Definition of Home by People with Experience of Homelessness

Based on the qualitative study

The needs of people experiencing homelessness

commissioned by the Regional Centre for Social Policy in Łódź financed through European Social Fund Regional Program for Łódź Voivodship 2014-2020 Technical Support

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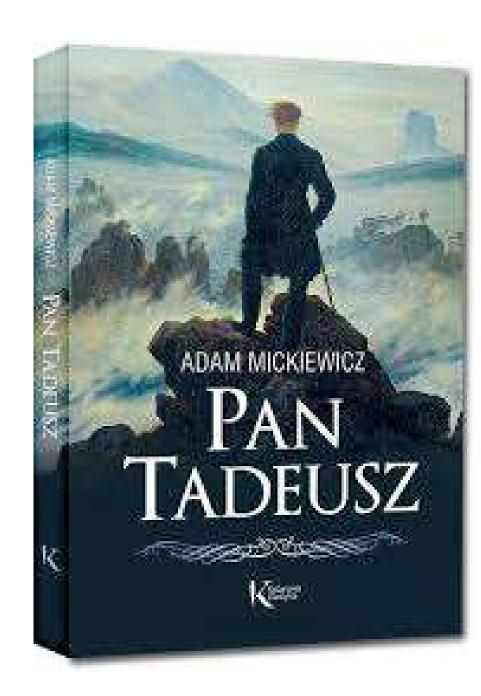
"Invocation" Pan Tadeusz by Adam Mickiewicz

"Lithuania my homeland. You are health alone Your worth can ever only be known by one who's lost you. Today I say and tell in you your lovely beauty as I long for you"

[Translation by Bill Johnston]



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Study goal

To identify perspective of people with the experience of homelessness regarding their:

- needs
- effectiveness of services in meeting the needs
- housing situation ...
- and how it meets the need of a home
- current and wanted home



This presentation:

- Theoretical framework
- 2. Methodology
- 3. Subjective definitions of a home
- 4. How housing situation lived meets the subjective definition of a home
- 5. Theoretical domains and markers of a home in lived housing situations
- Home with ,ontological security'
- 7. Conclusions
- 8. Recommendations



1. Theoretical framework

- Human Needs Maslow's (1943) typology NOT hierarchy
- Definitions of a home:
 - FEANTSA conceptual definition of home(lessness): **physical, social and legal** DOMAINS (Edgar et al., 2004)
 - ETHOS-PL (FEANTSA) typology of housing situations
- Ontological security (Giddens, 1991)
- Markers of a home to meet ontological security (Padgett, 2007; after: Dupuis, Thorns, 1998):
 - **Day-to-day routines** home is a place in which the *day-to-day routines of human existence* are performed;
 - Control home is where people feel in control of their lives because they feel free from the surveillance that characterizes life elsewhere
 - Constancy home is a place of constancy in the material and social environment
 - Home is a secure base around which identities are constructed
- For policy recommendations A New Systems Perspective to Ending Homelessness, 2022 Helsinki — Brussels: Housing First Europe Hub, DEMOS



2. Methodology

Solid guidelines for the study produced by the commissioning public institution Regional Centre for Social Policy for Łódź Voivodship. Individual in-depth interviews

Independent moderators – not workers/volunteers of service providers

Participants:

- 56 people of different sex, length of homelessness, from different municipalities
- Residing in 6 housing situations ETHOS: streets, non-conventional dwellings, night shelters, shelters and municipal mainstream housing;
- Representative for housing situations but more detailed for shelters Qualitative analysis:
- familiarizing the coding team with the entire research material
- developing a bottom-up set of analytical categories and a coding tree;
- open coding (56 IDI) and data analysis with MAXQDA software;
- analyzing the codes and relating the results to a set of theoretical categories: theretical domains and markers of a home, ontological security, housing situations

Focus interviews with national and international experts to gather good practices.



RESULTS

First time presented on 18th EOH Research Conference 13th of September 2024



3. Subjective definition of a home

By people with the experience of homelessness in their own language:

- What is a home?
- What is a place where you feel at home/"u siebie"?



Cd 3.

- Home is a place where you can stay with your loved ones, talk to them privately, have intimate relationships, there is a nice atmosphere, and you are independent of the help/monitoring of others.
- It is important to be able to decide for yourself when and what you do and how you deal with health crises (e.g. using substances).
- In the physical sense, the home is modest: one room (20 m2)/studio, warm, with the possibility of preparing meals, washing the body and clothing, taking care of physiological needs, resting, storing things.
- Equipped with basic installations cheap/ affordable to maintain.



4. How housing situation lived meets subjective definition of a home

Traditional shelter as "second home"/"Niby dom"/"Kind of Home"

 Living in the shelter can meet the subjective definition a home regardless of that housing situation not meeting all theoretical criteria of a home (three domains and four markers).

Shelter as a "prison like" institution:

• It is an institution where "you know how to function thanks to prior experience of living in prison".

Traditional homeless shelter in Łódź Voivodship/Poland:

- multiple occupied rooms for 2 to 6 people
- abstinence rule executed by the breathalyser and removal from the shelter.

Cd 4.

Legal title is not playing a big role

 e.g. housing situation of living temporarily with family/friends /"kątem" is unsafe due to lack of a social domain rather then legal.

For people **living in the streets** their housing situation is disabling them from feeling human.

 Social domain and control marker are prioritised over physiological and safety needs which could be satisifed in shelter/ nightshelter.



5. Theoretical domains and markers of home in housing situations lived (ETHOS)

Example: housing situation – traditional shelter

- **Physical** domain protection from weather conditions is present
- Marker day to day routines everyday activities can be performed in the facility
- Social domain and marker of control it is impossible to decide about one's own life, you are dependent on the shelter operational rules e.g. obligatory roommates.
- The greatest gap is **in social domain** in non-conventional places the social domain is more present because you can be there with a loved one of different sex.
 - (the need of affiliation is strongly expressed)
- The **legal domain** in shelter is beyond the scope of interest. The decisions of the managers regarding compliance with the regulations are what matters regardless of papers/refferals etc.

6. Home with ontological security

- Lack of ontological security while living in the streets however ...
- ... it can be a basis for building an identity as long as one can be there with another person one can count on.
- Shelters provide ontological security for people who are ill, have no other stable home which provides necessary health/care services "second home/"niby dom"/"Home as there is no other".

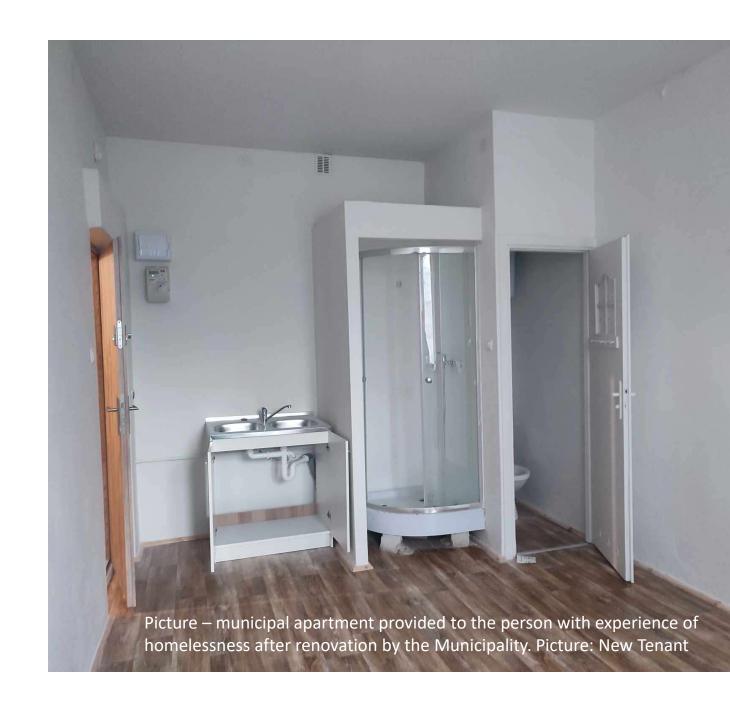
Ontological security - the feeling of wellbeing that arises from a sense of constancy in one's social and material environment which, in turn, provides a secure platform for identity development and selfactualization (Padgett, 2007)

Markers of a home that provides ontological security:

- Place where you conduct day-to-day routines
- Place where you have control
- Constancy
- · Secure base for identity construction

cd 6.

- Stability and having a basis for constructing one's identity in the municipal flat depend on whether the flat was made available to the person in a renovated state or not.
- Providing a person with poorly renovated apartment was felt as humiliation and lack of respect.



7. Conclusions

- Definition of home is not universal. It varies between people and local contexts.
- Traditional shelter can be considered a home by people with experience of homelessness.
- Definition of home which provides ontological security is not universal. It can vary between people and local contexts.
- Residing with the loved person strongly influences definition of home/feeling at home and feeling human (for people with the experience of homelessness in Poland).

8. Policy recommendations for Poland

Home-income-support

Programs that provide home, subsistence income and support at the same time in one place. Housing First is a good option but fidelity is not crutial.

Night shelters should provide safe space primarily to meet physiological survival and safety needs of people experiencing homelessness. Currently they are not because of the rule/legal standard of not accepting people under influence of substances.

Providing shelters to meet survival, safety and affiliation needs (e.g. living with a partner of different sex, living with a dog) for individuals struggling to maintain abstinence from psychoactive substances. Currently shelters provide shared one sex rooms for people who maintain abstinence.

9. Recommendations for international advocacy



International research and advocacy community is an authority to many national/local experts. We listen to your recommendations and treat them seriously and sometimes do a lot to implement them. Therefore:

Always make sure you know the perspective of people for whom programs are organized – local people with experience of homelessness.

Keep in mind different definitions of home while recommending home – based programs such as Housing First (esspecially with high fidelity) and elimination of shelters.

Be cautious while advocating globally one particular program/solution. Make it clear that adaptations are good. Show guidelines – universal values - for effective adaptations.

Values that work in Poland (Housing First – Open Model for Ending Homelessness): establishing professional supportive relationships, home as a starting point and as a right, respect for customer decisions, appreciating full wellbeing, support adequate to needs and goals of customers, building roots in community.

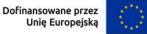
Make sure to leave proper space and agency to local experts and consider them THE EXPERTS. Only them themselves can make change happen in their communities. Inspire and advise rather than promote one and only solution that fits international advocacy agenda.

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województwo

łódzkie



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THANKS! housingfirst.pl najpierwmieszkanie.org.pl fundacja@najpierwmieszkanie.org.pl

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O NAS MODEL NM BAZA WIEDZY AKTUALNOŚCI FUNDUSZ

O FUNDACJI

NAJPIERW

Działamy od 2019 roku

Wierzymy, że zakończenie bezdomności jest możliwe. Mówimy otwarcie, że mieszkanie jest prawem człowieka Samodzielny, zamykany na klucz lokal z sypialnią, aneksem kuchennym i fazienką to podstawa dla poczucia bezpieczeństwa niezbędnego do zmierzenia się z trudnościami, których doświadczenie bezdomności rodzi wiele. Czując się bezpiecznie i mając wsparcie psychologiczne można nad nimi pracować i je przezwycięzać. Naszym marzeniem jest, aby każda osoba doświadczająca bezdomności miała na to szansę





O NAS MODEL NM BAZA WIEDZY AKTUALNOŚCI FUNDUSZ

AKTUALNOŚCI



URZĘDNICY INGERUJA W METODE NAJPIERW MIESZKANIE



KROKI DO DOMU ZE SCHRONISKA



WROCŁAWSKI OŚRODEK

POMOCY SPOŁECZNEJ O

DROGACH DO DOMU

FUNDUSZ NAJPIERW

REKOMENDACJE

WDRAZANIA NM -

OTWARTY MODEL



NM JAKO KOMPAS DEINSTYTUCJONALIZACJI



SPRAWOZDANIA FINANSOWE I MERYTORYCZNE FNMP 2023



POZNANIU



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BYCIE W MIESZKANIU



W WARSZAWIE POTRZEBA



WSTEPNE WNIOSKI Z

BADANIA LICZBY OSÓB

BEZDOMNYCH 2024

PROJEKTY



MIEDZYNARODOWE SIECIOWANIE NA RZECZ WARTOŚCI NM W POLSCE



PROGRAM AMBIWALENCJA



BADANIE POTRZEB OSÓB DOŚW BEZDOMNOŚCI

WSPARCIE DLA OSÓB Z



BEZDOMNOŚĆ REALNIE FOTOGRAFIE



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NAJPIERW MIESZKANIE -RZECZNICTWO OPARTE NA