

BRIEF 9

HOUSING FIRST FOR THE MORAVIAN-SILESIA REGION II

Romodrom o.p.s. + Nová možnost, z.ú.

Czech Republic

ID CARD



PROJECT TITLE.

Housing First for the Moravian and Silesian Region II

MAIN OBJECTIVE.

Facilitate access to stable housing for socially excluded people, through a Housing First approach and collaboration with private landlords.

TARGET AUDIENCE.

People in housing need, homeless individuals, and those at risk of social exclusion, particularly Roma communities.

IN NUMBERS.

40

households housed since
September 2022

3

-year project funded by the
European Social Fund

€890K

CZK 22 million total budget

SUMMARY.

The "Housing First for the Moravian-Silesian Region II" project helps socially excluded individuals, particularly Roma, find standard housing on the open market. Run by Romodrom and Nová možnost, it follows Housing First principles. The initiative involves social workers and a social real estate agency to support clients in securing long-term housing solutions, including cooperation with private landlords, addressing common barriers like deposits.

CONTACT.



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Project description

Support for Helping the Most Socially Excluded Access Housing

The project focuses on people in housing need, particularly socially excluded individuals, including Roma communities. The initiative uses a tailored approach, offering long-term housing solutions through the Housing First model. Beneficiaries receive comprehensive support from social workers, and housing managers. These professionals help navigate the housing market, ensuring clients find appropriate accommodations while providing continuous assistance to maintain stability and prevent future homelessness.

Engaging Private Landlords and Overcoming Housing Barriers

A central component of the project is the cooperation with private housing owners, a relatively new approach in the Czech Republic. By working closely with landlords, the project overcomes common barriers such as high deposits that often prevent disadvantaged individuals from accessing housing. The development of a social real estate agency aims to sustain these partnerships beyond the project's duration, creating a lasting solution for the housing needs of socially excluded and homeless people.

Sustainable Funding and Impact Evaluation to Ensure Long-Term Success

The project is funded by the European Social Fund, with financial support allocated to staffing, housing solutions, and the creation of a guarantee fund to cover rental deposits. The governance structure involves continuous evaluation by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to assess the project's impact. This ensures that the initiative remains effective, with findings used to inform future policies and practices regarding housing for vulnerable populations. Regular reports and evaluations help shape ongoing efforts and ensure the project's sustainability.

TIMELINE

September 2022

The project began on 1st September 2022.

August 2023

The evaluation report, conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, was published in August 2023.

June 2023

Similar project also implemented in the South Bohemian Region, in the town of Písek.

Inspiration note

Challenging Discrimination and Expanding Access

Roma communities often face compounded barriers in accessing private rental housing due to persistent discrimination. Many landlords refuse to rent to Roma tenants, reinforcing exclusion. The project actively counters this by mediating between tenants and landlords, providing guarantees, and showing that stable housing benefits both sides. A guarantee fund helps remove financial obstacles such as rental deposits, making housing more accessible and reducing risks for property owners. Monitoring the number of beneficiaries and landlord participation will be essential to evaluate the project's long-term effectiveness.

Building Long-Term Partnerships in the Private Sector

To ensure sustainable impact, a social real estate agency is being developed. This model fosters ongoing collaboration with landlords, supports tenants, and helps maintain affordable rental options beyond the project's scope. It also aims to improve housing security by offering guidance and quick responses to emerging issues. Through this approach, the project creates structures that can be adapted and replicated in other regions.

Supporting Tenants and Preventing Relapse

From the initial assessment phase to long-term tenancy support, the project provides tailored assistance based on each participant's needs. Support includes budget coaching, crisis funds, welfare advice, and help increasing income. Staff also work on identifying hidden risks such as health problems, domestic violence, or addiction, and create ad hoc support networks involving relevant services. Strengthening neighbour relations, preventing eviction, and fostering client autonomy are central to the project's housing retention strategy.



Gyorgy Sumeghy
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In lack of a well-functioning social housing system, it's essential in former socialist countries in Central and Eastern Europe to utilize existing housing and to develop alternative models for affordable rental housing. This project is unique in many ways in the whole CEE region: it combines housing first principles with establishing social rental agencies, using EU funds in a smart way and partly targeting the most disadvantaged group, the Roma minority. A great example for the housing organizations in the whole CEE.

