

LLP-ERASMUS  
Intensive Programme

**Internet advanced promotional tools application for increasing awareness  
of social exclusions movement**

# **Social exclusion of homeless people in France**

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DG Edukacja i Kultura  
Program „Uczenie się przez całe życie”

## Table of contents

Introduction	1
1. Level and structure of the exclusion of homeless people	5
2. Causes and consequences of the exclusion of homeless people	7
3. Government role in preventing the exclusion of homeless people	9
4. Institutions and their actions	10
5. Other activities against the exclusion of homeless people .	14
6. Characteristics of (name of organization)	16
Conclusions	19
References	20



## Introduction

*Contents of introduction:*

- *notion and definition of social exclusion of homeless people*

Being a "homeless" is not having a shelter for housing. It defines "homeless" by referring only to the lack of a shelter in its technical sense.

A large proportion of the population adopts this definition by reserving the term "homeless" exclusively to those living on the streets or in emergency shelters and all researchers and practitioners agree that these people must be described as homeless, many believe that such a definition is too restrictive.

For example, according to the definition that the UN has chosen to mark the declaration of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, a "homeless" is as much a person who has no home and lives in the streets or in shelters, a person who does not have access to adequate shelter, that is to say a shelter that meets certain basic criteria considered essential to health, to human and social development. One thinks particularly here of access to sanitation and clean water, security of tenure, protection against the weather conditions, security of persons, access to education, work and health services, etc.

We must see that the right to shelter is a basic humanitarian principle recognized in *the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*:

*« Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services; (s)he has the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. »*

Between these two definitions, several researchers propose their definition of homeless as the Committee of the homeless of the City of Montreal adopted in 1987, the following definition of homelessness:

*« The person who has no fixed address, stable housing, safe and sanitary for the next 60 days, with very low incomes, with an accessibility discriminated against her by services, with health problems mental, alcoholism, addiction or social disorganization and lacking stable home group. »*

Overall, it is clear that all definitions of homelessness are subject to interpretation and reflect an opinion. Furthermore, it is equally clear that all definitions are subject to time considerations.

Consequently, many researchers add a time element to their definition of homelessness. Thus, according to them, to qualify as a homeless person, you must have been homeless for a number of days or weeks.

- *give the short introduction about importance of social exclusion of homeless people in your country*

In France, the notion of “excluded persons” occurred in the 1970s, but the use of the term “exclusion” declined at the end of the decade. It gave way to competing concepts such as “social emergency” and “precariousness”, for example in the Oheix Report “Against Precariousness and Poverty” (1981) and the Wresinski Report on “Deep Poverty and Economic and Social Precariousness” (1987).

The term “exclusion” made a comeback in the mid-1980s, partly via the European Community (EC), at least toward the end of the decade, during the presidency of Jacques Delors (1985-1995). In its three successive programs to fight against poverty —the second of which, launched in 1989, was called “Combating social exclusion”— the EC funded research that contributed to the dissemination of the notion of exclusion in Member States that had not used it previously.

- *historical background of homeless people exclusion in your country (prepare analyzes from 2004 (after enlargement of European Union))*

We can highlight five historical variables as regards poverty, appreciated here with the prism of those called today the homeless. The contexts are sometimes not easily comparable.

Substantial evolutions are to be taken into account. It does not remain about it less than five elements, with varied degrees, which characterize homelessness policies. Interested in roots and contemporary forms of those policies this paper notices first that it has always been difficult to name and to count the homeless. The « good» or the « true» poor has always been distinguished from the « bad» or the « false» poor. Invariably policies oscillate between solidarity and security. The cities are still committed in an unstable co-operative game when it is a question of accommodating or pushing back the homeless people. Lastly, it has always been difficult to coordinate the many actors intervening in this field.

As a concrete example : a demonstration of "Les Enfants de Don Quichotte" which took place in 2006 at the canal St Martin. They denounced the non-support for all those people in need who live in the streets. That year, there are even some celebrities such as Jean Rochefort who joined the movement to try to make things happen.

*Around 2 pages*

## 1. Level and structure of homeless people exclusion

Contents:

- *Level of homeless people exclusion in your country (prepare analyzes from 2004 (after enlargement of European Union))*

100 000

is the number of places in accommodation for homeless

Despite this limited space cited by the Government, the number of homeless in France with a lack of housing amounted to 133 000.

28 %

is the sustainable increase of seats since 2004

But the number of attempts to find places is increasing year by year ...

According to the survey, which compiles data collected between 2002 and 2008, 33,000 people are homeless in France, living "between the street and emergency reception places".

The homeless population is predominantly male (79%), urban up to a third (36%), writes the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies.

France has also hosted some 100,000 people over long periods in residential care services or in public-funded housing.

In addition to these 133,000 people homeless, others are private housing staff, INSEE note : in 2006, 38,000 people lived at the hotel (including 20% under 20 years) in "poor conditions", often without sanitary equipment or kitchen

117,000 people resorted to individual solutions (hotel rooms at their own expense or by private accommodation).

Moreover, 2.9 million people lived in private accommodation or overcrowded rooms, the combination of the two shortcomings for 127,000 people.

- *Structure of homeless people in your country according to: gender, age, education, occupation, place of living etc. (if possible changes in structure during past years)*

THE PEOPLE WITHOUT HOME NOR COMFORT								
%	Homeless			Other homeless situations staff		In private accommodation comfort		Population totale
	Homeless or institutionalized social short-stay and other emergency	Social institutions long-term	Accommodation funded by the ALT (emergency or long-term, non-institutional social)	At the hotel	Accommodation forced	Makeshift dwellings	Other private dwellings of comfort or overcrowded	
Number of persons	33 000	66 000	34 000	38 000	79 000	85 000	2 778 000	61 400 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>133 000</b>			<b>117 000</b>		<b>2 863 000</b>		
Men	79	60	?	63	52	56	49	48
Women	21	40	?	37	48	44	51	52
Under 20	?	30	?	20	6	26	31	25
20-59 years	?	?	?	67	94	59	55	54
60 or older	?	?	?	13	0	15	14	21
Actively employed	?	19	?	36	43	34	33	42
Unemployed	?	22	?	16	28	10	10	5
Other (retired, students, unknown activity ...)	?	59	?	48	29	56	57	53

- *Forecasting of level and structure of homeless people exclusion in your country in next years*

Regarding future studies, it is difficult to comment on this topic. Indeed, the presidential election will soon be taking place in France, and the effects of the worst crisis may be yet to come and it is difficult to comment on the subject. Nevertheless, it seems likely that the number of homeless increases in the near future despite all the protests surrounding this phenomenon.

*Around 3 pages (including figures or tables)*

## 2. Causes and consequences of homeless people exclusion

Contents:

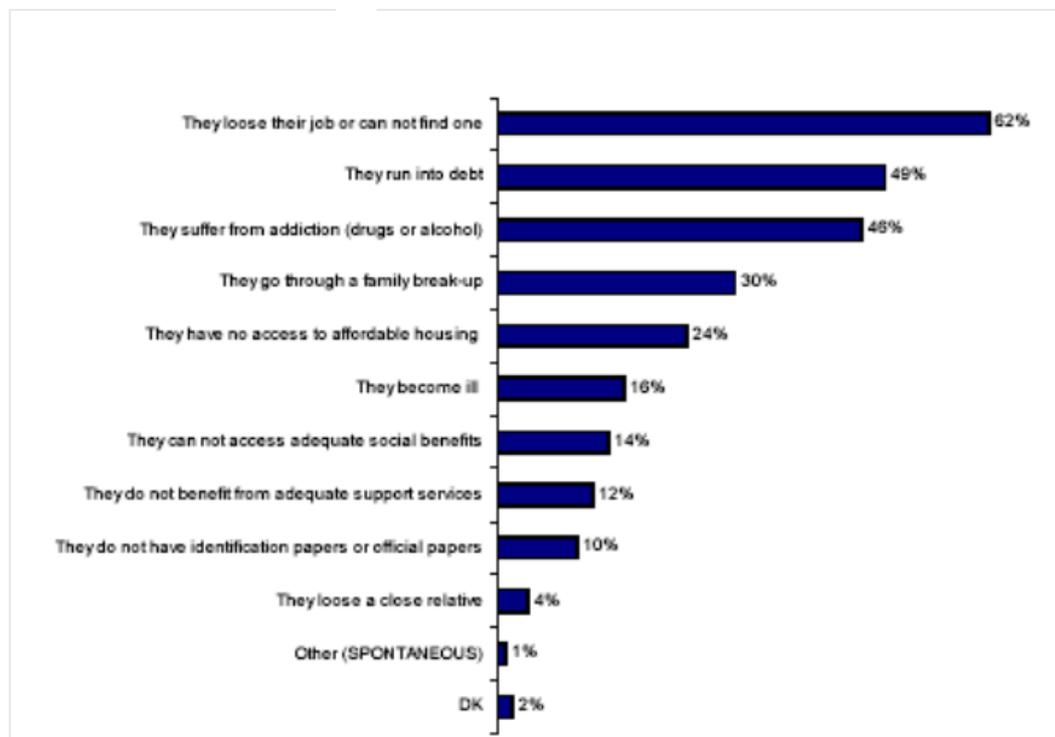
- Short description of causes of homeless people exclusion in your country
- Short description of consequences of homeless people exclusion in your country for homeless people, local society, country and Europe

First of all we can say that being homeless means being excluded. Indeed in our society the homeless scare people. We will first explain the reasons why people become homeless; so how everybody can be excluded from society. Then we will explain in detail the causes of homelessness in our country.

The main reasons for the phenomenon of the homeless can be difficult events experienced by these people: immigration, separation, leaving home early, death of a parent during childhood etc.

In fact some attach great importance to social ties in explaining the phenomenon, others to poverty. But the government is not innocent in this phenomenon; indeed, housing policies are perhaps not suitable, given the scale of the phenomenon of homelessness.

### REASONS WHY PEOPLE BECAME HOMELESS



Source : Eurobaromètre, Septembre 2007.

The main cause of the exclusion of the homeless in our country is of course the image that the people have of them. The homeless scare and disgust other people. That is the problem because they are like in a vicious circle:

If they do not have a place to live, it is much harder to find a job and also without a job (no income) it is impossible to find a home, then how can you get out of this situation?

The view of the society is very important in the exclusion of the homeless: They disturb and as they are the signs of a bad economy, the mayors of big cities try to hide them. All sorts of measures are taken to drive out the homeless (like taking away bars from benches so that they can't sleep on them etc.)

But sometimes the homeless exclude themselves. As indicated before, most of the people in the streets went through difficult events during their childhood: sexual abuses, emotional problems and violence. For example, people who have been "placed" in homes are largely over-represented among homeless populations (estimated at 23% of this INSEE survey, compared to 2% among people living in a house), especially among the young (35% among 18-24 year olds). The wounds of the past have broken all social ties and those people are therefore people who prefer isolation or are not capable of establishing social links.

The homeless also exclude themselves because they are ashamed of what they are and sometimes refuse to go into shelters for the homeless. Because they refused to be helped but mainly because of the bad conditions and insecurity present in those shelters.

The consequences of homeless exclusion in our country:

Since 1990 the number of homeless people has increased because of the different crises (accommodation, financial ...).

This exclusion leads to lots of problems for the homeless. They gather in groups, often drowning in alcohol and drugs and due to that there are many fights. They also suffer from theft and assault in the street. Because of their exclusion there are not safe in the street.

Assaults (11% of deaths) kill more homeless people than the cold (8%). Their death, whether natural or not, is brutal in more than 80% of cases. They die on average at the age 49.

Also the increase of the number of homeless people has led to a general feeling of being fed up in society and movements like the "movement of indignant" who manifest everywhere in the world for better life's condition.

We note a contradictory phenomenon. What is contradictory is that the homeless are excluded from society by the people but at the same time local society cares more and more about this phenomenon.

The French survey made in 2006 by the Association Emmaus with partnership with the daily "L'Humanité" and the paper "La Vie" are in favor of a bolder policy to fight against social exclusion and its most visible manifestation, the growing number of homeless people.

The survey whose results have not been very much shown in the media reinforce the "fed up" feeling shown by "the children of Don Quixote" and the charter of the Canal Saint-Martin has already collected over 11,000 signatures.

*Around 3 pages*

### 3. Government role in preventing homeless people exclusion

#### Contents:

- *Discretion of the actions that are taken by government and local authorities against homeless people exclusion*
- *Describe national and regional policy against this exclusion*

According to the Abbé Pierre Foundation, 133,000 people are homeless in France, and 685,116 are deprived of personal residence, living with a third party, social residence, or in a hotel.

In accordance with the Government figures, the number of social residences has increased by 28% since 2004, to reach 100 000 places in accommodation for homeless people. Although the number of accommodations seems sufficient, there are still many problems associated with exclusion to the homeless.

There are some measures that Benoist Apparu, the Secretary of State for Housing in France, wants to take.

#### **A single referent for each homeless**

The aim of this is to know the situation of each homeless, in order to know about their problems and to « build » a partnership, around a relationship of trust.

#### **A tool to identify places**

Today in Paris, when calling the 115, it falls on the “Samu Social”, which manages only 30% of accommodation places, emergency. "Some nights, 30% of the seats are filled, but not others," said Benoist Apparu. The goal is to create a computerized listing all the available places in the capital, and the rest of France.

#### **A schedule for associations**

The plan would pool the work of associations with a schedule for the entire territory is covered by the marauding and that some homeless are not awakened by various associations.

#### **Own housing rather than social accommodation**

"These individuals ability to access housing should be immediately directed to this solution," states the government plan. Today, it still offers initially a place in an emergency shelter. To facilitate the process, the Secretary of State wants to set up partnerships between associations and social landlords.

With these actions, the government expects to help the homeless not to feel too excluded, and to begin a kind of reintegration. To help the homeless, premises are made available by administrations, so that these people can avoid sleeping outside.

- *Describe law regulations in this area*

A very important law to « protect » homeless people is called the « loi Dalo » which means Law for the right to housing.

It contains some articles like this one “It is up to state authorities to implement the right to emergency shelter recognized by law to any homeless person who is in medical distress, mental and social”, said the State Council. “deficiency characterized in accomplishing this task can (...) show a serious and manifestly illegal to a fundamental freedom when it has serious consequences for the person concerned ”.

Also, homeless people can complain about being refused accommodation and obtain an injunction against the authorities to find shelter.

The State Council made a decision recently that "a deficiency characterized authorities in providing emergency shelter for the homeless is a serious infringement of a fundamental freedom."

To be able to benefit from the “loi Dalo”, you need to respect these characteristics:

- To be of French nationality, or resident on French territory on a regular basis and under conditions of permanently defined by articles R.300-1 and R.300-2 of the Code of Construction and Housing
- Not to be able to access on its own to a decent and independent housing and stay there
- To have applied for social housing and have a certificate of registration for this application ("single number").

*Around 2 pages*

## 4. Institutions and their actions

*Contents:*

- *Present institutions and organizations or foundations that act on homeless people exclusion*

Organizations acting against the homeless exclusion must act on different aspects. First they act directly at the heart of the street, through distribution of food, drink and blankets, but they are also there to help the homeless to get out of this hell, by putting them in homes, to find a job, to support their social inclusion . They also provide psychological support for all those important people. There is lot of work to do and many organization try to help these people fight against exclusion.

Here are some of them.

- « La Croix Rouge »
- « Emmaüs »
- « Le Secours Populaire »



- « Fondation Caritas France »
- « La Mie De Pain »

We are now going to give a short description of these organizations: their characteristics, the scale of their activity and their actions.

- *Give name of such institution, short characteristics, scale of activity (national or local), and actions*

➤ **LA CROIX ROUGE (THE RED CROSS)**

The Red Cross Movement is an international humanitarian presence in 186 countries.

The Red Cross is an association that is based on seven fundamental principles humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, universality. This association emerged in 1859 during the War of Solférino. At the base it was an international movement aid and assistance to victims. But now the Red Cross serves many causes and especially homeless.

The French Red Cross, is both an association of 52,000 committed volunteers for over 140 years on many fronts in the fight against precariousness and a non-profit business services in the fields of health, social, medical-social and training with 17,000 employees in more than 550 institutions.

**The scale of activity:** The French Red Cross, is present throughout France  
It operates through an extensive network of delegations and institutions, the French Red Cross is present throughout the French territory, including in the departments and overseas territories (DOM-TOM). This mesh allows it to act quickly to people in need regardless of the point in the territory or the type of intervention required.

The French Red Cross network is everywhere thanks to:

- 908 local delegations
- 95 departmental delegations
- 13 territorial offices
- 18 regional delegations
- 559 institutions (health sectors, social and medical training)

**Its actions:** concerning the sector of the Red Cross office performs several actions to prevent and protect: conducts psychological support by health professionals, Red Cross also has establishment of child protection that welcome families with children in infancy, since the heat wave of 2003 she also conducts community health aid during the period of hot weather.

Orient and welcome: direct action on the street near the homeless and has also planned a winter plan it is to house the homeless in emergency and and referral to a rehabilitation institution

Other actions proposed by the red cross that act on homeless people exclusion: the microcredit ; assistance to the refugee migrant, the fight against illiteracy...

➤ **EMMAÜS**

Emmaus is a secular association of solidarity. She is present in 36 countries. The first Emmaus community was founded by Henry Grouès, said Abbe Pierre, in 1949. The Emmaus groups were created to fight against poverty and exclusion, by various means and context of the countries where

they are. The characteristic of this organization is that It has an economic activity, often based on the recovery and reuse. Emmaus communities practicing recovery, rehabilitation and resale of materials received as gifts. Those being received in the communities are called "companions of Emmaus." Emmaus International was established in 1971 to bring together all the Emmaus groups in the world, of which there are now over 300. Emmaus France brings together French community and 175 Emmaus groups was established in 1985.

**Scale of activity:** The association Emmaus is internationally organized in four regions America, Africa, Asia, Europe.

Within countries, eg France Emmaüs association is divided into different sub-group themselves together in a cross in 10 regions on French territory. These areas meet the Emmaus groups into sets based on geographical proximity needs taking into account the administrative realities.

**Its action:** Emmaus actions are: financial solidarity, a community in action Home ( to become a companion of Emmaus) and thus facilitate the reintegration of the individual. Also a recycling work, mainly clothing and electrical equipment sold at prices very low so it can meet the needs of the most poor. It is also help people to find accommodation for emergency and inform people about their rights.

Finally, Emmaus conducts prevention activities about debt trouble with families in difficulty. In Emmaus France, to act preventively, to avoid tipping of indebted families into debt, balance the budget by the management of invoices, offer help to better manage the family budget and provide moral support.

#### ➤ LE SECOURS POPULAIRE

The “Secours Populaire” was Born in 1945, it is a nonprofit- making association, declared a national priority. It is authorized to receive gifts, bequests and donations. The association is dedicated to act against poverty and exclusion in France and worldwide. It brings together people of all opinions, circumstances and backgrounds who wish to live in solidarity.

**Scale of activity:** The « Secours populaire » once again act on all the continents .In France the “Secours populaire “is an area of freedom comprised of 97 departmental and professional federations , and a little over 600 committees.

A federation of Secours Populaire is a departmental structure. It acts as a relay responsible for leading, coordinating, developing solidarity actions and ensure their financing. Each federation shall include all committees and local branches of the same department.

**Its actions :** Since 1994, the “Secours Populaire”(=Popular Aid ) has created self-service stores where people in need do their shopping in return for a small fee.

Also the associaton’s staff goes directly in the heart of the streets during the winter of extreme cold to provide homeless with drinks and food.

The « secours populaire » organizes several of its committees and federations, ”cooking” workshops ( ”kitchens”) to restore the desire to cook for people in need whose budget requires creativity and resourcefulness.

It also develops initiatives to create vegetable gardens together.

One of their actions is also to fight against exclusion and keep families in their homes. And it therefore provides assistance to people in their administrative procedures for obtaining housing. Throughout France It also sets up some places where the homeless people can come to talk, share, ask for help ... it is a psychological support.

It acts in favor of the culture and sport and organizes trips so that even the poorest people benefit from that.

➤ **ASSOCIATION CARITAS FRANCE**

It was in 2009 that the Foundation Caritas France was created . It fights against inequality and exclusion situations in France

It promotes access to employment and housing for the poor. It has already helped to support 400 unemployed and 700 families in serious difficulty, to create 250 jobs ...

Recognized as a charity, Caritas France Foundation collect money to finance their own projects. The foundation supports many caritas projects in fields such as employment, running water, health, social innovation, education and food safety , training and of course helping the homeless.

**Scale of activity:** This foundation acts at an international level ,and Caritas France is present everywhere in France.

**Its actions :**

- In partnership with the Association "For the captives" they created a house where people can gradually rebuild themselves. They can live and share, regain self-esteem and prepare for their return to independence .This property of 1000 m2 is located in Paris.
- In partnership with the association "la bagagerie Antigél" they have created a left-luggage office in Paris , so the homeless leave their luggage there during the day , which facilitates their movements when looking for work because their old bags is a burden and immediately gives them the label of "homeless"
- In partnership with the association "L'atelier du logement solidaire" it offers families awaiting regularization solutions for their accommodation , such as apartments as an alternative to hotel rooms cramped and precarious.

➤ **LA MIE DE PAIN**

It is an association of public utility that helps the homeless or destitute in Paris and the area around Paris.

l'association « La mie de Pain » offer a welcome, anonymous and free for people in precarious situations , or in situations of marginalization or exclusion.

The association provides a daily hot meal service, it offers solutions in emergency accommodation centers (CHU) and a certified day care ESI (insertion and solidarity space) with nurses, psychologists and employment space. It facilitates social and professional integration through the integration project. The association also runs a relay office (information social, humanitarian, debit, followed RMI - RSA), housing for homeless people (a guesthouse) and one young workers 'home (FJT). They live with donations and the involvement of volunteers.

*Around 4 pages*

## 5. Other activities against homeless people exclusion

*Contents:*

- *Give description of any special action against homeless people exclusion in your country*

Through the past years, an association became well-known in France with its actions, whose name is “Les Enfants de Don Quichotte”, which means “Don Quichotte’s children”. It was created on the 16th of November 2006, by two brothers, Jean-Baptiste Legrand and Augustin Legrand. As they said, their intentions in creating this was to "Support and defend any operation intended to prevent or fight against the facts likely to affect and compromise the human and social welfare”, and also to inform everyone about the general living conditions (poor housing, work, care, psychological and physiological instabilities,..) of the homeless. The difference between this association and others which are in France is that it organizes various kinds of events in the streets to protest against the living conditions of the homeless. Their first action began in the winter 2006-2007, in Paris. On the night of 15 to 16 December 2006, they set up a village of some 200 tents on the banks of the Canal Saint-Martin in Paris. Through this action, it also seeks to raise awareness of community associations, political parties and the media.

From an original but powerful idea, the objective of this group is to build a bridge between the "well-housed" and tens of thousands of men and women living outside in tents or in cardboard boxes.

To support their claims, “Les Enfants de Don Quichotte” drew up an official document for citizens and policy:

"La Chartre du Canal St-Martin” which outlines several measures, contained in six articles, that everyone can join either on site, or through the association website.

The Charter was sent to Jacques Chirac, the French president at that date, in which they demanded the opening of accommodation facilities "on 24 and 24 hours 365 days a year", creating "an immediate offer of temporary housing," building "more social housing "," centers of support and stabilization ", the development of" alternative forms of housing. "

In early January 2007, on other banks in Paris, hundreds of homeless and dozens of volunteers (who share solidarity for the conditions of the first) are present. Then, other camps are formed in other big cities in France, like Nantes, Lille, Grenoble, Toulouse and Bordeaux.

“Les Enfants de Don Quichotte” then receive the support of many French politicians: Bertrand Delanoë, Christine Boutin, Francois Bayrou or Francois Hollande, which have influence.

The first consequence of this event is that the government announced a law project about the “loi DALO”, which is now fundamental for the homeless.

During the following winters (from 2007 to 2011), the association kept on leading actions for the homeless, in collaboration with other foundations.

Far from being isolated, « Les Enfants de Don Quichotte » work with 31 federations and associations dealing with issues of housing and accommodation to try to be a real power endeavouring to formulate appropriate responses and to be active for another housing policy.

“Les Enfants de Don Quichotte” are not intended to substitute themselves for representative associations that assist the excluded, but rather to highlight their actions and analyses, to have leverage on the fight against social injustice.

Jean-Baptiste Legrand, one of the brothers that created the association, is a film director, so he realized a movie called « Enfants de Don Quichotte-Acte 1 » in 2008. It is about the event they made near The Canal St-Martin in Paris, what they have done, and they explain that it was a kind of resistance. With this, it shows how they organized it, from the inside, but the most important thing is that it was more about publicity about what it's like in a community with homeless.

If this cause benefits from the support of nearly 15,000 supporters (listed in the newsletter on Facebook), the association has only a dozen of volunteers and receives no public subsidy. It is funded solely by donations from individuals or associations.

Another association that has strong media power is "Les restos du coeur" that could be translated by “ kind-hearted restaurants”. It was created in 1985 by Coluche, a famous French actor, in order to distribute meals to those in need. As they said, their aim is to “to help and volunteer to assist those in need, particularly in the food sector through access to free meals, and participation in their social and economic, as well as any action against poverty in all its forms."

Much of the association's resources come from donations and bequests (42.8% in 2009/2010). Products are added to their operations (17.8% in 2009/2010) and grants from public (in 2009/2010, 21.1% for national and 13.5% of products from the EU).

In 2010-2011, they distributed 109 millions and they hosted 860 000 people in this period. Thanks to donations amounting to 74 000 0000 Euros in 2010-2011, they can make an advertising campaign on television with a slogan "we count on you", which conveys a kind of appeal to the generosity of the French.

In addition to that , and it became well known over the years, the association "Restaurants du Coeur” made concerts with famous French people, whether it be singers, actors or other well-known personalities and they are also televised. These actions made "Les restos du coeur" a well-known association in France, and they managed to have 540,000 donors over the same period.

- *If applicable give example of actions organized by homeless people*

As actions made by the homeless, it's possible to see some organizations on internet, but they are all local and not national. Moreover, it's hard to make an association for all the homeless, because of the difficulty for the homeless to have access to media.

You can also see that the fight against exclusion of the homeless can take other forms, such as with sport. You can see that there is a “homeless World cup” in football, and the last took place in Paris in 2011. The first event of the "Homeless World Cup" took place in

Graz, Austria in 2003. Nel Young, a Scottish editor of a newspaper sold by homeless people, is behind that social project.

It's more like a project of reinsertion, but it can also change their life even if it's very rare. In 2010, the prestigious club Manchester United recruited the Portuguese Bebe, who has the distinctive feature of having played a World Cup for the homeless.

*Around 3 pages*

## 6. Characteristic of (name of organization)

*Contents:*

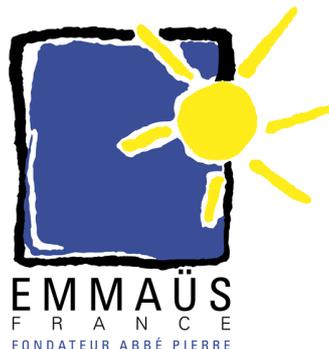
- *Please find one institution or organization in your city or region which is acting on homeless people exclusion*

### ❖ **NAME AND LOCALIZATION:**

Emmaüs France, 47 avenue de la résistance, 93104 Montreuil

### ❖ **NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:**

- 7109 volunteers
  - 4365 employees
  - 3859 companions
- *Put name, logo and website of this institution*



### ❖ **WEBSITE INFORMATIONS:**

- **URL :** <http://www.emmaus-france.org/>
- **AGE :** Early 2010
- **MANAGEMENT :**

- L'éclaireur, 14 rue Notre-Dame de Nazareth, 75003 Paris / [www.les-eclaireurs.com](http://www.les-eclaireurs.com)
- Neuvième page, 36 rue des Martyrs, 75009 Paris / [www.neuviemepage.com](http://www.neuviemepage.com)
- *Give short description of this intuition – historical background, organizational structure, internal sources etc.*

❖ **AGE OF THE ORGANIZATION:** The movement Emmaüs was created in 1949 by the Abbé-Pierre, but the association of all French associations members of Emmaus International, was created in 1985. Emmaüs France has now 27 years.

Throughout its history, the Emmaus Movement, united and secular, has always managed to be innovative and responsive in adapting its fight against exclusion specifically to changes in poverty. It is the specificity of a solidarity movement always facing the reality in the field that, by putting the work at the heart of its practice, it offers unrestricted welcome to those who need it. This is also what allows Emmaus, whenever necessary, to participate freely in the public debate by contrasting its own practices.

Emmaus France, a member of Emmaus International, brings together all the Emmaus groups in France. To better reflect the great diversity of forms of intervention, Emmaus France, since 2003 is structured into three branches: the branch community, social housing and the economy of solidarity and integration branch.

Emmaus France is administered by a Board of Directors of 25 members from Emmaus groups and led by a team employee.

#### ❖ **CONCEPT**

With Emmaus, you can buy furniture, objects, electronics equipment, and clothing. If you want to give all types of material, two options available to you:

- You can directly deposit your donations in the Emmaus group nearest to you.
- The Emmaus group may go directly to your home for free.

For donations of clothing, in addition to deposits in groups, you can leave your donations in the “Relay” containers .

- *Give short description of activity against homeless people exclusion of this institution*

**SOLIDARITY:** The motor action of the Emmaus Movement is based on the actual exercise of solidarity. Solidarity from the plural outreach projects to the international dimension.

**THE HOST:** The reception is one of the founding values of the Emmaus Movement.

**RECOVERY AND RE-EMPLOYMENT:** Today, 191 Emmaus structures (communities, integration structures) in 87 departments act on the field of recovery with a mode of intervention and a unique know-how: it is home mostly to collect, or receive on-site, products of all kinds donated by individuals.

**EMPLOYMENT AND INTEGRATION:** Through their activities of recovery, re-use and sale, the integration structures of the Emmaus Movement use an original action of integration or support for people in great difficulty, hitherto excluded from the world of work.

**ACCOMMODATION AND HOUSING:** Faced with intolerable situations experienced by the homeless or inadequately housed, the Emmaus groups develop responses to the needs of that "roofless" population ( and too often with "no rights" ) , which results in a strong action of monitoring and questioning.

**STRUGGLE AGAINST INDEBTEDNESS:** Nearly 6 million French people now recognize it is difficult for them to repay their debts ; over one million have used the procedures for solving indebtedness problems since the inception of that programme . For over 40 years, Emmaus conducts prevention activities against indebtedness problems with families in difficulty. In France, it's the "SOS families" who are responsible for that programme.

*Around 2 pages*



## Conclusions

### *Contents:*

- *Recommendation or suggestions how to act with homeless people exclusion in future in your country and in Europe*

Homelessness is still an ambiguous topic in today's society. Some measures such as those listed below may be wise

- The objective is to eradicate homelessness, rather than just “manage” it.
- Member states of the European Union are encouraged to seek solutions that lead to housing.
- Nobody should be left without resources, whatever their legal or administrative status may be .
- Homeless people should have the ability to participate as fully as possible in decision-making processes affecting their lives.
- The European Union needs an ambitious strategy on homelessness in order to define the national and regional strategies of member states

It is also important for governments to find means of avoiding or preventing exclusion ,to launch campaigns highlighting the exclusion of the homeless, not just to notice the situation of the homeless.

To facilitate their reintegration, events like the football World Cup might be organized for the homeless. This famous World Cup, which brought together more than 500 homeless, particularly in 2008, continues each year to attract more people and nationalities. Such events have to be assumed in order to create other similar events in other activities, not just sport, so that homeless people can be reintegrated, or at least so that their exclusion should be limited.

*Around 1 page*

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