

Abstract

In times such as these, when there is a rapid increase of people facing a housing crisis in the Czech Republic and the attempts to create and enforce the Law on Social Housing, people look at models from the Western countries, such as Housing First. Such models could provide possible solution for the housing situation of many people and also improve the quality of their lives. This particular method appeared in the 1990s USA and was aimed especially for people without homes who suffer from a mental disorder and alcohol or drug addiction at the same time. The main idea is that housing should not be a reward for successful solution of life problems but something that a person needs to start dealing with their troubles. In cases when people are given a place to live for a reduced rent, with the help of a social worker they can very often keep it up and they have the chance to deal with other problems connected to homelessness. The efficiency of the model is explored through experimental projects that do not look only at the percentage of people who are able to keep up their home but also the positive impact on their health or employability. With the spread of this method to Canada, Europe and Australia, certain aspects of Housing First were adapted to local contexts. Many subsequent projects use only certain elements of the original model. This BA thesis introduces three Czech models aiming at ending homelessness: Rapid Re-Housing from Brno, Jarní výzva (Spring Challenge) taking place in Brno, Liberec, Prague 7 and Benešov, and Koncepce bydlení a její pilotní ověření ve městě Ostrava (Conception of Housing and its pilot validation in Ostrava). On these projects it is demonstrated which elements originate in the American concept and which are specific for the Czech environment.

Keywords

Housing First, Housing Ready, homelessness, housing crisis, lodging houses, social work, social integration, Law on Social Housing