

# samusocial din România

## Projects and activities of Samusocial din Romania

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## Who is Samusocial din Romania?

Samusocial din Romania is the only nongovernmental organization in Bucharest that provides social, psychological, psychiatric and medical services for almost 5.000 homeless adults in the city, through mobile teams and cabinet. 80% of homeless people in the street have come from different life situations: loss of home, family conflicts, divorce, and job loss.

The NGO took over and developed a project for homeless adults in 1998 by Doctors without borders Belgium, along with its staff working in this project.

## Our mission

Samusocial din Romania helps the most dissocialized persons who were reduced to the status of survival, because they became “victims” which don't know how to benefit from common aids.

## Principles and values

All the interventions of the Samusocial respect these three principles:

**Ubiquity:** mobile teams go towards homeless all over the city

**Pluridisciplinarity:** our teams are constituted with social workers, doctors, psychologists, so that we can provide adapted help, considering the person globally.

**Permanency:** mobile teams insure care to the most vulnerable, when other institutions are closed: nights

## Our projects

The mobile teams of multi-disciplinary support cross the town for 5 nights and 2 days per week to assist persons in exclusion situation living on the streets in Bucharest.

### Psychiatric Mobile Team

Because of difficult living conditions they face every day, improper diet, constant struggle for survival, increased violence, dissocializing, lack of any support from the community, the lack of any hygienic conditions, and an increasing number of adults without shelter shows psychiatric illness.

All these indicate a need for immediate intervention. Social institutions frequently are confronted with the increasing number of homeless adults presenting psychological or psychiatric disorders which they cannot face because they don't have the required skills.

As a solution to this problem was created Psychiatric Mobile Team.

Mondays and Tuesdays between 18.00 and 24.00, the Psychiatric Mobile Team travels all across Bucharest in search of beneficiaries who need psychiatric treatment and counseling. Depending on the diagnosis, the psychiatrist gives them medications. Each case is monitored regularly. Also, the social assistant provides social services.

For cases that present serious disorders, they are referred to specialized units with professional assistance and they are kept under constant medical monitoring for maximum a period of two weeks.

Unfortunately, in Romania there isn't a complex system of services that can serve cases of serious mental disorders. Most times, after the maximum period of hospitalization of 2 weeks, the patient is released, but it goes back into the street.



## Day Mobile team

Once they get in the street, the homeless adults are disoriented and they don't know who they should address to in order to receive the help they need. Most of the cases lost their ID cards, they get robbed overnight, and so they lose any document attesting they had a life before becoming a homeless.

To satisfy these needs, we created the Day mobile team which aims to identify new cases of homeless adults, to monitor the existing ones, to provide social and medical assistance even on the street.

Having the same structure as the other mobile teams – a medical doctor, a social worker and a driver – the Day mobile team is active on Mondays and Thursdays, between 09.00 and 17.00.

The Day mobile team offers to homeless adults medical services, when is needed, social conciliation and accompanies the beneficiaries to public and private institutions in order to mediate obtaining ID cards, social assistance, access to social canteen or getting a job. Those who need the professional help are accompanied to hospitals for medical interventions. Most times, the NGO bears the costs for medical interventions.

According to the law, any person who hasn't made any income in the last six months cannot benefit from free health care, based on the medical insurance.

In the case of obtaining a job, a medical pension, a retirement pension, the social worker monitors the case for a period of minimum 6 months after the rehabilitation.



## **Night mobile team**

With a program during Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 18.00 to midnight, the night mobile team aims to identify new cases of homeless adults in the streets. Because in this time the public institutions are closed so they can't issue ID cards or any other document, the team's role is to search cases of abandoned adults by their families or friends, and who are forced to live in the street.

For them, the night mobile team provides direct care on the street with the help of medical doctor, offers social counseling with the help of social worker, and directs them to medical-social-psychological cabinet of Samusocial.

## **Medical-Psychological-Social Cabinet**

Because of difficult life conditions and the birocrative conditionings necessary for benefiting of the rights and aids provided by the law, most of the homeless adults in Bucharest are unable to gain access to the aid they are entitled. For this reason, social assistance is absolutely necessary to motivate and encourage the beneficiaries to go with the entire administrative process.

At the cabinet, the beneficiaries have the occasion to use the social bath for a shower, where they can disinfect themselves, can change their clothes we receive from donations. Due to lack of shelter, the clothes degrade more rapidly, most of the times becoming breeding environment for lice or they lead to skin diseases.

Thanks to our partners, every morning, from Monday to Friday we distribute aproximately 20 servings of hot meals, and on Fridays at noon we offer up to 40 servings of hot meals.



## **Social-professional workshop**

The insertion workshop is a project developed by Samusocial din Romania in partnership with Ateliere fara Frontiere, co-funded by Operational program of development human resources of the European Social Fund.

Launched as a first in Romania, the project consists in employment with labor contract, on a minimum period of time, with possibility of extension, the homeless adults in order to give a prelaunch in social life and regain self-confidence. Urgent problems of people new employed - shelter, ID cards – are solved because of the collaboration of the two NGOs. As employees, the homeless adults have now a sufficient wage to cover rent and maintenance costs, in order to find another job that is better paid.

To social and professional insertion, inside the Workshop, the employees collect, reconditions, dismembers and revalorizes IT materials (computers, printers), they delete data and reinstalls the IT soft. The newly computers are donated to social institutions or they are sold to advantageous prices. The dismembered materials are sold to recycling companies.

Results after one year of implementation:

43 people in difficulty have been oriented at the Workshop

20 people in difficulty have been recruited in the Workshop

7 employees in the Workshop took qualification courses with professional diploma

3 persons were employed on the labor market in real economy



## Occupational workshop for homeless adults

In order to survive and to become independent, any person that has no longer a home and no other support must obtain a constant income to cover the expenses. The activity of labour does not mean necessarily finding an available job, but to prove the capacity of fulfilling some of the responsibility's chores, working in a team and living up to a schedule.

The street does not offer such conditions and even if most of the „lost-to-society” persons have had a place to work at a time, because of physical or psychological reasons the capacity of work has been strongly diminished.

For reintegration into society they have to follow a certain route of recovering the working capacity.

Samusocial comes to support this important step with the social reintegration-occupational Workshop. The project aims to improve the chances of social reintegration for homeless people who want to be reintegrated, through targeted assistance: counseling, participation in occupational workshops involving a program of work for several hours a day, production of objects (for ex.: small decorative objects) and evaluation of work.



**WE CARE ABOUT THE ONE WITH NO HOME!**

**How can you help Samusocial din Romania**

You can help us by donating money in one of our bank account at the agency BRD/Carol in Bucharest

EUR: IBAN RO71BRDE441SV27030184410

USD: IBAN RO62BRDE441SV32749484410

**Every penny matters!**

15 EUR: allow us to distribute one sleeping bag to a person in the streets, in situation of high vulnerability;

30 EUR: allow us to buy for one month, hot beverages and soups, which are given by mobile teams to homeless;

50 EUR: allow us to take in charge during one month all photos for ID and passports of the people coming at our social cabinet.