



FEANTSA

Czech Republic

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<p>Key Statistics</p>	<p>There is no national/regional homeless data-collection strategy. Several cities and regions carry out surveys. There is no uniform methodology and data is not comparable. Key sources of data include:</p> <p>The national register of social services, which provides information on the number of places in services. For 2012, the register included 214 long-term shelters with 6,534 beds. There were also 66 night shelters with 781 beds.</p> <p>The 2011 population census included the first official national data on the number of people using homeless services. According to the 2011 census, there are 11,496 homeless people in the Czech Republic. This covers people using accommodation facilities for homeless people (i.e. asylum shelters (ETHOS 3.1), night shelters (ETHOS 2.1)) on census night. It is important to note that experts consider that the real number is much greater (see below).</p> <p>In the preparatory work for the new 'Concept of Preventing and Tackling Homelessness Issues' (see below) an Expert Group gathered all available homeless statistics and made a qualified estimation on the number and distribution of homeless people in the Czech Republic. Their definition included more ETHOS categories (obvious homeless: ETHOS 1.1, 2.1, 8.2 and partially (8.1) or hidden homeless: ETHOS 3.1, 4.1, 7.1). The Expert Group considered the number of homeless people to be at least three times higher than the census figures (approx. 30,000 people – obvious homeless: ETHOS 1.1, 2.1, 8.2 and partially (8.1) or hidden homeless: ETHOS 3.1, 4.1, 7.1). The estimated number of people who were homeless or at risk of homelessness was 100,000.</p>
<p>Increase/Decrease in Number of Homeless People</p>	<p>Homelessness has increased in recent years and there has been an increase in demand for services. The number of users of day centres for homeless people increased by 10% between 2009 and 2010.</p>
<p>Change in Profile of Homeless People</p>	<p>There has been some evidence of increasing homelessness amongst families in recent years; homelessness amongst women has also increased by 10% (service providers' statistics).</p>
<p>National Strategy</p>	<p>National Strategy</p> <p>The 'Concept of Preventing and Tackling Homelessness Issues in the Czech Republic until 2020' was adopted by the government in August 2013. In order to develop the Concept, an Expert Group on Tackling Homelessness was created, attached to the The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) Commission for Social Inclusion. NGOs working on homelessness, experts from relevant ministries and academics are represented among the members of the expert group. Since the Concept's adoption, the Expert Group supervises and monitors the implementation of particular measures.</p>

¹ Last updated Jan 2014

	<p>The whole system of proposed solutions in the Concept is based on the definition of four trajectories describing routes into homelessness. These trajectories are defined as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long-term (people who are born into and/or grow up in homelessness); 2. Short-term (people who found themselves temporarily in difficult situations such as debt, unemployment, etc.); 3. Health (people, who face specific challenges due to health factors); 4. Own choice (people, who become homeless through their own choice). <p>The strategy is also based on economic analysis calculations of the costs of homelessness and of various solutions.</p> <p>The City of Prague has also adopted its own local homelessness strategy.</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>MoLSA is responsible for social services, including homeless services. Regions and municipalities have no statutory duty to homeless people. Cities are responsible for planning social services, including homelessness services. The new 'Concept of Preventing and Tackling Homelessness Issues in the Czech Republic until 2020' provides a framework to guide and support municipalities but does not impose any obligations.</p>
<p>Targeted Prevention</p>	<p>The Concept deals with issues of prevention but no specific measures have been developed yet.</p> <p>There are no specific interventions for combating eviction. Families with children and at risk of eviction from municipal flats are entitled to some limited protection.</p> <p>There are no specific provisions to prevent homelessness as a result of release from institutions. Homeless service providers provide ad-hoc interventions based on local conditions.</p>
<p>Housing-Led Approaches</p>	<p>The housing-led approach is not well developed in the Czech Republic. It is very difficult for people to progress from shelter use into housing. There is no comprehensive system of social housing, nor is there housing assistance. Some cities provide some form of housing allocation, but other cities sold almost all apartments into private ownership or cooperatives during the transition from communism. A comprehensive strategy document for combating social exclusion for 2011-15 refers to social housing (emergency housing/shelters, temporary accommodation, "training flats" and long-term social housing/private housing).</p> <p>There have been some developments regarding social housing in the last few months. The Ministry of Regional Development attempted to develop a Social Housing Strategy. The strategy was not adopted and the Government requested that it be redeveloped with the participation of key stakeholders. The strategy should be completed by the end of 2014. A Social Housing Act is also being prepared.</p>
<p>Quality of Homeless Services</p>	<p>The issue of quality of services in general is described in the Social Services Act. The legal framework governing quality of social services stipulates that every facility providing social services must have at least one qualified worker. As an example of staffing levels in homeless services, The Salvation Army has a guideline of 20 to 25 users per social worker.</p> <p>Night shelters generally accommodate between 4 and 20 people in a room. Most beds are</p>

	bunk beds. In homeless hostels, the number of people per room is normally between 2 and 4. In “training flats” people either get their own room in a hostel or move into a shared apartment.	
Remarks on Research	<p>Overall, links between research and policy-making are not well-developed in the area of homelessness. However, it seems that number of research projects is increasing.</p> <p>Some interesting but individual research projects have been carried out by independent researchers.</p>	
Remarks on Budget Evolution	There is a lack of sustainable funding for homeless services. The current system of annual calls for proposals co-managed by regional and national authorities means that homeless services are reliant on unstable funding sources. Drops in funding levels since 2012 have meant that some services have closed. The role of the Structural Funds is limited because of the strong administrative burden on service providers, which makes them unmanageable and “not interesting” for some of them.	
Remarks on Key Policy Developments	Positive	Negative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the Concept • Preparatory work on the Social Housing Strategy and Social Housing Act • Increasing number of relevant stakeholders (researchers, experts) • Visibility of the homelessness issue in the media. 	A range of measures exist that regulate behaviour in public space with the imposition of fines at local level. The regulations concern “undesirable behavior” such as begging, alcohol consumption and damage to property or equipment. These measures are generally enforced by city police or in some cases by private security companies regulating semi-public spaces such as shopping centres. They affect homeless people disproportionately compared with the general population.