

Intersectional Approach to Combating Homelessness for Women

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interACT

NEWSLETTER Nº 1

A HUMAN RIGHTS–BASED, GENDER-RESPONSIVE AND HARM REDUCTION MODEL TO ADDRESS WOMEN’S HOMELESSNESS

[UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL REPORT AND MODEL DEVELOPMENT](#)

Newsletter Contents:

WHY INTERACT MATTERS.....	2
THE INTERACT NATIONAL REPORT	2
DEVELOPING THE INTERACT MODEL.....	3
MOVING TO PILOT IMPLEMENTATION	4

Why INTERACT Matters

Women's homelessness across Europe often remains hidden. Many women experience homelessness differently from men, with pathways shaped by gender-based violence, trauma, poverty, health inequalities, caregiving responsibilities, and structural discrimination. Too often, these realities are not fully addressed in mainstream homelessness responses.

The INTERACT project - Intersectional Approach to Combating Homelessness for Women - aims to strengthen gender-responsive and rights-based approaches to homelessness. The work is grounded in national evidence and research-informed best practices.

INTERACT is co-funded by the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and implemented by partners in Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Portugal, and Romania.

The INTERACT National Report

In October 2025, the INTERACT National Report was finalised.

The Report provides an overview of:

- National legal and policy frameworks
- Data gaps and hidden homelessness
- Service provision and system challenges
- Levels of cross-sector coordination

Across countries, common challenges were identified, including fragmented services and limited gender-responsive provision. At the same time, promising practices and opportunities for improvement were highlighted.

Developing the INTERACT Model

Building on this analysis, the partnership has completed an internal version of the INTERACT Pilot Model of Intervention.

The Model is guided by four core principles:

- Gender-responsiveness
- Intersectionality
- Trauma-informed care
- Harm reduction and low-threshold approaches

These principles are designed to support services in adapting interventions, addressing ethical challenges, and improving access to housing, health, and social support.

The Model also outlines INTERACT Standards to help translate these principles into practice and strengthen collaboration, participation, and accountability.

The Model will be soon made publicly available.

Moving to Pilot Implementation

The next phase has focused on preparing for pilot implementation in selected local contexts.

This involved:

- Testing if the Model is versatile enough to be implemented in multiple differential national environments
- Identifying necessary adaptations
- Strengthening organisational capacity
- Documenting learning to inform further refinement

Insights from this phase will support future dissemination and scaling efforts.



INTERACT supports the development of integrated, gender-responsive, trauma-informed and harm reduction-based responses to women's homelessness across Europe.

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