

peer review

Odense - 9-10 April 2015

THE ODENSE MODEL: LINKING HOMELESSNESS POLICY PRIORITIES TO THE GLOBAL STRATEGY OF THE CITY

Register for the peer review¹ before 1 March 2015 (max. two delegates per city) by contacting the coordinator Liz Gosme: info@habitact.eu

Brief description of Odense model

The city of Odense in Denmark has 190.000 inhabitants (the third city in Denmark). According to the ETHOS typology there are 110 homeless persons in Odense (counted in 2013). The city has recently stepped up efforts to prevent youth homelessness, in addition to the focus on adult homelessness.

The housing available to house homeless people is generally public housing across the city (and not concentrated in specific areas) which is mostly funded by the Danish State. The city of Odense has access to 25% of the empty apartments in the public housing stock of the city in order to address housing needs (in total 800 apartments).

Odense support models directed at homeless people include 1. Case Management where people move from temporary housing (max. 3 months) to their own apartment which is a process which lasts up to 2 years. 2. Ordinary support with a specific task through a contract between the municipality and the person, which is a time-limited support. 3. Social caretaker support which is through key persons who are in contact with people with complex needs through forms of permanent support.

There are also more preventive types of support 1. When a neighbourhood is becoming insecure, there are fasttrack links to the municipal services, there are information sessions for local community groups in order to increase tolerance in an area. 2. Some selected areas of the city have specific framework agreements in relation to the presence of social caretakers who are delegated to work with housing associations, the police and others, which creates contacts and opportunities for exchange of knowledge. 3. There is also support to help people stay in their homes and prevent evictions by developing relations with housing associations, creating programmes for early interventions, and to share knowledge/improve communication between professionals.

After testing Housing First principles in Odense services over the last two years, the first results are apparent: there are fewer homeless people, there are fewer people in temporary housing, there are fewer evictions, and there are better links with local communities. The city of Odense has been one of the key local authorities involved in the Danish Housing First strategy, with the best results in the country (38% reduction in homelessness from 2011 to 2013). Concerning chronic homelessness and the use of public space, the city of Odense has piloted the use of a tracking device to monitor the movements of homeless people within the city, to better understand their needs.

Homeless inhabitants in Odense (based on ETHOS typology)

	2009	2011	2013
<i>People Living Rough</i>	34	8	9
<i>Night shelter</i>	13	20	14
<i>People in accommodation for homeless</i>	85	91	47
<i>Hotel</i>	0	1	1
<i>Temporarily with family/friends</i>	37	32	28
<i>People due to be released from institutions</i>	7	7	0
<i>Prison</i>	6	1	1
<i>Hospital</i>	4	2	0
<i>Other</i>	10	11	7
<i>Unknown</i>	12	5	3
Total	208	178	110

¹ See Annex II for information about the Peer Review method

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Annex II: PEER REVIEW METHOD

Peer review concept

The Peer review method is emerging as a practical and effective tool for policy exchange, taking a local policy as the starting point for European exchanges. The methodology used in HABITACT peer reviews is an adaptation of the peer review methodology already established by the European Union's PROGRESS Programme to increase co-operation on combating social exclusion.

This enables the host city to become acquainted with an external perspective, to present its strengths and showcase good practice, enhance accountability towards stakeholders, detect weaknesses, discover the good practice of peer cities, and generally engage in mutual learning with peers. See information about the 2010-2014 Peer Review series on the [HABITACT website](#). In 2015, the city of Odense (Denmark) will host the peer review, the third city of Denmark.

Peer review objectives

The aim is to create a dynamic and motivating process from which both the host and the peers can benefit.

The peer review is designed to deliver the following outputs:

- To identify, evaluate and disseminate good practice on the Odense model;
- To look at the implementation of the model on a practical level;
- To assess whether and how good practice can be effectively transferred to other local authorities;
- To provide a learning opportunity for cities throughout Europe about the implementation process or policy approaches in Odense.

Peer review method

The 'host city' (Odense) will present its policy for examination by half a dozen other cities and relevant stakeholders. This local policy is the starting point for European exchanges on local homeless strategies. The peer review participants meet over 1.5 days to discuss the policy and visit local sites where the policy can be seen in operation. This is an opportunity for Odense to get to know the work of the peer cities and for the peer cities to get in-depth knowledge of Odense homeless policy-making and implementation.

The meeting will be preceded by the compilation of an [independent discussion paper](#) about the Odense model – the independent expert appointed to write this discussion paper is Dr Volker Busch-Geertsma, coordinator of the European Observatory on Homelessness. The Discussion Paper (to be sent to all peer review participants around mid-March 2015) will highlight the key elements of the Odense model, place the model in a European perspective, examine transferability of the model, and finally put forward some key questions for discussion at the peer review.

Peer review participants

We aim to have 40 participants *maximum* in the peer review.

1. Host city: Odense, Denmark (represented by different policy departments)
2. Facilitator: The HABITACT and FEANTSA support team coordinate the process.
3. Independent expert: Dr Volker Busch-Geertsema
4. Peers: Local authorities from the HABITACT network. A few cities external to HABITACT are also invited to take part. "Peers" work in a similar environment and have specific professional expertise and knowledge of the policy issue.
5. Other organisations involved in service delivery locally in Odense.