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# EUROPEAN COLLOQUIUM: The Homeless Person First

EMERGENCY SERVICES and REHABILITATION SUPPORT promoting  
accessibility - improving equality - strengthening networks



Wednesday 17th April 2024  
European Economic and Social Committee  
rue Van Maerlant 2, 1040 Brussels (room VMA22)  
Online participation possible



- 09:00** Welcome and registration  
**09:30** Person First Project
- Background and introduction  
**Luigi Leonori**, President SMES Europa
  - Key findings from the Person First project  
**Ides Nicaise**, HIVA-KU Leuven
  - Comment by **Milena Angelova**, EESC

**10:40** Coffee break

Thematic Sessions:

- 11:00** Social Assistance and services  
**Elina Alere Fogele**, EAPN Latvia (LV)  
**Jacopo Lascialfari**, C.T.M. Florence (IT)
- 12:10** Health and mental health  
**Vesna Svab**, SENT Ljubljana (SI)  
**Elias Barreto**, Hospital Julio de Matos (PT)
- 13:20** Lunch
- 14:30** Home and housing  
**Sina Rasilainen**, ARA, Helsinki (FI)  
**Pierre Ryckmans**, Infirmiers de Rue, Bruxelles (BE)
- 15:40** Coffee break
- 16:00** From assistance to participation  
**Maria Moudatsou**, Praksis, Athens (GR)  
**Paulo Silva Santos**, NPISA, Lisbon, (PT)

Each thematic session will start with a 'keynote' followed by Q&A and discussion on recommendations.

The project aims at creating a strategic partnership for vocational education and training of professionals working with homeless and refugees, with a special focus on the most deprived and severely mentally ill. It aims to identify pathways that improve professionals' abilities to listen to - and understand - their voice and needs, and to design and propose more adequate responses that foster their physical and mental wellbeing as well as their dignity and access to rights.

## FROM ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATION

Models and good practices were identified to facilitate access of homeless people to services and to enable social and health workers of public and private services to meet homeless people wherever they are.

The project PERSON FIRST targets in particular those workers who are working with people living on the margins, with complex social and health problems and needs.

Homelessness is a symptom of structural dysfunction in society. When a person has lost everything, there is no more than the body to cry and the street to get lost. Homeless people live in conditions of severe chronic social, physical and mental precariousness. Their predicament calls into question our democracy when so many citizens are denied their fundamental rights. Homelessness is a provocation and a challenge, not only for those who work directly with homeless people but all layers of society.



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