



Training flats, Naděje

Name of the project	Starting/training flats
Aims and Objectives	To prepare homeless people living in shelters for independent living
Description	<p>Naděje, a charity working with vulnerable people, agrees with the City of Prague or a District to rent a flat, and then sublet it to a homeless person, recommended by a shelter, who wants to move out and live independently, receiving support from the staff of the charity for a maximum of 2 years. After this period, they leave the apartment and another homeless person moves in.</p>
Core elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong cooperation with municipality • Entitlement to local social benefits, including housing benefit • Monthly home visits • Same social worker from shelter to do follow-up
Funding	No additional funding. Staff involved are paid from the budget of the organization, most social work incorporated into the shelter working hours.
Impact/ results	<p>11 flats, 2 new flats are being negotiated at this moment</p> <p>30 clients since 2007</p>
Participants	<p>Homeless people in hostel/shelter for at least six months, cooperating with social worker</p> <p>The client coming from the shelter to the training flat has to have an income (salary from the standard work, pension revenue or state allowances – usually housing supplement can cover the costs). If the housing supplement does not cover all costs, the client has to pay the rest from own resources (usually about few hundreds crowns).</p> <p>Some municipalities require a local residence, others do not</p>



Ways out of homelessness

Staff	Direct care staff - hostel manager, social worker, social services worker
Innovative aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of communication between NGOs and state administration (space for discussion on Social Housing Act) Affordable housing (although on a very small-scale) for the target group of people without a regular dwelling
Sustainability	<p>Depends on the current political structure of Municipal Districts of Prague (training flats are under their sponsorship)</p> <p>Current training flats are closed for indefinite period...</p>
Lessons learned	<p>During the last years, social workers have learned well how to choose people who should get opportunity to live in training flats. They are also able to work effectively with clients so they are not coming back to hostels from the training flats.</p> <p>There are still not enough flats, demand for flats exceeds their number significantly.</p> <p>What needs to be improved: communication with the city representatives, involvement of private owners in this program (difficult due to mistrust towards homeless people)</p>
Obstacles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortage of available training flats - reluctance of the municipalities to establish these flats Some municipalities insist on choosing the sub-tenant, a process which can take up to two months Private owners reluctant to rent housing to homeless people Indebtedness and/or unstable income of sub-tenant
Evaluation	<p>We can evaluate this project as successful, social workers point out that in the big part of the cases they can see huge improvement client's social situation from the time he moves to a training flat. The other strong point is the social support given to clients, who often need help, especially if they have been homeless for a long time. Without this support they might not be able to live on their own in this transition period.</p> <p>From experience, we know that people from the training flats do not return back to the streets. Sometimes they come back to the hostel during some crisis, but here they receive again intensive support from social workers to solve their situation.</p>