

**The (re)integration into society and labour market of groups at risk using complex approaches in providing individualized assistance:  
Mitigation of the consequences of homelessness  
Multigenerational homes as a model for self help**

Background: Mitigation of the consequences of homelessness. There was no precise estimation of the number of street homeless in Lithuania in 2008. As a regular practice, the statistics on street homelessness is based on the number of persons who applied for social assistance services in municipalities' social services centers. According to the data provided by Vilnius City Municipality Social Assistance Division in 2006, there were for about 500 homeless in Vilnius city. However there is no statistical data on the number of persons living in slums, cellars, waste sites and other places.

There are 23 shelter homes for homeless established and operating in Lithuania however they accept and provide services only for persons having their personal identification documents, so called *privileged street homeless*. Specialists working with homeless notice an increased internal migration of homeless to biggest cities of Lithuania, especially to Vilnius, which is going to intensify due to closure/modernization of waste sites in 2009 as per the European Union (EU) requirements.

Project. The main problem addressed by the UNDP Lithuania and its project partners (Caritas of Vilnius Archdiocese and Vilnius City Shelter) implementing the Support Foundation European Social Fund Agency's funded project "*HOME AND AWAY: development and introduction of the innovative model in Lithuania aimed at mitigation of consequences of homelessness throughout the (re)integration into society and labour market*" SFMIS No. VP1-1.3-SADM-02-K-01-080 is inadequate knowledge and capacities of two biggest organizations working with homeless in Vilnius City municipality to prevent increasing homelessness and to ensure mitigation of consequences of homelessness through target beneficiaries' (re)integration into society and eventually into labour market.

Development of tailored model based on the best EU countries practices and institutional capacities assessment carried in two project partners organizations working with homeless, training of social workers from partner organizations to effectively employ the methods recommended in model's description in their daily work practices and practical testing of the model's principles in two shelters in Vilnius will create the pre-conditions for:

- 1) Preparation of the practical guide stemming out of the lessons learnt of practically implemented tailored model of homelessness prevention and mitigation of phenomena's consequences through their integration into society and labour market (in Vilnius city municipality).
- 2) Increased employability and employment rates (including the period staying in the same job for up to 6 months and longer) of targeted beneficiaries by at least 40 percent.

The results of the institutional capacity assessment will be finalized by the time of the Conference and presented to the public (methodology used, main findings and recommendations) triggering a discussion about possible approaches and working practices to be used to successfully implement the main findings of the assessment.

Multigenerational homes as a model for self help. The aim of the project is to create and implement in Lithuania the model of Multigenerational homes, the so called generations' self-help model which has been taken as the best practice experience that proved to be successful in Germany ("Mehrgeneraciones haus"). Multigenerational home works as a multifunctional community center where local community actors of all generations gather together and by using assistance of local education and social specialists, as well as volunteers, provide support to socially excluded families (increasing their motivation, relevant information search, social care, competency development, etc.) aiming to help them (re)integrate into labour market. Within the frame of the Support Foundation European Social Fund Agency's funded project "*A DAY TOGETHER: Multigenerational homes as a model for self help*" SFMIS No. VP1-1.3-SADM-02-K-01-117 that is currently being implemented by the UNDP Lithuania and its partners (Vilnius City Social Assistance Center, Aleksandrija community of Skuodas district, "Džiugas" secondary school, Telšiai (Gedrimai section), Gedrimai village community, Daugai community organization "Daugų kraštas", Kančėnai village community "Dėmesio centras") it is foreseen to establish multigenerational homes in rural areas that will organize and provide social community services by using self help models and flexible ways of services delivery.

The presentation will brief on the phases of the Multigenerational homes establishment and starting their operations, will shortly focus on the challenges faced so far and will elaborate more on the working methods to be used, the expected impact, bringing the results of the Project at policy level and a possible replication of the Project to other economically disadvantaged areas.