

# Night Out

## 1. Targets

The project is a fundraising activity that gives obtained means to organizations working with homeless people. The project creates a meeting space for various partners' (public, students, academicians, non for profit organizations and other movements) mutual communication about issues connected to homelessness and at the same time enables to look into the life of homeless people in an experiential way.

The event is inspired with "sleep outs" from abroad but goes further. It involves homeless people to its organization, runs accompanying cultural programme for those who decide not to sleep out but still want to give their support to homeless people. Its activities strive to finance from its own business resources. The whole project functions on volunteer basis.

To conclude the target is to support organizations working with homeless people, to enable the experience of one night out to wide public, to provoke the discussion about issues connected to homelessness among various social actors and to introduce homeless people as an active members of the team in order to overcome stereotypes and prejudices often linked to that target group.

## 2. Procedure

The idea of Night Out proceeding is an idea of Faculty of Social Studies (University of Ostrava) and originated in June 2012 on the personal experience of one team member with similar activity (sleep out) in Oxford (England). The National Hostel Association (roofing many non for profit organizations working with homeless people in the Czech Republic) was asked to cooperate.

In July and August 2012 a two member team finds a venue for the event in the church in the city centre of Ostrava, establishes an event website, posters and event advertising (in public transport). The music bands and other performers were asked to perform (with no claim for financial award).

In September two students of Faculty of Social Studies joined the team when they reacted to placement advertisement via student emails.

In October 2012 two academicians from Faculty of Social Studies joined the team in order to prepare art workshop. The same month the posters were placed in public transport, Facebook page was created and administered by one of the students. In November 2012 two clients of the day centre for homeless people joined the team in order to help at the event over the night (at the gate, with event establishment, cleaning, etc.). The media was addressed.

On 22 of November the event started at 6.00pm. Before the beginning the whole day preparation took place in the church (with 9 degree Celsius). The admission was collected in the form of specific groceries (instant soups, sugar, tea packs) in the value of 50 Czech crowns (approximately 2 euros).

The whole event was based in the church and its surrounding in the city centre of Ostrava. It was accompanied with rich cultural programme. The participants could hear lessons of Czech sociologist Jan Keller, Czech social anthropologist Jan Snopek. Music and dance performance was performed by people from Prapos (by people with mental handicap). Music bands Empty Pipen, Mamalör, Duben v Pešti, Adobre, Posledné Decembrové Dni, and the singer Pavel Čaleta played there. Poetry reading was provided by Protimluv magazine.

At 8.00 pm the vegetarian refreshment was served by Food Not Bombs movement, which processes redundant groceries and distributes them further among homeless people.

The non for profit organizations for homeless people from Ostrava presented their work.

During the event the art workshop took place where all participants could pain bags they could later buy or leave them for sale. Workshop returns goes to prepared photo exhibition Night Out.

The whole project continues, the travelling photo exhibition Night Out is being prepared. The whole night was documented by the photographer Pavel Zuchnický. The media were present too (see results)

Currently the project aims to be spread out to other cities of the Czech Republic. The collaboration is agreed with the universities and non for profit organizations in Olomouc and Praha. People from these cities were present at Ostrava's Night Out.

The big discussion is led around the issue of active involvement of homeless people into the project's organization.

### **3. Principles**

As absolute foundations of the project we emphasize volunteering and volunteer involvement of students, clients and other community members. The whole team volunteered on the project and this format will be preserved as well for the future. The refreshment for the performers was made by family members, friends of the team and other community supporters. Other people joined the project without a claim of financial award, concretely the design and poster, website and radio spot were created this way. The advertising was placed in public transport for free.

All performers performed on volunteer basis, with the aim to express their solidarity and support to homeless people.

The admission was collected as a form of specific groceries, not money (instant soups, sugar, tea packs), which was evaluated positively by event participants. This intention happened to be a motivation for many to turn up and to support the project.

The main capital of the project was the desire to get involved and put own skills and time in benefits of people socially excluded and often seen with a scorn. The project emphasis the idea, that lack of interest about homeless people can be seen as a manifestation of lack of interest about human kind as such.

### **4. Results**

The event visited and supported 300 people and 50 performers.  
40 people slept outside (in the church surroundings).

#### Groceries collection – Night Out – 22.11.2012:

Instant soups – 1028 pieces

Sugar – 111,5 kg

Tea – 205 packs

Legumes – 6kg

Pasta – 28 packs

Meat tins – 134 pieces

And other groceries.

These groceries were given to two day centres for homeless people and two hostels for homeless people in Ostrava as agreed before.

How media reported about us:

**Television:**

Czech television

<http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/zpravodajstvi-ostrava/zpravy/204816-v-ostrave-si-lide-mohli-vyzkouset-jak-se-zije-bezdomovcum/>

Polar

<http://www.polar.cz/archiv/video/regionalni-zpravy-polar-23-11-2012-17-00#cast-514>

**Radio:**

Rádiožurnál

[http://www.rozhlas.cz/radiozurnal/reportaze/\\_zprava/1140759](http://www.rozhlas.cz/radiozurnal/reportaze/_zprava/1140759)

→ audio - <http://prehovac.rozhlas.cz/audio/2772890>

**Magazines:**

Listy OU

[http://www.osu.cz/listy/archiv/2012/stlisty04\\_2012.pdf](http://www.osu.cz/listy/archiv/2012/stlisty04_2012.pdf)

Odborný časopis Sociální práce

<http://www.socialniprace.cz/index.php?sekce=9&clanek=66>

## **5. Organizational aspects**

The team meets on a regular basis once in a month. Partial tasks are divided among team members by the team coordinator. The team further communicates via emails and phones. Most of the team members stay the same for the next year. One student is leaving as she fulfilled her student practical placement there. For this year we seek a new student member again, via advertisement to student emails. The whole team is coordinated by one person who secures necessary information to other staff members and maintains the information flow.

## **6. Budget**

Incomes:

Donation:

Vae Controls – 5000 Kč (195€)

Finarea – 6000 Kč (234€)

Other Incomes:

FSS (Faculty of Social Studies) – 4800 Kč (187€)  
S.A.D. (National Hostel Association) – 4800 Kč (187€)  
Private sponsor – 1500Kč (58€)

**Together: 22 100Kč (861€)**

Costs:

Church lease – 1800 Kč (70€)  
Web – 300 Kč (11€)  
Toi toi (toilets) 2 pieces – 2400 Kč (94€)  
Soundman – 4800 Kč (187€)  
Bands – travelling costs – 3000 Kč (117€)  
Petrol for the team – 1416 Kč (55€)  
Bags purchase – 2800 Kč (109€)  
Art staff – 864 Kč (34€)

**Together: 17 380 Kč (677€)**

**Together at the account: 22 100 Kč (861€)- 17 380 Kč (677€)= 4720Kč (184€)**

**Art workshop earnings:**  
**8258 Kč (322€)**

**All together: 12 978 Kč (506€)**

The rest of finance will be used for preparation of travelling photo exhibition. At the moment we need 17 000 Kč (662€) to start with the exhibition. We seek this money through fundraising activities.

**Saved costs:**

Advertising – estimated price 16 000Kč (624€) – volunteer basis  
Poster, design – estimated price – 2000Kč (78€) – volunteer basis  
Web creation – estimated price – 4000Kč (156€) – volunteer basis  
Personal costs – volunteer basis