

A person carrying a child in a hallway, overlaid with a blue tint. The person is walking away from the camera down a hallway with a glass door and a potted plant.

Surveying families in housing need: lessons learned from the city of Košice in Slovakia

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Outline of the presentation

- Context of the survey
- Research design
- Definitions used
- Most important methodological challenges and lessons learned
- Some findings from the survey
- Conclusion – next steps



Context of the survey



Lack of public rental housing, homeless shelters for families



Large Roma community – segregation, poverty, exclusion



DEDO Foundation interested in piloting housing-first for families



City of Košice planning to adopt strategy on social housing



Lack of data about families in housing need in the city and in the country



Survey initiated by DEDO Foundation as a registration week for families



Inštitút pre výskum práce a rodiny

Prepared in co-operation with the Institute for Labour and Family Research also to conduct for the first time in Slovakia research specifically focussing on families in housing need (especially in insecure and inadequate housing)

Research design



Two purposes of the survey :	registration of families for housing-first , and gaining insights into the ways and extent of housing deprivation experienced by these families
Co-designed point -in-time survey ¹:	24. to 30. May 2021
Survey design:	Interviews with families , based on questionnaire
Interviews took place at:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• dwellings in which families live• all homeless shelters in the city• registration centre / other public spaces
Topics covered in the questionnaire :	Family composition, history of housing need, current living conditions, economic activity, health status
Interviewers :	x professionals, and y volunteers
Data processing :	More than 300 questionnaires were processed in SPSS

¹For more details on co-designed city counts see: Drilling , M.,Dittmann , J., Ondrušová, D.Teller , N.,Mondelaers , N.:Measuring Homelessness by City Counts – Experiences from European Cities. European Journal of Homelessness, Volume 14,Issue 3 – 2020: Special Edition - Measuring Homelessness in Europe.

Definitions used



Family

had to have at least one child below 18 years of age (no matter whether currently living there or in substitute care, or baby expected)

only included person taking care for child/ren (parent / other relative), his / her partner (if applicable), and child / ren

in case of over -crowded households , separate interviews with each family living there were conducted



Housing need

various living situations in line with the ETHOS typology – being roofless , houseless , in insecure or inadequate housing , or combination of insecure and inadequate housing



Most important methodological challenges and lessons learned

1. Point-in-time survey having two somewhat contradictory purposes

- mainly families with a long-term experience of housing deprivation were reached
- anonymous survey, but request for personal data due to registration for housing-first – risky for sensitive questions

2. Questionnaire

- some questions needed for registration, others for the survey, others for specific situations only - importance of motivated and trained interviewers
- No. of topics / questions included should reflect scientific soundness as well as the environment in which they would be asked

3. Impact of the coronavirus pandemic

- postponement of the survey from Nov 2020 to May 2021



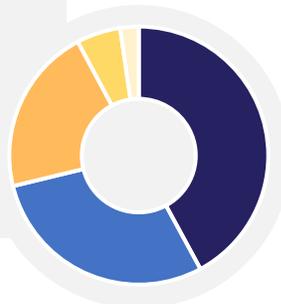
Some findings from the survey



Basic information :

- Altogether , 310 families were registered , consisting of 1741 persons , of whom 1189 were children
- The average No. of children per family = 3.8
- Of 310 families , 21.7 % were single parents

Age	Respondents	%
18- 29	130	42,1
30 - 39	90	29,1
40 - 49	65	21
50 - 59	17	5,5
60+	7	2,3
Total	309	100



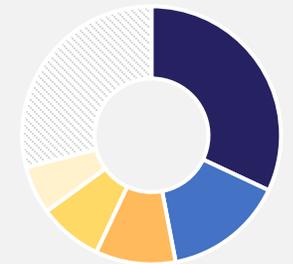
Family life :

- Of 1189 children , at least 748 (63 %) were living with their families , another 24 (2 %) have been in substitute care
- Of 310 interviewees , some had a partner but did not live together for the following reasons:
 - lack of Money to afford an apartment : 24 %
 - homeless hostels do not allow such option : 31 %

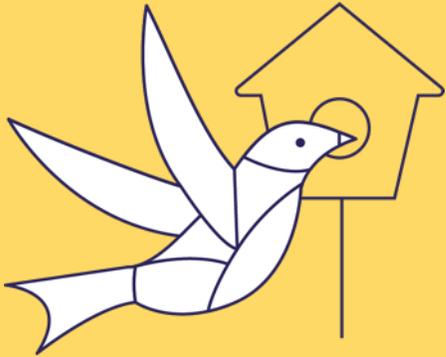


Insecure housing :

- Of all 310 families , 224 (72 %) were living in non-congregate dwellings . Of these:
 - 32 % were living on nobody's property , without a permission
 - 15 % owned the property with a spouse
 - 10 % were living in the property which is owned by their relatives
 - 8 % were living in a rented property without legal tenancy
 - 6 % didn't know who the owner of the property was
- 57 % families said they don't have any rental agreement

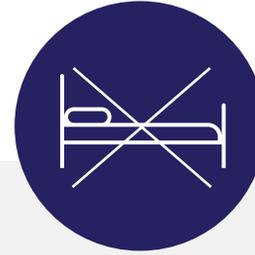


Some findings from the survey



Inadequate housing :

- without electricity :
32 % families
- without gas:
48 % families
- without water :
52 % families



Combination of insecure / inadequate housing :

- without Access to either electricity / gas / water + no legal tenancy
 - 31 % of families without access to electricity and without legal tenancy
 - 47 % of families without access to gas and without legal tenancy
 - 55 % of families without access to water and without legal tenancy



Reproduction of poverty :

- Of 310 interviewees , 33 grown up in non-conventional dwellings, 15 in homeless hostels and 51 in a substitute care

Conclusion



Next steps

- > **Until 2023** , several housing projects for families and individuals will be implemented in Košice (based on the EU funding)
- > **In 2021**, strategy on ending homelessness and social housing of the city of Košice to be prepared
- > Importance of housing-first specifically for families , which compose the majority of the homeless population in Košice



A man is holding a baby in his arms. The baby is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with dark polka dots and a dark cap. The man is wearing a dark t-shirt. The background is dark and out of focus. The text "Thank you for your attention!" is overlaid on the image in a yellow and white font.

Thank you for your attention!