

The National Report on Homelessness 2006 Statistics Report

Prepared for the European Observatory on Homelessness

Ilja Hradecký

Prague, October 2006

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Author Ilja Hradecký

Translation Eva and Ben Watson-Jones

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Introduction

The Czech Republic is experiencing economic growth and there is well-known information on the rise in the GDP, rise in average nominal wage and on the inflation rate. We have statistical data about the number of births and deaths, marriages and divorces, employees working in individual industries. However, so far we are unable to answer the question of how many homeless people there are in the Czech Republic.

The issue of homelessness is described in the National Action Plan on Social Inclusion for 2004-2006. The terms “homeless” and “homelessness” have not been defined anywhere and different people understand them differently. The Social Services Act uses two terms for homeless people (“*persons without shelter*” and “*persons in an unfavourable social situation connected with loss of accommodation*”) but does not clarify their definition.

The search for typology and a suitable definition is something the providers of social services have been dealing with for several years. These efforts resulted in the formulation of one of the activities of the “Strategy for Social Inclusion of Homeless People in the Czech Republic” project. Its goal is to create a definition and typology of homelessness in accordance with the European project ETHOS. This definition can then become the basis for a methodology that could be used by the authorities to collect data.

Counting homeless people is not easy, even if we did have a clear definition. The data will always be approximate, as homelessness is not a static phenomenon but a dynamic one. Homeless people keep moving, in two different senses. They move physically in space and time, going from one place to another searching for ways to satisfy their biological and social needs and for ways to survive. However, they also move in the metaphorical way, in their social status – sometimes they get a job and accommodation, sometimes they lose their job and sleep rough or end up in hospital or prison. The effort to count homeless people can then resemble the counting of fish in the sea.

Homelessness Data Collection

National Systems of Data Collection

There is no national system of registration and data collection concerning the number of homeless people. Neither is there a strategy for dealing with the issue of homelessness in the Czech Republic. There is no basis for data collection. No system of registration and data collection about the number of homeless people is currently in preparation and there are no plans to prepare such a system in the future.

As there is no national system of registration and data collection concerning the number of homeless people, MOLSA acquires information about the number of homeless people from several sources. The most complete source is information provided by NGO's in their grant applications (projects for the social integration of homeless people are subsidised from the state budget via MOLSA). Besides the planned budget, the application form also includes detailed information about the type and range of services provided, classification according to the typology of social services and further details about the service provided. The form also contains detailed information about the number of clients served (for walk-in services, e.g. day centres), about the number of beds and their usage (for accommodation facilities) and about the number of contacts and interventions (for emergency help and street work), quoting the numbers for the last two years and a prediction for the following year.

Another source of information for MOLSA is the overall data summary from those providers of social services who are associated under an umbrella organisation¹, as published in that organisation's annual report. This information is less exhaustive, since it only reflects the activities of member hostels. However, it is an important supplementary and reference file. Yet another set of information is the MOLSA Statistical Yearbook, but that only deals with the capacity of social services and their regional distribution. It is therefore not an assemblage of data on the numbers of homeless people. Research reports and final reports from realized projects provide a further source of information, but they always only cover a certain segment of the homeless population or territory.

Since 2006, MOLSA has been implementing a system of unified monitoring of persons during a given period of time and in selected facilities that receive financial support from the ESF.² A new information database is to be launched from July 2006, focusing on the collection and distribution of data from facilities providing social services for this target group. The establishment and utilisation of this system will only provide for the collection of data about the users of selected social services, in absolute numbers from stock measurement or, as the case may be, flow measurement. Neither the monitoring nor counting includes any collection of personal data, only the number of users. Without processing personal data or using a personal identifier, it is not possible to measure the prevalence or demographic structure of the surveyed population.

The system should serve for the sharing of information on possible means of social assistance for homeless people in the various regions. Its objective is to provide an overview of the utilisation of accommodation capacity in the hostels at the national level and in individual regions. Thus, it does not deal with determining the number of homeless people at the national or regional level or with their individual differentiation and demographic research; it only deals with a technical determination of social service capacity utilisation.

As the collection of data from selected social service facilities has only been done for a short period of time (from the beginning of 2006), their information value is not yet sufficiently indicative. The data collection serves primarily for the MOLSA's evaluation of the accessibility

¹ Association of hostels, SAD, see www.azylovedomy.cz

² MOLSA estimates the number of homeless people utilising social accommodation services by their capacity utilisation (a total of 50 accommodation facilities). In the course of the counting (using the "stock" method), 1403 utilised beds were recorded on 10 February 2006 and 1326 utilised beds on 10 May 2006 from the total number of 1658 beds in the whole of the Czech Republic. This monitoring only includes hostels for individuals, it does not include low-threshold night shelters for individuals or hostels for mothers (fathers) with children.

of the social service network for the given target group. The data is also distributed to social service providers and to regions to aid them in their decision-making about the need for specific social services in the region. The validity of this data is verified through consultations with the providers themselves and through inspections carried out in the individual facilities. MOLSA has no plans to implement a unified compulsory monitoring system.

An opportunity for the creation and use of systematic data collection in the future is the compilation of the NSSPI for 2008. The existing National Monitoring Centre for Drugs can serve as an example. There is also the possibility of utilising the knowledge of social workers in the municipal offices.

The Czech Statistical Office is a state body that carries out periodical population and housing censuses. During the last census³, it differentiated – according to the manner of accommodation – between (1) persons living in apartments, (2) persons living in institutions and (3) persons living elsewhere (i.e. not in apartments and not in institutions). This group includes people who live at their workplace but also persons who have their permanent address registered in a house in which they have not been present, possibly for several years, and a different family is already registered as permanent residents in the given apartment. It also includes people living in weekend houses (cottages), in non-standard structures not intended for accommodation, and in mobile homes⁴.

It is obvious from the data published by the Czech Statistical Office – and confirmed through consultations with a qualified specialist – that this office has detailed and accurate information about persons or, as the case may be, households, whose accommodation, according to ETHOS 2006, is qualified as inadequate, i.e. belongs in the operational categories 11, 12 and 13. It has also partial information about operational category 8, namely about the number of persons living in subtenancy; and about people living in accommodation for immigrants (operational category 5, or 5.1 according to the generic definition). The Czech Statistical Office does not know the number of homeless people in operational categories 1 – 4, as there is no national nomenclature, definition or typology.

Regional Systems – Example

Homeless Census Prague 2004

The Capital City of Prague forms one of the regions⁵ in the Czech Republic. An analysis⁶ was published in May 2003, which had been commissioned by the city authorities and was compiled in joint co-operation by the providers of social services. Among other things, this analysis proposed a project with the objective of homelessness measurement in the capital city. Its proposal was to carry out a one-time count of homeless people during the winter period; its purpose being to gain information about the number of obviously homeless people staying within the municipal area of Prague during winter (ETHOS operational categories 1-4). The aim of this project was to compile periodical reviews containing information about the changes in the target group of clients and in the volume of provided social services.

The project was carried out in February 2004 throughout the entire municipal area⁷, based on a field count executed through observation. The counting of homeless people in Prague focused primarily on the target group whose living conditions correspond with the ETHOS “roofless” and “houseless” categories (ETHOS operational categories 1-4), the target group being people who survive on the streets (people living rough) and people using specific social services, namely day centres, overnight shelters and homeless hostels.

³ The last census occurred on the 1 March 2001, for more information, see www.czso.cz

⁴ Detailed numbers are given in the report I. Hradecký: The National Report on Homelessness 2005 <http://www.nadeje.cz/downloads.html>

⁵ The Czech Republic is divided into 14 self-governing regions (NUTS 3), Prague is unique in being both, NUTS 3 and a single municipality at the same time.

⁶ Visible Homelessness in Prague – analysis and proposals for dealing with the issue for the winter period of 2003-2004

⁷ For more information, see: I. Hradecký & col.: Homeless Census Prague 2004, final report, Prague 2004

The specific date was determined based on long-term weather forecast – choosing as appropriate the conditions of a chilly week with daytime temperatures between –5 °C and –10 °C. The chosen time for the count was in the evening, during the two hours between 8 and 10 pm, when the homeless people are getting ready to sleep. The two-hour interval was to give enough time to the enumerators while preventing duplicate counting.

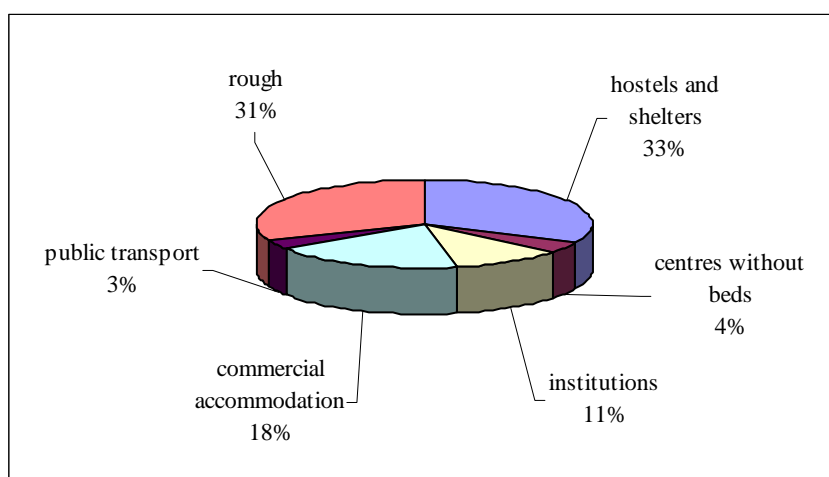
The municipal area was divided into zones browsed by pairs of professionals and volunteers; places where homeless people are known to spend the night were specifically marked. Information from dangerous areas was acquired from street workers, probation officers and homeless people themselves. Special attention was given to terminal stops of the metro and trams and to railway stations. Simple criteria were used for the record: sex and age (three categories based on estimation and judgement: young people under 25 years of age, middle age between 25 and 60, older people over 60). At the same time, providers of social services recorded the number of persons staying in overnight shelters, homeless hostels and day centres. Further information was acquired from Prague prisons and hospitals.

The methodology proved demanding in terms of the number of people involved and in terms of organisation. It was used as a one-time event to demonstrate the necessity of social services; the project implementation has fulfilled its objective⁸. A repeat is not expected.

Homeless Census Brno 2006

A similar methodology was used by the City of Brno authorities for a homeless census in the second largest city in the Czech Republic. The project was backed by the Brno City authorities and the press release was accompanied by the following motto: “Addressing the social phenomenon of homelessness is a matter of public interest”. The aim of the census was, just as two years before in Prague, to arrive at an estimation, as accurate as possible, of the number of homeless people within the city's territory; the target group was also defined in a similar way. The survey in Brno was extended to include homeless people living in commercial hostels.⁹

Fig. 1 – Homeless Census Brno 2006



⁸ The total number of homeless people registered during the census reached 3 096 persons, of which 2 662 were men (86%) and 434 women (14%), including 14% under 25, 73% between 25 and 60, 8.5% over 60, for 4.5% it was not possible to estimate their age. 23% people were in residential facilities, 13% in day centres, 3% in other institutions, 10% on public transport; 51% of the homeless people were found outdoors. (I. Hradecký and col.: Homeless Census Prague 2004, final report, Prague 2004)

⁹ The total number of the homeless recorded in the census amounted to 1,179 persons of whom 852 were males (72.5 %) and 327 females (27.5 %), including 10 % under 25, 82 % between 25 to 60 and 8 % over 60 years; estimating the age of 4 persons was impossible. 380 (32.2 %) persons were counted in overnight facilities, 45 (3.8 %) in night centres without beds, 130 (11 %) in other institutions and 38 (3.2 %) in municipal transport. The field census included 155 (13.2 %) and field self-census 214 (18.2 %) homeless persons. (Homeless Census Brno 2006, press release Brno 2006)

The total number of homeless recorded in the census amounted to 1179 persons, of whom 852 were male (72.5 %) and 327 female (27.5 %). Based on a subjective estimate, the persons monitored were divided into three age groups. The largest group was comprised of persons from the age of 25 to 60 (82 %), followed by persons under 25 years of age (10 %) and persons over 60 years of age (8 %); estimating the age of the remaining 4 persons was not possible. 380 (32.2 %) persons were counted in overnight facilities, 45 (3.8 %) in night centres without beds, 217 (18.4 %) in commercial accommodation, 130 (11 %) in other institutions and 38 (3.2 %) on public transport. The field census included 155 (13.2 %) and self-census 214 (18.2 %) homeless persons. See fig. 1.

During the night of the census, 380 persons, of whom 204 (54 %) were male and 166 (46 %) female, were accommodated in overnight facilities provided by social services for the homeless (night shelters, hostels and so on). In night centres without beds there were 45 persons, of whom 40 (89 %) were male and 5 (11 %) female. The census was also conducted in institutions. In the above facilities, 130 homeless persons (121 male and 9 female) were counted. As for the age structure, 106 persons were from the age of 25 to 60, 9 were under 25 years of age and 15 over 60.

Systems of Data Collection

Systems of Data Collection Used by Service Providers

As for the providers of social services, there are basically two different systems of data collection. One of them is the NewPeopleVision (NPV)¹⁰ program used by some members of the SAD¹¹, the other is the Client Registration (EK) system used by Naděje¹². The reason for data collection in both systems is, above all, the need for specific social work with each individual.

The data in both systems is collected continually, on a daily basis, separately for each facility. In hostels, the data shows the number and structure of people who stayed overnight, in day centres it gives an overview of persons who asked for help during the opening hours. The basic statistical unit is one person (not a household). The person responsible for the process of data collection is always the manager; the validity of the data depends on the sense of responsibility of the social workers, on the willingness of clients to share personal data and on internal auditing. By law, the provider of services is responsible for the protection of personal information, which is also required by the Quality Standards for Social Services that are being progressively implemented, this process starting in 2002. From 1 January 2007, the Quality Standards for Social Services will be binding for all providers of social services.

In theory, both systems could cover social services (at least the accommodation type) for the entire country. The fact that social services are under-financed is reflected in the low wages dependant on subsidies from national and regional public budgets (they range somewhere between 50-60% of average wages in the Czech Republic), in understaffed workplaces and, especially in small local organisations, in modest IT equipment. That, besides the aforementioned collision with the Protection of Personal Data Act, is the main setback in the effort to aggregate data at the national level. The establishment and use of a database of social service users is, however, in the best interest of the providers.

All users of both systems use the results in their annual reports and in grant applications filed with local, regional and national authorities. Some results are used in contacts with the media (we must mention, however, that the media are usually only interested in the homeless at the beginning of winter, before Christmas or when there has been a scandal). the analyses of results are used by all users for the planning and development of their own services.

Few results are used for research. The problem particularly lies in the fragmented nature of data collection, as there is no central database or at least a place where the data could be collected and worked with in a serious and conceptual manner. The issue of homelessness has also not been a centre of interest of researchers or of the public administration. Research commissioned by the state, apart from a few exceptions, only touch on the issue marginally. Both systems have significant information value for the monitoring of quantitative trends and for analysing the profile of homeless people; this would require the adoption of the system by all service providers and the establishment of a central database.

Program NewPeopleVision (NPV)

The program is based on special software, requiring the use of PCs in the homeless hostels. The fact that especially smaller homeless hostels do not have access to the Internet or have insufficient IT equipment limits the use of this system. The program was introduced in 2004 and is continually updated – see illustration in Appendix 1.

The NPV program focuses on the specific individual and their data as well as the services provided. filters allow for the compilation of client lists sorted by surname, first name, identifier (birth number), age, sex, health condition (handicap) or permanent address. The SW

¹⁰ See: <http://handyprojects.com>.

¹¹ See: www.azylovedomy.cz.

¹² See: www.nadeje.cz.

also allows for print-outs of various types, e.g. lists of clients of a certain age, coming from a certain region, users of services during a given period etc.

Files with personal data contain the full name, date and place of birth, birth number as identifier, exact address of permanent residence (by law, each citizen of the Czech Republic must have a permanent address, even if it is fictitious¹³), as well as serial numbers of personal documents, names and personal data of parents and other relatives – children and siblings. The medical card also carries sensitive information about diseases, addictions and time in prison. The file also includes information about the client's financial situation. In some homeless hostels, the clients are able to deposit their money into safekeeping; all transactions in the client's account are then recorded in their card.

The other part of NPV is the so-called “service book”. This records the arrival and departure from the hostel (beginning and end of service provision), where the client came from and where they moved on to, what type of assistance is being provided, length of stay, period of validity of accommodation contract and (where applicable) restriction of entry into the facility. There are also records of items given or loaned to the client, such as sanitary goods, clothing, shoes. The service book contains a window for daily records including the date on which the service was provided, contacts for co-operating organisations etc. By means of a filter it is possible to search the daily records for any chosen period.

Client Registration in Naděje (EK)

The Client Registration (EK) is based on a combination of an electronic card and a central database. The electronic card has been developing since 2004. It was preceded by a physical, manually filled-in card that was introduced in 1991, right at the start of the organisation's operation. Since 1997, information from the paper cards is being transferred into a database. At the moment, the EK system is going through a finalising process. Utilization of this intranet is anticipated but the technical aspects of the project have not yet been finalised.

The EK also focuses on the specific person and their personal data, as well as the service provided – see illustration in Appendix 2. The SW allows for sorting by means of filters for all data items including combinations of them and allows for print-outs of various types – e.g. lists of clients of a certain age, coming from a certain region, users of services during a given period etc. It is possible to compile print-outs for various periods of time, setting specific parameters. The completion of the system, as part of a project funded by the ESF, is to provide for identification through a special code, which will remove conflict with the Protection of Personal Data Act. The code will then be included on all written documents.

The registration cards in this system contain the first name and surname, date and place of birth, birth number as identifier, marital status (but not personal data of parents or other relatives), permanent address, but not serial numbers of personal documents. On the other hand, the clients personal objectives are recorded in their individual plan, as well as the degree of their fulfilment, the scope of other provided services and evaluation of their effectiveness. Sensitive information is only recorded if there are special reasons for it, and always with the client's approval. Information about their medical condition is only recorded in a standard manner in the general practitioner's documentation.

Search for Typology and Definition

The depiction of the homelessness phenomenon and the search for typology and a suitable definition is something the providers of social services have been dealing with for several years. These efforts resulted in the formulation of one of the activities of the “Strategy for Social Inclusion of Homeless People in the Czech Republic” project, which is being implemented by a group of NGO's; the project is funded from the ESF and State budget. Following an introductory seminar, a working group was formed which was also joined by

¹³ Act No. 133/2000 on the registration of citizens

employees of the state administration. Its goal is to create a definition and typology of homelessness in accordance with the European project ETHOS. This definition can then become the basis for a methodology that could be used by the authorities to collect data from service providers. For the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA), the most important operational categories are 1 – 4.

“Strategy for Social Inclusion of Homeless People in the Czech Republic” project

The Strategy for Social Inclusion of Homeless People in the Czech Republic is a joint project of SAD (Association of Hostels) and partners: Naděje, Armáda spásy (The Salvation Army), Slezská diakonie (Silesian Diaconia) and Diecézní charita Brno (The Diocesan Caritas – Brno). It was submitted as an application for funding from the ESF in March 2005; its implementation began in October 2005 and its conclusion is planned for September 2007. In terms of this report, the following objectives of the project are relevant:

1. To create a typology of homelessness in the social and economic conditions of the Czech Republic so that it is compatible with ETHOS and to define in the Czech terminology the characteristic aspects of homelessness so that the terminology corresponds with the created typology.
2. To propose a monitoring system with the objective of creating database software which would be available to all providers of services, and to set up a centre for the collection of statistical data.
3. To create a database of providers of social services for the homeless, their typology, capacity and capacity utilisation according to seasonal influences.

The MOLSA, which evaluated the project, did not recommend the funding of the monitoring system and took this activity out of the project.

Implementation:

1. Typology and definition: Following an introductory seminar attended by the EOH coordinator, a working group was formed of professionals from the area of social work, research and public administration. This group has defined its rules of cooperation and communication and set assignments. So far, there are no specific outputs. The working group focuses mainly on categories 1-4 and 6, which are the most problematic. The definitions of all sub-categories should clearly define the entire scope of the issue so that there are no overlaps but, at the same time, all the known forms of homelessness are covered.
2. Monitoring system: This activity is not being worked on.
3. Database of social service providers: A working group has retrieved lists of social service providers from the Internet and from regional address lists; it also approached SAD members and filled in newly acquired information. Data about organisations with no electronic contact remain incomplete.

ETHOS and National Specifics

Operational Category 1

The working group which committed itself to draft a proposal for national definitions and typology has been having discussions over the generic definition 1.1. “rough sleeping” and has expressed the need to define the term “habitation” or, more precisely, define the dividing line between habitation and non-habitation.

Subcategory 1.1.1. Rough sleeping (on a pavement, in a park, on a bench, in a pedestrian underpass, under a bridge, in a cave, in sewers). Under consideration is the classification of long-term “habitation” in a dugout, tent or shelter built single-handed. It is problematic to classify long-term “habitation” in a garage (sometimes with the owner's permission), in a garden tool-shed, or in another deserted or derelict building. The working group has not yet been able to decide where the dividing line is between rough sleeping and habitation according to 1.1.2., namely concerning garages, sheds and other constructions not intended for accommodation.

Subcategory 1.1.2. People who usually sleep rough but sometimes, especially during freezing weather, seek accommodation in day (or night) centres without beds – on chairs or on the floor.

MOLSA monitors available and occupied places in hostels but ignores the group of rough sleepers. This monitoring does not answer the question why people sleep rough while there are unoccupied beds in hostels.

Operational Category 2

Subcategory 2.1.1. This national category is clearly defined in terms of the Act on Social Services¹⁴. Night shelters are one of the basic types of services offering walk-in services to persons without shelter who are interested in using hygiene facilities and overnight lodging (§ 63). It can be presumed that all night shelters will apply for funding from the state budget from the date the law comes into effect. Complete files of data on the number of beds and their utilisation will therefore be available. Providers of social services keep registers including quantitative evaluations, the data from these records should be sufficiently valid for further utilisation.

Operational Category 3

Under generic definition 3.1, it is possible to include homeless hostels defined according to the Act on Social Services. Homeless hostels provide temporary accommodation services for people in an unfavourable social situation connected with a loss of accommodation. (§ 57). Here again, it can be presumed that they will apply for funding from the state budget from the date the law comes into effect, and complete files of data on the number of beds and their utilisation will then be available. The data from their statistical reports should also be sufficiently valid for further utilisation. Homeless hostels can be divided into national subcategories according to the target groups:

Subcategory 3.1.1. Homeless hostels for men

Subcategory 3.1.2. Homeless hostels for women

Subcategory 3.1.3. Homeless hostels for mothers with children and for families

As yet unresolved is the question of the potential definition of another subcategory, which would include other homeless hostels specialised for specific groups, such as elderly people or young adults, hostels for couples or combinations of various target groups.

¹⁴ Act No. 108/2006 Coll. On Social Services becomes effective on 1 January 2007

Generic definition 3.2 includes temporary accommodation without further differentiation. In this sense, in the Czech Republic, it is possible to consider commercial hostels and other hostels related to work. It will be very difficult to acquire any data for this subcategory, because (1) they are privately owned and their operators do not have any obligation to report, (2) beside homeless people, they are also occupied by other persons who do have a home, (3) they are also occupied by both legal and illegal immigrants who are listed in operational category 5; and the combination of accommodated persons is usually variable.

Halfway houses as defined by the Act on Social Services, currently seen as belonging into generic definition 7.1, can also be understood as a subcategory of generic definition 3.2. Halfway houses usually provide residential services for people under 26 years of age, who leave educational institutions for institutional or compulsory care after coming of age, or for people from other institutions for children and youth, and for people released from prisons or compulsory treatment. The manner of providing social services in these facilities is adjusted to the specific needs of these people. (§ 58).

There could therefore be two national subcategories:

Subcategory 3.2.1. Halfway houses

Subcategory 3.2.2. Commercial hostels

Operational Category 4

Subcategory 4.1.1. Hostels for abused women, usually at a secret address. Facilities of this type are run by NGO's. Information from facilities for abused women (such as the number of women seeking help, length of stay in these facilities, subsequent quality of life of the women after leaving these facilities) is not collected by MOLSA. The provision of services for this target group is not monitored at the national level. The character of these services is likely to undergo gradual changes in connection with the Act on Protection from Domestic Violence.¹⁵ The police will have the authority to expel the violator from the common living quarters and ban them from entering it. Approval of the endangered person not required. An appeal does not have a dilatory effect. A written decree of expulsion is given to both the expelled and the endangered person and to the intervention centre (a psychological and social service which helps both parties). The police will inform the expelled person about the possibilities of further accommodation (which can be a homeless hostel). The expulsion lasts for a period of 10 days. The Parliament rejected a regulation which would give courts the possibility to decide about the eviction of the violator from the tenancy. It will also still not be possible to prosecute the violator without the victim's approval. This change of law was evoked by a tragedy that happened three years ago in Přerov. A man brutally murdered his wife and daughter. He had telephoned the police previously and told them he was about to murder his family but the policemen hung up the phone and did not take any measures. The man was sentenced to 18 years and is currently in prison. The apartment is occupied by his other daughter with a small child who is afraid that her father may be released early and return home. She has asked the municipal authorities to revoke his right to use the apartment, but the authorities refused to do so, even after an appeal.¹⁶

¹⁵ Act No. 135/2006 Coll., Sb., which changes certain laws concerning protection from domestic violence, will bring changes in several laws, of which the following two are especially significant: (a) change of Act No. 283/1991 Coll. On the Police, sect. 21a to 21d, (b) change of Act No. 100/1988 Coll. On Social Security, sect. 73, 74a to 74b – help in interventions centres, effective from 1 January 2007.

¹⁶ Martina Macková: Tragédie, která změnila zákon, Hospodářské noviny 8. prosince 2005.

Operational Category 5

The law¹⁷ defines three types of facilities according to generic definition 5.1. We can therefore suggest three national subcategories:

Subcategory 5.1.1. Reception asylum facilities

Subcategory 5.1.2. Accommodation asylum facilities

Subcategory 5.1.3. Integration asylum facilities

Concerning generic definition 5.2., see subcategory 3.2.2. There are hostels for migrant workers, but they do not make for an easy survey and data can only be acquired from secondary sources.

Subcategory 5.2.1. Hostels for migrant workers

Operational Category 6

A specific phenomenon is the high number of children in children's institutions of which there are several types in the Czech Republic. A large proportion of homeless people (30-40 %) have experience with children's institutions. The field of institutional care has been going through certain transitions in recent years, but is yet to undergo a fundamental transformation. Approximately 20,000 children under 18 years of age live in children's homes in the Czech Republic¹⁸, 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.

Example: The deputy ombudsman was dealing with a case at the beginning of 2006, where an infant was taken away from a mother five days after birth, although she breastfed the child. The reason was that during the visit of a social worker in the family, while the mother was still in hospital with the child, there apartment was not heated and there was no warm water. The last time the social worker visited the mother before that was four months before the birth. The deputy ombudsman concludes that clients are scared of social workers and do not see them as partners but as inspectors.¹⁹

Children's institutions come under the administration of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. According to information acquired in October 2006, 1208 persons should leave children's institutions after coming of age (18) in the next 12 months. Of this group, 382 cannot return to their own families; for the rest, steps are being taken to establish contact with the original or extended families. There is no systematic prevention of homelessness; individual cases are addressed on an ad hoc basis. Besides halfway houses, people may be moved on to hostels, social flats (in co-operation with municipal authorities) or to a form of protected housing within the children's homes. At the moment, there are 44 under-age mothers and 18 under-age pregnant girls living in children's institutions. There is also no system of protection for these cases; ad hoc solutions include, besides the aforementioned possibilities, the families of the children's fathers or hostels for mothers with children.²⁰

The working group for definition and typology therefore suggests that a new generic definition is added into ETHOS – generic definition 6.3 Children's Institutions.

Subcategory 6.1.1. Penal institutions

Subcategory 6.2.1. Medical institutions

Subcategory 6.3.1. Children's institutions

¹⁷ Asylum law No. 325/1999 Coll.

¹⁸ Hospodářské noviny (newspaper) 21.10.2004

¹⁹ Vendula Křížová: Z porodnice rovnou do ústavu, in Hospodářské noviny 6. května 2006.

²⁰ This information was acquired directly from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Operational Category 7

Subcategories are not defined.

Operational Category 8

For generic definition 8.1. it will be necessary to work out and define the way legal subtenancy will be assessed. It is a very uncertain type of housing with a 3 month notice period and a termination of subtenancy does not have to include the provision of replacement housing. Especially if the tenant's rental contract is terminated, subtenancy can be terminated overnight without replacement. There is also a problem in defining which subtenants are homeless and which are not – subtenancy is also used by students and people who live and work in two different towns. For working purposes, we can therefore consider two subcategories which must be further specified:

Subcategory 8.1.1. Accommodation with family or friends

Subcategory 8.1.2. Subtenancy

Further subcategories are not defined.

Other Operational Categories

Generally, basic statistical data on the categories of insecure and inadequate housing (8-13) can be acquired by the Czech Statistical Office during the regular population and housing census. The last census was in 2001 and it will be repeated after ten years, in 2011.

Conclusions

Statistical data concerning homelessness and problematic housing do not have matching informational value. Some data can be relatively objectively determined during the population census regularly carried out by the Czech Statistical Office. This is namely data on insecure and inadequate housing in operational categories 9 – 13, but partly also categories 5 – 8. For categories 2 – 4, it is possible to work with data from the providers of social services. For the missing data we must settle for secondary sources which can be of higher or lesser validity.

The most difficult, but most important for the issue of homelessness, is doing survey of operational category 1. There is the possibility of using the area census method on a defined territory, especially in big cities. Examples are known from Prague 2004 and Brno 2006. It is certain that the results from this are always just an approximate estimation. This method, however, is very demanding in terms of logistics, organisation and staffing and requires a lot of enthusiasm about the issue.

The precondition for further work with these results is the determination of typology, formulation of definitions and the unification of terminology. This is one of the tasks dealt with in the project “Strategy for Social Inclusion of Homeless People in the Czech Republic”, funded from the ESF and the state budget. This project should be completed next year.

When the Act on Social Services comes into effect, regions will be obliged to determine the need for social services and create plans for the development of social services. Data acquired through statistical surveys can be good reference material for regions and municipalities. The Ministry can use it for the creation of national strategies and proposals for funding from the state budget. Most of all, it can help cultivate public opinion.

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Annexes

ETHOS Category	1,1					2,1	2,1
ETHOS Label	Roofless					Overnight Shelter	Overnight Shelter
	1,1,1			1,1,2		2,1,1	2,1,1
National Sub-Categories (national language)	spaní venku			spaní na židli		noclehárna	noclehárna
National Sub-Categories (English)	rough sleeping			sleeping on chair		night shelter	night shelter
	1,868	407	1000-1200	411	45	267	491
Source of Data (2)	homeless census 2004	homeless census 2006	NGO	homeless census 2004	homeless census 2006	homeless census 2004	MOLSA
Data collection (3)	homeless census 2004	homeless census 2006	estimation	homeless census 2004	homeless census 2006	homeless census 2004	NGO's projects
Area Covered (4)	Prague (1.2 Mio)	Brno (400,000)	Ostrava (300,000)	Prague (1.2 Mio)	Brno (400,000)	Prague (1.2 Mio)	Czech Republic
Measure (5)	stock	stock	stock	stock	stock	stock	stock
Frequency of Publication (6)	ad hoc	ad hoc	ad hoc	ad hoc	ad hoc	ad hoc	annual
Last Date Published	February 2004	March 2006	2005	February 2004	March 2006	February 2004	2005
Data (7)	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	beds

Comments:

1.1., 1.2., 1.3. Source: Homeless census Prague 2004 (19.2.2004, 20.00-22.00 h)

1.1., 1.2. Source: Homeless census Brno 2006 (1.3.2004, 20.00-22.00 h)

1.1. Source: estimation Ostrava 2005

2.1. Source: The bed capacity in hostels supported by the MOLSA 2005

CSO = Czech Statistical Office

CR = Czech Republic

MOLSA = Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

ETHOS Category	3,1			3,2	3,2	4,1
ETHOS Label	Homeless Hostel			Temporary Accommodation		Women's Shelter
	3,1,1			3,2,1	3,2,2	
National Sub-Categories (national language)	azylový dům			dům na půli cesty	komerční ubytování	ubytovna pro týrané ženy
National Sub-Categories (English)	hostel			half-way housing	public accomodation	women's shelter
	719	380	3986	498		
Source of Data (2)	homeless census 2004	homeless census 2006	MOLSA	MOLSA		
Data collection (3)	homeless census 2004	homeless census 2006	NGO's projects	NGO's projects		
Area Covered (4)	Prague (1.2 Mio)	Brno (400,000)	Czech Republic	Czech Republic		
Measure (5)	stock	stock	stock	stock		
Frequency of Publication (6)	ad hoc	ad hoc	annual	annual		
Last Date Published	February 2004	March 2006	2005	2005		
Data (7)	persons	persons	beds	beds	no data	no data

Comments:

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

3.1. Source: Homeless census Brno 2006 (1.3.2004, 20.00-22.00 h)

3.1., 3.2. Source: The bed capacity in hostels supported by the MOLSA 2005; MOLSA monitors the utilization of beds in homeless hostels; their total capacity is 1403 beds.

3.1. Source: MOLSA's overview of the utilisation of accommodation capacity in the hostels 2006

3.2. Data on temporary accommodation is not available

4.1. Data on accommodation to women under violence is not available

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CR = Czech Republic

MOLSA = Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

ETHOS Category	5,2	6,1	6,2	6,3	7,1	7,2	7,3	7,4
ETHOS Label	Migrant Workers	Penal Institutions	Medical Institutions	Children's Institutions	Residential	Supported	Transitional	Floating
National Sub-Categories (national language) (1)	komerční ubytování	vězení	zdravotnické zařízení	dětské zařízení				
National Sub-Categories (English)	public accomodation	prison	medical institutions	children's institutions				
				approx. 20,000				
Source of Data (2)		homeless census 2004	homeless census 2004	secondary source				
Data collection (3)		homeless census 2004	homeless census 2004	estimation				
Area Covered (4)		Prague (1.2 Mio)	Prague (1.2 Mio)	Czech Republic				
Measure (5)		stock	stock	stock				
Frequency of Publication (6)		ad hoc	ad hoc	ad hoc				
Last Date Published		February 2004	February 2004	2004				
Data (7)	no data	persons	persons	persons	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable

Comments:

5.1. 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 CSO does not have the total figures at its disposal. Population and Housing Census March 1, 2001.

5.2. Data on migrant accommodation is not available

6.1., 6.2. Source: Homeless census Prague 2004 (19.2.2004, 20.00-22.00 h)

6.3. Approximately 20,000 children under 18 years of age live in children's homes in the Czech Republic. Source: Hospodářské noviny (newspaper) 21.10.2004

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CR = Czech Republic

MOLSA = Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

ETHOS Category	8,1		8,2	8,3	8,4	9,1	9,2	10,1
ETHOS Label	Family/Friends		No Tenancy	Illegal / Building	Illegal / Land	Eviction / Enforced	Re-possession	D.V Incidents
National Sub-Categories (national language) (1)	příbuzní, přátelé	podnájem						
National Sub-Categories (English)	family/friends	sub-tenancy						
	*)	17,213			0			
Source of Data (2)	CSO	CSO			CSO			
Data collection (3)	census	census			census			
Area Covered (4)	CR	CR			CR			
Measure (5)	stock	stock			stock			
Frequency of Publication (6)	decade	decade			decade			
Last Date Published	2001	2001			2001			
Data (7)	persons	persons	no data	no data	persons	no data	no data	no data

Comments:

8.1. A non-related person lives in 110,775 households. Population and Housing Census March 1, 2001.

8.1. Subtenants - not only homeless. Population and Housing Census March 1, 2001.

8.2., 8.3., 9.1., 9.2., 10.1. Data is not available

8.4. No illegal occupation of a site. (No travellers.) Population and Housing Census March 1, 2001.

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CR = Czech Republic

MOLSA = Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

ETHOS Category	11,1	11,2	11,3	12,1	12,1	13,1
ETHOS Label	Mobile / Caravan	Non-standard	Temporary	Unfit	Unfit	Overcrowding
				12,1,1	12,1,2	13,1,1
National Sub-Categories (national language) (1)	mobilní obydlí			nouzové bydlení	rekreační chata, chalupa	přelidněný byt
National Sub-Categories (English)	mobil home			distress housing	weekend house, cottage	overcrowding
	222			3,232	12,519	446,208
						380,052
Source of Data (2)	CSO			CSO	CSO	CSO
Data collection (3)	census			census	census	census
Area Covered (4)	CR			CR	CR	CR
Measure (5)	stock			stock	stock	stock
Frequency of Publication (6)	decade			decade	decade	decade
Last Date Published	2001			2001	2001	2001
Data (7)	persons	no data	no data	households	households	households

Comments:

11.1., 12.1., 13.1. Population and Housing Census March 1, 2001.

11.2., 11.3. Data is not available

CSO = Czech Statistical Office

CR = Czech Republic

MOLSA = Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

