



CASE STUDY



Campaign for the right to a registered address

Our campaign aims to ensure that everyone is able to have a proper registered address in Hungary, which guarantees that they can fully exercise their rights as citizens.

The City is for All is a grassroots housing rights organisation fighting for the right to housing and against the discrimination and stigmatisation of the homeless and people in poor housing. The members of the group are homeless and formerly homeless people as well as people experiencing housing poverty and their allies.







SHORT SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

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DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ORGANISATION

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PROJECT

What are the local social realities?

Today, at least 100,000 people in Hungary (total population 10 million) have issues with their registered address. Among them are people whose official address has expired or been invalidated, those with only a temporary address, those without any registered address as well as those who have a so-called municipal address, which leads to a lot of discrimination and exclusion from services. At least 4,000 people under 18 have invalid addresses and around 1,500 people under 18 have only a municipal address. In addition, tens of thousands of people have addresses that do not match their place of residence.

Those who have insecure addresses are not able to exercise their basic rights as citizens such as voting, access to health care, welfare services and in some cases even education. In addition, the majority of these people are not able to access private services such as opening a bank account or buying a SIM card for a cell phone.

What are the specific innovative elements in your project/service?

We are pursuing a campaign that includes both legal aid and legal advocacy with the involvement of those directly affected. At the moment, our group is the only grassroots organisation that focuses on this issue in Hungary and provides free legal aid for people who face issues regarding their address status.



What are the key characteristics of the project/service?

Target groups

Homeless people, people living in insecure situations, private tenants as well as those living with friends and relatives.

Principles

Everyone should have the right and ability to have an official registered address that allows them to fully exercise their citizenship.

Drivers

Over the years, we have received a growing number of requests and complaints from both our members and the clients of Streetlawyer, so we decide to address this issue in a comprehensive





way.

Outcome

We have provided free legal advice around address issues for hundreds of people every year via email, phone and in person.

We have created dozens of informative materials about issues around registering an address that thousands of people have accessed and used successfully in their efforts of self-advocacy.

We have managed to get official statements from both public authorities and banks regarding “municipal addresses” that broke down previously existing legal barriers for citizens.

We have pushed the government to introduce in practice a new address category called “mailing address” that has been on the books for years. We managed to get a homeless shelter to abide by the law and offer registered addresses to its residents.

Can this project be transferred to a larger context (a bigger region, the whole country, EU-wide)? If so, what is necessary to transfer it (special structures, finances, common definition of standards...)? If not, why not?

This is a project that affects all of Hungary. Our next step is to introduce legislation that will ensure private tenants the right to be registered in their actual residence.

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SOLIDAR, together with our national members and partners, has developed 18 case studies in 2016, presenting innovative, effective, sustainable and tailor made models to promote social inclusion, the social economy and quality job creation by adapting a social investment approach. In their daily work, SOLIDAR members and partners anticipate new or unmet needs of socio-economically vulnerable people and empower them to actively participate in society and to access the labour market.

These case studies gather strong evidence of the social impact of the activities undertaken by our members and partners to help Member States making progress towards the achievement of the social and employment objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the implementation of the Social Investment Package.

SOLIDAR is a European network of membership based Civil Society Organisations who gather several millions of citizens throughout Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the values of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the three main policy sectors; social affairs, lifelong learning and international cooperation.



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