

## Ending homelessness in Central and Eastern Europe: Data Factsheet

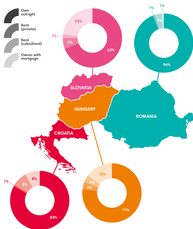
Fact	Source
Homelessness levels have risen in most parts of Europe during the last decade. The financial crisis, dating back to 2008-2009, seems to have aggravated the situation.	EU Platform for Combating Homelessness
The profile of the homeless population has been changing and now includes more young people and children, migrants, Roma and other disadvantaged minorities, women and families are increasingly at-risk of homelessness.	
The yearly point-in-time in Hungary find that roughly, "every fourth homeless person is affected by mental problems; around half have serious ill health; half have only the first eight grades of schooling; half do not have any regular income; and every fifth homeless person has at least one addiction. Every fifth homeless person has been in the public child protection system. About two-thirds consider that they have health issues which prevent them from taking up work.	World Habitat's - Moving to a housing-led approach in Central and Eastern Europe - Feasibility Study
A third of homeless people in Hungary are Roma	Albert et al. 2019, p.4
24.k of the Roma population in Hungary do not have a formally registered address	Áman et al. 2018
Over 80,000 of the Roma population in Hungary who only have a "temporary or mailing address"	
HETHOS Light categories were employed to estimate the overall figures in Croatia, the number of people affected by homelessness and housing exclusion would total approximately 10,000 people	ibid
In Romania, the number of rough sleepers was around 15,000 people in 2019, predominantly living in large cities, with a large proportion of youth and homeless families.	World Habitat's - Moving to a housing-led approach in Central and Eastern Europe - Feasibility Study
In Slovakia, the last available country-level data report claimed that over 23,000 people were living in long-term transitional shelters or similar arrangements.	
The 2016 Bratislava data collection process 10,000 individual people were served by homeless service providers across Slovakia	Gerbery 2019
50% of those experiencing homelessness in Bratislava had long-term health problems.	
40% of those experiencing homelessness in Bratislava had experienced over ten years of a homelessness trajectory	
In Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania, both universal, upstream and crisis prevention services are limited and ineffective in all four countries.	Bagtista and Marlier (2019)
Upstream prevention systems that should be addressing the needs of groups with an "elevated risk of homelessness" and crisis interventions, like the prevention of evictions, are also largely ineffective among the Central and Eastern Europe countries.	Mackie (2022)



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Figure 1 / Tenure structure (2020)

Source: Eurostat, SILC, JARIS, JARIS, JARIS



## EU - SILC

94% of housing in Romania is owned outright

83% of housing in Croatia is owned outright

77% of housing in Hungary is owned outright

63% of housing in Slovakia is owned outright

1.2% of households live in the private rented sector in Croatia

1.3% of households live in the private rented sector in Romania

4.6% of households live in the private rented sector in Hungary

6.1% of households live in the private rented sector in Slovakia

13.6% of households in Croatia are in arrears with utility bills

13.9% of households in Romania are in arrears with utility bills

10.4% of households in Hungary are in arrears with utility bills

5.2% of households in Slovakia are in arrears with utility bills

In Croatia, there is no preventative approach to homelessness, and there are no shelter programmes for rapid rehousing or tackling evictions, either.	Beavan (2019) and Sikic-Miconovic et al. (2020).
The public social rented sector represents a fraction (estimated at 1-4%) of the total housing stock across the Central and Eastern Europe countries	Peace et al. 2011
Studies have shown that homelessness prevention is a cost-effective strategy [...]. It reduces the financial cost of homelessness but, more importantly, it mitigates the real cost of homelessness: the harm it does to human life, damaging people's health, wellbeing and reducing their life chances"	Baptista and Marlier 2019
Housing people with experience of homelessness considerably improves employability as well, which increases life quality, and reduces welfare expenditure.	Berry et al. 2003
There is a consensus across Europe that "homelessness services that prevent [...] or reduce [...] homelessness [do] have a financial benefit for society" in general.	Peace et al. 2011
Housing-led solutions to homelessness tackle the loss of economic productivity associated with homelessness and may also alleviate (for example) the economic impacts associated with visible rough sleeping/street homelessness in urban space.	
Households spend on average more than 45% of their income on private market rents in Zagreb, Budapest and Bucharest, and close to 55% in Bratislava.	Page 19 - World Habitat's - Moving to a housing-led approach in Central and Eastern Europe - Feasibility Study
The average number of new dwellings (per 1,000 inhabitants) built in Hungary post 2018 was below the average of other New Member States of Europe	Alpöpi et al. 2014, Hagedix et al. 2019, Mikus 2022, Radu 2015, Vidova 2018
The average number of new dwellings (per 1,000 inhabitants) built in Romania is below the average of other New Member States of Europe	
The average number of new dwellings (per 1,000 inhabitants) built in Croatia is below the average of other New Member States of Europe	