Abstract

Homelessness represents a most serious challenge for current cities and their administrations across the globe. Despite this fact, it is surprising that the topic of homelessness from the perspective of institutions has been so understudied so far [e.g. Temelová, Jana et al. 2015]. This paper will focus on the conceptualization of homelessness by institutions. It will try to describe how the institutions, which are dealing with homelessness, conceptualize it and see if the conceptualization occurs in the practice of social service providers. There are three main research questions: (1) how do institutions conceptualize homelessness?, (2) do the conceptualizations change over time and if they do how? (e.g. under the influence of the “ETHOS” European definition (FEANTSA 2005)), (3) how is the individualizing neoliberal project manifested in this? For answering the questions I will use a qualitative research methodology - semi-structured interviews with representatives of institutions, which will be supplemented by networks mapping and structured literature search of conceptual, methodological and strategic documents, which will first be deductively and then inductively analyzed with using MAXQDA program.