Falling through the cracks

Improving outcomes for vulnerable populations through evidence-based policy and practice

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A selection of our recent & current research projects on vulnerable groups

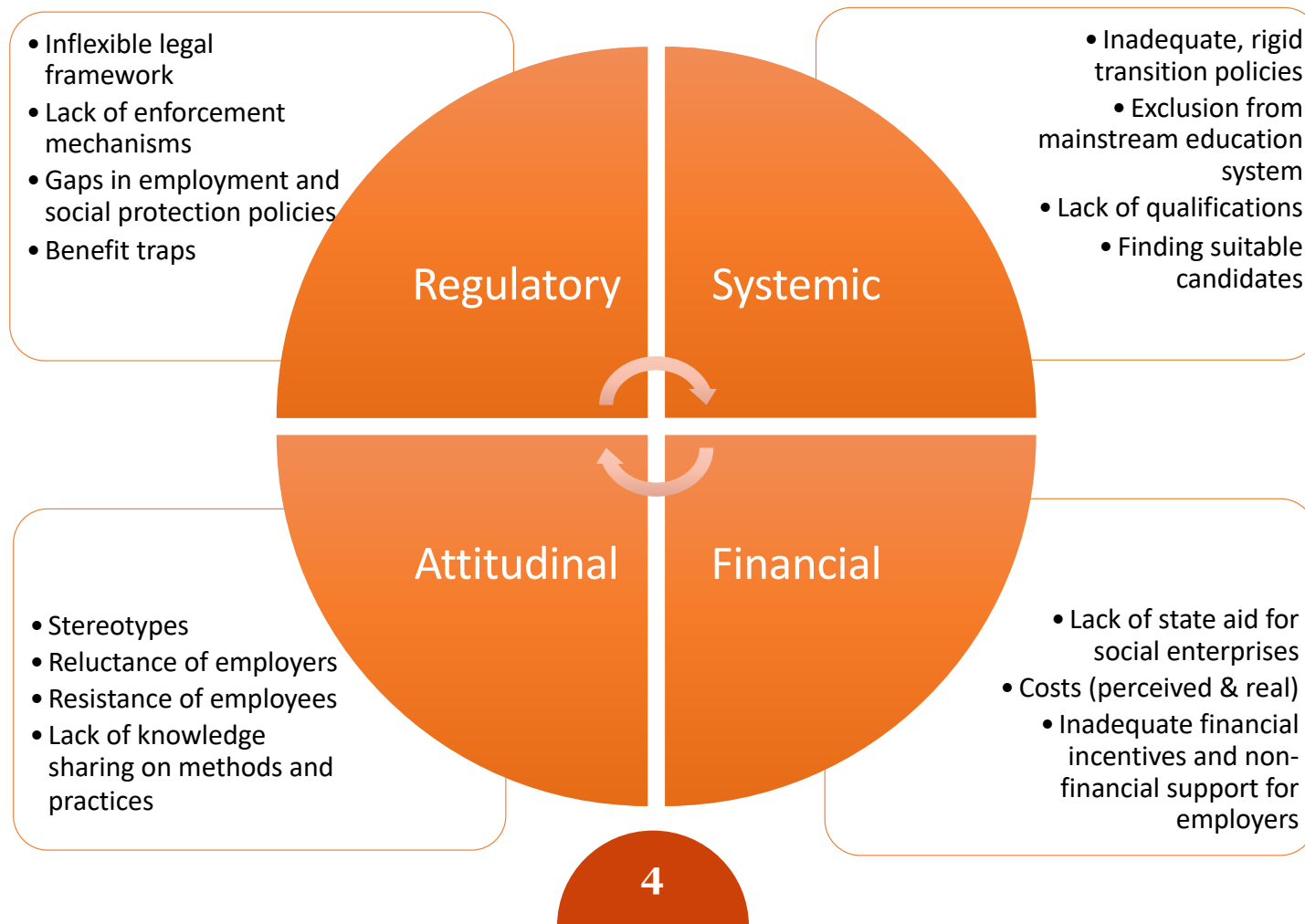|	
Persons with Disabilities	• **Towards inclusive employment of persons with disabilities**: Comparative study of six social economy organisations and companies in Europe • **Combating discrimination in the workplace:** Collecting promising practices on employing persons with disabilities in the open labour market
Temporary labour migrants	• **Con3Post:** Posting of third country nationals: Mapping the trend in the construction sector • **POW-BRIDGE:** Bridging the gap between legislation and practice in the posting of workers
Homeless persons	• Mapping trends and policies to tackle homelessness in Europe
Children	• **SOS Children's Village Worldwide:** Feasibility Study, reforming child protection systems • **UNICEF Croatia:** Situation analysis of children and adolescents in Croatia

Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market

Employment rate in the **EU**

DISABILITY

YES %	NO %
50,6	74,8

Gap (percentage points)

24,2

- Strong legal framework in EU - Anti-discrimination legislation with provision of reasonable accommodation (Employment Equality Directive, UN CRPD)

- Policies to support labour market inclusion of vulnerable groups

- Yet, persistent gap between persons with and without disabilities – leading to poverty & social exclusion

- #EUvsDiscrimination campaign – collecting promising practices from both in public and private sector, how to make reasonable accommodation work?
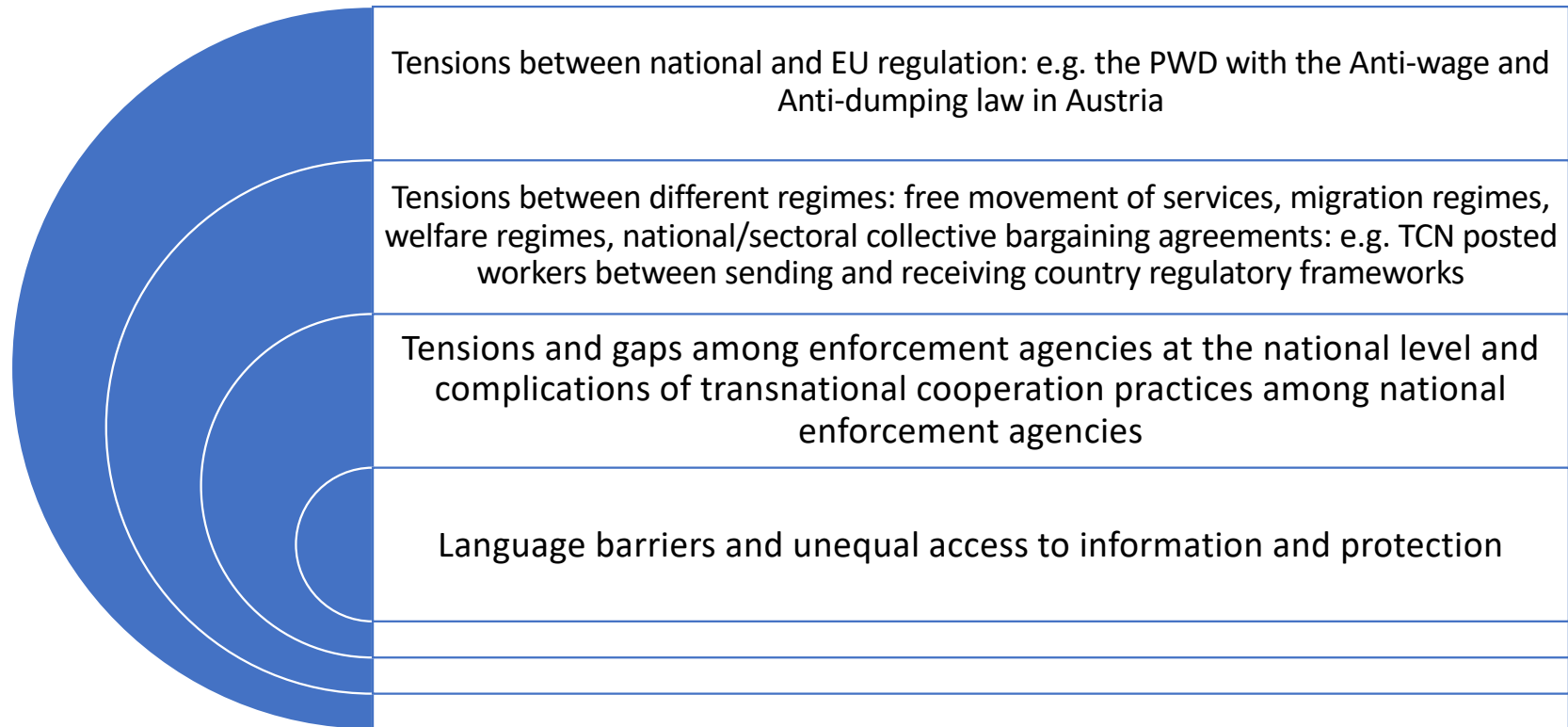
3

Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market: Policy gaps & challenges

Regulatory
- Inflexible legal framework
- Lack of enforcement mechanisms
- Gaps in employment and social protection policies
- Benefit traps

Systemic
- Inadequate, rigid transition policies
- Exclusion from mainstream education system
- Lack of qualifications
- Finding suitable candidates

Attitudinal
- Stereotypes
- Reluctance of employers
- Resistance of employees
- Lack of knowledge sharing on methods and practices

Financial
- Lack of state aid for social enterprises
- Costs (perceived & real)
- Inadequate financial incentives and non-financial support for employers
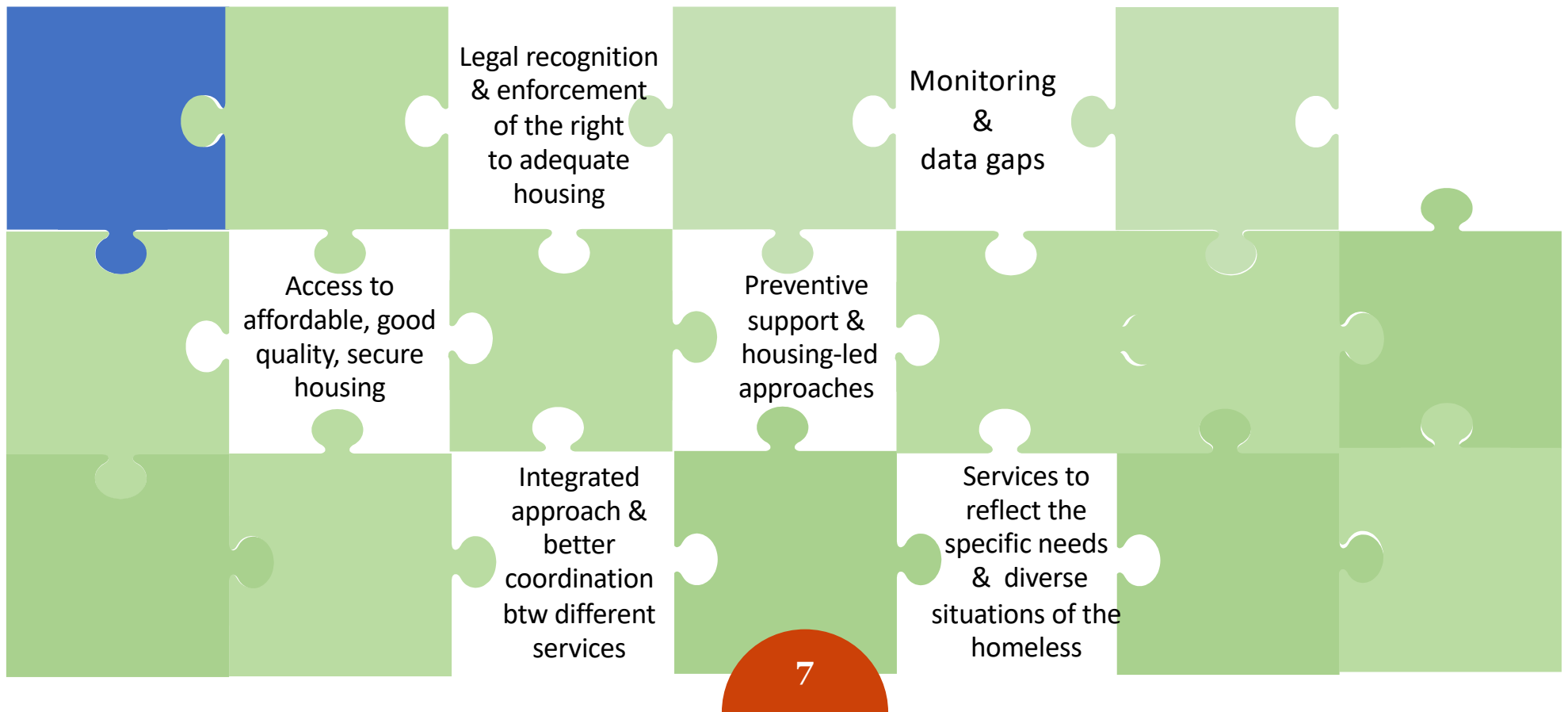
4

Cross-border temporary labour migrants: a quick overview

- Multiple forms of cross-border labour mobility: long-term migration, seasonal work, temporary migration, commuting, **the provision of services through posting**
- Regulated by The Posting of Workers Directive (1996); Enforcement Directive (2014), Revised PWD (2018); Basic Regulation ((EC) No 883/2004) on the coordination of social security systems
- The fastest growing form of EU cross-border labour mobility: from approximately 1 million in 2010 to almost 3 million in 2018
- Main sending countries: PL, DE, ES, IT, SK, BE, SI
- Main receiving: DE, FR, BE, NL, AT
- Sectors: construction, transport, industry, services
- TCN posted workers

5

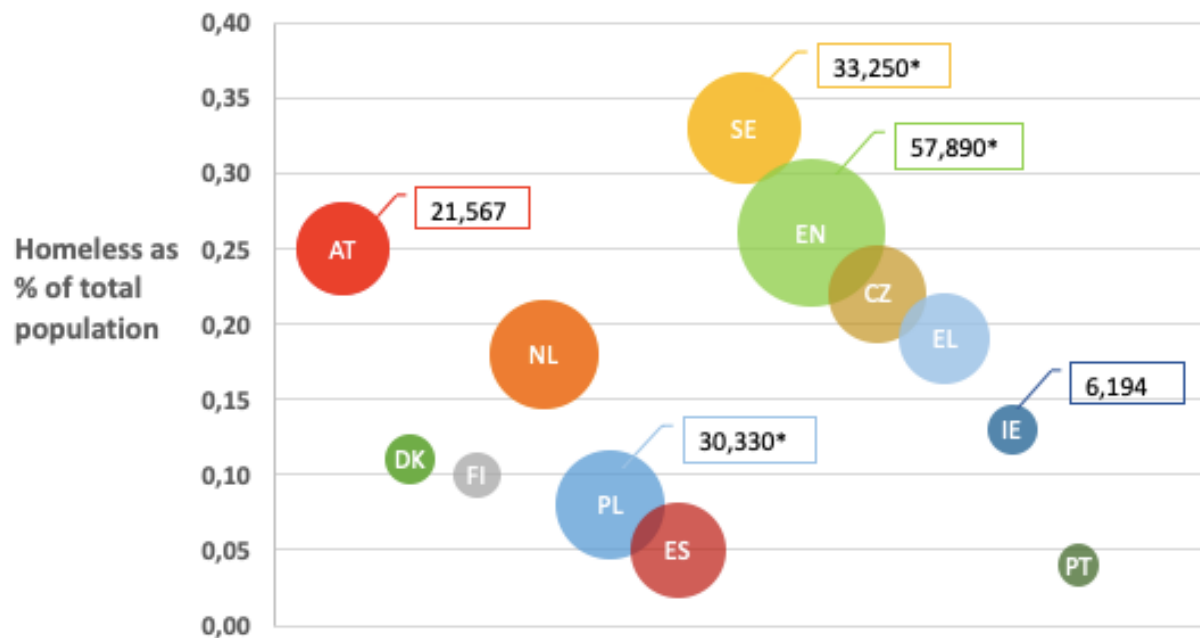# Cross-border temporary labour migrants: risks and vulnerabilities

Tensions between national and EU regulation: e.g. the PWD with the Anti-wage and Anti-dumping law in Austria

Tensions between different regimes: free movement of services, migration regimes, welfare regimes, national/sectoral collective bargaining agreements: e.g. TCN posted workers between sending and receiving country regulatory frameworks

Tensions and gaps among enforcement agencies at the national level and complications of transnational cooperation practices among national enforcement agencies

Language barriers and unequal access to information and protection

Homelessness: Main policy gaps and challenges

Legal recognition & enforcement of the right to adequate housing

Monitoring & data gaps

Access to affordable, good quality, secure housing

Preventive support & housing-led approaches

Integrated approach & better coordination btw different services

Services to reflect the specific needs & diverse situations of the homeless

7

Monitoring homelessness OR who is being counted?

Estimated number of homeless people, 2019 or latest year

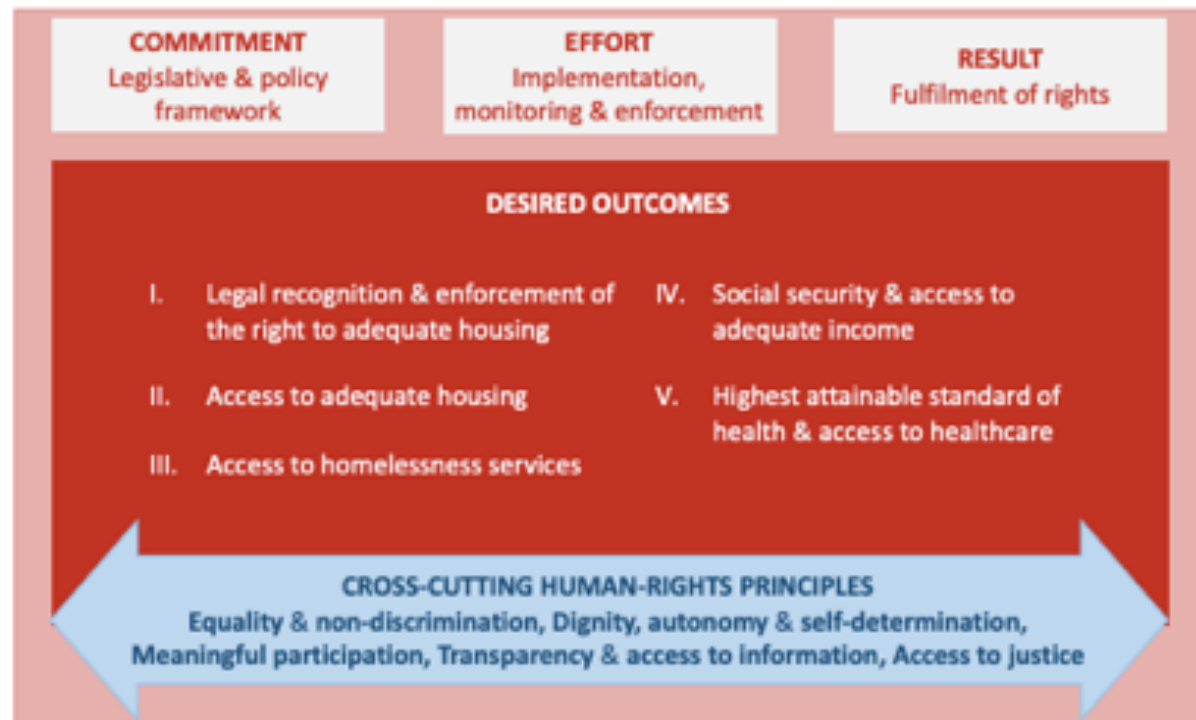Source: OECD Affordable Housing Database, 2020
*Figures include *more than* persons 1) living rough, 2) living in emergency accommodation, and 3) living in accommodation for the homeless
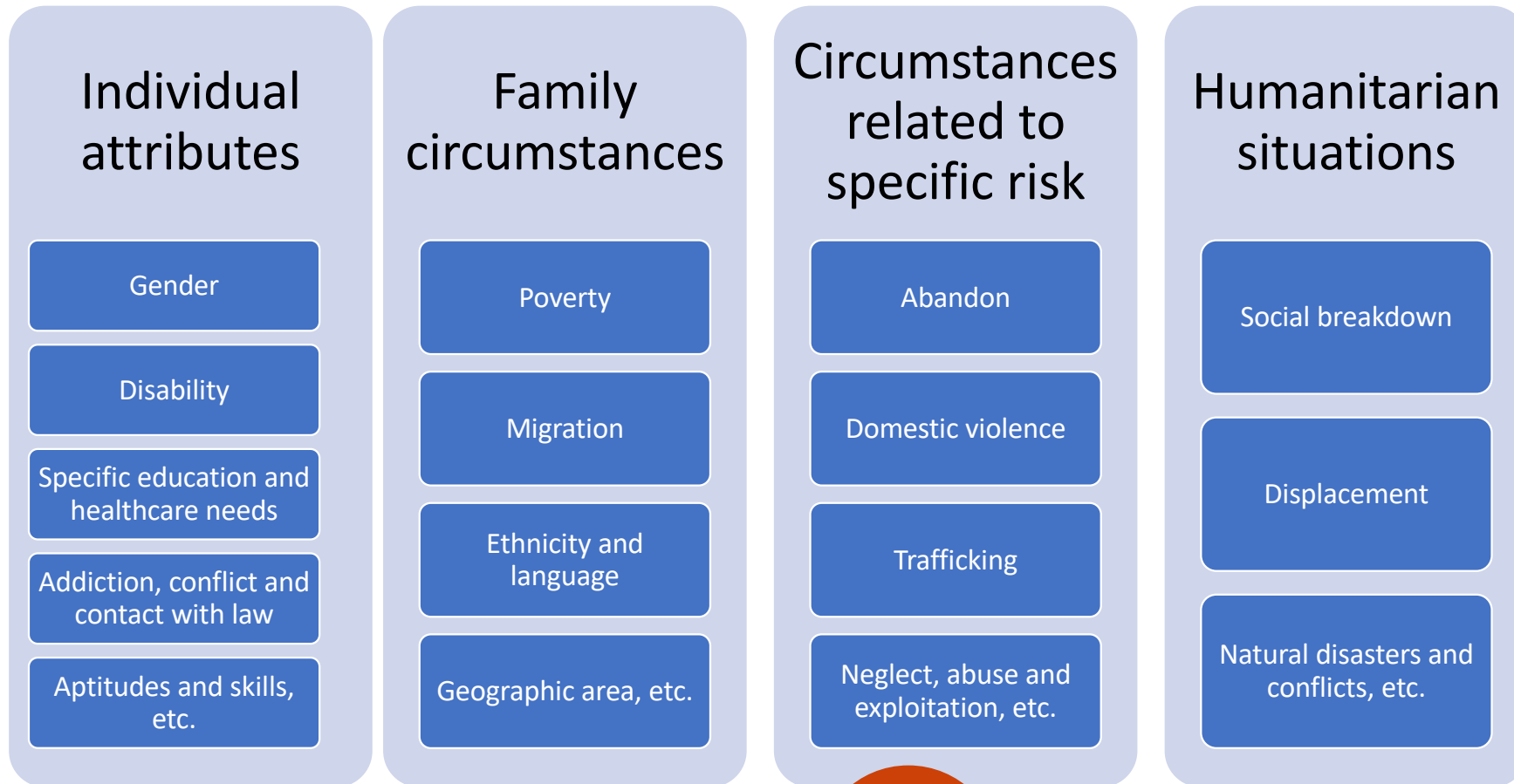
Main challenges and data gaps

- Different definitions of homelessness used

- Variety of data collection systems and methods: registers (e.g. DK), street counts, census, ad-hoc surveys

- Systematic and regular data collection is lacking in many European countries

- Cross-country comparability: EU-SILC 2018 module on housing difficulties

8

Framework for a rights-based approach to adequate housing and homelessness

- 5 domains with corresponding measures (structure-process-outcome model)

- Incorporates main attributes of the right to adequate housing, as well as access to housing, homelessness services, social security and healthcare

- To serve as a basis for a comparative assessment of national policies and their outcomes in preventing and tackling homelessness

9

Child vulnerability

Individual attributes	Family circumstances	Circumstances related to specific risk	Humanitarian situations
Gender	Poverty	Abandon	Social breakdown
Disability	Migration	Domestic violence	Displacement
Specific education and healthcare needs	Ethnicity and language	Trafficking	Natural disasters and conflicts, etc.
Addiction, conflict and contact with law	Geographic area, etc.	Neglect, abuse and exploitation, etc.	
Aptitudes and skills, etc.			

Policy Design Gaps

1. Little consideration for **systemic vulnerability factors** (e.g. persistent poverty, lack of education & healthcare services, lack of early intervention) **Solution**: family-centered appraoch, work with communities).

2. Little research and policy solution for **"intersection of vulnerability"** (e.g. young Roma girls, children with disabilities form poor families, displaced children of ethnic minority).

3. Little consideration for **social norms, believes, attitudes and practices** (e.g. the DI reform in Armenia, and continuous institutionalization in Belarus, Roma inclusion programs in Croatia).

Policy Implementation Gaps

1. **Good regulations versus bad reinforcement** (e.g. Juvenile justice system reform in Croatia, the reinforcement failed due to unpreparedness of human resources in the sector).

2. **Central level performance versus local level struggles,** central level initiatives poorly implemented at local level due to lack of understanding and commitment, limited human and financial resources, over-complicated and bureaucratic procedures, etc.

3. **Prevention policy versus reactive policy** (the child protection system is predominantly reactive and lacks cross sectorial preventions mechanisms such as: child risk detection mechanisms, parenting programs, family support programmes, child friendly information and education programs).

Our contribution to improving outcomes for vulnerable populations

- **Multiple** projects on **diverse** target groups, themes and approaches

- Identifying **gaps** in research, policy and practice

- Providing evidence-based **best practices**

- Building a **joint** knowledge-base through **collaboration** with policy-makers, community organisations and other relevant stakeholders

- **Involving** vulnerable groups in our research (e.g. through participatory methods, interviews, focus groups etc.)

13

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Thank you for your attention!

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