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EUROPEAN POLICY EVENT:

The Homeless Person First

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



Thursday 18th April 2024

European Parliament

60 rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels (room PHS 7C50)

Online participation possible

With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



- 09:00** Registration
- 09:30** Welcome address by
Cindy Franssen (PPE) and **Mercedes Bresso (S&D)**, co-chairs of the Intergroup on the fight against poverty at the European Parliament
- 09:45** Person First Project
- Background and introduction
Luigi Leonori,
coordinator of Person First project
 - Key findings from the Person First project
Ides Nicaise, HIVA-KU Leuven
- 10:45** Coffee break
- 11:00** Round Table (chair: **Mercedes Bresso**)
- The European Platform on Combating Homelessness (EPOCH): achievements and challenges, **Yves Leterme**
 - **Panel discussion with representatives of** European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), **Frederik Spinnewyn** Mental Health Europe (MHE), **Fatima Awil** European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), **Fernando Chironda** Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), **Michele Levoy**
- 12:10** Conclusion
- **Luigi Leonori, Ides Nicaise, Yves Leterme**

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.

