Helsinki Study Visit
Mazovian Stakeholders of Homelessness
hosted by The Y-Foundation
17-19 March, 2014
Mazovian Stakeholders of Homelessness

- informal network: knowing each other, keeping in touch, working for change
- Local Seminars of Stakeholders: Warsaw 2012, Szczytno and Płock 2013
- Publications
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mazowieccy-Interesariusze-Bezdomno%C5%9Bci/191944790974651?fref=ts
- Study visits
Presentations

1. *Homelessness Policy in PL*, Julia Wygnańska,
2. *Homelessness Policy on local level*, Agnieszka Sejda, Jacek Gereluk
3. *Camilian Mission of Social Assistance*, Adriana Porowska,
4. *Individual Programme of Personal Development*, Agata Pietras (separate file)
5. Contact details for networking
1. Homelessness Policy in PL

Julia Wygnańska
Legal framework

• Social Welfare Act
  – Each gmina is obliged to *provide shelter, food and necessary clothing to any person in need on its territory*
  – Definition of homelessness: administrative in regard to registration for permanent stay, local connection very important
  – Income criteria for social welfare 456 PLN and benefits up to the level of the criterium

• Act on the Protection of the Rights of Tenants and Local Housing Stock
  – Communal housing apartments/communal social housing apartments for people with low or very low income
  – Housing Allowance
  – Criteria set on local level by gminas, gminas responsible for managing the stock

• The Act on Public Benefit and Volunteering
  – Two forms of financial cooperation of public administration and non-governmental organizations implementing public tasks: providing support (partial funding) or entrusting (contracting out, full funding)

• Gap in the legislation – no clear obligation to provide transitional/supported housing

• Additional rather *ad hoc* – although sometimes long term - funding from national grant programmes including ESF, EEA and private fundations

• No national strategy/programme although there were attempts in 2008 and 2013/2014. Policy regulated mostly by Acts – hardly any effective programmes/strategies in any field.
Services provided

• Hidden camera in nightshelter in Warsaw: scroll down to „Noclegownia”

• Prevailing:
  – Warmingups, food distribution, nightshelters (noclegownia), shelters (CMSA), long term homes (Antidotum), community homes – about 630, advice and information

• Existing:
  – supported/training apartments (bye-laws include sobriety, monitoring by social worker, income criteria) 1300 people, street working, social economy,

• Lacking (or not integrated with homelessness policy):
  – Advocacy, mental health and post traumatic services, prevention – immediate intervention in crisis situations experienced by well functioning people

• General policy flavour:
  – Employment led, apartment as a reward for graduating from the shelter available to a few – ladder, heterogenous services for specific conditions of local institutional setting

• Plans:
  – Local Standard for Getting out of Homelessness – a systemic project implemented by ngo networks (PL FEANTSA members, CMSA outside – we contest the results so far). Consists of six specialist „standards” for services for the homeless.
Stakeholders

- Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Department of Welfare and Social Integration
  (Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development – housing)
- Human Rights Defender
- Local governments (2480 gminas): social policy and housing departments
- Local Public Welfare Centres (2480)
- Organizations and institutions supporting the homeless
  - bazy.ngp.pl - 1327 (inculdes ngos, congregations etc. and any institution that mentioned homeless people among their clients)
  - MPiPS register of services for the homeless – 630 homes, shelters and nightshelters
- Ngos running services for the homeless:
  - National networks: MONAR, CARITAS, TPBA (about 180 services of 630)
  - Regional networks: Barka, EMAUS, Chleb Życia Community, PKPS, Stowarzyszenie Penitencjarne Patronat (up to 100 services of 630)
  - Local (or with some charters): CMSA, Stowarzyszenie Pomocy Wzajemnej Być Razem Cieszyn, Open Door Association, Antidotum Association, Stowarzyszenie Lekarzy Nadziei and other (about 300 services of 630)
  - Platforms of various organizations/institutions: PFWB, Warsaw Council for the Homeless,
Nature of „social work”

• Comparison of support system for the homeless to war/field hospital where the surgeon has to quickly decide who should be operated and who left to die. Prognosis has to be made on who has a chance to exit homelessness and be therefore supported by more advanced services (like housing) and who is hopeless and should be left to his fate in public space, nightshelters and sobering up units.

• Emotional problems of people who help others (lack of supervision, short and inadequate education, specific recruitment to „proffession of helping”, lack of reflection on impact of one’s own limitations on relationship of helping others); social help/social violece

• Low effectivness of social work interpreted as a fault/choice of supported person not as inadequacy of support.

• In self-help groups where staff recruites from former clients: I was able to stop my problems so should you (eg. drinking as a choice)

• Bye-laws and contracts to meet them as major tools for „motivating” clients. Lack of knowledge on how to work on internal self motivation, self-steering.
Policy evaluation

- Lack of need to measure **effectiveness** of single services/programmes as well as overall policy
- Criteria used: „administrative” correctness
- Prevalence of performance measures
- Quantity by point in time stock
- Lack of indicators of effectiveness/benefits of basic services
- Lack of cost and benefit analysis of existing services
Homelessness in numbers


• Official scale of homelessness:
  – Housing and Population Census 2011 - 25773 (9789 in public space)
  – Ministerial Headcount 2013 - 30603 (8445 in public space)
  – Wola pilot study: annual flow for 1/3 of services in Warsaw – 2000; avarage point in time stock about 308, 330 using all kinds of support.

Most probably uncounted in national counts:

• Living with family and friends, temporary/seasonal work rooms

• People on the margins of homelessness:
  – Loss of housing safety due to conflict in a family/financial problems in the family
  – Evictions
  – Debts due to loans and consumption credits

• Immigrants:

• Young people:
  – leaving care; migrating from small towns to study in big cities with lack of employment perspectives;
2. Homelessness Policy on local level

Agnieszka Sejda, Jacek Gereluk
Background

Municipality of Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki, 30 km from Warsaw, middle sized in PL
Area: 28 km2
Population: about 27 500.
Number of people who were clients of the Local Welfare Centre - 1,922
Homelessness:
• rooftop people (including gardening allotments and abandoned buildings) – 4
• people in shelters for the homeless (The Antidotum Association) – 5
• people supported by Local Welfare Centre „due to homelessness” - 22
• families in need of communal housing (meeting one of ETHOS Typology of housing situations) – about 500
• Families qualified by local government to receive communal housing – about 40
Average national salary – about 950 EURO brutto (about 600 EURO netto)
Lowest salary - about 300 EURO netto
Average rent on private housing market (for about 30 m2) – 250 EURO
Social Welfare Act – local duties

Gmina’s duties:

a. To people who are homeless and other people who have no income nor possibility to meet National Health Found criteria, local gmina can **grant a targeted financial benefit for covering all or part of the health care expenses.**

b. Each gmina is obliged to provide temporary abode in night shelter, shelter, home or other place for the homeless.

c. **Individual Program for Getting Out of Homelessness** (next page)

d. **Meal** – in soup-kitchens for the homeless and the poor

e. Provision of necessary **clothing**;

f. **crisis intervention** (specialist psychological legal and hostel services available round the clock 24h a day to people and families who are victims of domestic violence or in any other crisis situation in order to prevent permanent social disfunctions);

g. care services (to people who are single and due to old age, illness or other causes need to be supported by other people in meeting everyday needs, hygenic care, nursing and social functioning);

h. organizing a funeral;

i. Providing financial benefits (targeted, temporary, permanent)
Individual Program for Getting Out of Homelessness

1. A homeless person can get an IPGH which supports her in solving her problems in particular family and housing as well as employment.

2. IPGH is prepared together by a social worker from local welfare centre and homeless person. It has to be accepted by the director of the Local Welfare Centre.

3. If a homeless person resides in shelter or home for the homeless, IPGH can be drafted by social worker from the shelter, but look at point 5.

4. In case described in point 3, shelter/home for the homeless is an executor of IPGH.

5. If IPGH includes forms of support which are beyond competence of the executor or include temporary right to health care, it has to be accepted by the director of the Local Welfare Centre. In the Program, specific institutions responsible for implementation of each task should be named.

6. IPGH should take into account situation of the homeless person and provide special support to people who actively participate in getting out of homelessness.

7. IPGH can include all means and support forms which are available at Local Welfare Centre and are adequate to needs of the homeless person.

8. Local Welfare Centre is obliged to pay health insurance (as part of social security system) for each person who does IPGH.

* No IPGH in Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki
Act on Local Government

(Art. 7) Gmina’s own tasks (own means funded from local taxes/income) include:
6) welfare, including running care homes *(small gmina cannot afford running a care home without any partner/on its own)*
6a) supporting a family and foster care system *(new regulation, additional task for which gminas have not received any extra funding)*
7) Managing (building as well) local housing stock *(within last 8 years only 56 apartments have been constructed in Nowy Dwór)*

Act on Protection of the Rights of Tenants and Local Housing Stock – local duties

Art. 4. 2. Gmina according to regulations specified in the Act, provides, social housing and replacement apartments as well as satisfies housing needs of low income households.
Art. 5. 2. Rent agreement for communal housing (excluding communal social housing and work related housing) can only by signed for „not specified period” (forever/lifelong)
Art. 23. 1. Rent agreement for social housing can only be signed for specified period.
Local housing stock and causes of homelessness

- Communal housing - 1007 apartments, 42.766 m² in total
- Communal social housing - 93 apartments, 3.221 m² in total
- Number of people in communal housing apartments - 2680
- Number of people in communal social housing apartments - 261
- Rent in communal housing (base) - 4,25 PLN/m² (about 1 EURO)
- Rent in communal social housing - 0,94 PLN/m² (about 0,25 EURO)

Major causes of homelessness in town:
- Addiction: alcohol, drugs
- Inherited poverty and social „maladjustment”
- Conflicts in family/household
- Lack of control over finances – credits, loans
Local government perspective – change needed!

- Modifications in Social Welfare Act – Individual Program for Getting out of Homelessness should be obligatory to all people who are threatened with homelessness meaning are applying for any kind of housing support (not only those who are already homeless).

- Modifications (already in process) in Act on Protection of the Rights of Tenants and Local Housing Stock: income criteria monitored and controlled during the rent period not only upon applying for housing, temporary not lifelong renting period, removing the right to inherit a rent contract from gmina.

- Legal framework for establishing partnerships or cooperatives of few gminas in order to implement homeless policy and organize support for homeless people on bigger territory: financing support centres, shelters, homes, supported and training apartments as well as sustainable permanent housing.

- More communal social housing; suspension of selling communal and social housing stock to private owners. Using communal and social housing as temporary not permanent solution to housing problems.
3. Camilian Mission of Social Assistance

Adriana Porowska
A Camilian Father Bogusław Paleczny started supporting homeless people in 1989 as a student of Warsaw Metropolitan Seminary – he supported people living in Central Railway Station.

In spring 1991, after getting agreement of the Camilian Order he established Camilian Mission of Social Assistance which acts „within structures” of the Camilian Order.
CMSA Programs

- Saint Lazarus Boarding House
- Training Apartments Programme
- Activity Club for the Homeless Kab-el
- Street working
- Prevention of homelessness
- Advocacy: Research Networking Transparency
- Marine Yacht BM-57 “Father Boguslaw”
In 1998 Mission rented a three storey building in Ursus district of Warsaw from the ZPC Ursus at Traktorzystów 26 Street. In July 1999 this building and the one next to it were bought by the Camilian Order. The Boarding House is located in the first building, the second is waiting for its time.
Training Apartments

Inhabitants of the Boarding House who stabilised their employment situation need “next step” housing.

The “next step” is moving on from the multiple occupation Boarding House to a training apartment which is rented by the CMSA from private owners and subrented to people referred from the BH. Apartments are shared by two to five people and scattered in the neighbourhood. Inhabitants are supported by the social worker, psychologist, and work advisor.
Activity Club for the Homeless Kab-el

KABEL is located in the St. Lazarus Boarding House. It offers group and individual meetings with an employment advisor, a social worker, a psychologist, and a psychotherapist. It is addressed to the inhabitants of the House, as well as others (e.g. people referred by street workers or people coming of their own accord).
Street work

- Started in January 2011
- Reaching to people who are homeless or threatend with homelessness, motivating to positive change in their lives based on recognition of their resources and potential.
- **We cover 3 of 18 districts in Warsaw** (Ursus, Włochy, Ochota)
- **We cooperate with** Municipal nad National Police, public welfare centres, Municipality of Warsaw (mutual raporting on recognised places of residence of the homeless in public space and joint patroling)
Marine Yacht BM-57 “Father Bogusław”

- Building a marine yacht with the inhabitants of St. Lazarus Boarding House was an idea of the late Father Bogusław.
- So far 40 people have taken part in the construction, learning new skills and refreshing those which were long forgotten.
- It is planned that the yacht will embark on a round the world voyage in three years’ time. Yacht-building is funded by corporate and private sponsors.
Advocacy: Research Networking Transparency


The idea is to influence public policy on homelessness based on:

• Knowledge well tested through **research** – people living in publica space, ETHOS and MPHASIS based data base on people using our services, evaluation or programmes

• **Networking** – Mazovian Stakeholders Network, european conferences, platforms e.g. FEANTSA, EAPN, bilateral cooperation,

• **Transparency** – we do not like hidden lobbying based on tight links/relationships with decisionmakers which are kept secret. We want tight relationships which are totaly known to the public.

POSITIONS/STATEMENTS ON:


4. Individual Programme of Personal Development

Agata Pietras

(separate file)
Contact details

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  – Ada Porowska, Director, aporowska@misja.com.pl
  – Julia Wygnańska, Research and Advocacy, julia.wygnanska@gmail.com

• Association Antidotum
  – Agata Pietras, President prezes@stowarzyszenieantidotum.org.pl
  – http://www.stowarzyszenieantidotum.org.pl/

• Local Government of Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki
  – Jacek Gereluk, Secretary of the Gmina jacek.gereluk@nowydwormaz.pl
  – Agnieszka Sejda Head of The Department of Education and Social Policy, agnieszka.sejda@nowydwormaz.pl
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