

The National Report on Homelessness 2005

prepared for European Observatory on Homelessness

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Prague, October 2005

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Introduction

National report on homelessness 2005 is produce by Guidelines for National Correspondents, Work Programme 2005. The aim of the national reports from the new member states EU-10 is to provide a baseline for future updates on homelessness. National report consists of three elements:

- The Statistic Review
- The Policy Update
- The Research Database

Writing about the homeless and homelessness in the Czech world is difficult. The Czech expression *bezdomovec* is ambiguous and in English there are two corresponding terms, which is *homeless* and *stateless*. While the general public uses the word *bezdomovec* in the sense of the English word *homeless*, the interpretation of the Czech legal system is that of the term *stateless*. The laws do not provide a definition of the term *homeless* and neither is there a definition of the state of homelessness as social exclusion.

Dictionaries of the standard Czech language do not explain the word *bezdomovec* as a person that does not have a home (does not have anywhere to live), which is the equivalent of the English term *homeless*. Bilingual dictionaries usually explain the terms *homeless*, *sans-abri*, *Obdachlose* using other words and translate the Czech word *bezdomovec* into English as *stateless*, which is meaning a person without citizenship.¹ Even the most comprehensive sociological encyclopaedia currently available, *the Great Sociological Dictionary*, does neither include the terms homelessness or the homeless, nor addresses these issues.²

Nevertheless, our meaning of the word *bezdomovec* has become well established in the Czech language. The fact that the Czech legal system does not know the word *bezdomovec* in the meaning of a person excluded from society is to a great extent related to a predominantly negative attitude of institutions and citizens towards the homeless.

¹ Hradecká, V. and Hradecký, I. (1996) *Bezdomovství – extrémní vyloučení*

² *Velký sociologický slovník* (1996), Praha: Charles University, Publisher Carolinum

Statistics Review

As the law does not have a definition of homelessness, counting the homeless is difficult. Nevertheless, there are social services for the homeless and the state supports them. When examining applications for a state subsidy, the MPSV uses a work typology of social services. Different types of housing exist and the relevant CSO (Czech Statistical Office) data is available from the 2001 Census.

The statistical part of the report is based upon a number of available sources. The key data in the report is from the census as at 1st March 2001 that was conducted by the CSO, and from the homeless census in Prague in 2004. The data is also complemented from other sources.

The implementation of a joint project of five NGO's, funded from the ESF – HRD programme, will commence in autumn 2005. As part of the project, a definition and typology of homelessness will be formulated in relation to the ETHOS project.

Český statistický úřad (Czech Statistical Office)³

Law conducted a census conducted in the Czech Republic as at 1st March 2001 (hereinafter referred to as 'Census 2001'). Data about persons and housing received from the Internet is complemented and clarified following consultation with the CSO personnel.

Classifying the population by the type of housing⁴

Several theses concerning homelessness result from the CSO information:

- Every citizen of the CR must register his/her permanent residence in a (single) place; he/she may be counted and included in the number of inhabitants even during his/her absence.
- The homeless are a problematic group of citizens. There is no unambiguous definition of the term homeless. The homeless are considered people without a home, without a family background and without a permanent place to rest.
- A part of the homeless was included in the total number of inhabitants. This stems from the fact that some scrutinisers counted some homeless persons during the 2001 Census. In cooperation with NGO's, data was obtained about persons staying at various charity facilities during the decisive moment of the census. Other homeless persons were included in the census provided that their permanent residence was registered somewhere although they do not in fact have their own home.
- We may, therefore, say that the majority of the homeless were recorded in the census and included in the overall population but we cannot determine their numbers because the census did not aim to identify whether a person is or is not homeless. The census results merely indicate that a certain group of people does not have a home and is surviving in various mobile or emergency dwellings.
- Records (if any) of refugees and asylum seekers are kept by the Ministry of Interior, which also counted these persons in refugee camps and submitted the findings to the CSO for processing. Counting persons that stay in the country illegally is virtually impossible.
- When taking into account the diversity of these groups of inhabitants, it is logical that the conditions in which they live vary significantly. Inhabitants do not live solely in houses or flats but also in other buildings collectively referred to as 'dwelling'. Based on international recommendations, a dwelling is defined as structurally separated and

³ Český statistický úřad (Czech Statistical Office), www.czso.cz [on line 2005-05-14]

⁴ Český statistický úřad (Czech Statistical Office), Census 2001, Introduction, part No. 4127-04, www.czso.cz [on line 2005-05-14], the data is specified and complemented following written consultation.

independent quarters that are either intended for permanent housing or really used during the census as a usual place of residence of at least one person.

- The term dwelling is understood to include three types of housing:
Flats (houses, a room or rooms in apartment buildings or in other buildings)
Non-traditional accommodation (cottages, caravans, houseboats, rooms in service buildings as well as other shelters used as a dwelling at the time of the census)
Accommodation in shared dwellings (hotels, pensions, other accommodation facilities, buildings of institutions, camps and the like)
- In our conditions, we differentiate between persons living in flats; accommodation in shared dwellings is referred to as housing in facilities and non-traditional accommodation is referred to as housing outside flats and facilities.

Clarifying the methods of data collection in the 2001 Census

The CSO counted persons primarily in the place of their permanent residence. When someone was counted outside their permanent residence, they were, during the processing, included in the place of their permanent residence. The homeless that have their permanent residence in a specific flat (for example at their parents' or family's place and so on) were counted despite not being present. As the CSO does not recognise the category of the homeless, it cannot determine who of the counted persons is homeless and, therefore, is unable to estimate their numbers. Nevertheless, certain data of the 2001 Census is relevant for this report.

The vast majority of the Czech population has quality housing. In 2001, 4,235,692 families and households lived in flats of which 88.5 % resided in first category flats (gas, electrical or central heating, own toilet, bathroom). Flats without an own bathroom or flush toilet are an exception now (only 3-4 % of all flats).

Over 180,000 complete and incomplete families reside in one-room flats, of which 83,000 are families with dependent children. 35,000 households lived outside flats (in emergency dwellings, summer cottages and so on) of which 23,000 are individuals, almost 6,000 complete families and over 5,000 incomplete families.

The number of vacant flats is on the increase – one in eight flats in the CR remains vacant (12.3 %, that is 538,615 flats in total), whereas the number of countryside leisure houses and flats has been increasing steadily. In towns, there are a high percentage of vacant flats occupied on a temporary basis, which is by persons that do not reside permanently in the flat. In Prague only, there are 54,300 vacant flats of which 40 % are occupied temporarily. Only a smaller percentage of vacant flats could be realistically used for permanent housing.

Based on some indicators, we may infer that no fewer than 400,000 flats are overcrowded and due to an increase in the number of households, the current housing fund cannot be considered sufficient.

Some data on dwellings ⁵

- A non-related person lives in 110,775 households.
- A total of 30,406 households with children reside in a flat that is occupied by a total of three and more households. A total of 44,312 children live in such households.
- 71,181 persons reside in facilities.
- The number of persons residing outside flats and facilities: 57,577 of who 14,497 are children living with one or two parents.
- Especially complete and urban families with children live in conditions that are below the average housing standards – in case of complete families with four and more children; there are 7.0 m² of living floor space per person and 2.52 persons per room.

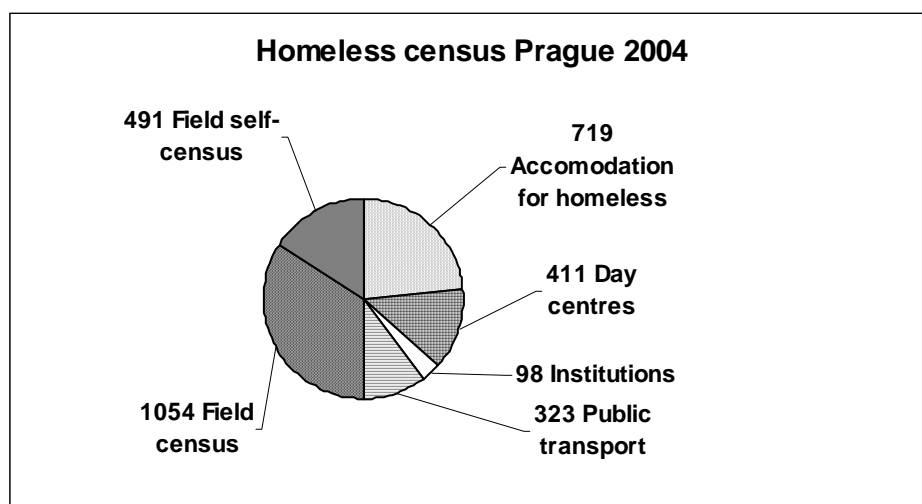
⁵ Český statistický úřad (Czech Statistical Office), Census 2001, part No. 412404a on dwellings www.czso.cz [on line 2005-05-14]

- An overcrowded household means two persons per room or fewer than 10.0 m² of living floor space per person.
- There are 446,000 overcrowded flats (of which 95,000 are occupied by two and more households) and 380,000 flats with fewer than 10.0 m² of living floor space per person.
- 129,000 inhabitants (1.3 %) do not live in flats (this figure has doubled since 1991, when it amounted to only 0.67 %).

Homeless census Prague 2004 ⁶

The total number of the homeless recorded in the census amounted to 3,096 persons⁷ of whom 2,662 were males (86 %) and 434 females (14 %). Based on a subjective estimate, the monitored persons were divided into three age groups. The largest group was comprised of persons at the age of 25 to 60 years (73 %), followed by persons under 25 years of age (14 %) and persons over 60 years of age (8 %); estimating the age of 140 persons (5 %) was impossible. 719 (23 %) persons were counted in overnight facilities, 411 (13.5 %) in day care centres, 98 (3 %) in other institutions and 323 (10.5 %) in municipal transport. The field census included 1,054 (34 %) and field self-census 491 (16 %) homeless persons. See fig. 1.

Fig. 1 – Homeless census Prague 2004



During the night of the census, 719 persons, of whom 610 (85 %) were males and 109 (15 %) females, were accommodated in overnight facilities provided by social services for the homeless (night shelters, hostels, half way houses and so on). In day care centres (without beds) there were 411 persons, of whom 337 (82 %) were males and 74 (18 %) females, staying overnight on chairs or on the floor.

The census was also conducted in institutions – hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, prisons and an overnight detention centre for disorderly drunks. In the above facilities, 98 homeless persons (96 males and 2 females) were counted. As regards the age structure, 78 persons were at the age of 25 to 60 years, 11 under 25 years of age and 9 over 60 years of age. See table 1.

⁶ The homeless census project was implemented in Prague by the Archdiocesan Charity Prague, Salvation Army, Municipal Centre for Social Services and Prevention, and Naděje between 8 and 10 pm, on 19 February 2004. The project was aimed at acquiring the most precise data possible about the number of the homeless in the territory of Prague, and addressed the phenomenon of obvious homelessness. The data, quotations, table and graph are taken from the final project report. The author of this report co-organised and directly participated in the project.

⁷ In data processing, the duplicity was estimated at 4 %, which minimises double counting.

Table 1 – Homeless people in institutions

Institution	Absolutely		
	Men	Women	Persons whole
Prisons	37	0	37
Psychiatric clinics	47	2	49
Hospitals	12	0	12
Detention centre	0	0	0
Whole number	96	2	98

The field census aimed at determining the number of rough sleepers was conducted in three manners:

- in tramway and metro wagons,
- in the streets, parks and other public places in 83 districts,
- self-census method.

The census in municipal transport was carried out on all tramlines and in metro terminuses. 323 persons, of whom 287 were males and 36 females, were identified and counted as homeless persons.

Fig. 2 – A winter night in the Day centre in Prague



The field census took place in 83 districts, covering the relevant majority of the city area. 1,054 homeless persons were identified in the field census, amounting to 34 % of the total figures. 910 (86%) of them were males and 144 (14 %) females.

Cooperating homeless persons in poorly accessible or dangerous locations performed the field self-census and the data was adjusted in order to avoid duplicity⁸. 491 homeless persons were counted, amounting to 16 % of the total figures. 422 of them were males and 69 females.

The homeless census revealed that a certain group of the homeless is virtually unidentifiable, even for experts and field social workers. They live in extreme social exclusion, in poorly accessible and hidden places, especially in sewerage, heat distribution systems, ventilating shafts, underground tunnel systems, abandoned houses and so on. The residents of these places do not usually seek assistance from any organisations or they avoid assistance offered on a scheduled basis. No in-depth information about these communities is available. The homeless cooperating in the census claim that the number of those surviving in hidden places amounts to hundreds of persons.

Other Resources

Social services providers⁹

In spring 2005, 120 social service providers to the homeless were requested, in person and by email, to furnish data about their clients. They received a questionnaire with five questions concerning the last winter and spring or summer. The service providers returned 31 filled-in questionnaires from an area populated by approximately 38 % inhabitants, including Prague, Brno and the Ostrava region. The summary is not representative as data from five large and important cities is not available. Representing only estimates by social service providers, the results are not exact data and, therefore, must be considered only an approximation. The regional irregularity is an interesting feature.

Discussing the results:

- In the territory populated by 3.8 million inhabitants (38 %), 4,450-6,800 rough sleepers are estimated to live, 4,000-6,200 of who are estimated to live in a territory populated by 1.8 million inhabitants (18 %).
- Social services are in contact with 30-50 % of rough sleepers. In some towns, social services are not aware of the number of rough sleepers and do not have contact with them (Brno), whereas in other towns they believe to be in touch with all of them (Ostrava).
- The number of persons in night shelters usually shows seasonal fluctuations, falling as little as 30 % in summer. The number remains stable in some towns, while in others it increases in summer. Fluctuation patterns according to the town size and its attractiveness were not established. It would be necessary to perform a more thorough analysis of whether and how the patterns depend on the service itself. On the whole, there is just a minor difference between summer and winter occupancy rates.
- The demand for short-term accommodation (less than 3 months) grows by 20 % in winter, while the average interest in long-term accommodation remains stable throughout the year.
- Over the course of the year, approximately 2,700 homeless persons were accommodated in the territory populated by 3.8 million inhabitants (38 %).

Information from MPSV¹⁰

The data obtained from the MPSV (see part 2.3.3 for more details) shows the situation in social services intended for the homeless, see table 2:

⁸ In order to minimise the risk of counting one and the same person in both the field census and the self-census, the number of persons determined during the self-census was reduced by 4 %, which corresponds with the standard statistical deviation. (Myšáková, 2004)

⁹ Information became from NGO's working with homeless people in May 2005.

¹⁰ The data was obtained directly in the Social Services Department of the MPSV in May 2005. For more data see part 2.

Table 2 – Social services capacity supported by MPSV

Type of service	Number	Capacity
Low threshold centres	103	not establish
Hostels	32	500
Shelter	208	4000
Half way houses	61	500

The proposal of the European work typology is acceptable for the Ministry only in part, that is in the categories *roofless* and *houseless*.

Foreigners

The CSO reports that in the Czech Republic there are 484 persons residing on a long-term basis in asylum facilities. In addition to them, asylum facilities house asylum seekers but the CSO does not have the total figures at its disposal. The MV website claims that there were 70,000 asylum seekers from 1990 till 2003, about 10,000 of whom sought asylum in 2003. There are three types of asylum facilities defined by law¹¹: acceptance, residence and integration facilities. In addition to refugees, 255 thousand foreigners¹² live legally in the CR, most of whom come from Slovakia, the Ukraine, Vietnam and Poland. The number of illegal migrants is not known.

Children

Approximately 20,000 children under 18 years of age live in children's homes in the CR¹³, which means that every year over a thousand young people leave these facilities. Only a tiny fraction of them can find temporary residence in half way houses. Able to accommodate fewer than five hundred applicants, they are intended for persons at the age of 18 to 25 years.

Every year, about 4,000 children escape from children's homes, many ending up in the street and some returning to their families. Although most of them are found after a while and sent back to the children's home, over 300 children have disappeared during the last ten years, never to be found again.¹⁴

Lacunae

There are no hostels and night shelters for alcoholics and drug addicts. People with animals (some homeless persons have dogs) cannot find accommodation. There are very few opportunities for childless couples to be accommodated. Although there are commercial hostels where couples can be accommodated, they do not offer breakfast and are beyond the means of most homeless persons.

Integrating persons released from prison proves even more complicated. No special programmes exist for them and the public mounts stiff resistance to establishing half way houses.

¹¹ Act No. 325/1999 Sb. on asylum.

¹² Český statistický úřad (Czech Statistical Office), www.czso.cz [on line 2005-07-14]

¹³ Hospodářské noviny (newspaper) 21.10.2004

¹⁴ MF Dnes (newspaper) 2.12.2003

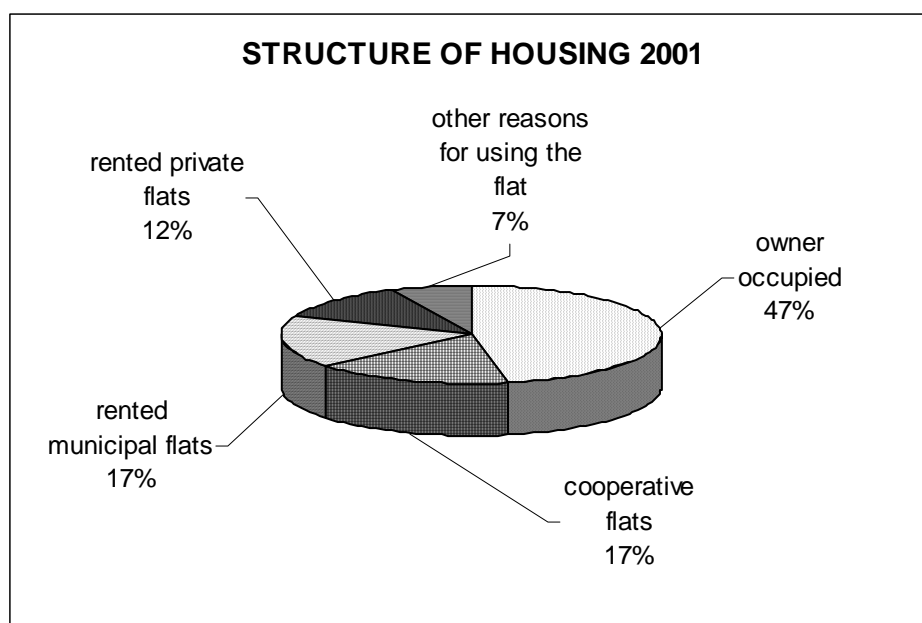
The non-existence of social housing is a major obstacle to the integration of the homeless. Participants in integration programmes stand virtually no chance of finding affordable rented housing on a contractual basis.¹⁵

¹⁵ Huňková, M. Právní analýza, která nemůže být příliš optimistická (A legal analysis that cannot be too optimistic) <http://www.britskelisty.cz/0106/20010613e.html>

Policy Update

Till 1989, authorities on the basis of an administrative decision allocated flats, whereas since the 1990s tenancy the Civil Code has again regulated relations. The state returned houses to original owners, transferred them to municipalities and privatised some of them through sale. Tenancy relations remained valid (some were entered into over 50 years ago). The graph displays a housing structure based on the 2001 census¹⁶: 47 % owner occupied, 17 % cooperative flats, 17 % rented municipal flats, 12 % rented private flats and 7 % other reasons for using the flat.

Fig. 3 – Structure of housing in the Czech republic



NAP Incl is primarily aimed at:

- Facilitating access for all to social sources, rights and services,
- Preventing the risks of exclusion,
- Helping vulnerable groups,
- Mobilising all relevant participants.

Governance and Institutional Policies

Prior to the social changes in 1989, a duty to work was imposed by law. State-owned companies were obliged to employ a planned number of personnel and had worker hostels for persons without an own flat. People, who refused to conform or were unable or reluctant to get involved in the work process or to fake work, were sentenced to imprisonment or 'placed' in psychiatric wards and hospitals. There are still people who spent their childhood in children's homes and youth at boarding schools. After completing the two-year military service, they were merely surviving in various company hostels, some with an occasional confinement to a prison or mental hospital.

Example: A man (65 years old) had never a place to live. During the WWII, he spent his childhood in an orphanage and then in a children's home. Afterwards he

¹⁶ Ministry for regional development www.mmr.cz [on line 2005-05-16]

did his military service and then, till 1990, lived in company hostels. Following the closedown of his last hostel, he lost work and became homeless. He takes care of himself, is well groomed and always settles down somewhere for a few months before going back to a hostel.

Privatised companies no longer need to run hostels for workers. Worker hostels have been converted into commercial hotels, with hidden or potential homelessness revealing in its obvious form. Both foreign migration and people who were, as a result of their own carelessness, deprived of their flats compound the situation. Generally, these people are weak, easily influenced, often physically challenged, with a development disability, old, poorly educated, from a deprived social background, frustrated from childhood.

Government Reform

The public administration reform has yet not been completed. Many acts are being amended, some of them too many times, which causes confusion. New instruments have been introduced, for example state social benefits, unemployment benefits and health insurance. The public is still waiting for a social services act, new act on flat rentals, act on support in material need. A new Labour Code is being formulated and a draft Civil Code publicly debated. There is no system solution to financing social services.

New Actors

Municipalities and regions, that are bigger units, are new actors in the social policy. The state is gradually shifting responsibility for (not only) the social sphere onto these bodies, despite there being no conceptual solution to funding. NGOs and physical entities are new participants in providing social services.

Legislation

Neither the Constitution of the Czech Republic nor any constitutional act explicitly guarantees the right to housing. The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms¹⁷, a constitutional act, generally guarantees the right to assistance in ensuring basic living conditions: *Everybody that suffers from material need is entitled to such assistance as is essential for securing his or her basic living conditions.* However, the basic living conditions are not defined.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms is based upon international documents ratified by the CR. The wording of the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹⁸ is more specific: *States ...recognise the right of each individual to adequate living standards for him/her and his/her family, which includes sufficient nutrition, clothing, housing and a continuous improvement of the living standards.* The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been part of the legal system since 1948.¹⁹

¹⁷ The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms was incorporated into the legal system by constitutional act No. 23/1991 Sb. The quotation comes from Article 30, paragraph 2.

¹⁸ Ministry for foreign affairs Intimation No. 120/1976 Sb. on the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights and the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; both came into effect in Czechoslovakia on 23 March 1976.

¹⁹ Precise from 10.12.1948, published in the No. 1/1948 UN Selected declarations.

Access to Housing

The Civil Code governs tenancy relations in respect of flats²⁰: *Flat tenancy is based upon a lease... Flat tenancy is protected and unless agreement is reached, it may only be terminated on the grounds set out in law.* The Civil Code protects tenants against the arbitrary conduct of the owner, and regulates the possibilities of a joint flat tenancy by married couples as well as the transfer of a flat tenancy in the event that the tenant dies or permanently leaves the common household²¹. The Civil Code also specifies the terms under which a tenancy may be terminated, which is sometimes abused for terminations on the following grounds *...if the flat or house requires renovations during the performance of which the flat or house cannot be used for an extended period of time.* Each termination of a flat tenancy must be sanctioned by the court, which provides a statutory safeguard. If the tenant cannot act to influence the grounds for the termination and is aggrieved by the termination, s/he is entitled to an adequate replacement flat. In some other instances when the tenant gives grounds for the termination (gross violation of good morals in the house, failure to pay rent), s/he is entitled to replacement housing or flat of lower quality, and a lease may than be concluded for a short period of time without further rights. The law also knows the institute of *shelters*, replacement housing. The number of persons living in such conditions cannot be determined.

Example: In the town of Slaný, a Roma family was evicted from their flat for owing less than CZK 20,000 (about € 690) in rent. A multitude of reactions appeared in the media. HN printed an article by a mayor of another town that says: 'The evictions did not concern people in general but only problematic individuals. And this is a profound difference...Representatives of towns...will perhaps have to show...even more courage.' Similar attitudes are on the increase among local politicians.

A penalty for not paying rent bordered on the absurd. For the entire period of 10 years, it amounted to incredible 91.25 % p.a. and the government decree was then signed by the current president of the CR. The author has a letter from the ombudsman, who deems such amount to be pre-emptive. However, the penalty has amounted to 8.75 % p.a. since 2005.

The law does not impose an obligation upon any public administration authority to provide housing assistance to a person that has nowhere to live because s/he has lost a flat for some reason or has never owned one. The assistance then hinges solely upon the willingness of persons involved in the public administration, in particular upon municipalities.

The state social support and additional payment for housing

The state social support is a system of financial support for persons in various living situations. It includes a housing allowance that is to help the lowest-income households with increasing housing costs. The housing allowance is paid to all low-income households irrespective of the type of flat the household occupies.²² The law stipulates that *the owner or tenant of the flat who has registered his/her permanent residence in the flat is entitled to claim the allowance.* This makes the housing allowance inaccessible for a homeless person staying for example in a hostel.

In addition to the housing allowance, protection against eviction is addressed by the bill on assistance in material need under which municipalities provide an additional payment for housing.²³ As is the case with the housing allowance, this payment belongs only to flat owners or tenants, and is inaccessible for the homeless.

²⁰ The Civil Code as amended. The Civil Code is based upon a regulation from 1964 that was frequently amended, often in an incoherent manner. The issue of rents is addressed in particular in sections 663-719. Other related regulations include for example act no. 102/1992 Sb. and act no. 50/1976 Sb.

²¹ Act No. 40/1964 Sb., The Civil Code § 700-708.

²² Act No. 117/1995 Sb. on the State social support, paragraph 24, section 1.

²³ Data obtained in writing from the MPSV in June 2005.

Rent regulation

A paradoxical situation exists in respect of rent regulation. The Constitutional Court has so far rendered three verdicts of the unconstitutionality of rent regulation.²⁴ Although rent regulation is cancelled, tenancy agreements continue to apply. As regards rent levels, two types of tenancy relations concurrently exist: older agreements concluded under the rules of regulated rents and new ones that fully reflect market conditions. This situation originates from before 1989 when rents were determined on a uniform basis.

Expensive flats are now readily available at unregulated rents, while flats at regulated rents are in great demand and occupants are reluctant to leave, move out of or change them. No limitations whatsoever apply to newly negotiated tenancy agreements. A person that has lost a flat stands almost no chance of finding a cheap rent. Renting a council flat remains the only possibility, although often merely a theoretical one because these flats are seldom available. Towns and in particular cities often rent flats through an auction to bidders who undertake to pay the highest rent.

In July 2005, the government is debating a bill on rents that is to temporarily reinstate the regulation of rents for a transitional period of six years so that the desired rent increases are not too dramatic. The MMR suggests that regulated rents for flats increase on average by 9.3 % per annum.²⁵

The current government (appointed in May 2005) is putting a high priority on adopting a new rent act and debating it in July. However, the problem lies in frequent government reshuffles in the recent time period and in expected post-election changes.

The State support of housing

The aggregate of state measures to support housing focuses on contributions towards the construction and maintenance of the housing fund and towards the quality of housing on a macroeconomic scale.²⁶ The support, in the form of a loan or subsidy, may be used to cover some costs of constructing and modernising flats and houses. For low-income or destitute persons, the state housing support is virtually pointless.

As part of the programme *Support the construction of supported flats*, the MMR provided 2-year support to 43 projects by municipalities, to the construction of 712 supported flats and a state subsidy in the amount of CZK 486.5 million.²⁷

The MMR formulated the basis of an act on the support of non-profit housing that should specify conditions under which investors may receive support to acquire and provide affordable rented housing in which rents will be limited by law and that will be intended for persons with a specific income.²⁸

Social housing

There is no state policy of social housing. By law²⁹, various institutions, for example old people's homes, children's homes, social care facilities, are still understood to be buildings intended for social housing. The legislation does not recognise social housing as a housing opportunity for low-income or destitute households.

²⁴ Verdict of the Constitutional Court No. 231/2000 Sb., Verdict of the Constitutional Court No. 528/2002 Sb., Verdict of the Constitutional Court No. 84/2003 Sb.

²⁵ Ministry for regional development www.mmr.cz [on line 2005-07-12]

²⁶ Act no. 211/2000 Sb. on the State Fund for Housing Development.

²⁷ Ministry for regional development www.mmr.cz [on line 2005-07-12]

²⁸ Ministry for regional development www.mmr.cz [on line 2005-06-26]

²⁹ Act No. 635/2004 Sb.

Municipal housing policies

Municipal housing policies are chaotic. Many towns opted to make an immediate profit from the sale of flats to occupants. This privatisation of the housing fund solves only a part of the problem: occupants of selected houses could sometimes purchase their flats on very favourable conditions and sometimes not. Some towns leave too few flats in their portfolio that may be used as social housing in the future.

In many towns and villages, social housing remains taboo or is degraded to so-called *holobyt*³⁰. *Holobyt* represent hidden homelessness because their occupants usually conclude agreements for a definite period of time and are often accommodated without the statutory safeguards for tenants. People whose rent is in arrears are often evicted to *holobyt*, which results in the formation of ghettos of social pathology, 'houses of horror'. Although *holobyt* may provide a temporary shelter against the complete loss of housing, they are not a solution to the problem of homelessness – on the contrary, they may pose this risk. There are few towns that combine this type of housing with an offer of social services provided by NGO's.

The lower legal regulations³¹ gives a definition of the so-called facilities for socially non-conforming citizens: *Socially non-conforming citizens without a shelter are provided with accommodation in particular in hostels intended for their temporary residence, and asylum-type facilities may also be established.*

On the other hand, there are towns and villages that pay attention to a municipal housing policy in communal planning, which is part of measures and institutional safeguards of NAP Incl. This, however, is not the rule yet.

Preventing Exclusion

Social insurance

Through a special act³², the state guarantees all citizens the right to social security. For the social group under the greatest threat of exclusion, this act constitutes the only Czech legal norm defining *the care of citizens that require special assistance and have socially non-conforming citizens*. The relevant authorities are to provide these citizens with care *to solve the social consequences of their social non-conformity. This care is aimed at creating an active attitude of these citizens towards work and society, and at assisting them to lead a proper life*. Even after the superficial changes, the wording of the act bears a marked resemblance to the language and thinking of the past era.

The conditions of assessing social needs and of providing financial and material benefits within social care are laid down in the Social Needs Act³³: *A citizen who fails to comply with the conditions and whose health may be seriously harmed, may be provided with the necessary assistance*. Again, the problem lies in the wording: 'may be provided' does not yet mean that it will be provided.

Example: A father of two children had a business but did not pay pension insurance. He suddenly died and the bereaved wife claimed widow and orphan allowances for herself and the two minor children. The CSSZ, however, established that the allowances could not be granted because the dead man had not paid the social insurance.³⁴ The bereaved family is now facing a real risk of social exclusion.

³⁰ No act provides a definition of *holobyt*. *Holobyt* started being established as a reaction of municipal councils to deteriorating payment practices by tenants of council flats, and they are a punishment for households not paying their rents. *Holobyt* often include a single coal-heated room with a concrete floor and cold water and shared toilets in the corridor. They are intentionally designed in this way to be a real punishment.

³¹ Intimation no. 182/1991 Sb., section 103 (statutory instrument for the Social Security Act).

³² Act No. 100/1988 Sb. on social insurance, quotations § 90 a 91.

³³ Act No. 482/1991 Sb. on social need, specially § 8a, odst. 1.

³⁴ Example on www.cssz.cz, Česká správa sociálního zabezpečení [on line 2004-07-28]

Bills of new Acts

The government is debating a bill on assistance in material need that is to prevent social exclusion. Under the bill, municipalities shall provide assistance to persons in material need who have difficulties resolving the situation on their own. Some homeless persons belonging to a group that finds it hard to secure a job will receive more assistance than hitherto. Those who will avoid work will get assistance that is below the subsistence level. In such an instance, assistance will be provided by social services. Nowadays, these people do not qualify for social care benefits and, therefore, rely solely on the help of non-state organisations. The MPSV believes that the passing of the bill cannot be generally expected to aggravate the situation.³⁵

The absence of an act on social services poses an obstacle to their development. Although many bills have been put forward in the last ten years, none has been enacted. The current bill debated by the government safeguards the quality and availability of social services, lays emphasis on assistance towards self-sufficiency and considers the recipient a partner in the system rather than an object of care.³⁶ The bill divides the services into care and prevention, while significantly improving the position of persons with health disabilities who receive the care. On the other hand, it preserves the current opaque funding of social services for the homeless, which belong to the preventive services.

Claims and rights exercising

Claims and rights in the social sphere may, with some exceptions, be exercised only in the place of permanent residence (permanent address). In this, the records under the act on the registration and records of citizens' abode play the major role.³⁷ Citizens may have only one place of permanent residence and this must be in a building intended for housing, accommodation or leisure. The authorities decide to cancel the permanent residence if the building no longer exists or is unsuitable for housing or when the right to its use was terminated. In this case, the citizen will have his/her permanent residence at the office that cancelled the previous permanent residence.

Although a clearly practical procedure, it proves an obstacle for a person that cannot or does not want to stay in the place of permanent residence. S/he will become homeless, losing the opportunity to register new permanent residence. The possibility to exercise the claims and rights diminishes with the increasing distance from the fictitious place of permanent residence, and the rights of the homeless become merely theoretical in the event of their ID documents being lost or stolen. They cannot get accommodation, find work or register as job seekers, and have no money to cover fees and penalties for issuing new ID documents. They cannot request that their health condition be examined in order to claim a disability pension. Issuing new ID documents is time-consuming and few homeless persons can get them without outside assistance. A social phobia, a pathological fear of coming into contact with the authorities and institutions including health and social facilities, frequently occurs among the homeless.

Example: When applying for an ID card, citizens must provide the relevant authority with their photograph as well as the birth certificate, and the homeless frequently do not have the latter. But without a valid ID card, the Registry Office will refuse to issue a copy of the birth certificate. If a homeless person arranges for a copy of his/her birth certificate to be mailed, the post office will not give the letter to him/her without an ID card. An absurd vicious circle.

³⁵ Data obtained in writing from the MPSV in June 2005.

³⁶ Data obtained in writing from the MPSV in June 2005.

³⁷ Act No. 133/2000 Sb. on inhabitants filing, § 10-12.

Strategy

The state does not have a demographic study that would provide a qualitative and quantitative description of the problem of exclusion (and homelessness). Authorities base their annual decisions on projects eligible for support solely on the principles of providing subsidies from the state budget. Regions and municipalities make their decisions in accordance with their powers and legal obligations.

In Parts 1 and 2 of NAP Incl, homelessness is described with a reference to the program *Support of the process of introducing and developing new forms of social services enabling life in a natural environment*. The programme was intended to promote projects striving to provide social services to persons in an unfavourable social situation, which is also the homeless. Ten projects addressing homelessness were supported as part of the programme.

Services aimed at preventing homelessness in exposed households are not mooted, and neither is the primary prevention of homelessness among children and teenagers. The typology of homelessness as put forward in a discussion within the ETHOS Project is acceptable for the MPSV only in its more restrictive interpretation, in the categories *roofless* and *houseless*.³⁸

NAP Incl includes the homeless among the most vulnerable groups and expects that they will be provided with assistance. NAP Incl, however, admits that the state has no strategy to prevent homelessness and resolve this problem. The ESF has supported an extensive two-year project by a group of NGO's, aimed at formulating a homelessness prevention strategy.

Homeless Services

In 2002, the MPSV put forward a typology of social services³⁹ that was conceived as an open one and provided for changes according to the social development. It, inter alia, included a brief definition of homelessness as; in particular, non-existence of a shelter or living in housing conditions that place life or health at risk. The bill of the law⁴⁰ on social services, however, removes the advantage of the system openness, defining four types of services:

- Low threshold day centres (*Nízkoprahová denní centra*) provide outpatient or terrain services to people without a shelter.
- Hostels (*Noclehárny*) provide outpatient services to persons without a shelter who wish to use their sanitary facilities and stay overnight.
- Shelters (*Azylové domy*) provide temporary accommodation to persons in an adverse social situation connected with the loss of housing.
- Half way houses (*Domy na půli cesty*) provide accommodation in particular to persons under the age of 26 years who, on reaching the legal age, leave educational facilities for institutional or protective upbringing, or to persons from other institutions taking care of children and teenagers, and to persons that are released from imprisonment or protective treatment. The method of providing social services in the above establishments is tailored to the specific needs of these persons.

Below are listed some social services related problems encountered by their providers, especially NGO's:

- The funding of social prevention services is regarded as non-transparent and preventing conceptual development. The bill on social services, however, maintains this situation.
- The network of social services for the homeless is not developed sufficiently and varies in regions.
- There is a lack of good communication between services for drug addicts and services for the homeless, although both have common clients.

³⁸ Information obtained from the NAP Incl. and in writing from the MPSV in June 2005.

³⁹ Ministerstvo práce a sociálních věcí www.mpsv.cz, last actualisation 7.8.2002, in the present no more on internet [on line 2004-02-05]

⁴⁰ Bill on social services, July 2005.

Policies targeting the most vulnerable

Domestic abuse

Over the course of the year, 26 % inhabitants of the CR suffered domestic violence – findings by the STEM agency. Most occurrences of domestic violence remain unresolved due to a lack of evidence because all that is available are just contradictory statements. The tortured person is often pressurised to refuse to testify against his/her aggressive partner and the victim usually leaves for a hostel. Statistical data is not available.

Immigrants

The Asylum Act⁴¹ defines three types of asylum facilities intended for collective accommodation for refugees – asylum seekers and persons granted asylum: acceptance, residence and integration centres. A foreigner accommodated in an acceptance or residence centre is entitled to a bed and locker for personal belongings. A state integration programme, which also includes help with housing, has been formulated to assist asylum seekers to integrate into society.

In addition to refugees, 255 thousand foreigners live legally in the CR⁴², most of who come from Slovakia, the Ukraine, Vietnam and Poland. The number of illegal migrants is not known. Most migrants, especially from Eastern Europe, work as unskilled labourers, often in the building industry, and live in hostels.

Areas marked by exclusion

NAP Incl gives an apt definition of persons suffering from social exclusion: children from broken and non-functioning homes, certain Roma communities, some groups of migrants – in particular illegal ones, persons released from prison and other institutions. NAP Incl, however, pays less attention to living in the so-called holobyť and to the situation in children's homes where 20,000 children permanently live.

NAP Incl identifies usury as one of the socially pathological phenomena, affecting in particular the Roma community. Usury is connected with rent debts, decline in family living standards, health risks, eviction, homelessness, deteriorating childcare and the placement of children in institutions, and in particular with an upsurge in crime – thefts, violence and vandalism.

Increasing household indebtedness poses a potential future risk, with loans alone amounting to a total of CZK 285 billion (about €10 billion) as at 31 December 2004. The growing popularity of gaming and betting is a similar threat, with CZK 85 billion (about €2.9 billion) spent on these pastimes in 2004.

⁴¹ Act No. 325/1999 Sb. on asylum, § 68, 69, 79, 81.

⁴² Český statistický úřad (Czech Statistical Office), www.czso.cz [on line 2005-07-14]

Research Database

The homelessness issue is a quite new phenomenon in the Czech Republic. The visible homelessness appeared because of the society changes after 1989. Before this phenomenon was latent, homeless people survived mainly in the institutions (workers hostels, hospitals, psychiatrist hospitals and prisons). It was the reason why there weren't any specialised social services in the system.

From 1990 the first social services for homeless people began to appear spontaneously. At first these were volunteers organisations, which soon changed into professional NGOs. Bigger cities and later smaller towns started with establishing their social services, especially shelters and hostels.

First reports describing homelessness appeared in the mid-90s. The range of experts from theoretical and practical field is quite narrow, so it corresponds with the range of authors of research projects. Nobody has dealt with making a relevant database; this is the first of its kind. It is based on a literature search of printed materials and also of Internet. It contains the list of texts of different extent and different value of content including the articles about homelessness from special magazines and dissertations, which touch the problem of homelessness as a part of a bigger context.

The methodological procedure for the database creation was chosen in these steps:

- A literature research of reports made in Research Institute of Labour and Social Affairs (governmental institution established by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)
- A literature research according to suitable key words in internet
- A literature research according to bibliographic references in available printed literature
- A choice of suitable titles from a gained file

During literature research two interesting moments were discovered. These can be a reflection of the lack of terms describing homelessness and homeless people in the Czech legal system:

- Velký sociologický slovník (The Big Dictionary of Sociology, published in 1996 by Charles University, Publisher Carolinum, 1628 pages) doesn't know the terms *homeless* and *homelessness*, and doesn't talk about the homelessness issue.
- In the Sociological Studies (published by Sociological Institute of Academy of Sciences in the Czech Republic) no terms connected with homelessness were found.⁴³

3.1. Definition and measurement

Hradecký, Ilja

Jak spočítat bezdomovce

Brno, Sociální práce 2004/4, p. 103-116

The article describes project *Counting the Homeless, Prague 2004*. Author introduces into the European context of homelessness and its quantification. With a little overseas excursion, approaches a methodology of the project, its preparation and realisation. It covers an evaluation and publicity of the results, without substituting a role of the final report. The article reflects the author's own professional experience at the end.

Hradecký, Ilja – Kosová, Petra – Myšáková, Mária – Omelková, Lenka – Sedláček, Petr

Sčítání bezdomovců Praha 2004, zpráva o projektu

Praha, Arcidiecézní charita, Armáda spásy, MCSSP, Naděje 2004. 27 p., bibl., tab.

⁴³ Sociological Institute of Academy of Sciences in the Czech Republic <http://studie.soc.cas.cz>

<http://www.mcssp.cz/studie/2004/Sčítání%20bezdomovců.pdf>

The project goal was to find the most exact number of homeless people living in the city. The report contains a project preparation, used methodology and the project realisation itself. A lot of charts and graphs are added to the researches results and interpretation. The Homeless Census Prague 2004 was the first of its kind in the Czech Republic and as a pilot project was presented in front of the public.

Myšáková, Mária

Sčítání bezdomovců Praha 2004, postup zpracování výsledků

Praha, VÚPSV 2004. 28 p., bibl., tab., ann.

This research report documents procedures of the evaluation results to the project *Counting the Homeless, Prague 2004*.

3.2. Understanding homelessness

Barták, Miroslav

Zdravotní stav populace bezdomovců v ČR a jeho determinanty I.

Kostelec nad Černými lesy, IZPE 2004, ISSN 1213-8096. 102 p., bibl., tab., ann.

The research report is the first part of a wider project lasting several years and has the same title. It presents the summary of theoretical findings about homelessness as a political and social problem and also in relation to poverty and social exclusion and its determinants. It presents the analysis of the homelessness issue in the Czech Republic after 1989, the analysis of the EU policy related to homelessness.

Fitzpatrick, Suzanne – Kemp, Peter – Klinker, Suzanne

Bezdomovství, přehled výsledků výzkumů z Velké Británie

Kostelec nad Černými lesy, IZPE 2004, ISBN 80-86625-15-X. 96 p., bibl.

The publication is a translation of the English original *Single Homelessness, an overview of research in Britain*, The Policy Press, Bristol, 2000, ISBN 1-86134-255-1.

Horáková, Milada

Současné podoby bezdomovství v České republice, pilotní sonda

Praha, VÚPSV 1997

The research report made in 1997 for the public administration describes rather prevalingly problems of the homelessness.

Hradecká, Vlastimila – Hradecký, Ilja

Bezdomovství – extrémní vyloučení

Praha, Naděje 1996, ISBN 80-902292-0-4. 107 p., bibl., tab., ann.

The first summary monograph works with the issue of homelessness in the Czech Republic after 1989. The authors use their practical work experience with the homeless and theoretical knowledge from Europe and the USA. They name the factors causing homelessness among individual vulnerable groups. They bring the first working definition and a homelessness typology. They indicate the forms of prevention, help and re-socialisation. The statistical data

from Prague are enclosed and there is also the comparison of data from the Czech Republic and data from the EU and the USA.

Janata, Zdeněk – Kotýnková, Magdalena

K bezdomovství a možnostem jeho prevence (Homelessness and possible preventive action)

Praha, Sociální politika, 28, 2002, No.11, p.3-6. 4 tab., bibl.

The article in the official magazine of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Homelessness is a severe humanitarian problem, which is not discussed among the professionals. The charity organisations activities. The homeless are usually people who are weakened mentally, physically, without low education, low social status and unable to create normal interpersonal relationship. The social exclusion from the society and a demand for social benefits. The situation in Europe and the Czech Republic. The causes of homelessness, help provided and the prevention possibilities.

Obadalová, Miroslava

Přístup k bydlení sociálně ohrožených skupin obyvatel (Access to Housing for Sociable Vulnerable Groups of People)

Praha, VÚPSV (RILSA) 2001. 32 p.

<http://www.vupsv.cz/zpravy.htm>

The goal of this study is to outline the complex picture of access to housing problems faced by vulnerable groups of people and to achieve this a comparison is drawn between the differing approaches to meeting the needs of these categories of people in the EU countries and the Czech Republic. Author has in her focus seniors, peoples with physical and/or mental health challenges, young people seeking for there first home, and the homeless. The services and measures taken in the certain EU countries. In each chapter there are a drawing comparisons with the current situation in the Czech Republic.

Potužníková, Zuzana

Bezdomovství ve Velké Británii

<http://www.zcr.cz/Stranky/archiv.htm>

The work is the analysis for homelessness and its development in the UK, making a comprehensive summary about homelessness and its solutions in the UK comparing to the Czech Republic. The method is the analysis of available materials about homelessness and an analysis of legal regulations and homelessness participants in the UK.

Sborník ze semináře na téma bezdomovství v Evropě, Olomouc, 4. 3. 1998

Praha, Naděje 1998, ISBN 80-902292-3-9. 56 p.

The summary of contributions from a seminary attended by the representatives of the Czech organizations working with the homeless and also representatives of FEANTSA. The book is supplemented with enclosing materials about the homelessness issue and the social inclusion in Europe.

Summary from a Seminar on Homelessness in Europe, Olomouc, 4. 3. 1998

Praha, Naděje 1998, ISBN 80-902292-5-5. 64 p.

English version of the summary.

Sborník z konference „Křesťan a bezdomovectví“

Olomouc, Matice cyrilometodějská 2004, ISBN 80-7266-194-9. 40 p.

The summary of contributions from the conference in Olomouc at the Univerzita Palackého (Palacký University), Theological faculty. Homeless from the Christian point of view. A national politics in the homelessness issue. The examples of good social work practice.

3.3. The development and impact of policy

Horáková, Milada – Krause, Danica – Polívka, Milan

Zjištění možnosti kontinuálního sledování ukazatelů (znaků) míry integrace cizinců prostřednictvím trhu práce České republiky (A Possibility of the continual indicators' observation of foreigners' integration rate through the labour market of the Czech Republic)

Praha, VÚPSV 2002. 36 p., bibl., ann.

<http://www.vupsv.cz/zpravy.htm>

The main goal the research was a possible utilization of the OK Práce system (the information system used by Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) for better understanding and continual observation of foreigners' integration. The report describes in details all currently available characteristics of foreigners and brings recommendations for prospective adjustments in respect of the observation of their integration.

Kotýnková, Magdalena – Laňka, Štěpán

Národní akční plány boje proti chudobě a sociálnímu vyloučení členských zemí Evropské unie (National Action Plans of the Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion in EU Member States)

Praha, VÚPSV 2002. 126 p., tabs., ann.

<http://www.vupsv.cz/zpravy.htm>

This report focuses mainly on identifying of innovative approaches and good practice in the area of the fight against poverty and social exclusion in Member States of the EU, it is based on the *Joint Report on Social Inclusion*. The first part of the report contains description of the provisions in framework of employment policy, social policy, housing, and so on. and also description of civil society actions that were adopted in NAPs/incl to meet common objectives. The second part contains examples of good practise selected both from the Joint Report and national reports. The third part is concerned with the problems of common indicators that were formed for measuring of poverty and social exclusion.

3.4. Homelessness pathways

Gilarová, Petra

Bezdomovci – prodejci Nového prostoru

www.plus-research.cz

Final report of the student research *Interaction between street paper Nový prostor sellers and public*.

Le Rouzic, Isabelle

Z nejisté situace k antipatiím: Dnešní bezdomovci v Praze

Praha, Britské listy 2000

<http://www.britskelisty.cz/9911/19991119d.html#03>

The report published in British letters deals with the homelessness issue in Prague viewed by a French research worker. It points out all the lures and dangers of the capital city, the lack of flats and services offered. The important part includes the homeless attitudes, their stories and typical situations, their experience, ideas and life prospects.

Le Rouzic, Isabelle

From Precariousness to Disaffection: The homeless in Prague

<http://www.ce-review.org/99/21/lerouzic21.html>

English version of the article.

Syrový, Petr – Kutálková, Petra

Mladí na ulici hlavního města Prahy

Praha, MCSSP, 2000

<http://mcssp.cz>

Street children issue, young people at streets, isn't described in the Czech Republic and Prague properly. The text is a sound to the young people living at streets environment and chosen organisations working with this group in Prague.

Trnka, Luděk – Kantorová, Zlata – Krejbich, František

Bezdomovci – i symbolická motivace výrazně zlepšuje vyhledávání tuberkulózy

Praha, Zdravotnické noviny 2003.

The National Unit Inspecting the Tuberculosis problem is looking for the tuberculosis among the most vulnerable groups. It co-operates with organisations offering social services during the tuberculosis checking among homeless people. The national unit used the method of stimulated motivations providing the food cheque. A high percentage of the homeless go in to this checking.

3.5. Studies of specific vulnerable groups

Freiová, Michaela

Uprchlická otázka a my

Praha, Občanský institut 1993, ISBN 80-900190-6-4. 44 p.

The author, in 1990-1992 the attorney for refugees issues gives the information about refugees and migration in the Czech Republic in the European context.

Horáková, Milada

Zaměstnávání cizinců v České republice, část I. Integrace cizinců na trhu práce v České republice (Employment of foreigners in the Czech Republic. Part I. Integration of foreigners into the labour market.)

Praha, VÚPSV 2001. 32 p., bibl., pic.

<http://www.vupsv.cz/zpravy.htm>

This final report is a part of the project Integration of foreigners into the labour market of the Czech Republic. The report consists of two parts, a theoretical part relating to general problems of foreigners' integration second part is concerned with an integration of foreigners into labour market of the CR. It provides background on total registered economic activities of foreigners during period 1993-2001.

Horáková, Milada – Čerňanská, Danica

Zaměstnávání cizinců v České republice, část II. Závěrečná zpráva z empirického šetření (Employment of foreigners in the Czech Republic. Part II. Final report from an empirical investigation.)

Praha, VÚPSV 2001. 37 p., bibl., tab., ann.

<http://www.vupsv.cz/zpravy.htm>

The research report presents results of an empirical survey of a representative sample of foreigners from selected Central and Eastern European countries holding a work permit who are employed in the Czech Republic for more than one year. The goal of the research was to examine their qualification predisposition for occupations requesting a higher professional skills and possibilities of their integration into the Czech labour market. The study describes some discrepancies between a former occupation in the country of origin and present occupation in the CR and tries to identify main differences between employment and unemployment of natives and foreigners. The report focused also on foreigners' work and wage conditions, their discrimination on the Czech labour market, issues of their health care and health insurance and housing conditions of the foreigners working in the CR within institute of work permits.

Horáková, Milada – Polívka, Milan – Pfeifer, Patrik

Nelegální zaměstnávání cizinců jako překážka v jejich žádoucí integraci na trhu práce, Část I. Metodické postupy užívané ke zkoumání fenoménu nelegální práce ve vybraných zemích (The illegal employment of foreigners as a obstacle in their desired integration on the labour market. Part I.)

Praha, VÚPSV 2001. 41 p., bibl., tab.

<http://www.vupsv.cz/zpravy.htm>

The research report continues former researches on illegal employment of foreigners. By means of comparative works, methodical procedures used to watch foreigners' illegal labour and foreigners' illegal status have been concisely mapped. Case studies are describing foreigners' illegal employment in various countries and they concentrate on various aspects of the phenomenon characterized by diverse range and theoretical background.

Horáková, Milada – Polívka, Milan – Čerňanská, Danica – Rudolf, Vladimír

Nelegální zaměstnávání cizinců jako překážka v jejich žádoucí integraci na trhu práce. Část II. Výsledky empirického šetření na úřadech práce v České republice. (The illegal employment of foreigners as a obstacle in their desired integration on the labour market. Part II. The results of the empirical survey in labour offices in the Czech Republic.)

Praha, VÚPSV 2001. 37 p., ann.

<http://www.vupsv.cz/zpravy.htm>

The evaluation of the empirical survey of foreigners' illegal employment is a separate supplement of a basic study on these problems. The survey was realized through postal questionnaires in the second half of 2001 and all Czech labour offices were included.

Mareš, Petr

Chudoba v České republice v datech (šetření sociální situace domácností), dílčí studie projektu o možnostech monitorování chudoby v ČR

Praha, VÚPSV 2004. 57 p., bibl., tab.

<http://www.vupsv.cz/zpravy.htm>

The research report deals with poverty issue as a social, material, physical a psychological deprivation. The base for this is the data from the survey, social situation of households in the Czech Republic.

Musil, Libor

„Osoby se syndromem ústavní závislosti“ a řešení jejich problému v Brně

Brno, Fakulta sociálních studií Masarykovy university 2000

http://www.bрно.cz/toCP1250/download/osp/socialni_pomoc_fss/syndrom

The goal of this report is to present a proposal how to solve the problem of people living in Brno after a long stay in some of state institutions and their integration to the society. It is complicated because of the dependence of an institution schedule and arrangement from the institution. The goal is to create a target group, explain its size, and describe the services that help to solve the problem and to draw out the problem solution.

Palonciová, Jana

Domácnosti a rodiny podle výsledků sčítání lidu, domů a bytů (Households and families according to the results of the population census.)

Praha, VÚPSV 2004. 94 p., bibl., tab.

<http://www.vupsv.cz/zpravy.htm>

The report offers a description of households and families according to the results of the population census 2001 in the Czech Republic. Most of the features have been compared with the results from the previous census 1991. In general, population census offers an overview of the population state at a defined moment. Information about households and families from the census data reflects the consequences of the previous family patterns and helps to understand the changes in demographic processes in the 90s in the Czech Republic. Concerning the data and methods used in this study, the analyses have been based on aggregate data published by the Czech Statistical Office.

Romové v České republice (1945-1998)

Praha, Socioklub 1999, ISBN 80-902260-7-8. 558 p.

A detailed monograph describes the situation of Romany minority viewed by the government politics, statistics and demography. It registers the Romany representation development, ethnical relationships in the civil society including the activities of Romany non- governmental organisations. It then follows Romany problems of unemployment, social protection and social pathology.

Sirovátka, Tomáš – Mareš, Petr – Večerník, Jiří – Zelený, Martin

Monitorování chudoby v České republice, úvodní studie

Praha, VÚPSV 2002. 123 p., bibl., tab., ann.

<http://www.vupsv.cz/zpravy.htm>

The study identifies the options for monitoring of poverty especially income poverty and the other aspects of material deprivation and at the same time it brings suggestions of adequate methodological approaches as well as practical recommendations. It concentrates on the more important statistical methods to study income poverty and material deprivation. The study identifies possibilities to employ databases from institutions of social administration for this purpose and recommends the ways, how to analyse them. It also presents the methodological approaches to capture the effects of social benefits on poverty. The study represents the step of the long-term project aiming to the consequent use of these methods.

Výroční zpráva o stavu ve věcech drog v České republice v roce 2003

Praha, Úřad vlády České republiky 2004. 85 p.

The report of the overall situation in the field of illegal drugs made by the National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

3.6. Services – organisation, operation and delivery

Musil, Libor – Hubíková, Olga – Kubalčíková, Kateřina

Kultura poskytování osobních sociálních služeb: případová studie Domu na půl cesty (The culture of personal social services provision: the halfway house case study.)

Praha, VÚPSV 2003. 36 p., bibl., ann.

<http://www.vupsv.cz/zpravy.htm>

This report gives an overview of the third and final stage of the research conducted between 2001 and 2003. The research team's task was to lay the groundwork for the implementation of the long-term project. *The standards of quality and the culture of personal social services*. The final research stage was concerned with the details of the current standards governing service provision. What interested the researchers most was in what way do concrete representatives of the founder influence the culture of service provision and the actual standards. In analysing the interviews we sought to identify how the attitudes and strategies pursued by representatives of the authorities affect the approaches towards the clients adopted by the personnel and how they affect the standards governing the service provision. This question is discussed in the third and the most important chapter of this report.

Příklady nejlepších praxe v boji proti bezdomovství

Praha, Naděje 2003, ISBN 80-86451-05-4. 88 p., ann.

www.azylovedomy.cz

The publication is a summary containing important results of the project *Building European partnership in the combat against homelessness* realised by the Czech FEANTSA members, SAD, Salvation Army and Naděje.

Examples of Best Practices in the Fight Against Homelessness

Praha, Naděje 2003, ISBN 80-86451-06-2. 80 p., ann.

www.azylovedomy.cz

English version of the publication is a summary containing important results of the project *Building European partnership in the combat against homelessness* realised by the Czech FEANTSA members, SAD, Salvation Army and Naděje.

Exemples des meilleures pratiques dans la lutte contre le sans-abrisme

Praha, Naděje 2003, ISBN 80-86451-05-4. 96 p., ann.

www.azylovedomy.cz

Trench version of the publication is a summary containing important results of the project *Building European partnership in the combat against homelessness* realised by the Czech FEANTSA members, SAD, Salvation Army and Naděje.

Zjevné bezdomovství v Praze, analýza a návrhy řešení problematiky pro zimní období

Praha, MCSSP 2003. 21 p.

<http://www.mcssp.cz/studie/2003/Bezdomovství%20v%20zima%202003.pdf>

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Abbreviations

ČR – Česká republika (Czech Republic)

ČSSZ – Česká správa sociálního zabezpečení

CSO – Český statistický úřad (Czech Statistical Office)

ČSÚ – Český statistický úřad (Czech Statistical Office)

CZK – Czech Crown

ESF – Evropský sociální fond (European Social Fund)

ETHOS – European Typology of Homlessness and Housing Exclusion

HRD – Human Resources Development

IZPE – Institut zdravotní politiky a ekonomiky (Institute for Health Policy and Economics)

MCSSP – Městské centrum sociálních služeb a prevence Praha (Municipal Centre of Social Services and Prevention)

MF – Ministerstvo financí (Ministry of Finances)

MMR – Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj (Ministry for Regional Development)

MPSV – Ministerstvo práce a sociálních věcí (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)

MZV – Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí (Ministry for Foreign Affairs)

NAP Incl – National Action Plan for Social Inclusion

NGO (NGO's) – Non Governmental Organisation

Sb. – Sbírka zákonů (Collection of Acts)

STEM – Středisko empirických výzkumů (Centre for Empiric Research)

VÚPSV – Výzkumný ústav práce a sociálních věcí (Research Institute of Labour and Social Affairs)

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Annex

Information on Statistics 2005

Revised Operational Definition

Roofless

SUB CATE GORY	DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY DESCRIPTION	SOURCE	ACCESS	AREA COVERED	MEASURE	DATA (LATEST)	DATE
1.1	Sleeping Rough	Spaní venku	A 1 B C	4 1 1 1	Praha Ostrava *) B C	1 1 3 3	1868 1000-1200 4450-6200 4000-6200	2004 2005 2005 2005
1.2	Contacted by outreach services	Kontaktování terénními službami	A B	4 1	Praha B	1 3	411 1100	2004 2005
2.1	Low-threshold / direct access shelter	Nocování v nízkoprahové noclehárně	A	4	Praha	1	267	2004
2.2	Arranged (e.g. low budget hotel)	Nouzové ubytování					no data	
2.3	Short-stay hostel	Krátkodobá ubytovna					no data	

Comments:

- 1.1 Source A: Homeless census Prague 2004 (19.2.2004, 20.00-22.00 h) – Prague, the capital with 1.2 mil. inhabitants
- 1.1 *) Region of Ostrava (ca 600 thousands inhabitants), data source: NGO (more in the thematic report)
- 1.1 Source B: Estimation of the NGO's from the area living 38 % inhabitants of the CR (urban) – prevalence for 5 winter months
- 1.1 Source C: Estimation of the NGO's from the area living 18 % inhabitants of the CR (cities) – prevalence for 5 winter months
- 1.2 Source A: Homeless census Prague 2004 (19.2.2004, 20.00-22.00 h)
- 1.2 Source B: NGO's contacted ca 30-50 % rough sleepers – prevalence for 5 winter months
- 2.1 Source A: Homeless census Prague 2004 (19.2.2004, 20.00-22.00 h)
- 2.2 Data is not available; there are no records of the capacity and occupancy of beds.
- 2.3 Data is not available; there are no records of the capacity and occupancy of beds.

Houseless

SUB CATE	DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY DESCRIPTION	SOURCE	ACCESS	AREA COVERED	MEASURE	DATA (LATEST)	DATE
3.1	Short-stay homeless hostel	Krátkodobé azylové ubytování	A B B 3	4 1 1 1	Praha B *) B **) CR	1 1 1 1	610 400-500 ca 700 3986	2004 2005 2005 2005
3.2	Temporary housing (no defined time)	Dočasné bydlení (nedefinovaná doba)					no data	
3.3	Temporary housing (transitional defined)	Dočasné bydlení (definované jako přechodné)					no data	
3.4	Temporary housing (longer stay)	Dočasné bydlení (dlouhodobé)					no data	
4.1	Shelter accommodation	Ubytování v ubytovně	A	4	Praha	1	109	2004
4.2	Supported accommodation	Podporované ubytování					no data	
5.1	Reception centres (asylum)	Azylová zařízení	4	3 + 1	CR	1	484 ***)	2001
5.2	Repatriate accommodation	Ubytování pro repatrianty					not applicable	
5.3	Migrant workers hostels	Ubytovny pro migrující pracovníky					no data	
6.1	Penal institutions (period defined nationally)	Věznice, vazební věznice	A	4	Praha	1	37	2004
6.2	Institutions (care and hospital)	Instituce (nemocnice, sociální péče)	A	4	Praha	1	61	2004
7.1	Supported accommodation (group)	Podporované ubytování (skupinové)					not applicable	
7.2	Supported accommodation (individual)	Podporované ubytování (individuální)					not applicable	
7.3	Foyers	Domy na půli cesty	3	1	CR	1	498	2005
7.4	Teenage parent accommodation	Ubytování pro mladistvé rodiče					no data	

Comments:

3.1 Source A: Homeless census Prague 2004 (19.2.2004, 20.00-22.00 h)

3.1 Source B: Estimation of the NGO's from the area living 38 % inhabitants – *) accommodations less than 3 months, **) and more than 3 months.

3.1 The bed capacity in hostels supported by the MPSV.

3.2, 3.3, 3.4 – Data on temporary housing is not available

- 4.1, 4.2 Source A: Homeless census Prague 2004 (19.2.2004, 20.00-22.00 h)
- 4.1, 4.2 There are hostels for women and mothers with children, providing different levels of support; it is difficult to differentiate between them.
- 5.1 Data published on www.czso.cz (Czech Statistical Office). ***) The number of persons residing in the CR on a long-term basis (484 persons) who have no other abode. In addition to them, asylum facilities house asylum seekers but the CSU does not have the total figures at its disposal.
- 5.2 During 1991-1993, a few thousand countrymen moved from the Ukraine and Kazakhstan to the CR. Their tenacity and state support allowed them to integrate quite well into society. On the other hand, a few countrymen from Romania stayed in refugee camps as foreigners, without receiving state support.
- 5.3 255,000 foreigners is living in the ČR legally. Number of illegal migrants is not cant.
- 6.1 Source A: Project Homeless census Prague 2004 (19.2.2004, 20.00-22.00 h)
- 6.1 19,398 persons are incarcerated in all prisons of the CR. There are no records of the number of persons having nowhere to go following release.
- 6.2 Source A: Project Homeless census Prague 2004 (19.2.2004, 20.00-22.00 h)
- 6.2 No filing, how many persons in prison are homeless.
- 7.1, 7.2 The accommodation type is not known.
- 7.3 The bed capacity in half way houses supported by the MPSV.
- 7.4 Teenage mothers live with their children in children's homes. In total, there are about 20,000 children living in children's homes.

Insecure Housing

SUB CATE GORY	DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY DESCRIPTION	SOURCE	ACCESS	AREA COVERED	MEASURE	DATA (LATEST)	DATE
8.1	Living temporarily with family or friends (not through choice) (Housing /Social Service records)	Přechodné bydlení s rodinou nebo u přátel (nedobrovolně) Podnájem	4	3	CR	1	*) 17 213	2001
8.2	Living in dwelling without a standard legal (sub)tenancy (excludes squatting)	Bydlení v domácnosti bez právního nároku (kromě squattingu)					no data	
9.1	Legal orders enforced (rented housing)	Nájemní bydlení na dobu určitou					no data	
9.2	Re-possession orders (owned housing)	Soudně ukončené vlastní bydlení					no data	
10.1	Living under threat of violence from partner or family (police recorded incidents)	Bydlení pod domácím násilím (policejné zaznamenané domácí násilí)					no data	

Comments:

8.1 *) A non-related person lives in 110,775 households, subcategory 8.1 (www.czso.cz)

8.1 Subtenants – Data published on www.czso.cz (Czech Statistical Office)

8.2 Data is not available.

9.1, 9.2 Data is not available.

10.1 Data is not available.

Inadequate Housing

SUB CATE GORY	DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY DESCRIPTION	SOURCE	ACCESS	AREA COVERED	MEASURE	DATA (LATEST)	DATE
11.1	Mobile home / caravan (which is not holiday accommodation)	Mobilní obydlí	4	3 + 1	CR	1	222	2001
11.2	Illegal occupation of a site (e.g. Roma / Traveller / Gypsy)	Nezákonné obsazení místa (např. Romové, kočovníci, Cikáni)	4	3	CR	1	0	2001
11.3	Illegal occupation of a building (squatting)	Nezákonné obsazení budovy (squatting)					n.a.	
12.1	Dwellings unfit for habitation under national legislation (occupied)	Nouzové bydlení *) Rekreační chata, chalupa **)	4 4	3 + 1 3 + 1	CR CR	1 1	3 232 12 519	2001 2001
13.1	Highest national norm of overcrowding	Bydlení v přelidněném bytě					***)	

Comments:

11.1 Data published on www.czso.cz (Czech Statistical Office)

11.2 No illegal occupation of a site. (No travellers.) Data published on www.czso.cz (Czech Statistical Office)

11.3 Data is not available.

12.1 *) Distress housing, 3,232 (2001). **) Weekend house, cottage, 12,519 (2001). Data published on www.czso.cz (Czech Statistical Office)

13.1 ***) An overcrowded household means 2 persons per room (there are 446,208 such households) or fewer than 10 m² of living floor space per person (there are 380,052 such households). There may be both criteria for the same household.

The number of persons residing outside flats and facilities: 57,577 of who 14,497 are children living with one or two parents (www.czso.cz).

SOURCE:

1= NGO

2= NGO umbrella

3=official dept (name it)

4= Stats Office

5= other (specify)

ACCESS:

1= direct from agency

2= published data

3=web site

4=other (specify)

MEASURE:

1 = stock

2 = flow

3 = prevalence

