



HELPING HOMELESS AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE SINCE 1860

Romania 2015 - 2016

EU10 Project – Dissemination Event
19th December 2016

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A trip in two parts...

Bucharest

- 1st to 5th February 2016
- Hosted by Samu Social
- Concentrated on existing services and care networks in Bucharest

A trip in two parts...

Brasov, Bacau, Iasi

- 26th to 30th September 2016
- Explored beyond Bucharest to regional areas identified through assessed information and preliminary research



PROVIDENCE ROW

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Delegation

- Will Norman – Providence Row
- Mary Strickson – Providence Row
- Tom McDonald – West London Day Centre
- Weronika Markowska – St Mungos (SIB)
- Ariel Tone – Westminster CSTM (CAS)
- Ben Sebok – Thames Reach (LSR -TRIO)
- Poema Ivanova – Thames Reach (TH SORT)
- Lydia Hrantinova – St Mungos (Routes Home)
- Inna Lapinska – St Mungos (Routes Home)

Bucharest

- Domestic abuse and family homelessness
- 2 Residential projects
- 20 families being supported (combined running cost of €90,000)
- Unable to assist UK agencies reconnect Romanian nationals but...
- Can help returning Romanian nations once they arrive in Bucharest
- Happy to assist with advice, guidance and access to professional network in Romania
- Run by an Englishman!



Bucharest

- Samu Social Mobile Day Team
- Covers most of the City
- Gare De Nord and 'sewers' off limits
- Floating support/outreach hybrid focusing on families
- Rented accommodation, squats, bashes
- Emphasis on access to education (children), health and welfare benefits

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Bucharest

- 18 to 35 years
- Well funded
- Focus on Roma, former street children and orphans
- Night service can take up to 60
- Structured day program based around skills development and social enterprise
- Can accept referrals from UK agencies subject to criteria



Bucharest

- Municipal shelter
- Direct access or referrals from services including police
- Emergency shelter in winter accommodates up to 200 (rooms of 70+)
- Regular accommodation for low support, work focused individuals
- Max 1 year



Bucharest

- Harm minimisation service focusing on reducing HIV infection rates
- BBV screening, BBS, mobile ambulance/NX
- Free substitute prescribing for HIV+ clients
- 15RON per dose or 550RON monthly programmes



Trip 2: Brasov, Bacau, Iasi



Phase 1: Brasov



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Brasov

- Population of the city: 253,200
- Administrative centre of Brasov County



Municipal Shelter and Director of Social Care

- Emergency shelter, residential hostel and a day service
- Local connection to the city of Brasov
- **Day service:** emphasis on rehabilitating clients back into society
- **Night shelter:** 50 client capacity, max stay for 6 months
- **Residential hostel:** Main criteria to have a job and contributions are required after 3 months



Bucuria Daruliu Foundation

- Faith based day-centre for homeless and people on low-incomes
- Café (social enterprise) providing free food for people on less than 500 Lai per month
- Limited employment support provision and religious counselling



Apata - Brasov

- 25 miles from Brasov with a population of 3100
- 1700 Roma, 1200 Hungarian, 200 Romanian
- The main occupation is agriculture and some are commuting to the closest city to work in factories or construction
- Minimum wage is: 185£/ month -10-20£/day for working cash in hand
- Couple of hundred of people are working in UK





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Phase 2: Bacau



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Bacau

- Population of the city: 144,307
- Main city in Bacau county



Director of Social Care at the City Hall

- Limited services – no NGOs working with homeless people
- Emergency shelter, November – March, 30 beds
- Building a new shelter with 50 beds and local connection criteria
- Stated that they only have 10-15 homeless people in the city at present
- No alcohol or substance misuse services



Phase 3: Iasi

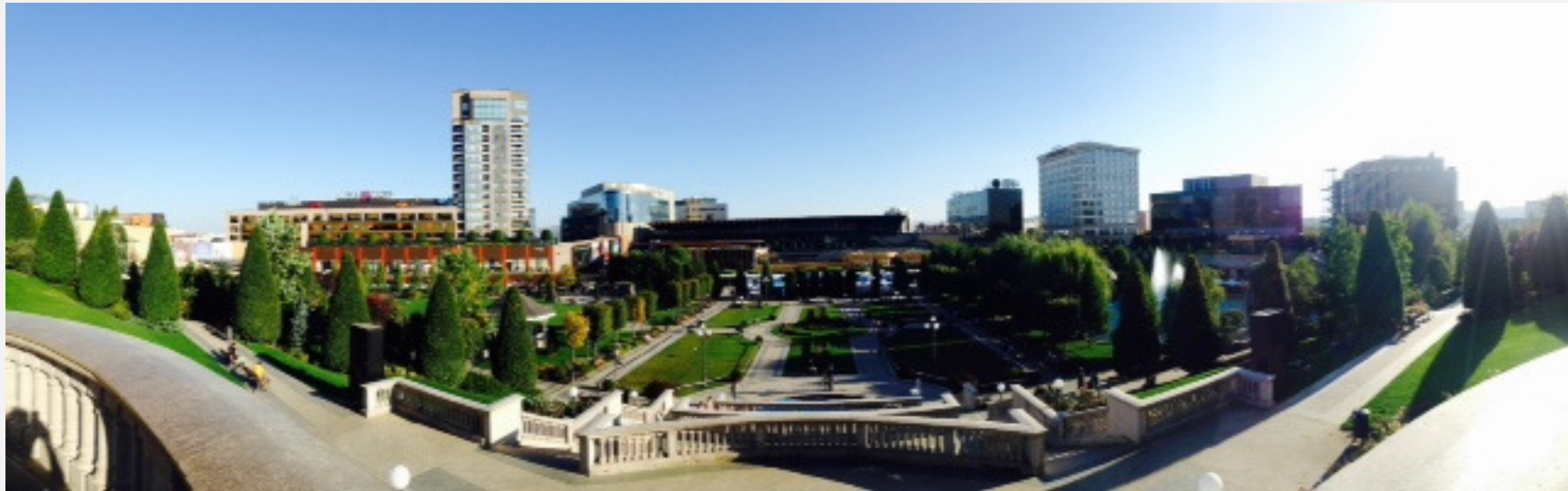


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Iasi

- The largest city in Eastern Romania
- Population: 290,422



Director of Social Care and Municipal Shelter

- 60 person capacity
- Maximum stay for 1 year
- Self referrals but also people who are found during winter outreach shifts
- Focus on reintegration and move-on
- Social workers who assist to find employment and private accommodation
- Support with alcohol use
- Onsite Dr and Psychologist



Emmaus

- International partnerships and exchange project
- No local connection criteria
- 2 projects: a shop and a farm project 40km away from the city
- Main criteria is willingness to engage
- Low-medium support needs
- Self-referrals and from outreach shifts
- Projects are self-sustaining



Emmaus: Shop Project



- Maximum stay for 6 years, capacity of 25
- Equipping residents with skills to become independent
- Residents have to pay a contribution; they will earn around £140 per month in the shop and pay for accommodation and food (around £60 left over)
- Support to find employment and private accommodation
- Private house for residents who find employment (£10 per month)



Emmaus: Farm Project

- Residents live and work on the farm
- Most residents have learning disabilities
- Residents can stay indefinitely but support with move-on is available
- Produce crops and keep chickens, cows and pigs
- Produce is used to sustain residents
- Bric-a-brac shop





Casework & Referrals

Headlines...

- Case prep – forwarding documents that aid planning and casework prior to travel
- Challenges to reconnecting clients without determined local connection
- Caution expressed about capacity to support MH clients
- Preference for work to go through Samu Social
- Samu Social willing to consult on cases where mediation with family is required, but they cannot bring them into homeless services in Romania

Main findings

1. Different perspective on economic migration
2. Little available social housing (0.04% of total stock?)
3. Strong focus on young people/education
4. Strong focus on rehabilitation and move-on from hostels/shelters
5. Access to health services is limited and dependent on the client having health insurance
6. Access to alcohol detox in hospitals, but private rehabs are expensive
7. Mental health services under the most strain
8. Support for heroin users focused on Bucharest
9. Corruption and bogus systems rife in social care sector
10. Lots of enquiry from wealthier European states
11. Romanian rough sleepers v Romanian's rough sleeping in the UK with access to housing in Romania

Questions?