

„HomelessTalk” report

Menhely Alapítvány – 11/2019, Bratislava

Ildikó Guba, Ildikó Fehér and Viktória Vajdovics

One of the aims of our participation was to satisfy our curiosity about how prejudiced people, cities, countries are toward the homeless people, in this case in Bratislava.

The other interesting question was, what the social work professionals do for disadvantaged people, in the context of reintegration, to increase acceptance and empathy in another country. We wanted to look into the everyday life of homeless institutions as we were curious about the differences and similarities with the working methods in Hungary.



During the study trip, we visited a small day shelter (Stopa), where social workers - with a very well-established professional program- try to solve the problems of employment, housing and reintegration of homeless people.

In addition, we managed to explore the city itself, observing the homeless people and beggars on the streets of Bratislava.

We also attended a very good art festival where all sorts of disadvantaged groups had a chance to perform. We saw a very interesting and touching performance.

One of the most important messages of this study trip was for us on this visit is acceptance. We have seen such great empathy, love, selflessness, devotion on the part of social helpers

that is exemplary. The biggest achievement of the study trip was that it is possible to turn to disadvantaged people in a different way, with more opened mind and with more acceptance. This is what we think we need to learn in Hungary.



As a result of the study trip and what we have seen, during the work with our clients, we pay more attention to finding and developing their individual abilities and skills. Beyond social administration, we strive to keep in touch and to involve more time of personal conversations in our work.