SWaPOL

SOCIAL WORK AND POLICING

Vocational Training in Public Order Management

Final Conference

SOCIAL WORK AND POLICING
Module 3 - Homelessness

11. Feb. 2021

Online

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The issue: homelessness

THE OTHER EUROPE

COLD REALITY FIGURES ON HOMELESSNESS
*NON-COMPARABLE

GERMANY
860,000
Homeless in 2016

ENGLAND
4,751
Homeless sleeping rough on one night in 2017

AUSTRIA
15,090
Statutory homeless people 2016

BELGIUM BRUSSELS
3,386
Homeless on one night in November 2016

DENMARK
6,635
Homeless (one week in 2017)

SPAIN
16,437
People per day on average in emergency shelters in 2016

FINLAND
6,644
Homeless people (one night in November 2016)

FRANCE
20,845
People called the 115 homeless helpline requesting accommodation (in June 2017)

HUNGARY
10,206
Homeless (1 night in February 2016)

IRELAND
8,857
People in emergency accommodation (November 2017)

LITHUANIA
4,569
In temporary accommodation (one night in 2016)

THE NETHERLANDS
60,120
People in homeless accommodation services in 2016

CZECH REPUBLIC
68,500
Homeless in 2016

SWEDEN
33,000
Homeless (1 week in 2017)

See sources and more detailed information in appendices, page 100.

We need to devise **new pathways** for understanding, supporting and integrating homeless people in the post-crisis period

410,000 persons are sleeping every night in the streets of European cities

3 million homeless persons in Europe are supported by social welfare systems

4.1 million people at the risk of homelessness every year

(FEANTSA, 2019)

August 24, 2020 03:34 PM

COVID-19 is 'a crisis within a crisis' for homeless people

Associated Press

Homelessness and COVID: High infection rates and social marginalisation haunts Paris' homeless

COMMENTS

Homelessness During the COVID-19 Pandemic: What to Know

Homeless lives at risk from Covid winter, charities warn

8 October 2020

COVID-19 could devastate the homeless. How will America pick up the pieces?

Nowhere to Go, Serbia's Homeless Fined for Breaking COVID-19 Curfew

Three major concerns

A **multifaceted concept** that **varies between countries**

- Not just a person without a proper home (rooflessness, houselessness, inadequate housing)
- Between a stable home and a state of homelessness – there is **a continuum** (Toro & Janisse, 2004) where many facets of the problem may exist and be hidden - FEANTSA Typology

The rise of **socio-economic constraints**

- **Pressure** from internal and external factors (economic crisis, political unrest, migration)
- Increasing poverty concentration, spatial segregation, and **social inequalities and vulnerabilities** (Madanipour and Weck, 2015; Ranci et al., 2014).
- (COVID-19)

The **lack of bridges** between social work and police

- **Strategies** to tackle homelessness are still **very much normative**, based on the individual characteristics and focusing on corrective intervention and satisfaction of individual needs
- Homelessness should be regarded as a **social process**, and tackled trough a preventive, inter-institutional and integrated approach along with structural measures

Learning objectives

- Address the issues of homelessness and poverty as cornerstones for achieving the goals of integration, **social cohesion and sustainable development**

- Develop **mutual cooperation and trust** between professional groups and gain a wider working **lexicon**
  - community policing teams + homeless outreach teams + intercultural mediators + residents

social support + community integration + police capacity building

- Enrich both **individual and collective competences**, and widen the spectrum of the partnership to other professional areas.

group exercises + study visits + networking capacity building

What did we aim to teach?

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Understand **overall processes** that lead to situations of homelessness

Understand the **multifaceted concept** of homelessness and the need for convergence of definitions and strategies

Understand the **organizational culture** and the spheres of action of both professional groups

Interpret how vulnerable persons experience and **extract meaning** from living without a home

How to build effective cooperation and networking between social workers and the police, in order to **integrate homeless people** in the community.

Understand specific local contexts and the **value of place**

Apply **bottom-up approaches**

Understand the **pros and cons** of working in partnership

Explore **simulated and real scenarios** of intervention

The three-step approach

Prevention
- Close monitoring of the **risk factors** that affect homelessness
- Explore the social but also the territorial **contexts** of these phenomena through data analysis

Intervention
- **Understand profiles** and life trajectories of homelessness
- Research the **day-to-day relationship** with the physical and social environment
- Be aware of the **role** of police and social workers as data collectors

Integration
- Develop and train **professional competences** for social workers and the police to work together
- Determine the underpinning conditions to enable the implementation of **effective partnerships**
- How **multidisciplinary intervention** can grant homeless persons with the tools to foment their social integration.
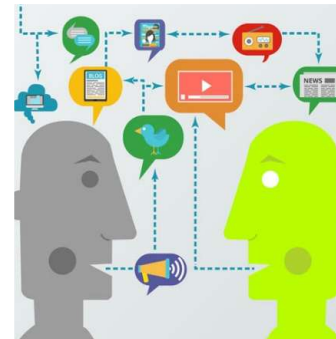
Competence gains

Understand complexity and diversity

Understand roles

Understand perspectives

Enhance channels of communication
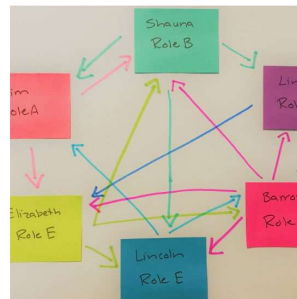
Develop collaboration paths

Profile of trainers

- Scientific and disciplinary training in the **field of social sciences and humanities** - special emphasis on sociology, social work, social education, social psychology, criminology,...

- Specific technical competences linked to **working with disadvantaged groups** rooted in ethnography and action-research.

- Work experience at the level of integrated projects of social solidarity and **community policing**.

- Formative experience in the areas of **social exclusion, homelessness and migrations** in the context of advanced marginality.

- **Skills and tools for analysis and intervention**, both in terms of fundamental and applied knowledge (as well in other areas as economy, urbanism, planning,...)

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10 hour session plan

Session 3.1. To teach students of social work and police to understand the complexity of working on Homelessness

'Playing the *other*'

30 min — Introduction

60 min — Professional complexity and diversity

90 min — Complexity and diversity of exclusion
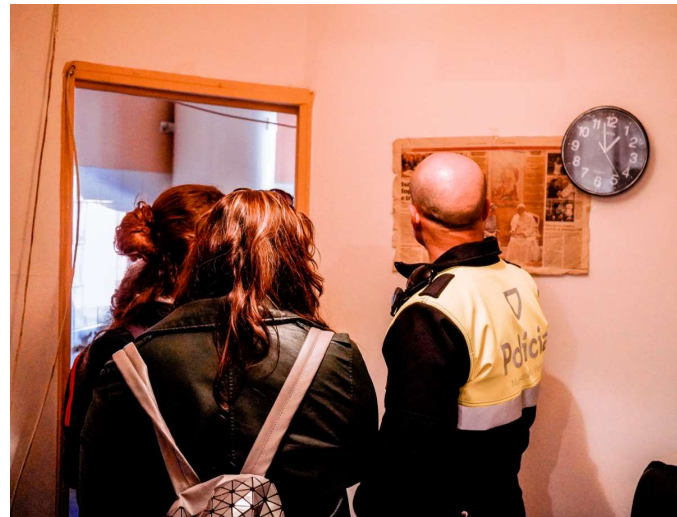

'Networks and Ties'

10 hour session plan

Session 3.2. To train students to observe and extract meaning from real life interactions between vulnerable persons, volunteers and professionals.

120 Direct observation

- Observe real life situations of good practices between social work and police

- Visual ethnography

- Roadbook

'Housing First' (Associação Crescer) – visit to the homes of former homeless persons ("É uma casa") and lunch at a canteen run by former homeless persons ("É um restaurante")

10 hour session plan

Session 3.3. To teach students of social work and police to understand address homelessness situations more effectively.

🕐 **60 min** Explore the roles of diferent professionals

🕐 **60 min** Understanding the situation of vulnerable people in the streets

- What has been learned from observation and analysis of interviews and other documents?

'Never Forget'

10 hour session plan

Session 3.4. To teach students of social work and police to develop effective partnerships and best practices to address homelessness and migration situations.

90 min Conditions for collaboration

90 min Good practices and channels of communication

- Stakeholder mapping

- Stakeholder ecosystem

- 'Social work-Police Guidelines on Homelessness/Migration'