

**LLP-ERASMUS
Intensive Programme**

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

Social exclusion of homeless people in Hungary

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Definition of homelessness

The definition of the homeless can vary from country to country because homelessness is essentially a cultural definition based on concepts such as “adequate housing”, “minimum community housing standard” or “security of tenure” which can be perceived in different ways by different communities. For certain policy purposes, some people living in institutions may be considered homeless persons.

For individuals not in private or institutional households, the following two categories or degrees of homelessness can be considered:

(1.0) Primary homelessness: (or rooflessness). This category includes persons living in the streets without a shelter that would fall within the scope of living quarters.

(2.0) Secondary homelessness: This category may include persons with no place of usual residence who move frequently between various types of accommodations (including dwellings, shelters, and institutions for the homeless or other living quarters). This category includes persons living in private dwellings but reporting “no usual address” on their census form.

A homeless person can be broadly defined as a person who, because of the lack of housing, has no other option than to sleep:

a) Rough or in buildings which were not designed for human habitation,

- b) In emergency centers, or night shelters,
- c) In emergency accommodation in hotels, guest houses or bed and breakfast;
- d) In hospitals due to a lack of decent shelter; or
- e) In accommodation temporarily provided by friends or relatives because of the lack of a permanent place to stay.

In practice, it is difficult to identify, and then to collect information on homeless people.

For this group, it may be possible to make an estimate using different sources of information, such as, capacity of emergency shelters and information provided in social housing applications.

As for housing and population censuses, both these categories (roofless homeless and secondary homeless) should only include persons who are not usual residents in any living quarter category. This means that the individuals are not occupants in conventional dwellings, in other housing units or in collective living quarters in such a way that these living arrangements constitute their usual residence. The majority of these persons can be considered homeless.

Habitants of Hungary

The number of inhabitants of Hungary was 9.999.000 in August 2010. The number of inhabitants in the capital of Hungary, Budapest was 1.733.685 in January 2011. Since 1981 number of the births is a lot

lower than the death rate, therefore the population of this country is continuously decreasing (birth rate 9.6 compared to 12.68 death rate per 1000). The country has the annual growth of -0.17 %.

Regarding the structure of the population it belongs to the aging nations. According to some estimation the number of Hungarian people will be 8.490.000 by 2050. At the moment the under fifteen generation is 14.93 %, from fifteen to sixty-four is 68,22% and the over sixty-four generation is 16,85% of the overall population of Hungary. The average life expectancy is 74, 79 years. There were 4.302.827 apartments registered in 2010. In case of nationality Hungary is quite homogeneous, because 92,3% of its inhabitants considered themselves Hungarians, and 99% of the total population speaks Hungarian.

History of homelessness in Hungary

Around the age of system change, homelessness was known as a particular social problem. And then the leaders of the country for the first time in decades started to deal with the problem. The increase of housing expenses, elimination of dangers of work avoidance and shutting down of many accommodations of skilled workers for several reasons or used for other purposes- all this led to a large increase in the number of homeless people.

Some other sociological factors played a very important role of growing the rate of homelessness in Hungary. These were, and nowadays also are, poverty, unemployment, conflicts in the family, housing problems, alcoholism and drug usage. Dealing with the homeless people is the government's responsibility to be taken care of. The state leading government executes it through the local governments, with the usage of tendering system to support local civic and public organisations, which create the social care services for the homeless people. Homelessness became a social problem from a political issue.

Therefore the social law created new types of shelters for these people, for handling the catering through the day, they created day shelters and for the temporary sleeping problem they created the night shelters, temporary accommodations and long term rehabilitation homes.

Nowadays, the homeless situation is generated by different sociological causes, which recently has stronger and stronger effects. These causes are impoverishment, unemployment, difficulties in finding new homes, losing homes, and alcohol/drug consumption. These causes lead directly to conflicts inside the family and then indirectly to homelessness.

There are some cases in which the person, who becomes homeless, was treated in a welfare institution after long or short imprisonment and then they cannot integrate in the society because of themselves. They can't integrate not because of the lack of help from the social care institution, but because of their antisocial, not law abiding behaviour.

Homelessness is a state, resulted from multiple element processes. The economic factors play an important role in the evolution of this state, but these are not the only causes. The structure and conformation of the society, state of different groups in the society, and also the individual causes can have a great effect in the final results.

Scientists have argued that homelessness will not just mean the lack of home, but the disappearance of network of contacts, which secures the person and maintains the state of wealth and health as well, means resources and availability to handle financial problems more easily.

Statistical data of homeless people in Hungary:

Those who were willing to give answers on febr 3rd 2011			
Place	Accommodation	Street	Total
Budapest	2137	1150	3287
Countryside	2192	1720	3912
Total	4329	2870	7199

As we can see that more people live in countryside as a homeless person, than in the capital city. The percentage of homeless people in the countryside and the capital city is 60-40% which means that it is not a big difference. one fifth of the Hungarian inhabitants live in the capital city, but 40% of the homeless people lives here, which means Budapest is more attractive for them, because they have more opportunities to choose from.

No. of homeless people on the streets febr. 3 2011				
City	2008	2009	2010	2011
Budapest	1189	1360	1252	1150
Countryside	1376	1360	1816	1720
Total	2565	2862	3068	2870

In this table we can see the number of homeless people decreased in case of 2011 figures. There are two reasons: the number of

organisations that made this survey decreased that year and the other is that the number of homeless people in Budapest slightly decreased. However, we can draw the conclusion from the data table that the number of homeless people in the countryside increased a lot. In the past the percentage of homeless people in the countryside compared to Budapest was 54 to 47%.

Here is the changing of the number of homeless people during the four years.

The changing number of homeless people who are willing to give answers for different social organisations.

Place	Homeless Accommodation				Streets			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Budapest	2003	2326	2658	37	1189	1360	1252	50
Country-side	1705	1933	2293	2192	1376	1502	1816	1720
Total	3708	4259	4951	4329	2565	2862	3068	2870

The set up of the homeless people in Budapest (figures from February 3, 2011):

According to the social workers in the capital, there were 1150 person sleeping in the streets, while the others are sleeping in night refuges (2044 beds), temporary accommodations (2774 beds), periodic

accommodations (500 beds) and accommodations for families (1287 beds). 6605 person spent the night in some kind of accommodation, with the homeless people, who were sleeping on the street, their number all in all was 7755 person without a home that day.

In Budapest all together 33 organizations deal with offering accommodation for homeless people . 33% of the accommodations are in the hands of the local governments, 39% of them are in the property of private organisations and 24% is at different congregations. 85% of the accommodations which are available for the homeless people are in Pest and 15% is in Buda.

Data of the different types of accommodations and their owners in Budapest (2011 figure):

The largest number of beds available in temporary homeless accommodations was offered by Budapest Methodological Centre of Social Policy and its Institutions and the local governments. the number of capacity was 1386.

The civil organizations made 442 beds available for the public, where the Hungarian Red Cross (Magyar Vöröskereszt) offered 261 places. The congregations had all together 946 person capacity, where the biggest number of capacity was 690 person offered by Mag Népe Kozmikus Egyháromság Egyháza.

In case of night shelters the total number of capacity was for 2044 people, in which the BMCSP and local governments had 656 places, the civil organizations had 1036 places and the congregations had 352 places to share. The second biggest in case of civil organizations is the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service with which we will deal later on.

Therefore, from these data we can either draw the conclusion that in some cities in the countryside, the number of homeless people decreased, or just the data collection was not so sufficient to collect true information about the real numbers.

The sociological characteristics of homeless people:

In the 90s several studies have been made, which are proved to be still valid nowadays for homeless people.

The average age of homeless people is between the ages of 38-44. This is because of the fact that younger people use welfare institutions, rather than those who are on the streets.

The 75% of the homeless people is between the ages of 30-60, however in the society the percentage of the total population is just 50%.

Homeless people from 50-60 are more likely to be in the streets, rather than in any kind of institution.

People who are more than 60 years old represent 25% of the overall Hungarian society, but in the case of homeless people, they are fewer than 10%. This is obviously because of the fact that the average life expectancy of homeless people is much lower than those who live in normal living conditions.

In the past ten years, the number of homeless women doubled, they are now 25% of the whole homeless society.

However, homeless people are more educated than the average people. 20 % of the average people do not graduate the 8th grade of the elementary school, and in case of homeless people this rate is between 14-5% (it varies in different studies). The proportion of those people who completed their 8th grade is quite big and especially the number of those people who are skilled workers. On the other hand, the number of those homeless people is much lower than those who have the certificate of high school education, or even have a bachelor degree. The skilled workers mainly have the qualification of that kind of jobs, which are no longer in demand.

Groups of homeless people:

Completion of state education (due to the age), or family conflict or even after imprisonment are causes for going to the streets.

The group of slowly sliding downs: they are mostly uneducated, poor, mainly living from agriculture, or families living in the countryside, having industrial skilled qualification. This group is mainly made up of middle aged or older, skilled workers or even divorced.

Those who are in bad mental conditions, maybe psychiatric, coming from social homes, hospitals, or they are mentally handicapped.

Long lasting group of homeless people, who are in the streets for more than 10 years. This group consists mainly of middle aged uneducated people.

Addiction, (drug abuse or even gambling) leads to losing the house/apartment therefore they have no place to live.

After a divorce, some people don't want to go back to his or her own house, or if the house was the other spouse's , they choose the streets.

Because of the death of the main earner of the family they have to change radically their life habits, sometimes the whole family can get to the streets.

Some of the homeless people are not dealing with the social care organisations, because they don't want to comply with the obligatory rules either of the day shelters, or temporary accommodations. They are so to say at the lowest level of this group, because they don't want to adapt to any kind of institution, which would like to help them. They are just following their own rules, living their personal freedom.

Current causes of unemployment:

Magyar Aluminium Zrt had a sludge reservoir, which was ruptured. Because of the rupture the red sludge flooded with its 600-700 thousand m³ 800 hectares of its surroundings. It made large devastation in the villages of Devecser and Kolontár. Due to this catastrophe 300-400 people became homeless.

Nearly 2 million people are groaning under growing debt as the strong Swiss franc makes their loans in that currency insupportable. Therefore lot of loan takers got into trouble and in some cases were forced out of their housings, because they couldn't pay the loan to the house.

Health characteristics of homeless people:

The appearance of large number of homeless people reached not just the social policy but also the healthcare unprepared. And this problem hasn't been solved yet.

The first (and only) homeless intervention case-study was performed in 1994, in which 350 homeless people from Budapest and 1000 (older than 18) person who has permanent apartment was asked to make a representative sample. So they basically compared the living standards of those who live in an apartment and those who don't.

The data of the study:

Between the homeless people the alcohol abstraction was 19 times in case of people who own a flat.

Suicide attempts are 6-7 times more likely to happen, rate of depression is four times more likely.

Twice as many homeless people complained of insomnia and continuous nervousness.

The rate of heart attacks was 8,8% in case of homeless people, and it was 5,6% in case of the representative house owners.

The frequency of TBC, was roughly ten times more, complaining about coughing was twice more, the choking complaints were 3 times more than in case of the control men inhabitants. The 41,4% of the control group smoked cigarette regularly compared to the 89,9% of the homeless persons.

Eight times more head injuries and 5 times more bone fractures.

Two times more homeless people see or hear worse and five times more deals with speech disorder.

Half % is harassed by parasites at those who are living in a permanent housing, while this rate is 7,4% in case of homeless people.

The homeless people weigh less and have lower height than the people living in normal conditions.



The structure and institutions of the social system in Hungary:

Basic social services:

Catering, Home help providing, helping families, community-based services, helping addicts, psychiatric patients low-threshold services, support service, signalling homecare, day care (elderly handicapped people, addicts, homeless), street social work.

Welfare institutions:

In case of welfare institutions, they can provide nursing care, rehabilitation, residential or temporary placement services either for disabled people, or for addicts, or for retired people or for homeless people.

Problems with the current social system:

Certain services, provided by different institutions may be cancelled because of the other's effect. The service they provide represents their own institutions interests. These institutions expect that the family who is in trouble should find them and then adapt to their rules and regulations. They make the necessary action, by finding and helping the family just in crisis situation. These institutions have been centralized. The various helping processes help solve some

problems for the family, while they divide the family members apart. Therefore it decreases the family cohesion.

The advantages of the integrated social system:

They handle, perform and evaluate different services in different kind of processes as well. They coordinate the processes according to the needs of the family. They plan and execute the services, offered for the families in order to prove the best for their lifestyle and family life. They try to solve the problems before it would led to crisis situation. They plan the different helping procedures regarding the family as a whole unit.



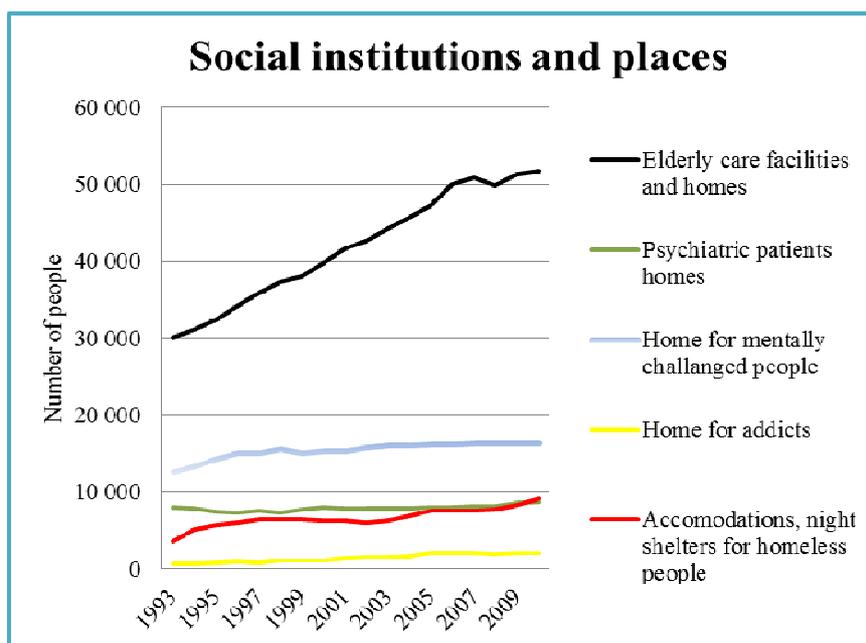
This picture shows the number of places in different institutions/homes for homeless people during the last 10 years. With the highest figure, more than 9000 (precisely 9175) places, the temporary placement can handle the most people. There the people can rest for the night, but they cannot stay for longer period of time.

Then the day shelters come, with more than 7000 places. These shelters can be used by homeless people just during the day. These shelters are mainly opened in the colder periods, from October to March in case of big colds. There the people can have a hot tea, while they can eat some bread with butter or grease. And they can also use freely the internet and telephone service, to find jobs.

The next category is the temporary shelters with place for 700 people. These places are usually containing rooms for two people; for men and women separately. They have a low monthly fee, for the

rooms and services. These pairs don't know each other before, and usually they have strong financial connection to their roommates.

As we can see from the graph, the number of day shelters and temporary placements for homeless people is continuously increasing with around 500 places, each year. The biggest change in the graph is at the case of day shelters, when then number of places at day shelters jumped approximately to 7500 from 5600. That was the result of the economic crisis, which reached Hungary at the end of 2008. Therefore they had to deal with lot more homeless people, who cannot stay at home during the day.



Here we can see another chart, which describes what type of institution has how many places for the given social sector. With this we can have a greater picture how many people are served in different type of social areas in Hungary.

As the chart clearly shows, the biggest number of those people, who need social support are the pensioners. They create these elderly care facilities and elder homes to provide a place for those pensioners, who don't have the money to maintain a rented apartment or house. As the Hungarian nation is an aging society, the number of older people will radially proportionally increase in the next 30 years. It increased from 30.000 to 51.000 during 17 years.

The next biggest social group, which needs social support, is the group of mentally challenged people. Because their state of mind doesn't enable them to live their lives on their own, and also they don't have those kind of family members who would take care of them, the local government's institutions has to take care of them. Their number slightly increased in this period, from 12.600 to 16.400 in placement.

The third group contains the psychiatric patients, with the number around 8000. Their number doesn't really change over 17 years. And as we can see, the place available for homeless people has increased almost equally, year by year. This and even more other factors resulted in 9175 counted homeless people in the country. According to the chart, homelessness has to gain more attention in Hungary, because it is a large problem, not just of the capital city, but in case of bigger cities all over the country.

Government role in preventing homeless people exclusion

Government decree to develop a Medium Term Action Plan with the aim of reducing the number of homeless people living in the streets, strengthening the safety of housing, preventing homelessness and developing the supply system of the homeless people.

The Government has to strengthen the social justice and solidarity, to prevent the cause of the homelessness, to provide real solutions for the homelessness, and to reinforce the safe housing performed the following resolution.

1. To support the housing of homeless people and expand their institutional care, and make the institutional services suitable for placing people living permanently in public areas - in contribution with the Foundation for Homeless People as an intermediary body - a competition has to be launched.

Responsible for this:

The Minister of State for Social, Family and Youth Affairs

Deadline: call for tender in 2011. February 28

2. In the interest of appropriate institutional attendance of permanently sick homeless people has to be suggested and backed in the counties and in Budapest within the existing institutional capacity 10 - 10

places to provide placing and nursing for homeless people - mostly living on the street -.

Responsible for this:

The Minister of State for Social, Family and Youth Affairs

Deadline: ongoing

3. With the involvement of relevant organizations and institutions a professional recommendation should be developed, which includes those which are recommended to be ensured before the issuance of the municipal decree upon sanctions applied in the case of violation of prescribed regulations on use of public area.

Responsible for this:

The Minister of State for Social, Family and Youth Affairs,

The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs

Deadline: 2011. February 28

4. The Government requests the Municipality of Budapest and the main urban districts in the county, cities and county seats, and any municipality, in which there is a beehive traffic junction mainly used by homeless people for accommodation, satisfying the basic human needs.

5. The Government calls on their ministers to consider the economic and legal conditions, in the case of the above mentioned (4. Point).

Responsible for this:

The Minister of State for Social,

Family and Youth Affairs,

The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs,

The Minister of State for Development Policy Coordination

Deadline: 2011. February 28

6. The Government calls on the local municipalities to establish and operate a consultative body with all the stakeholders with aim of handling the homelessness, making the operation of the supply system more efficient and strengthening the housing security. The ideas of the body should be published.

7. Special attention should be focused on the causes of housing for homeless people and to promote employment SROP 5.3.3. called program's low level of candidate activity, one should define all the necessary steps, modifications and tasks, that will result in an improved number of candidates in order to involve an even greater number - at least equal to the original indicators – homeless people - mostly living in the street.

Responsible for this:

The Minister of State for Social, Family and Youth Affairs,
The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs,
The Minister of State for Development Policy Coordination,
The Minister of State for Social Inclusion

Deadline: 2011. March 31

8. With the involvement of the relevant ministries, experts, social and advocacy organisations' representatives a team has to be established, with the aim of considering the economic and legal conditions necessary for

- a) expansion of the rental housing stock,
- b) housing subsidies should be more pronounced instead of present incentives for owners (built, purchased) schemes,
- c) differentiated, but consolidated, consistent with the objectives and logic of access to housing and housing support retention system is established,
- d) the control system meet the new approach to housing policy as described above and ensure the security of housing,
- e) the housing policies strengthened by the social housing policy and considering the social issues more strongly than in the past and seek to take into account the welfare of other spheres with the aim of common solutions and cooperation with them.

Responsible for this:

The Minister of State for National Economy,
The Minister of State for Social, Family and Youth Affairs,
The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs,
The Minister of State for Development Policy Coordination,
The Minister of State for Social Inclusion
Deadline: 2011. May 31

9. With the involvement of the relevant ministries, experts, social and advocacy organisations' representatives a team has to be established,

- a) in order to strengthen the housing safety of families and individuals,
- b) for the development of the eviction time indicator warning system,
- c) for the determination of the preventive measures of eviction,
- d) to help evicted families, individuals in housing and
- e) to suggest solutions for regularization of the situation of who are threatened by eviction due to world financial crisis, and for the financial conditions of the necessary measures.

Responsible for this:

The Minister of State for National Economy,
The Minister of State for Social, Family and Youth Affairs,
The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs,
The Minister of State for Development Policy Coordination,
The Minister of State for Social Inclusion
Deadline: 2011. March 31

10. With the involvement of the relevant ministries, experts, social and advocacy organisations' representatives a team has to be established,

a) for the revision of the operation, financial and professional conditions of homeless-care and

b) to determine the necessary measures, financial and professional challenges in the establishment of rehabilitation targeted, in homeless people point of view effective, personalized supply provider institutional system.

Responsible for this:

The Minister of State for National Economy,

The Minister of State for Social, Family and Youth Affairs,

The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs,

The Minister of State for Development Policy Coordination,

The Minister of State for Social Inclusion

Deadline: 2011. May 31

For our analysis, we have chosen two organizations. These are amongst the most popular and the most active organizations in Hungary according to the programs for homeless people.

These are the the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service (Magyar Máltai Szeretet szolgálat) and the Budapest Methodological Centre of Social Policy and its Institutions (Budapesti Módszertani Szociális Központ).

BMSZKI

The BMSZKI is the biggest organization in the capital of Hungary, in Budapest and in the Middle-Europe region still the one of the largest organizations. They are active in several centers of Hungary.

The BMSZKI pays attention to the consequences and the statistics what can be found on their webpage like a document about the last 40 +20 years related to the homeless people in Hungary, and analyzing the causes of being out in the street. The BMSZKI made statistics about the number of the homeless people in Budapest compared to homeless situation on the countryside.

Győri Péter's 'Opening to the street' program (2007):

This organization had some really important programs for the homeless people to help them get back to the social world, and make it easy for them. In 2007 Győri Péter released a plan according to integration.

The aim:

The aim of this program is to help the people who live in the streets to be a real member of the society again. In this program the flexible transformation of the BMSZKI is another goal to get more homeless people from the street to the institutions and give them the relevant services and prevent their recession. There was an experimental program what made the institutions able to adopt the people from the streets and keep them.

Attracting the attention of the members of the society, giving more information, and set the institutions free of the barriers to enter, increase the opportunities of being inside of them and make the social work more effective and stronger.

There are some facts making the whole process harder, answering the question why the homeless people do not use the institutions. The main reason why they use them is the safety, the cold weather and the services they get in there.

But on the other side there are much more reasons why to stay out in the cold without any protection. These can depend on them or their



features. In some cases they cannot choose, when they keep animals, or have a kind of disease or they simply choose not to go in, because they have to pay, or they have some conflicts with each other, in other cases they may want to drink alcohol, or they do not accept any rules.

The elements of the program:

1. Prevention

Prevention seems the first step to stop the increasing number of people with no home. At first the families get help to survive the crises of their own, and save them from moving out of their houses. The other segment includes those who were in prison or in state care. These people need care and special services to defend them like the Regional Specialized Services for Child Care. BMSZKI has a residence especially for young people (<25) and special attention.

2. Integration- EQUAL Program

Without this element, any of the stages of the program are impossible. The BMSZKI is one of the members in THE UNITED FORCE PARTNERSHIP. Their success is the EQUAL Program (2005-2007). Its goal is to help homeless people leave services and live an active, self-sustaining life as integrated members of society. It started with

creating job centres than creating and operating a Social Information Centre to inform the users and the social workers also and assess the needs of the homeless people by tests.

There are training modules , teaching homeless people the basic IT skills, and empowering the Roofless streetpaper.

The next program was to train the social workers. The last step was transnational activities, in this cooperation the project carries out activities in partnership with three other similar projects (Interprepa→ Paris, Motiva→ Madrid, TMD→ London).

It has 4 different objectives:

- '▶ *Objective 1: To exchange practice and test new methods for routes into activity, including engagement and volunteering.*
- ▶ *Objective 2: To exchange practice and test new methods for routes into the labour market, addressing the needs of both individuals and employers, and including mechanisms such as social enterprise, corporate social responsibility, and access to the open labour market.*
- ▶ *Objective 3: To use a variety of sources of information to identify and compare the impact of multiple disadvantage on the target groups.*
- ▶ *Objective 4: To exchange practice and test new methods for participation to empower the identified target groups and individuals'*

3. Open services

Győri Péter wrote about how to inform homeless people to make them sure of that they will be helped.

Information sheets were planned to be placed in the hostels and those places that provide accommodation. And so there were planned to be open days to show the services through the everyday actions, and to chase their doubts away.

BMSZKI opens some services for homeless people at daytime with hygiene opportunities, opportunity to wash the clothes, to drink hot tea, eat sandwiches, take care of their things, administration, and to search for a job.

4. Vándorút (Fregolization)

This program is about moving the social workers between the institutions to make the process of learning to work with homeless people more effective. This is for the development of the workers' skills and to be more experienced and flexible.

5. Deliverence of the cases

This is about moving the clients between the institutions. There had been problems about this caused by the losses of the information, but with this program the client was present also to save the information.

6. Familiar faces

This program is for lowering the feeling of distrust, or mistrust so that homeless people can trust and be more willing to go in the accommodation. 'Vándorút' is part of the program 'Familiar Faces' , this is the first step on the way of getting to know the homeless people and make them a bit more familiar with the social workers.

7. FET

FET is a program to move the clients between the institutions, this makes the placement easier, because there were planned to be a communication structure with e-mails, if somewhere there is a free place that information must get to every institution to make the placement of the new homeless people possible.

8. Extended street

This program is to modify the social work in the street especially empowering the work on the street and make it more effective with increasing the number of the social workers there among homeless people.

In this program, there were planned to be shelters for the night, transitional lodging and the employ former homeless people who now have roof over their heads to serve as an example to keep on hoping. And those people are very important who have good communication skills, and are enthusiastic.

9. Instead of warming rather a centre

If an integration centre is working instead of just warming makes the roofless' life keep on rolling with efficient features. These people start to make their life here, every morning they get the common services like food, rest, washing. In the afternoon, they get special help, and team working, and activities with other people, and at nights the common services are available again.

10. Access hostel

The goal is to let the houseless people stay longer into the lodge and help them to make changes in their lifestyle. These are only for those who were for longer time on the streets or with recommendation from a social worker. This has some conditions, like these are for maximum one month, the own stuff can be brought in and homeless people can get health care and vitamins.

2011 → The new conception by Győri Péter

Aims:

The common aim is to prevent homeless people to get frozen.

A new aim is to provide them better circumstances.

A medium-term aim is to cease being roofless.

Activities connected:

The Nursing Home Site in Gödöllő is going to be work for old homeless people living in Budapest.

The mayor will be asked to start negotiations with the institutions of the Metropolitan Government according to the homeless people being hired.

Ensure at least 2*50 roomed pavilion for the supply of homeless people and for nursing them.

- at least one disinfecting station in Budapest.
- increase the number of psychiatric workers.

The mayor will be asked to help the child care institutions

- with maintaining the aftercare system and expand it
- decrease the risk of losing home and support home making
- advantage for youngsters from Child care institutions in maisonette competitions

The Hungarian Maltese Charity Service

The Hungarian Maltese Charity is making its activities in the Karpatian Basin in Hungary. Its 20 years long past have created solutions for problems in the social and health care sphere, these are recognised part of the entire system. In the Humanitarian field they collected several experiences with Romanian and Yugoslavian aid projects. Their task is to give their experiences to those who are in the need. They have foreigner friends from whom they get help, especially in the first years. This leads them to participate in international activities, however this is not their main task.

THEIR PROGRAMS

Laundry - 2007

The distributor of Vanish the Reckitt Benckiser Ltd. had supported the laundry of the MMSz in the Mosoly street with 5 million HUF where the organization hires homeless people. The program was so successful, more than 8 tons of clothes were collected. This action was repeated in 2009 in Veszprém to establish a laundry there that is supported by Vanish with 5 million HUF again.

To the building of the laundry hiring homeless people the MMSz get through competition, so the project was supported with 26 million HUF. A part of this covers the wage cost of the workers. During the test period 10 homeless people were planned to be employed with the

aim of reintegration of workforce market. The ‘employers’ got out of 50 applicants who took part in a short training, then during this work started to prepare (with a mentor) to acquire the attitudes needed for employment.

This program was from 2007 to 2010.

Annual Report 2010

Their annual report in 2010 included their activities from the Flood to the social work in Roma colonies.

The social workers at the night shelter called “The Train” has been aiming for years to give guidance to homeless people with some income on how to economize. In 2010 they rather needed assistance, regrettably, in finding work. While earlier 10-12 people left for work in the morning, this winter only 2-3 of them had regular employment.

In the fall of 2010 two so called “Survival Points” were opened in Budapest at Southern and Western Railway Stations for homeless people, who reject institutional care. These Points were operated something like “heated streets”, social care was not provided there, these places only served to protect people from freezing to death. The strategy of care in the case of people living in the street primarily is aimed to assist homeless to get out of bad living conditions. The street outreach service using so called “mapping, and locating” methods discovered a number of new, so far unknown places, where homeless people were staying regularly or temporarily. The most effective element of care strategy in 2010 was that social workers tried to direct the

homeless back to their original surroundings, where living conditions were better suited to get out of a homeless style of living. *This spring a homeless man, who used to live in the street in Budaôrs, was resettled to his hometown to Sepsiszentgyörgy, Romania. By now he has a job and lives in his own house with his family.* Within this programme homeless people who lived in fourteen underpasses of the capital had to be given accommodation elsewhere. The underpasses located in Buda belonged to the area supervised by the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, so the activists of the Service tried to provide more acceptable accommodation to the homeless concerned using the available capacities of the crisis centres.

The Happy Street Boys-2010

This is the band of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta formed by homeless musicians. They try to use music as a tool to help finding breakout points from homelessness. As it is planned their appearances may contribute to the reduction of prejudices and to the acceptance of the homeless. At a number of occasions this band had appearances in the media. They have had three successful concerts so far.



Patrons of Miklós street - 2010

The shelter of the homeless in Miklós Street started collecting donations for the The Chronicle of Berettyószéplak (Berettyószéplaki Krónika), a Transylvanian journal published in Hungarian. The transport of clothing and of other donations collected was organised by the parish priest of Berettyószéplak and an employee of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta.

Table tennis competition for the homeless people in Komárom - 2010

Seventy disabled children took part in the local paralympic games organised by the Group of Komárom. An important sport event was the table tennis competition for the homeless with the participation of 25 people.

Religious journals and saplings donated in Gyula – 2010

Before the Lent and Christmas, members of the group of Gyula visited about 80-100 old people in Elderly Homes. They gave presents to 90

homeless living in institutions and organised Christmas parties for the elderly in cooperation with the Hungarian Caritas. 35 persons were invited and presented with Christmas food parcels.

Bikes are collected in Szeged – 2010

They also collected bicycles for the homeless. Co-operating with medical doctors and teachers they organised a health prevention and health protection course. They were active in renting medical appliances, hospital beds and advertised their activities within the town on leaflets distributed by homeless people.

Number of persons receiving care in the institutions of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in 2010

HOMELESS CARE	Number of institutions/services	Yearly average of beneficiaries
Day-care centre of the homeless	14	12,096
Temporary home for the homeless	3	161
Nursing home for the homeless	3	105
Night shelter	6	751

Temporary shelter places	8	796
Street outreach service	15	1,814

Although there are only twenty groups of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in the region, their services are accessible in many other settlements, so the aid activities are available to eight-hundred thousand people altogether. Groups of volunteers are dealing mainly with collection and distribution of clothing, but almost all of the groups have some special activities, like operation of a club for addicts, delivery of food, blood pressure checking, etc. Secondary school students joined voluntary activities, where they are involved in the everyday activities of Homeless Day-care Centre in Szeged and in Kecskemét. Year by year they join the solidarity actions called *“One night for the homeless”* and *“72 hours without compromises”*. Over the year many educational institutions joined programmes of the Charity Service In the region there are four street outreach services, two homeless day-care centres. In Szeged sick homeless patients are received in a health centre in Kecskemét medical consultation is available for the homeless.

Dinner for homeless people – 2011

In December in 5 days almost a thousand portion of dinner had been distributed among the homeless people in Veszprém. This was the second time to deliver food to the roofless people there. All the people in the institutions for homeless people got food this time, and also the people out on the streets, and in the wood received from this.

Where to ‘put’ the homeless people? – 2011

‘Instead of magisterial actions against homeless people, they should be given social work and opportunity to work or place them with tailor-made solutions’ – said the Vice President of the MMSz.

One of the main problems was that the laundries adopt the easy cases first, and have nothing to do with those who have psychiatric problems or are unable to keep their urine.

But Vecsei Miklós gave an advice and then more than 70 percent of those homeless people who avoided the services, accepted the tailor-made offers, and stayed in that institution. This was done not by violent actions by the police, but by qualified social workers. With the words of Vecsei Miklós, the dignity of the community cannot be cherished without raising the individual.

Miskolc – 2012

Search for the roofless people is part of the social work on the street, then get them to the appropriate foundation, informing them, provide them services, health care and social work with individuals etc. The most important element of helping the homeless people is to provide them food in public area. This time the organization provided tea, and on weekdays they gave sandwiches to 80 people.

Winter shelter on the bus station – 2012

A new night shelter opened by the MMSz in Budapest, the Volánbusz Ltd. gave its places of their educational center.

In the foundations of MMSz there are 252 permanent and 52 temporal places. They never reject anybody, they make places in the corridor also in some cases if needed.

40 tons of cover – 2012

20 000 covers was offered to the MMSz by the Hungarian Army what is 40 tons. Most of them are used in the crisis period in temporary institutions or institutions with extended number of homeless people. This amount seems much, but some of them get worn out so quickly, so that it is not worth washing it which proves that this amount is needed.

Conclusion:

In Hungary there are lots of homeless people, with really diverse background and possibilities to move on. The tendency of them is considerably good, meaning that they are informed in most cases and looking for help at the those institutions, which can efficiently solve their problems. Unfortunately the social system is not working as efficient as it should be, because of the rapid appearance of this problem.

In order to help the homeless people, there are several types and really big number of organizations. These foundations try to do their bests to save lives and to help the roofless people back to society.

The common activities of the institutions in Hungary are mostly to give roof above the people, who are in the need of that, and give them a place where they can have a rest, what means shelter for the people on the street. These institutions usually organize programs and activities to give food to the people whether they are poor or have no home. These are rather around the holidays, mostly in Christmastime.

Another activity that is usual and most of these kind of organizations do and use is to collect them clothes and other stuff needed in the cold in winter, or rather collect for them through different kind of programs like concerts, and competitions.

More or less these organizations organize similar programs to help the people and fight for their rights to help them become real part of the society as everyone else in the country or help them back to the life they had before.



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