



On the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in Paris, the first meeting of the exchange forum **PUSH Europe** took place. The meeting was co-organised by [FEANTSA](#), [CECODHAS](#) and [EASPD](#). It was hosted at the Jean-Jaurès Hospital by Habitat et Soins.

The aim of PUSH Europe is to deliver positive outcomes for vulnerable people through *practical exchange on the integration of services and housing*. To this end, it brings together European supported housing practitioners that deliver and build capacity in affordable housing with support for vulnerable people.

This meeting was organised as follow-up to a 1.5 day Consultation on integrated housing and services organised by the OECD. This important Consultation brought together international policymakers to discuss how best to integrate housing and other social and health services in order to improve outcomes for vulnerable people with high needs, including those who are disabled, elderly, and homeless.

The future work of PUSH Europe will be to carry out a range of activities including mutual learning and transnational exchange; training and professional development; testing and scaling up of innovation; development and implementation of European projects (research, social experimentation, lifelong learning) and events. PUSH Europe will seek to help supported housing practitioners cooperate and make full use of opportunities within the EU framework.

Supported housing for vulnerable groups is increasingly important in Europe. This reflects the change from institutional to community-based social services. There is a growing recognition of vulnerable people's rights to live independently, in dignity and to be included in the community, as well as to choose their place of residence, where and with whom they wish to live. In practice, the recognition of these rights means a growing need for housing that is integrated with other support that vulnerable people need to participate in everyday life. PUSH Europe will contribute to the development and improvement of supported housing by identifying, sharing, developing and transferring expertise and good practices. Push is open to participation of representative organisations, services providers, housing providers, practitioners etc.

For more information or to find out how your organisation can get involved in PUSH Europe, please contact Ruth Owen ([ruth.owen@feantsa.org](mailto:ruth.owen@feantsa.org)), Katrijn Dekoninck ([Katrijn.Dekoninck@easpd.eu](mailto:Katrijn.Dekoninck@easpd.eu)) or Julien Dijol ([Julien.Dijol@housingeurope.eu](mailto:Julien.Dijol@housingeurope.eu)).

### Partners:

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