



FEANTSA

## Austria

### FEANTSA Country Fiche<sup>1</sup>

<b>Key Statistics</b>	<p><b>Statistic Austria</b> has started to implement an <b>indicator on registered homelessness</b> in the frame of the National Report on the 2020 Strategy against poverty. Hence there are data on registered homelessness at national level. These data are not reliable though because the basic survey is restricted on services for homeless.</p> <p>BAWO (the national federation of homeless services) carried out a survey in 2006 and 2007. The results were delivered to the Ministry of Social Affairs and are still the only source to estimate the amount of homelessness in Austria – split into the segments prevention services, mobile and stationary services.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Beside that there is a variety of local and regional sources of data on homelessness:</p> <p><b>Vienna Social Welfare Report<sup>3</sup></b></p> <p>The Vienna Social Welfare Report 2015 enumerates the users of the homeless service system in 2013. According to these figures the number of homeless services users has been rising from 8.180 persons in 2010 up to 9,770 persons in 2013. This was broken down as follows:<sup>4</sup> 1) People in socially assisted living (ETHOS 7): 1,343; 2) People living in assisted flats: 2,031; 3) People living in targeted housing: 821; 4) People living in mother and child facilities: 579; 5) People living in transitional housing: 2,560; 6) People living in night shelters: 4,175<sup>5</sup></p> <p><b>Evictions in Vienna:</b> About 21.500 households, which means nearly 50.000 persons (Statistik Austria: 2,3 persons per household) were endangered losing their flat in 2014 (court procedures concerning living space). 2.300 dwellings (5.300 persons) have actually been evicted. The number is decreasing during the last years.</p> <p><b>Salzburg Annual Homelessness Survey</b></p> <p>Every year in October service providers for homeless persons in Salzburg carry out an annual survey that has been conducted for 20 years now. The survey is based on a questionnaire and contributions from homeless service providers, social services within hospitals and the justice system, street workers, youth welfare institutions, psychiatric wards and bed and breakfast hostels. Due to the temporary elevation data from this report are only able to show tendencies though. The 2014 survey estimated that there were approximately 1,500 homeless people in the City of Salzburg in the month of October.</p> <p>In <b>Tyrol</b>, Caritas has started a similar questionnaire to the one used in Salzburg. Data goes back approximately 5 years but some homeless service providers do not participate. In Tyrol there are:<sup>6</sup> 161 places/beds in emergency accommodation (23 for women) and 85 places/beds in accommodations for homeless persons (33 homeless hostels (12 for women) and 52 transitional supported accommodation (9 for women).</p>
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<sup>1</sup> Last updated October 2015

<sup>2</sup> see also: [http://www.bawo.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/public/Dokumente/Publikationen/Berichte\\_Studien/2013-05\\_Wohnungsnot\\_und\\_Wohnungslosigkeit\\_Update\\_Dateneueberblick\\_BMASK\\_HSchoibl.pdf](http://www.bawo.at/fileadmin/user_upload/public/Dokumente/Publikationen/Berichte_Studien/2013-05_Wohnungsnot_und_Wohnungslosigkeit_Update_Dateneueberblick_BMASK_HSchoibl.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wien.gv.at/gesundheit/einrichtungen/planung/pdf/sozialbericht-2015.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Service users were counted twice if they changed services

<sup>5</sup> for an overview of the Viennese Assistance Programme for Homeless People see [http://wohnen.fsw.at/downloads/dokumente/201508\\_WWH\\_SupportStructure\\_EN.pdf](http://wohnen.fsw.at/downloads/dokumente/201508_WWH_SupportStructure_EN.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> August 2013

	<p><b>Lower Austria Homelessness Report</b></p> <p>In the official Social Report by the provincial government there is a chapter on homelessness services and their users. For 2012, the most recent report, the numbers of users were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eviction-prevention: 5 service providers, used by 375 people asking for information, by 606 people for short-term counselling, by 249 people for mentoring. 899 cases were closed.</li> <li>○ Shelter services: 12 providers, used by 1,331 people</li> <li>○ Women's shelters: 6 providers, 64 places in shelters, average utilisation 61.82% (14,442 nights)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Increase/ Decrease in Number of Homeless People</b></p>	<p>Whilst there is a lack of national-level data, local-level evidence suggests that homelessness is increasing in a number of cities:</p> <p>The Vienna Social Welfare Reports shows that the number of users of homeless services increased year-on-year between 2000 and 2011. 9,770 clients used homeless services in 2013, an increase from the total of 7,526 in 2009 and from 8.180 in 2010. In the years 2012 and 2013 there was an increase in clients of night shelters of more than 11%. This is due to the increase in places within the winter packages and the higher utilization related. There was a sharp increase in the use of mother-child facilities where numbers of clients have risen by more than 18%.</p> <p>Data from Salzburg shows a steady increase in the number of homeless people over a period of 15 years. In Lower Austria, the number of people using services for homeless people remained fairly stable between 2007 and 2010.</p> <p>In Tyrol all the facilities for the homeless record massively increasing numbers of homeless. This has two main reasons. 1) Tyrol has the highest rental rates in Austria and has at the same time the lowest average wage income. 2) for recognized refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, there is no adequate housing market. A large number of these people live in dramatic overcrowded premises (up to 8 people to 25m<sup>2</sup>).</p>
<p><b>Change in Profile of Homeless People</b></p>	<p>There is no data on this at national level. There are some indications of an increasing proportion of homeless young people and women in some local contexts. In Salzburg, there is evidence from the annual survey of increasing homelessness amongst women and migrants, especially from South-Eastern EU countries. According to BAWO members there is an increasing presence of persons without access to health insurance, social assistance (needs based minimum benefits) and homelessness services in Austria. These are especially asylum seekers whose claims have been rejected, third country nationals without access to the labour market or with a temporary residence permit, and mobile EU citizens under various circumstances. This applies to a greater or lesser extent to Vienna, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Tyrol and Carinthia.</p>
<p><b>National Strategy</b></p>	<p><b>National Strategy</b></p> <p>There is no national homelessness strategy. Vienna and Upper Austria have adopted an integrated programme on homelessness, covering prevention, accommodation and reintegration. The programme in Vienna is known as the Vienna Integration Programme for Homeless People (Vienna Multi-Stage Scheme). Housing First approaches are being implemented.</p>
<p><b>Remarks on Budget Evolution</b></p>	<p>According to the division of competences there is no national budget in homelessness. Budgets are allocated by the Länder most of the budgets are increasing. For example: According to the Vienna Social Report, expenditure for homeless services in Vienna was € 42,6 million in 2013 (2009: 34.4). The 8,1% increase from 2012 to 2013 is mainly due to an extension in outpatient offers and an extension of winter facilities increasing around 50% from 2012 to 2013.</p>

<p><b>Remarks on Key Policy Developments</b></p>	<p><b>Positive:</b> Since 1st September 2010, most persons are included in the health insurance scheme under the new needs-oriented minimum security aid law.</p> <p><b>Negative:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Third Country Migrants without a long term residence permit and without connection to the labour market and some EU citizens especially in the first three months are still excluded from the health insurance scheme of the new needs-oriented minimum security</li> <li>▪ Aggressive begging and begging with children is punishable by regional laws in all regions of Austria. Begging legislation has been exacerbated e.g. in Upper Austria banning “commercial begging”, in Salzburg where sectoral bans and in Innsbruck where time limits have been introduced.</li> <li>▪ There is a strong trend in Vienna towards closing the provincial borders for funding to avoid people using homeless services in other provinces</li> </ul> <p>There is a severe <b>crisis in refugee accommodation</b> in Austria at the moment. Approx. 210.000 additional refugees mainly from Syria have been crossing the Austrian borders in September, most of them have passed on to Germany though. In the last few days a higher rate of these refugees asked for protection in Austria. The Ministry of the Interior expects 85.000 refugees in 2015. NGOs report that winter accommodations are already utilized for refugee accommodation in the moment. In Salzburg there are statistics that 80% of the refugees leaving the federal care scheme (Bundesbetreuung) are in risk to end up in homelessness in the city of Salzburg.</p>
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