

European Competence Centre for Social Innovation:  
Community of Practice on Social Inclusion

# Exploring Inclusive Solutions: Study Visit on Homelessness, Child Poverty, and Community Living

September 2024 Event Preview

## Exploring Community Support Initiatives: Insights into Organizations and Their Impact

### BONA

Organization BONA o.p.s. is marking its 25th anniversary of dedicated service within the realm of community care for individuals navigating mental health challenges. Presently, we administer three distinct social services. As the foremost provider of sheltered housing services in the Czech Republic, we also offer employment assistance through sheltered workshops and the IPS team, while embarking on the development of social entrepreneurship initiatives. Additionally, we furnish in-home support and aid through fieldwork operations, facilitated by four dedicated teams spanning Prague 4, 8, 12, 16, and Prague 14.

Between 2020 and 2022, we executed a European project with the aim of integrating the CARE method organisation-wide, a model intricately attuned to the journey of recovery from mental illness.

Aligned with the foundational objectives of psychiatric care reform, our organisation endeavours to tailor our services to best suit the needs of our clientele. This commitment materialises through the gradual transformation of sheltered housing, the expansion of outreach efforts and community engagement, and an ongoing pursuit of novel avenues for employment development.

Since January 2023, we have embarked on the implementation of the European Housing First project, slated for completion by the end of 2025. This initiative seeks to provide housing and support to 15 households, specifically targeting individuals grappling with mental illness and addiction. Collaborating closely with MHMP and city districts, we forge partnerships with private landlords to realise this endeavour.

Embracing this challenge as a strategic component of our mission, we remain steadfast in our commitment to leveraging international insights while broadening the spectrum of assistance available within community services.

### Praha 7

The Care Center is a contributory organisation established by the Prague 7 district. It provides services in the field of home care services, ensuring the operation of a social relief centre, a day care centre, and day nurseries. Its long-term goal is to support seniors in their home environment.

Despite reduced self-sufficiency, most people prefer to live independently in their home environment. Therefore, it is crucial to pay adequate attention to home care provided to frail older people, including those living with dementia. Although informal carers typically play a central role in providing care for individuals with dementia at home, it is essential to ensure optimal opportunities to benefit from professional services. Sufficient qualifications and skills of caring staff are necessary to ensure the quality of professional service. The primary aim of this presentation is to introduce key activities supporting the professional development and skills of formal carers providing social care to individuals with dementia living at home.

### Člověk v tísni

We are a non-governmental, non-profit organisation founded on the principles of humanism, freedom, equality, and solidarity. Upholding human dignity and freedom as fundamental values, we advocate for the universal right of individuals worldwide to determine their own destinies and to share the rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Our mission is to combat poverty by addressing its root causes, which we identify as limited access to education, natural resources, and healthcare, as well as unequal treatment, discrimination, and poor governance. We assist individuals

in overcoming these barriers and support them in improving their lives. Working alongside affected communities, we strive to identify and eliminate the underlying causes of these issues.

Through targeted social interventions grounded in respect and shared responsibility, we provide assistance to individuals experiencing social exclusion in their communities. Collaborating closely with them, we address their challenges and work towards sustainable solutions. We place particular emphasis on supporting young people in education to enhance their prospects for success in life. Concurrently, we endeavour to address systemic issues such as excessive indebtedness, discriminatory practices by local authorities, labour market challenges, and educational segregation.

## **Rytmus**

Since 1994, we have been a non-governmental, non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities, primarily mental, in actively participating in various aspects of life, including education, employment, residence, and leisure activities.

Our approach is centred on utilising natural support systems within society and tailoring our services to each individual. We empower individuals to exercise their rights through the provision of social services and the organisation of thematic events.

What do we offer?

**Social rehabilitation:** We focus on enhancing an individual's self-sufficiency and integration into society across various aspects of daily life.

**Supported employment:** We assist individuals with disabilities in securing employment within the mainstream labour market.

**Transition programme:** We aid practical school students in transitioning to adulthood by providing internships within the regular labour market.

**Training apartment:** Young individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to experience independent living with the support of assistants, preparing them for future independent living arrangements.

**Support for independent living:** We assist individuals with disabilities in transitioning from institutional or alternative housing settings to living independently in their own apartments.

**Counselling:** We offer personalised information, advice, and guidance to individuals with disabilities to promote their social inclusion and well-being.