



Ways out of homelessness

Prevention through social housing – Salvation Army

Name of the project	Prevention of Homelessness
Aims and Objectives	The prevent people, families, in a difficult situation becoming homeless.
Description	<p>The Salvation Army (TSA) rents flats of the local authorities and a building cooperation in which we place people with various problems, who, without help, might become homeless. TSA offers social counseling, personal discussions as well as group counseling (budgeting, home economy, etc) to people supported to help them cope with paying rent and utilities. People paying their rent and bills regularly and willing to cooperate can stay in these apartments for a maximum of five years. If all goes well, they can keep the apartment afterwards, renting it directly from the owner.</p>
Core elements	<p>Housing rented from local authority or building cooperation by NGO, sub-let to inhabitant</p> <p>Personal and group counseling to those who need it</p> <p>Duration: max. five years</p>
Funding	<p>Approx. € 67 860</p> <p>Financing of the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 40 % Local authorities Ostrava – 50 % Region of MS – 5 % Town district of Ostrava – 5 % Gifts and other sources
Impact/ results	<p>People at the edge of falling into real homelessness, manage to stay of the street and learn how to manage life without the treat of losing a roof above their head.</p>
Participants	<p>Local residents with difficulties, who have no debt towards the local authority/building corporation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family with children • Individuals • One-parent families • Elderly <p>220 people altogether</p>
Staff	6 full time social workers (39 men, 52 women and 99 children)



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Innovative aspects	Tenants with difficulties receive support to keep their housing.
Sustainability	The project is at the moment very much dependent on support of authorities, local, regional or state.
Lessons learned	For some people is the time limit of 5 years an illusion. The next step might be allow some to use this service for ever.
Obstacles	Debts of the clients Racism Shortage of affordable flats
Evaluation	<p>The project has two main positive outcomes. Firstly, it has been proving to be a successful tool of prevention of homelessness. Clients involved in the project were able to maintain their living conditions with a given support (rent of the apartment at an affordable price and social work).</p> <p>Secondly, Ostrava can serve as an example for other cities, how to involve private owners in similar projects of social housing/ training flats.</p>