

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to give special thanks to Volunteer Census Counters for their commitment to field counting. The census wouldn't have been successful without their great help.

We thank all institutions and organisations providing data and making practical comments to the project.

We thank social workers from Prague City Authority, who helped to allocate homeless localities in each Prague Borough, and provided figures – numbers of homeless. We thank them also for helpful comments to the project.

We thank Doc. Ing. Ladislav Průša, CSc., the Director of the “Institution of Labour and Social Affairs Research” (Výzkumý ústav práce a sociálních věcí) for help with analysis, data processing and specifying the estimations.

We thank “Dopravní podnik HMP” (Prague Integrated Transport System) that Volunteer Census Counters were not charged when using public traffic.

We thank the City Police, Prague City and the State Police ČR for helpful information concerning the numbers of homeless in the City Boroughs and for the quiet course of the field census.

We thank all the homeless who took part in collecting data and providing us with a lot of useful comments.

ANNOTATION

The project "Homeless Census Praha 2004" was prepared and implemented by Arcidiecézní Charita Praha, Armáda Spásy, Městské Centrum Sociálních Služeb a Prevence and Naděje, with the patronage of Mgr. Hana Halová, Councillor of the City of Prague (Health, Social Care and Ethnic Minorities Department.)

The goal of the project was to find out the most accurate number of homeless in Prague City. The combined counting method was used.

The project was focused on the visible homelessness phenomenon. The definition of visible homelessness was created by FEANTSA¹ for the EU:

- 1) Rooflessness – sleeping outside of classical accommodation, this is the most visible form of homelessness.
- 2) Homelessness – crisis accommodation or long term accommodation in institutions.

The field counting took place on 19th February 2004 within a 2 hour period (20:00 – 22:00), all other data added were valid as of the same date.

The field counting that was implemented by 242 Volunteer Census Counters was a significant source of information. Prague City was divided into 82 localities (1054 homeless counted), 21 metro, bus and tram stops were determined as counting points (323 homeless counted).

Data was supplemented with figures obtained from hostels, night shelters (719 homeless), day centres opened during the time period (411 homeless), institutions like hospitals, prisons, psychiatric facilities etc (98 homeless). Self counting also took place (491 homeless)² The total number of homeless came to 3096 - 2662 (85,99%) men, 434 (14,01%) women.

Results and figures could serve as a base for City of Prague Council policy, for the planning and development of social services for the homeless.

¹ European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless

² Self counting took place in localities (derelict houses, gardens, caves, etc), which cannot be visited by Census Counters during counting time. Numbers were obtained through social trustees, street workers, police and homeless themselves.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Homelessness is one of the most significant issues in the social field. The City of Prague Council considers this issue as very important. The resolution of the City of Prague Council no. 1035, dated 8.7.2003 is reflecting and responding to the social situation, in particular, social exclusion.

The project "*Homeless Census Praha 2004*" is one of the steps contributing to fulfilling the goal given by the Resolution of the City of Prague Council. It is linked to the output of the document "*Visible Homelessness in Prague – Analysis and Proposals for Winter 2003/04*" (*Zjevné bezdomovství v Praze – Analýza a návrhy řešení problematiky pro zimní období 2003/2004*)³. The goal of this project is to collect maximum information about homelessness and submit it, together with proposals, to the City of Prague Council Representatives. The City of Prague Council can then prepare basic conceptions of the development of social services supporting groups who are exposed to social exclusion the most.

The significant aspect of the project is the cooperation of the participating organisations – the City of Prague Council as founder of the project and Social Service providers as investigators - Arcidiecézní Charita, Armáda Spásy, Městské Centrum Sociálních Služeb a Prevence and Naděje.

Cooperation and dialogue of local authorities, state authorities and social service providers on regional and local level is common in EU countries. This process has also begun in the Capital City of Prague and we consider it as very positive. Experience gained during this project can be beneficial for further the City of Prague Council programmes.

The project "*Homeless Census Praha 2004*" is very significant for many other reasons. The final report is released during the time of preparing the National Action Plan. This report can serve as inspiration for the preparation group of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Information about the project and outputs will be handed over to FEANTSA – European Observatory of Homelessness.

³ *Zjevné bezdomovství v Praze – Analýza a návrhy řešení problematiky pro zimní období 2003/2004*, Praha: MCSSP 2003. Materiál established in co-working by Arcidiecézní Charity, Armády Spásy, Městského Centra Sociálních Služeb a Prevence and Naděje.

2. STARTING SITUATION

The Homeless Census is a pilot project in the Czech Republic. Homelessness has not been monitored, therefore figures were received from inexact information gathered independently by social service providers⁴. S.A.D. sought for the unification of all data gathered by each service provider⁵. A research report, comparing life conditions of the homeless in the Czech Republic and other countries was released in 1997⁶. Despite this endeavour, still there was a lack of valid figures. The estimations ranged from 300 to 15,000 homeless in Prague; the professional community estimated figures from 3,000 to 5,000 homeless.

These figures could not serve as base of valid results for many reasons. Firstly, there was no methodology for the inclusion of groups living in derelict houses, woods, channels and streets, those, who do not use (or use very rarely) day centres and hostels.

The Czech Statistical Office (Český statistický úřad)⁷ released interesting information included in the report of the latest census as of 1.3.2001. The table no. 12 "Family Housing according to category and size of flat and legal reason of usage as of 1.3.2001" stated that the legal usage is distinguished into the categories:

- 1.flat in own house,
- 2.flat – private ownership,
- 3.lease flat,
4. flat of member of housing association,
- 5.flat of member of leaseholders association founded for privatisation purpose.,
6. others. This sixth group includes 78,647 housekeepers and service flats, 173,656 other free usage flats, 18,959 legal reason was not found. 312,236 households live in 71 262 flats. These families can be considered as exposed to social exclusion.⁸

3. AIM OF PROJECT

The aim of Project "Homeless Census Praha 2004" (*Sčítání bezdomovců Praha 2004*) was to gain valid figures of the homeless population in Prague City during the winter time. The census was based on the field counting and observation. The census was focused on

⁴ Např. Hradecká, Vlastimila – Hradecký, Ilja: *Bezdomovství – extrémní vyloučení*, Praha: Naděje 1996.

⁵ Sdružení azylových domů - SAD associates more than 100 accommodation facilities for homeless.

⁶ M. Pellegrino compares the numbers of homeless, their living conditions, access to service and legal conditions in 4 documents (EU-12, Sweden, USA a Czech Republic). Pellegrino, Mauro: *Uno su mille?* in: *Rassegna di servizio sociale* No. 3/1997, Roma: EISS 1997.

⁷ [http://www.czso.cz/csu/ediciplan.nsf/publ/A4C54C09A904E412C1256CD80040ED28/\\$File/strana_12.pdf](http://www.czso.cz/csu/ediciplan.nsf/publ/A4C54C09A904E412C1256CD80040ED28/$File/strana_12.pdf)

⁸ The method of the General Census in 2001 did not recognise the homeless as a specific group in society. Persons were counted in their permanent residence. Person counted away from his/her permanent residence, was "moved" to his/her permanent residence. If a person was not at their permanent address, Census Counters had to check the Register of Citizens; whether any person was registered at that address. If so, the numerator had to enter basic data into the form. But absentees could not be automatically considered as homeless. The reasons of absence can be various. The goal of the census in 2001 was not to find out the number of homeless.

people sleeping in the streets and people using specific social services, people, who have limited access to basic means of living (food, clothes, hygiene, medical care) or who are not able to use the means.

4. PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION

4. 1. Preparation

The idea to conduct a homeless census was mentioned in the document "*Visible Homelessness in Prague – Analysis and solution proposals of homelessness in winter 2003/2004*". This document was prepared at the request of the City of Prague Council.

Since April 2003 the methodology was being prepared, based on the Denmark Method of one day counting⁹ and a study released by FEANTSA in November 2003 - European Observatory of Homelessness.¹⁰ The proposed methodology was presented to the professional community at the conference "Prague Home without a Home" (V Praze doma bez domova) in December 2003. Census sheets had been prepared by November 2003.

In January 2004 two important meetings were arranged, the meeting of social workers (kurátor), street workers and others from the Prague Boroughs and the meeting of social service providers involved in the preparation and implementation of the project. The aim of these meetings was to make a list of the localities often inhabited by homeless. The Census Counters recorded the number of homeless at these localities¹¹. Prague City had to be divided into regions for the Census Counters to check. The map was being refined and new localities added on up to the beginning of census.

In January we started working on the Methodological Instruction for Census Counters and we addressed potential volunteers for the field Census Counters, e.g. students, and homeless. A professional advisory service was provided by National Volunteer Centre Praha – Hestia. Professionals were a significant part of the Census Counters. Recruitment of volunteers began in the second half of January, some volunteers already obtained at the Prague Conference "Prague Home without a Home" (V Praze doma bez domova).

⁹ Avramov, Dragana: *Les sans-abri dans l'Union Européenne*, Bruxelles: FEANTSA 1995, str. 88–89

¹⁰ Edgar, Bill; Doherty, Joe; Meert, Henk: *Review of Statistics on Homelessness in Europe*, European Observatory of Homelessness November 2003, Bruxelles: FEANTSA 2003

¹¹ Term „numerator“ is taken of specialized terminologie ČSÚ. The word numerator should be used with quotation in this project.

The time schedule was settled and professional advisory help secured in the first half of February. The training of the Volunteer Census Counters took place in the main hall at the faculty of Philosophy, Charles University on the 10th February. Over 200 volunteers attended the training.

“Prague Integration Transport System” (Dopravní podnik) and the City of Prague Council gave very strong support to the project. The Census Counters could use the City Transport System free of charge when doing the field counting and “Prague Integration Transport System” (Dopravní podnik) complied with the request of organisers to tolerate the homeless on MHD (public transport) vehicles. The State Police and City Police were also tolerant of the homeless during the census.

4. 2. Presentation

The project was introduced to the professional community and media, as well as to the homeless in the conference “Prague Home without a Home” (V Praze doma bez domova 2003) at the beginning of December 2003. The presentation¹² included the main points of future census.

- Who is homeless? There is no definition of homelessness. It is missing in official and legal documentation. There is generally a negative understanding of homelessness in Czech society.
- The definition of homelessness created by FEANTSA. Introduction of the relevant target group.
- Why conduct a homeless census? Isn't it useless? Here is the answer. There are people among us living below the poverty line, suffering from absolute poverty. Reduction and elimination of homelessness and poverty “costs money”. But it is an advantageous investment for the future. By reducing poverty, we contribute to social reconciliation. If we want to increase the quantity of social service, we need to know the number of people in crisis as accurately as possible.
- The Homeless Census method used in Europe. Introduction of the methods used for the estimation of the number of homeless in EU countries.
- Common Prague Project – the methodology. The pilot project requires the cooperation of all involved parties. A suitable method must be decided and refined into the plan. After the counting, the figures need to be evaluated and errors eliminated. The project was inspired by the Denmark method of “One Day Counting”.
- What to do with the outputs of the project? The goal is to find out objective figures, the number of visible homeless staying on the Prague streets in winter. We strive to create the proposal which can serve as a basis for the planning and funding of a sufficient social service necessary for the survival and dignified living of people excluded from society.

Media Organisation like TV, press and radio showed their interest in the homeless census . Organisers held a series of interviews (about the homeless census and homelessness) in January and February. Nový Prostor (Homeless Street Newspaper) was invited to participate and they specifically focused on the project. Organisers arranged two press conferences with press release presentations the day before and the day after the census.

¹² Hradecký, Ilja: *Jak sčítat ryby v moři*, presentation in conference „ V Praze doma bez domova, Praha 2003“.

5. METHODOLOGY

5. 1. Basic issues

There are two main reasons that makes a census difficult. The first is the fluctuation of the homeless. The homeless are people with no home, as the word itself indicates. They are often lonely, with no family base and permanent housing. They live from day to day, from night to night. They are expelled from one place so they move to another. They move also in another way – up and down – a period, when they can earn their living and stay “under a roof” in a cheap hostel etc. and a period, when they loose this “luxury”. Then they become more visible, because they spend their time at public places, on trams, buses, metro and open public buildings. As in all big cities, the homeless are concentrated near railway stations and shopping centres¹³.

The second reason is that the word “homeless” is not clear. Any general definition is misleading, because homelessness is a “package” of phenomena. It is fallible and misleading to say “homeless” is a person, who has lost, left or never had any home, any family, homeless is a person, who cannot or does not want to resolve his/her problems and seek the help of social workers, local authorities, NGOs and sometimes he/she does not seek for any help at all.

The general definition of homelessness is misleading, either it excludes anyone marginal or includes everyone with social problems. We should distinguish the visible homeless – living in the streets, parks, public places, derelict houses, cellars, channels and the latent and potential homeless. These groups of people “have a roof over their head” but they live in insecure accommodation, often due to lease departments or disadvantageous lease contracts. We should not overlook the “low social class” people having temporary accommodation. These people do not know when they have to leave the temporary accommodation. This fact hinders them in making plans for the future and often they slip down to a “day to day” style of life.

Two more aspects are evident in Czech society. It is the negative understanding of the general public. The second aspect is even more significant – the word “homeless” is missing in official documents and in legislation. In legislation, the word “homeless” indicates a person without nationality.

¹³ These places can offer gratification of basic physical needs(warm, food, hygiene).

5.2. Definition of Target Group

The FEANTSA¹⁴ definition of homelessness was used for the sake of the homeless census. According to this definition homeless can be divided into four groups:

- 1) *Rooflessness*
- 2) *Houselessness*
- 3) *Living in insecure accommodation*
- 4) *Living in inadequate accommodation*

Ad 1) *Rooflessness* - Staying outside of “classical” accommodation, it is the most visible modul of homelessness. People with a chaotic lifestyle are in risk of losing their home. The successful accommodation for these people depends not only on capacity (temporary or permanent) but also on suitable support.

Ad 2) *Houselessness* – Despite the fact these people have access to crisis or long term accommodation, there is not sufficient support to reintegration. People, who cannot obtain sufficient accommodation (provided by local authority – social flats) are made to live in various hostels and they can be considered as homeless. In this context homelessness is not only inaccessibility to accommodation but also a failure of social relationships.

Ad 3) *Living in insecure accommodation* (insecure claim on accommodation, temporary accommodation). Such a situation can be caused by inaccessibility to permanent accommodation. Providing suitable support can be very important in order to gain permanent accommodation under their name and responsibility. This category includes also those who are forced, by various circumstances, to live together with other people in insufficient conditions, people imminently threatened with physical or psychological abuse and violence (for example persons exposed to domestic violence, race violence, forced prostitution, abuse).

Ad 4) *Living in inadequate accommodation*. This category includes those living in accommodation which does not comply with hygiene regulations. It can be caused by a high number of “room-mates” (referring to the actual legislation in a particular country). This also includes people living on houseboats and caravans.

The Homeless Census in Prague was focused on the first and second groups of homeless – roofless and houseless. The professionals in ČR have united these two groups into one category, visible homeless. This category again does not have a strict delimitation, therefore it had to be redefined (for this project). Homeless¹⁵ are people with a lack of the necessary means of living and without the possibility or ability to earn or use these means reasonably. People of this target group totally depend on social services provided by local authorities or NGOs, e.g. day centres, crisis centres, night shelters, hostels etc. There are homeless, who do not use any social service and they live in extreme conditions.

¹⁴ Edgar, Bill; Doherty, Joe; Meert, Henk: *Review of Statistics on Homelessness in Europe*, European Observatory of Homelessness November 2003, Bruxelles: FEANTSA 2003.

¹⁵ Homeless – people with no home; “home” - it means also social conditions, not only permanent or temporary accommodation.

5.3. Homeless census methods used in European countries ¹⁶

Denmark is a pioneer in the field of homelessness issue, in collecting data and information about the development of homelessness. The situation in Denmark has been described by the FEANTSA specialist: “Thanks to data brought by service providers, findings of local researches and figures of one day census, we are able to identify particular items leading to homelessness...”¹⁷ There are 8 basic census modules used in Europe. Each modul has it's advantages and disadvantages.

- 1) Germany - the most exact method.
The local authority collects data in conjunction with the register of people looking for support. So the evaluation includes the number of people in need and the period during which they are in the difficult situation. In Germany, the total number is scaled up by 38,5% in order to estimate the fluctuation – difference between momentary and annual number. This method is also used in Holland. This method is considered as sufficient.
- 2) France – This method counts only certain statistic groups – people without permanent residential address (sans domicile fixe) – it means people living in homeless hostels and centres, in streets, channels, cellars, sheds, derelict houses etc. The total is considered as the number of homeless in France. The disadvantage of this method is the method of recording those living in the street stigmatized by social exclusion.
- 3) Great Britain - The definition was stated in the 1977 Homeless legislation – there is a central register where all homeless have his/her identification number. Homeless is defined as a person, who lives in the street for minimum 6 months and who has been recorded by street workers appointed by the government. All homeless have to declare his/her identification number when using the homeless hostel or coming to offices and authorities. Data is collected by the local authorities and published on local levels and generally for England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland.
- 4) Ireland – the method of so called official estimation made by local authority. This method is criticised by specialists, because of an under-estimation of the real total.
- 5) Italy – less exact method. It is a method using the questionnaires within a general census. It overlooks people living in extreme conditions. It is criticised by the NGO “*Commissione d'indagine sulla povertà*”.
- 6) Belgium, Spain – the method is based on collecting data from social service providers providing accommodation for the homeless. The method includes only those living in hostels, not those in the streets. It is used also by S.A.D. in the Czech Republic.
- 7) The Denmark method is based on a “One Day Counting” of the homeless using hostels. Once a year (one particular winter day), service providers count clients accommodated in their hostels. So, the figure is exact, but again, it does not include people staying out of the hostels. This method is used also in Luxembourg. Accommodation is on a very high level in these two countries (Luxembourg and Denmark), so the error is negligible (there are not many homeless living in streets).¹⁸

¹⁶ Information about methods of homeless census in Europe : Edgar, Bill; Doherty, Joe; Meert, Henk: *Review of Statistics on Homelessness in Europe*, European Observatory of Homelessness November 2003, Bruxelles: FEANTSA 2003.

¹⁷ Avramov, Dragana: *Les sans-abri dans l'Union Européenne*, Bruxelles: FEANTSA 1995, str. 89.

¹⁸ The method for Homeless census Prague 2004 was inspired by Denmark method, it had to be adjusted to our conditions, when demand is higher than provision.

8) Portugal, Greece – very inexact method based on the experience of professional workers and their estimation. A similar method has been used in the Czech Republic.

5. 4. Method used in our project

We used the Denmark method of “One Day Census” with some elements of the French method. We counted people accommodated in homeless hostels, those using day centers, and people sleeping in various places all over Prague City. The Census did not include any homeless accommodated in commercial hostels, in short term lodging, staying with friends or relatives. The aim of the census was to map the situation of a target group – visible homeless. The field counting did not embrace all places, which could serve as potential “shelters” (nocležiště)¹⁹. A different approach was adopted in that case as described below.

It is one day counting, in one particular winter evening within two hours, when groups of professionals and Volunteers Census Counters counted homeless in each location (according to the pre-prepared list of localities). Each locality included known and relatively easy accessible homeless “shelters” (places, where homeless stay). For safety reasons organisers did not include counting at places that are not easily accessible (e.g. no street lighting, caves, channels etc.). The data was given by social workers and street workers or the homeless themselves – self counting²⁰.

Census Counters also featured the public places, which are usual homeless points, for instance non-stop snack bars, restaurants and gambling clubs. Census Counters also checked large railway stations including some trains.

Some Census Counters checked metro station termini, junction and tram termini and counted homeless sleeping on public transport vehicles. The Census Counters observed homeless and recorded data on sheets using basic characteristics: gender and age. The homeless were divided into three categories – young (up to 25 year), middle age (25 – 60 year), older (over 60 year).

At the same time, social service providers participating in the project, recorded numbers of homeless coming to the night shelters, hostels and day centres.

5. 5. Timing

The winter time was decided, because the homeless fully used the social service accommodation and the possibility of staying at day centres at night. So the high number of

¹⁹ „Nocležiště” (shelter) it is a working term of places, that are inhabited by homeless for long or short periods – cellars, derelict houses, lofts, haylofts, channels, caves, sheds, garages etc.

²⁰ Self counting – took place in localities that could not be checked by Census Counters. It means mainly “shelters” (derelict houses, gardens, caves etc.). The number of homeless were brought by social workers (kurátoři), street workers, Police and by the homeless themselves.

homeless was supposed to be recorded at these places. The homeless also seek “warmth” on public transport vehicles, restaurants, pubs, railway stations etc.

The concrete date was set according to the long range weather forecast – from second half of January to the end of February²¹. The cold weather, with temperatures about -5 – 10°C, suited the purpose of the project. The final date was set on Thursday 19th February 2004.

Working days in the middle of the working week were considered as the most convenient. The weekend and days close to the weekend could cause distortion, which, of course, cannot be specified without experience and research.

The exact time was decided – evening hours – from 20:00 to 22:00. It is a time when the homeless were coming to, or have already been at their “shelters” preparing themselves for sleeping. The Census Counters could record the homeless at, or on their way to, these “shelters”. It is not too early, when the homeless are still moving from one place to another. It is not too late, so we can avoid problems when Census Counters disturb someone sleeping. The two hour period was decided in order to give sufficient time for Census Counters to check their locality, and also in order to avoid duplicity – homeless cannot manage to be at two or three places at the same time within two hours.

5. 6. Allocation

The homeless census embraced the following places:

- facilities providing services for homeless
- specified localities
- public transport vehicles

Facilities providing services for homeless were as follows:

- day centres
- night shelters
- residential houses and hostels
- half way houses
- other centres of social services

The Census Counters received a map with specified localities. They counted the homeless in these localities including public transport vehicles:

- railway stations and its neighbourhood
- hypermarkets and supermarkets
- non-stop restaurants, pubs, bars and gambling clubs
- cinemas projecting free of charge (the film “Jesus”).

²¹ December and the beginning of January could be impacted by Christmas time and New year. March is usually warmer therefore less critical for homeless.

- places known as homeless “shelters”
- metro stations – mainly in the centre and its neighbourhood
- metro coaches (6 station termini)
- night trams (junction and termini).

Facilities providing service for homeless were chosen by participating organisations during the beginning of the project. Localities and homeless “shelters” were being specified and updated over the preparation period. Social workers from each Prague Borough, street workers with the help of homeless people made up the list of homeless places. Census Counters counted also the homeless at hospitals, prisons, psychiatric facilities, and medical centres for alcohol effected people.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

The Homeless Census took place on 19th February 2004. There were 242 Census Counters participating in the counting. There were 82 localities and 21 tram stops and metro stations.

Census Counters gathered at St. Thomas Church at 18:00. They were given final instructions and materials as follows:

- Census sheets
- maps of localities
- Volunteer Census Counter Identification Cards (cards were used as public transport tickets)
- a list of centres collecting the sheets
- instructions for counting
- press release

A Telephone information link was set up for the Census Counters. Census sheets were collected (Census Counters brought them) at following places by 23:00 the same day.

- Advisory office for homeless (roofless), Karoliny Světlé 7, Praha 1;
- Naděje, Bolzanova 7, Praha 1;
- Úřad městské části Praha 10, Vršovická 68, Praha 10;
- Redakce Nového Prostoru, Pod svahem 12, Praha 4;
- Arcidiecézní charita Praha, Pernerova 20, Praha 8;
- Armáda spásy, Tusarova 60, Praha 7.

The census sheets in day centres, hostels, residential houses, psychiatric facilities, hospitals, prisons and medical centres for alcohol effected people were filled in by an

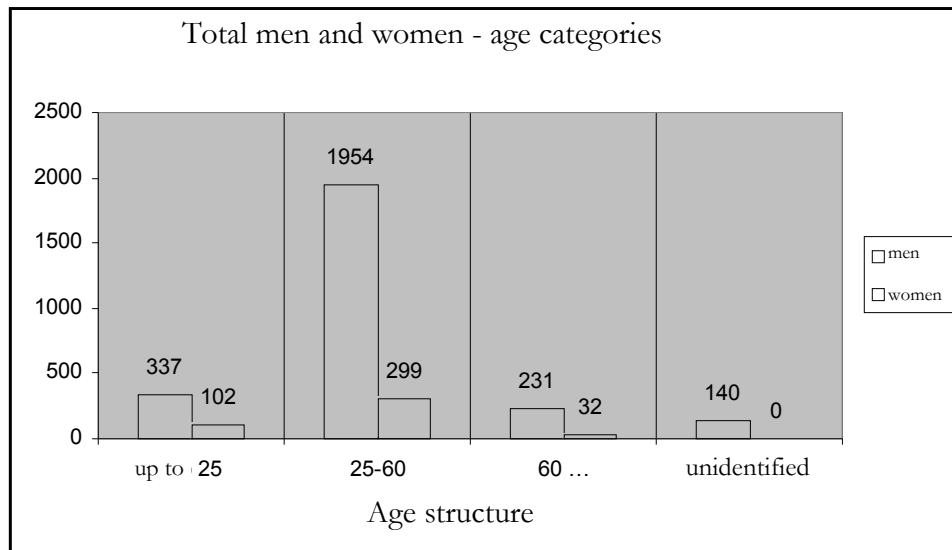
appointed member of staff (within two hours) and the sheets were handed over to the collecting points the next day, Friday 20th February 2004.

7. CENSUS OUTPUTS

7. 1. Review

7. 1. 1. Results²²

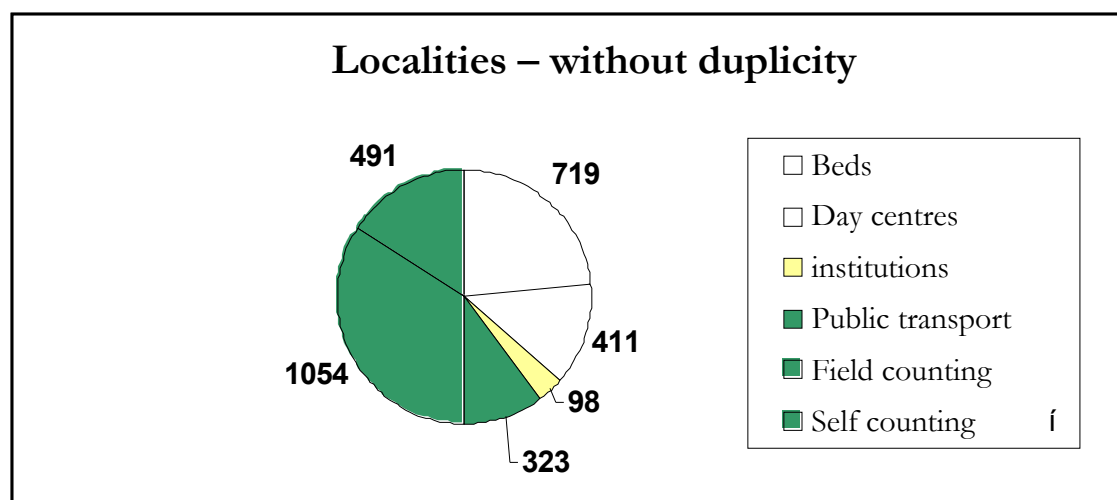
The total number of homeless recorded within the census is 3.096 people²³, 2.662 men (85,99%) and 434 women (14,01%). The Census Counters estimated the age of observed homeless and divided them into three age categories. Graph no. 1 shows that majority of homeless come within the category “25 – 60 year” (72,78%), then the category “up to 25 year” (14,20%) and finally “over 60 year” (8,48%), the Census Counters were not able to estimate the age of 140 people (4,53%). Graph no. 2 shows the number of people accommodated (bed capacity) 719 people (23,23%), in day centres 411 people (13,28%), other institutions 98 people (3,17%) and on public transport vehicles 323 people (10,43%). The field counting recorded 1.054 people (34,05%) and field self-counting 491 people (15,85%) .



Graph No. 1

²² The deviations in total of relative figures (in text and tables) are given by rounding of relative figures.

²³ The estimation of duplicity is 4%. It should avoid (minimise) counting one person twice.



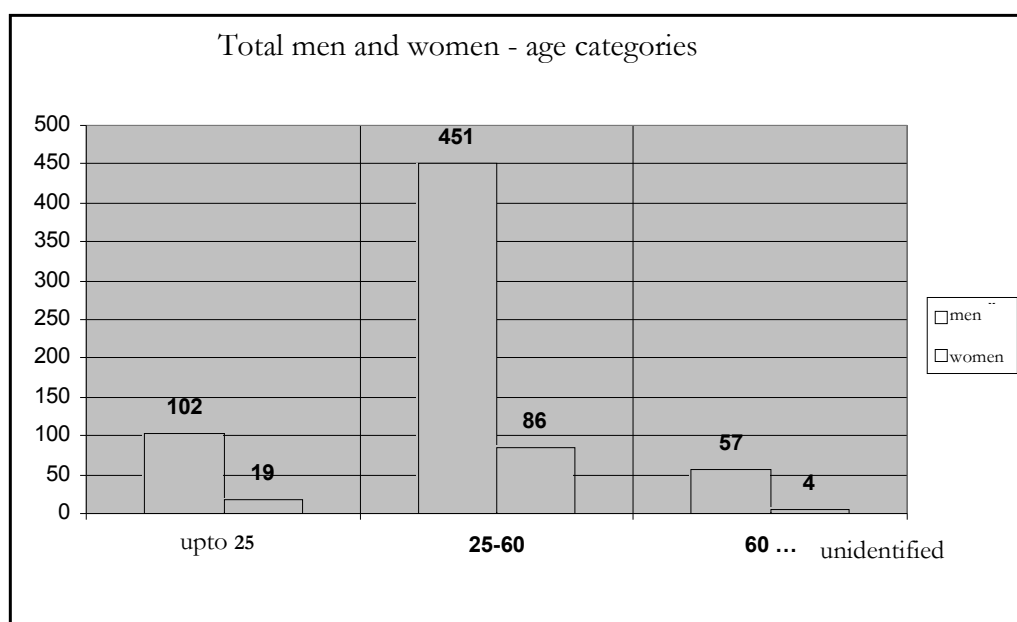
Graf č. 2

7. 1. 2. Accommodation (beds)

There were 719 homeless recorded in accommodation facilities, it is 23,23% of the total number. There were 610 men (84,84%) and 109 women (15,16%). Table 1 shows the number of homeless staying in the various facilities within census time. There were 537 (74,69%) of people aged “25 - 60 year”, 121 (16,83%) “up to 25 year” and 61 (8,48%) “over 60 year” (see graph 3).

organisation	total			percentage		
	men total	women total	total	men total	women total	total
DOM	5	6	11	0,70 %	0,83 %	1,53 %
Naděje, P 16	16	0	16	2,23 %	0,00 %	2,23 %
Arcidiecézní charita Praha	24	18	42	3,34 %	2,50 %	5,84 %
Armáda spásy	152	22	174	21,14 %	3,06 %	24,20 %
MCSSP, Ubytovna	43	0	43	5,98 %	0,00 %	5,98 %
MCSSP, Noclehárna	42	0	42	5,84 %	0,00 %	5,84 %
Naděje, Na Slupi, P 2	0	13	13	0,00 %	1,81 %	1,81 %
Naděje, Krejčířek, P 8	100	0	100	13,91 %	0,00 %	13,91 %
Naděje, P 11, neplatiči	5	4	9	0,70 %	0,56 %	1,25 %
Naděje, P 11, noclehárna	45	0	45	6,26 %	0,00 %	6,26 %
Naděje, P 3, noclehárna	50	0	50	6,95 %	0,00 %	6,95 %
Naděje, P 10, dům 1/2 cesty	8	0	8	1,11 %	0,00 %	1,11 %
Naděje, P 10, senioři	24	0	24	3,34 %	0,00 %	3,34 %
Dům EZER, P 7	0	3	3	0,00 %	0,42 %	0,42 %
Společnou cestou, P 11	18	25	43	2,50 %	3,48 %	5,98 %
Emauzský dům	21	0	21	2,92 %	0,00 %	2,92 %
Kolpingův dům, P 8	0	15	15	0,00 %	2,09 %	2,09 %
Dům světla	57	3	60	7,93 %	0,42 %	8,34 %
Total	610	109	719	84,84 %	15,16 %	100,00 %

Table 1



Graph 3

7. 1. 3. Day centres

411 homeless, 13,28% from total number, were recorded at day centres. 337 men (82,00%) and 74 women (18,00%). Table 2 shows the number of homeless staying in facilities. 335 (81,51%) people aged 25 - 60 year, 38 (9,25%) up to 25, and 38 (9,25%) over 60.

Day centre	total			percentage		
	men total	women total	total	men total	women total	total
MCSSP, Poradna POBP	37	11	48	9,00 %	2,68 %	11,68 %
Arcidiecézní charita Praha	20	2	22	4,87 %	0,49 %	5,35 %
Armáda spásy	67	21	88	16,30 %	5,11 %	21,41 %
Nový prostor	88	17	105	21,41 %	4,14 %	25,55 %
Naděje, P 1, Bolzanova, ml.	9	2	11	2,19 %	0,49 %	2,68 %
Naděje, P 1, Bolzanova	116	21	137	28,22 %	5,11 %	33,33 %
Total	337	74	411	82,00 %	18,00 %	100 %

Table 2

7. 1. 4. Institutions

The census also took place in certain institutions, where homeless were supposed to stay - hospitals, psychiatric facilities, prisons, medical centres for alcohol effected people. There were 98 homeless, it is 13,17% from total number, 96 men(97,96%) and 2 women (2,04%). Table 3 shows the number of homeless staying at specific institutions. There were recorded 78 (79,59%) people aged 25 - 60, 11 (11,22%) up to 25, and 9 (9,18%) over 60.

institution	total			percentage		
	men total	women total	total	men total	women total	total
Prison Pankrác	16	0	16	16,33 %	0,00 %	16,33 %
Custody Pankrác	19	0	19	19,39 %	0,00 %	19,39 %
Custody Prison Ruzyně	2	0	2	2,04 %	0,00 %	2,04 %

Psychiatric institution Bohnice	46	2	48	46,94 %	2,04 %	48,98 %
Hospital- Krč	2	0	2	2,04 %	0,00 %	2,04 %
Hospital- Vinohrady	2	0	2	2,04 %	0,00 %	2,04 %
Hospital- Motol	1	0	1	1,02 %	0,00 %	1,02 %
Medical point for alcohol effected	0	0	0	0,00 %	0,00 %	0,00 %
Hospital- Bulovka	3	0	3	3,06 %	0,00 %	3,06 %
Hospital- Na Františku	4	0	4	4,08 %	0,00 %	4,08 %
Psychiatric clinic, Ke Karlovu	1	0	1	1,02 %	0,00 %	1,02 %
Total	96	2	98	97,96 %	2,04 %	100 %

Table 3

7. 1. 5. Public transport

The Homeless were also recorded on the vehicles of the public transportation. The Census Counters checked particular junction tram stops and metro termini stations. The output of counting on public transport vehicles is not included with figures from the field counting and it is placed as an independent item in the final figures.

323 homeless were recorded on the vehicles of the public transportation, it is 10,43% of the total figure - 287 men (88,85%) and 36 women (11,15%). Table 4 shows the number of homeless recorded at specific places. There were 255 (78,95%) people aged 25 to 60, 51 (15,79%) up to 25, and 12 (4,64%) over 60, the Census Counters were not able to estimate the age of 2 persons (0,62 %).

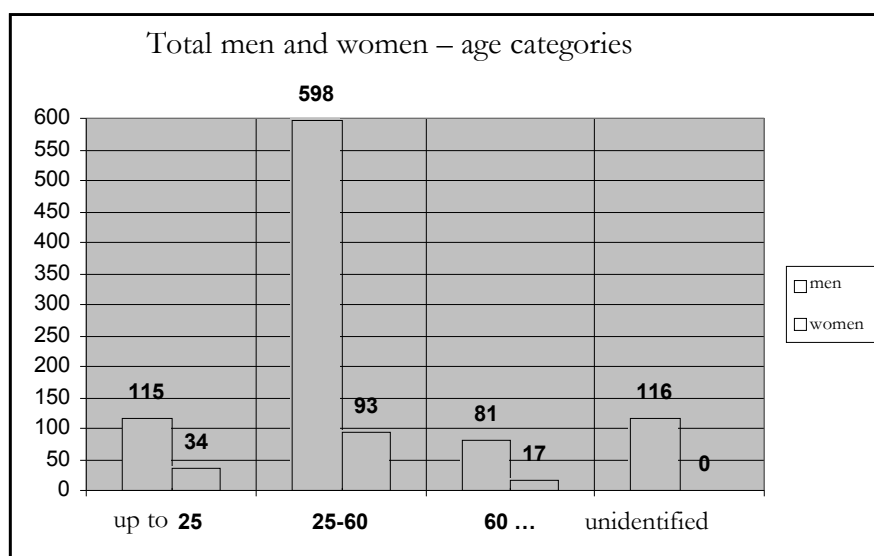
Public Transport (A+D – arrival a departure)	total			percentage		
	men total	Women total	total	men total	women total	total
Liboc Divoká Šárka (20+26) A+D	49	14	63	15,17 %	4,34 %	18,61 %
Petřiny (1+2+18) A+D	12	1	13	3,72 %	0,31 %	4,02 %
Bílá Hora (22+ 25) A+D	4	0	4	1,24 %	0,00 %	1,24 %
Malovanka (23+15) passing	4	1	5	1,24 %	0,31 %	1,55 %
Řepy (9+10) A+D	52	0	52	16,10 %	0,00 %	16,10 %
Kotlářka (4+7) A+D	9	4	13	2,79 %	1,24 %	4,02 %
Barrandov (12+14) A+D	6	2	8	1,86 %	0,62 %	2,48 %
Hostivař (22+26) A+D	21	0	21	6,50 %	0,00 %	6,50 %
Kubánské náměstí (6+19+23+24) passing	12	0	12	3,72 %	0,00 %	3,72 %
Černokostelecká (11+7) passing	5	0	5	1,55 %	0,00 %	1,55 %
Spojovací (1+9+16) A+D	3	0	3	0,93 %	0,00 %	0,93 %
Lehovec (3+19+31) A+D	13	0	13	4,03 %	0,00 %	4,03 %
Vysočanská (8) + M + nádraží Vysočany, A+D	3	0	3	0,93 %	0,00 %	0,93 %
Sídlíště Dáblice (10+17+24+136) A+D	7	0	7	2,17 %	0,00 %	2,17 %
Střelničná (14+15+25) passing	12	0	12	3,72 %	0,00 %	3,72 %
Spořilov (11) A+D	3	0	3	0,93 %	0,00 %	0,93 %
A Dejvická A+D	19	3	22	5,98 %	0,93 %	6,82 %
A Skalka A+D	10	0	10	3,10 %	0,00 %	3,10 %
B Zličín A+D	7	0	7	2,17 %	0,00 %	2,17 %
B Černý Most A+D	31	11	42	9,59 %	3,41 %	13,00 %
C Háje A+D	5	0	5	1,55 %	0,00 %	1,55 %

Total	287	36	323	88,85 %	11,15 %	100,00 %
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Table 4

7. 1. 6. The field counting – localities

The field counting took place at 83 localities of Prague Boroughs 1 – 18. Prague Boroughs 19 – 22 were not included. The social workers from these Prague Boroughs confirmed, there were no homeless staying in these areas. Technically we were not able to ensure the census in some Prague outlying areas.



Graf č. 4

Within the field counting there were 1.054 homeless recorded, it is 34,05% of the total figure. - 910 men (86,34%) and 144 women (13,66%).

Graph 4 shows the age range - 691 (65,56%) aged 25 - 60, 149 (14,44%) up to 25, and 98 (9,30%) over 60. The Census Counters were not able to estimate the age of 116 people (11,01%). Table 5 shows the number of homeless in each Prague Borough. The highest number of homeless was recorded in Prague 1. (21,44%) and Prague 5 (13,19%), the lowest number of homeless was recorded at Prague 16 and Prague 18 (both 0,76%).

Praha	men total	women total	total
1	196	30	226
2	69	11	80
3	31	1	32
4	56	8	64
5	118	21	139
6	66	12	78
7	61	8	69
8	81	16	97
9	14	1	15
10	32	1	33
11	35	5	40
12	14	1	15
13	32	8	40
14	8	4	12
15	35	5	40
16	6	2	8
17	50	8	58
18	6	2	8
Total	910	144	1054

Table 5

7. 1. 7. The field self-counting

The field counting was provided by the homeless themselves. It took place in the hard accessible and risky localities.

We had to estimate the rate of duplicity²⁴, which is 4%, this is considered as standard statistical deviation. 491 homeless were recorded within the field self-counting, it is 15,85% of the total figure. 422 men (85,99%) and 69 women (14,01%). The age range was indicated on the basis of statistical methods (previous data about age distribution), it means 357 (72,78%) aged 25 - 60, 70 (14,20%) up to 25, and 42 (8,48%) over 60, 22 people (4,53%) the age was not estimated. Table 6 shows the number of homeless recorded within the self-counting at each Prague Borough.

Prague	Total	%		
1	28	5,48 %	duplicity estimated – 4%	
2	77	15,07 %		
3	30	5,87 %		
4	25	4,89 %		
5	79	15,46 %		
6	63	12,33 %		
7	97	18,98 %		
8	26	5,09 %		
9	39	7,63 %		
10	9	1,76 %		
11	20	3,91 %		
12	0	0,00 %		
13	6	1,17 %		
14	3	0,59 %		
17	5	0,98 %		
18	0	0,00 %		
21	4	0,78 %		
Total	511	100,00 %		4 %
				491

Table 6

7. 2. Interpretation of the census results

The census outputs describes only basic characteristics of the target group. There is still space for questions and reflections of different aspects of homelessness. The census outputs include valid data, what are currently unique in the Czech Republic.

The first reflection comes out of the final figure. What does this figure mean? Is it a real number of all the homeless in Prague? Is the number 3.096 positive or negative? Is this figure alarming? The last questions must be answered by political representatives and state authorities, because they are responsible for social politics and they decide on the priorities in society.

²⁴ to reduce the possibility that one person would be recorded twice – within field-counting and self-counting.

The homeless census was focussed on the target group, what Czech experts indicate as “visible homeless”. The project did not include potential and latent homeless which means people living in insecure accommodation, e.g. commercial hostels, in flats without the contract of lease, living at their relatives or friends. People living in insecure accommodation can easily lose their life standard if they lose their job, or illness, or divorce etc. It is difficult to recognise these groups of people and it requires close cooperation with state authorities, local authorities, NGOs and the public. To find out the number of visible homeless is easier, but the total number coming out of the census cannot be considered as a “real” number of all the homeless in Prague.

The German census modul (see chap. 5. 3.), is considered as one of the most exact methods. This method adds 2/5 to the total figure, which is the supposed objective figure (state, situation). 3.096 homeless recorded within the homeless census in Prague can represent 65% - 75% of the real number of homeless. Although the census was not able to give the real number of homeless, it can be recognised as significant step forward. The estimation made in the past oscillated across a very wide range – from hundreds to thousands. The census showed also the fact, that many homeless are almost non-contactable even by social and street workers. These homeless live in very extreme conditions and social exclusion, they live at hardly accessible and hidden places e.g. channels, heat pipe lines, air shafts, underground tunnel mazes, derelict houses etc. These people do not use any social service or they consciously keep away from them. Therefore there is no exact information describing this group of homeless. According to homeless participating on census, there are hundreds of homeless living in the places mentioned above.

The census showed, that only approximately 37% recorded homeless stayed in hostels and homeless centres over the night-time period. Despite this, the occupancy of homeless facilities was almost 100%. The rest, 63% of homeless could not have used the facilities even if they had come. In the winter season 2003/2004 there were 800 beds for the visible homeless in Prague. Approximately 2/3 of the capacity is used by long term accommodated homeless involved into re-socialisation and integration programs. 1/3 of capacity is used by short term accommodated people. There is a lack of beds for short term accommodated homeless during the winter time. That could be a reason why more than 10% of homeless recorded within the census were seeking shelter and warmth on public transport vehicles. Public transport workers, specially night tram drivers say that many homeless seek for warmth on vehicles between 23:00 and morning hours during the winter time. It can seem that there is high number of homeless using the public transport vehicles at nights, but this can be caused by the low frequency of night trams.

Another issue emerges from the capacity. It is its structure. As it was mentioned above, 2/3 of capacity is used by long term accommodated clients involved into re-socialisation and integration programs. The capacity structure does not give much space to families with children or to couples. There is not much space for female-homeless, who are treated with much less respect from the public side than male homeless. The public is not open-minded to female homeless. But women become homeless from the same reasons as men – loss of family, various addictions and psychiatric diagnosis.

Women represent approximately 14% (men 86%) of the total number. But we can suppose many women belong to latent homeless. Women probably prefer insecure family relationships to life in the street. Insecure and non-functional relationship can ensure some accommodation but on the other hand women are exposed to danger of domestic violence, forced prostitution and other kinds of abuse.

Very significant question concerning to the age of homeless ensued from the census. More than 23% of female homeless are younger than 25. If we have a look at the male homeless, it is less than 13% up to 25.

The total number of homeless younger than 25 is 14%. As specialists state these young homeless have only basic education, no family relationship, they are often mentally and physically disabled with minimum ability to establish any relationship. Their limited abilities hinder access to employment. Currently the number of young homeless with psychiatric diagnosis is increasing.

The number of homeless over 60 is relatively low. It is approximately 8%, 7% of men and 1% of women. It can be caused by a lower life span of homeless. Older homeless have difficulty to find employment or to earn a living to ensure a life independent of other's help. There is a lack of facilities providing care for elderly homeless. Homeless are rarely admitted to state elderly homes (founded by the City of Prague Council) and they usually cannot afford their stay.

The field census also gives the overview of a homeless fluctuation within Prague Boroughs. The highest number of homeless was recorded in Prague 1 with about 21% of homeless, then Prague 5 with about 13% and Prague 8 with approximately 9%. There are many places like railway stations, shopping and entertainment centres and junction stops of public transport, where homeless can fulfill the means of life.

8. CONCLUSION

The project is a continuation of previous activities. It should give wide information about homelessness to the public and professional community. This project can help Prague Authorities to recognise the situation and prepare a plan for the development of social service for people exposed to social exclusion.

The first impulse for the project was given by the City of Prague Council. The document produced from the project can serve for further development of the cooperation of involved organisations and authorities. The outputs can help to find other ways of dealing with homelessness.

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