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# No Existence without Base

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# “The Danish Dream”

- The Danish welfare system - Scandinavian welfare model
- A challenge when it needs to align to the European Union’s regulations and directives in the context of free movement of people.

# Free Movement

- EU-citizens have the right of free movement within the EU, which means that they can stay in Denmark for three months provided that they carry a valid national ID card or passport.
- Afterwards EU-citizens are allowed to stay in Denmark for six months if they actively seek employment and even more if they have a real chance of employment.

- During this period they are not allowed to become an “unreasonable burden” to the social welfare system.
- The State Administration has the authority to evaluate when an EU-citizen has become an “unreasonable burden”.
- In such cases a citizen must have received some kind of social benefit.

- According to the EU legislation a person cannot be characterized as an “unreasonable burden” merely by having sought shelter at a publicly funded shelter.

# EU migrant encounters issues

- Roof over the head
- Job search and the right information
- Bad health and hygiene

All cause by a lack of adequate services

# Access to shelter

- Homeless migrants without registration in Denmark are currently not given access to publicly funded shelters in most Danish municipalities.
- The state has granted funding for emergency shelters –funding.

- The common practice – denying access to EU homeless migrants.
- Initially they come to Denmark in the search of a job and better living conditions exercising their legal right of free movement.



- Nevertheless, the lack of adequate support in:
    - offering the right information,
    - housing and
    - guidance in the integration process after entering the job market,
- bring even the strongest and capable migrants to fall into destitution.

# Kompasset Kirkens Korshær

- Advice, support, information: job hunting!
- From job contract to 'yellow card'
- Clarifying rights and impossibilities
- Comfort and bearing frustration
- Use of facilities
- Accompanying to authorities
- Labour exploitation

# The set-up

- Opening hours and location
- Multi-lingual volunteer counselors
- Outreach counseling-Pilot Project Vesterbro
- Extra – Mile Project
- Kompasset's funding

# Case study

- George, Romanian citizen, 35 years old
- He has worked the last 6 years in Italy before coming to Copenhagen
- He has a family in Romania and had been in a long term relationship in Italy
- Lost his job in construction in Italy
- Heard about Denmark and decided to come and look for a job

# Case Study

- In Copenhagen he has no network
- Starts from 0, coming to Kompasset, making a CV and sending applications
- In the meantime, he is sleeping rough and eating in social day shelters
- If he's lucky he wins at the "lottery" for a bed
- He get and interview and afterwards he is offered the job

# Case Study

- He's guided by Kompasset throughout the registration process
- He's working, but still homeless, as he is facing hard time in find a place to rent or even a room
- This situation goes on for months: sleeps outside in the nights, goes to work early morning and then wanders the city until the night comes

# Case Study

- Easy to predict: he lost his job and starting to feel disillusioned
- Since then, he's had other short-term jobs and still without success in finding a place
- Since then, he's still on the streets and trying to make a better future for himself
- Since then, it's been 3 years
- Since then, there've been many that went on the fast track to destitution



# What can be done?

- Filling in the gap between the most vulnerable and the “strong” working migrants
- Building the bridge between the public and private sector
- Affordable hostel-like accommodation for the migrants stuck in between and on their way up



# What can be done?

- Breaking through to the responsible authorities
- Getting rid of myths and prejudice
- Informing employers of the resources
- Preventing social destitution
- Better and more extensive help to the most vulnerable

# Thank you for listening



Picture: Kirkens Korshaer, Kreds Bladet, Juni 2016

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