The transfer of public housing into private ownership in the 1990s had a negative impact on municipalities’ ability to secure housing for vulnerable groups. Although there were some policy tools for strengthening the accessibility of private housing to the low-income population, data on the population at risk of homelessness and availability of social housing were lacking.

The NHRI analysed the right to housing in two respects: (1) availability of public housing to vulnerable groups in 8 district towns via quantitative analysis and (2) the impact of the deprivation of adequate housing on psychological wellbeing via qualitative methods. The findings also included good practices promoting the right to housing for diverse target groups.

The NHRI fostered national debate and bridged stakeholders from the public, private and NGO sectors. At a round table, it mapped activities, initiatives and needs in countering homelessness. The outputs were utilised in designing the research and further followed up by a workshop aimed at building cooperative strategies between municipalities and local NGOs.

See more NHRI practices: ennhri.org/esr-in-europe