



EUROPEAN UNION
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DEVELOPMENT FUND

Preliminary report Czech Republic

Main findings

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Socioeconomics of Housing

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This project is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme co-financed by the ERDF

Structure of presentation

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- ➔ 5 best practices
 - » Community building
 - » Housing accessibility
 - » Housing affordability
 - » Social and health care
 - » Access to information / education
- ➔ Discussion of the best practices



Literature review

- ➔ Population ageing particularly intensive in the Czech Republic due to a specific development of reproduction
- ➔ Actual pensioners in the CR have a good standard of living
 - » Big flats or houses (high number of rooms), often in individual houses
 - » Own houses / flats (48%)
 - » But often in older houses that require reconstruction
 - » Risk of unaffordability
- ➔ Barriers to move
 - » Objective: low supply of smaller flats
 - » Subjective: high level of satisfaction with housing, low willingness to move
- ➔ Social housing is not well targeted



Literature review

- ➔ High costs of residential care, negative impact on social inclusion and health of elderly
- ➔ Seniors' preferences: to live in an independent household but close to the children – need of privacy as one of the most important factors
- ➔ Despite of declared preferences there is growing interest in residential care
- ➔ Hence, the need to improve home social care, increase awareness of elderly of possible solutions and services, and enable adjustments of flats
- ➔ The system of housing for elderly should enable seniors to choose the form of living they prefer and that corresponds to their needs!



Housing policy and housing system overview

- ➔ Key events in housing policy after 1989:
 - » Restitution
 - » Free-of-charge transfer to municipal ownership
 - » Privatization - increase in homeownership rate
 - » Introduction of new housing policy instruments, in particular the housing allowance
 - » Introduction of a housing savings scheme and mortgage loans
 - » Gradual rent deregulation
- ➔ Housing policy is clearly inclined to owner-occupied housing and demand-side subsidies
- ➔ Problems:
 - » No integrated strategy of social housing policy, no definition of social rental housing
 - » Low effectiveness of subsidies
 - » Lack of transparency



Best practices – Community building

➔ Mutual Aid Exchange

» **WHAT?**

- » The project uses the potential of elderly and give elderly the feeling they are useful for society
- » It offers space for meetings, exchange of experiences, skills and knowledge, and leisure activities
- » Variety of activities for elderly organised by volunteers
- » The elderly can also offer activities for younger generations
- » Background for elderly initiatives and help with fund raising for concrete activities or events

» **WHO?**

- » NGO (Foundation “Veselý senior”) in cooperation with the municipal borough of Prague 2 (offered the premises) and a public service radio

» **WHEN?**

- » April 2011 (pilot in 2010)

» **WHY THE BEST PRACTICE?**

- » Unique use of knowledge, creativity and skills of elderly
- » Low costs (volunteers’ activities)
- » Intergenerational dialogue



➔ Counselling in barriers' removal

» **WHAT?**

- » Project „With The League against barriers”
- » Consultations and guidance in architectural adjustments of flats or barrier-free buildings in general
- » Consultations provided by specialists in barrier-free constructions
- » Direct counselling to clients or via construction offices
- » Publications

» **WHO?**

- » NGO (Liga vozíčkářů)
- » Collaboration with construction offices and municipalities
- » Financed by the Ministry of Regional Development

» **WHEN?**

- » May 2010

» **WHY THE BEST PRACTICE?**

- » Enable elderly to stay in their actual dwellings
- » No costs for clients
- » Collaboration of different entities



➔ Housing allowance for elderly in dwellings of RPG

» **WHAT?**

- » Designed for elderly living separately in flats owned by private landlord RPG
- » Private landlord RPG provides information on housing allowances provided by state
- » If the person is eligible for housing allowance but housing allowance is insufficient to cover housing costs, the person (over 60 years old and living alone) is entitled to ask for supplement housing allowance provided by RPG (max. 500 CZK)

» **WHO?**

- » Private landlord RPG - the largest residential real estate owner in the Czech Republic
- » Cooperation with an NGO (Sdružení pro ochranu nájemníků - Tenants Protection Association) who acts as a controlling authority that supervise allowances' attribution

» **WHEN?**

- » 2011

» **WHY THE BEST PRACTICE?**

- » Cooperation of three different actors – state as provider of housing allowance, private landlord as provider of supplement housing allowance, and NGO as guardian of tenant interests



➔ Mirror assistance

» **WHAT?**

- » The aim is to provide assistance to seniors and people with disabilities
- » Personal care, housekeeping, leisure activities, guidance etc.
- » Network of professional carers who are disabled

» **WHO?**

- » NGO (Muži a ženy, o.p.s.)
- » Private agency (Creative Bazaar, s r.o.) – focus on marketing of NGOs
- » Labour offices provide allowances for disabled employees

» **WHEN?**

- » 2008

» **WHY THE BEST PRACTICE?**

- » Support integration of two different groups of people
- » Cooperation of different entities
- » It can be provided in different regions
- » Transparency



Best practices – Access to information / education

➔ Senior Point - meeting and information place for the elderly



» **WHAT?**

- » Network of standardized info points
- » Provision of information, social assistance and counselling
- » Promoting of active life of the older people by providing community life info, organizing lectures and the elderly clubs
- » Facilitation of the communication with authorities and institutions

» **WHO?**

- » NGO (Společně, o.p.s.) in cooperation with the South Moravian Region

» **WHEN?**

- » September 2011

» **WHY THE BEST PRACTICE?**

- » Filling the gap in the information services for the elderly
- » Promoting of active ageing and community participation of the elderly
- » Prevention of social isolation of the elderly
- » Mutual cooperation among several different subjects (South Moravian Region, Police, The Centre for Family and Social Assistance, The Charity, The Fire Rescue Service, The Council of the Older People in the CR, Association of the Consumer Defence etc.)



Thank you for your attention!



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