Sarah Thomas on sarah.thomas@childreninwales.org.uk

Upcoming Events (cont)

December 2009

- **1 December – European Cities Against Child Poverty** - final conference & policy workshop 9.30 – 16.00 Glaziers Hall, London Bridge, London The European Cities Against Child Poverty network will meet for the final time on Tuesday 1st December. Confirmed speakers include:

Helen Goodman MP – Parliamentary Under Secretary for Work and Pensions.

Representatives of local and regional governments and front-line organisations are invited to attend to meet delegates from other European cities and the European Commission. For further information on the network, please visit their website.

» [European Cities Against Child Poverty](#)

- **1 December – Into 2010, The European Year Against Poverty** – 10am – 4pm The Old Town Hall Stratford, 29 The Broadway, London E15 4BQ organised by the European Anti-Poverty Network. This event is a step into the year and a chance for local people and groups to get heard alongside policy makers and other practitioners. A creche is available for children under 5 years of age. Confirmed speakers include

Stephen Timms MP – Financial Secretary to the Treasury

Bharat Mehta – Chief Executive, City Parochial Foundation

Jean Lambert – Member of the European Parliament Employment and Social Affairs Committee

Elsbeth Darby – EY2010 Department for Works & Pensions

Pauline Geoghegan – European Anti-Poverty Network (Brussels)

Katherine Duffy – UK Social Policy Task Force

For further information please contact Ingrid Babcock on ingridb@lvstc.org.uk

EY2010 Logo

If you are arranging an event that is not funded as part of our programmes but wish to use the logo, you can download a **'Request to use the EY2010 Logo'** form from our website.

We will consider all requests fairly and respond within 5 working days.

To unsubscribe from the newsletter, please send a blank email entitled "Unsubscribe" to 2010.EY2010@dwpgsi.gov.uk. If you know of a colleague who would like to register for future editions of Eyes on EY2010, they can do so by emailing their details to us.