

MOCT – Berliner Brücke zur Teilhabe



Frostschutzengel – Beratung für wohnungslose Menschen

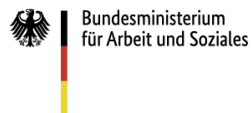


18.06.2024 Monika Słobodzian at FEANTSA

MOCT – Berliner Brücke zur Teilhabe

- **Multilingual & outreach counselling** for homeless EU citizens
 - Polish, Russian, Bulgarian, Romanian
 - **Low-threshold homelessness support system**
- Target group-specific **public relations work**
- Funding: **FEAD**

Gefördert durch:

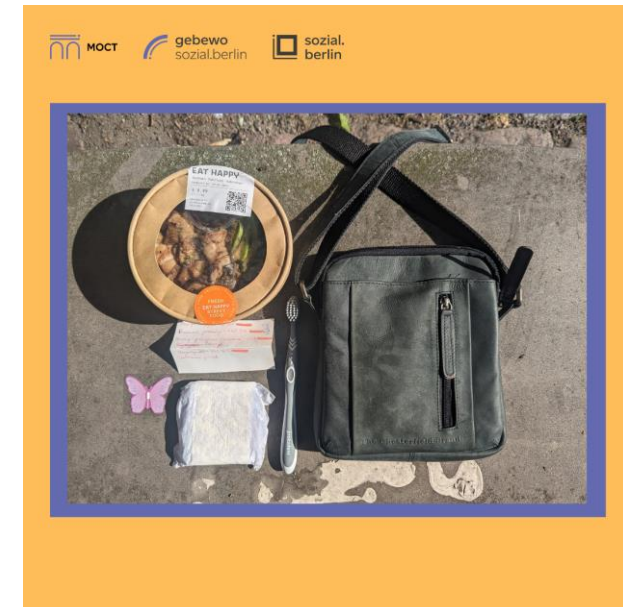
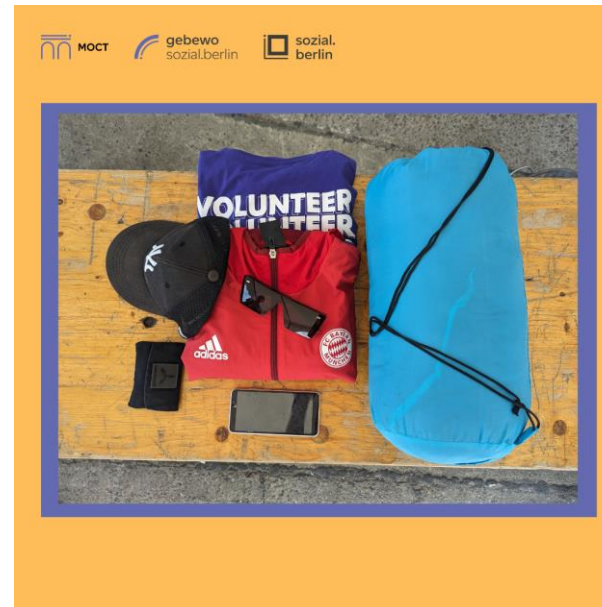


Target group-specific PR

- **Information** about Berlin's help landscape for homeless people
- **Campaigns** against biases

Day of the homeless 2023

Homeless people - the invisible faces of Berlin



Gefördert durch:



Frostschutzengel – Beratung für wohnungslose Menschen

- **Multilingual & outreach counselling** for homeless EU citizens
- Enforcement of **social law claims**
- Educational work: **antidiscrimination workshops**
- Funding: SenASGIVA (**Berlin Senate**)



The issues

- EU is not a social union – but **economic market union**
- Entry to **seek for jobs** – often successful – rarely not
 - Labour exploitation/precarious working conditions
- **Without work no social benefits/health care**
 - Pressure to accept precarious work – leads to dependencies
- No possibility of renting an **affordable apartment**
- Lack of **social networks**
- Lack of **knowledge** about help system/social rights
- Facing **discrimination** on many levels based on language, origin, etc.



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The issues

- **Structural barriers** make access to further help difficult
 - Authorities and **entire support system not aligned with target group**
 - **Lack of expertise** in the help system
 - „EU citizen have no rights here anyway“ – Difficult access to social benefits
 - do not receive accommodation under administrative law, even if they are entitled to it
 - **Language barriers** – lack of/no use of language mediation:
 - „They don't speak German, I won't advise them“
 - Support is linked to **attitude of employees** in help system, sticking to:
 - Ethical professional principles for social workers
 - human rights



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Our approach



Educational work (Frostschutzengel)

- **Workshops** for all entities working in the field of homelessness amongst EU-citizens
 - Current focus lies on **social welfare administration employees and social workers at NGOs**
- increase knowledge about
 - **situation and social rights** of homeless EU citizens
 - general information on **causes of migration and homelessness**
 - **Different forms of discrimination** EU-citizens are facing in Germany
- promote a **diversity-sensitive approach**
 - get to know own biases
 - Different exercises for self-reflection
- Based on implementation of Berlin **anti-discrimination law** passed in 2020
 - Employees of public administration **are required to attend** diversity workshops



Our approach

- **Outreach** counselling, **native speaker** approach in In the **low-threshold homelessness services**
 - Close cooperation between moct and Frostschutzengel
- Getting **deeply involved** in clients cases
 - Information on the help system
 - **support in applying for social security entitlements** and accommodation under administrative law
 - Utilising the legal process – cooperation with lawyers
 - Fighting for social rights in court
 - **Referral counselling**
 - E.g. Special counseling centers like employment law counseling for precarious workers or people affected by labor exploitation
 - **Obtaining a passport**
 - Support with return journey – upon request
- **Network** of counselling centres
- Collecting, documenting and utilising cases
 - **Addressing the issue of discrimination** and **barriers** in the support system
 - Sharing successful work methods
- **Case studies exchange** within our team



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Berlin specific issues

- Berlin has **12 FEAD projects**, many of which deal with EU citizens
 - currently counselling approx. **10.000 new EU citizens/year**
 - problem of continuation
- Although there is a **right to accomodation**
 - this is rarely implemented
- Lack of counseling on access to the **labour market**
- Lack of counseling on **finding accommodation**
- Lack of **employees** in homelessness help system
 - who have **skills in social law** regarding EU citizens



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Berlin specific solutions

- First successes in Berlin:
- **Housing First for EU citizens**
 - Small project just for families
- **binding implementation regulations** for public administration for § 23 SGBXII/so called **Überbrückungsleistungen**
 - **social benefits** specifically intended for foreigners
 - who wish to return to their country of origin or
 - who seriously ill that they are unable to travel, thereby qualifying as a special hardship case
 - Get **administrative accommodation**
 - receive **financial support**
 - Mentions that a **desire to return to the country of origin is not necessary**
 - Public administration still uses “desire to return” as demand



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Demands

- National and federal policy makers need to recognise the issues
 - **Should not only point to the EU**
 - but find ways to implement legal rights on all levels
 - Ways to **integrate into the labour market**
 - We have a labour market with a lot of capacity and people looking for work
- **National action plan** to overcome homelessness
 - Referring to FEAD
 - **What happens after FEAD ends?**
 - Acknowledges the **entitlement to accomodate EU-Citizens**
 - Lacks an Idea, how to implenent this entlitlement
 - **Housing First**
 - but not implemented for EU Citizens yet (only in part)



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Thank you!

MOCT – Berliner Brücke zur Teilhabe
Stralauer Platz 32
10243 Berlin

Leitung-moct@gebewo.berlin
moct@gebewo.berlin
www.gebewo.de/MOCT-berliner-bruecke-zur-teilhabe

Frostschutzengel – Beratung für wohnungslose Menschen
Stralauer Platz 32
10243 Berlin

leitung@frostschutzengel.de
beratung@frostschutzengel.de
www.frostschutzengel.de

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