

SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN CITIES



RIGA THE SHELTER PROJECT

A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

The Shelter Project in Riga is a three month motivation programme for homeless people. Due to their acute situation homeless people often have low motivation and poor social skills. They can find it difficult to access services that could improve their situation, such as public employment services, housing services or other key social services.

The goal of the homeless motivation program is not only to meet the basic needs of the homeless, but also to raise self-esteem, motivate them to improve their situation, and help them engage with individuals and organisations that can help them.

Motivational program activities were carried out through individual counselling as well as group sessions with psychologists, social workers, health care professionals and teachers. An individual rehabilitation plan was developed for each person. Each program lasted three months, with the total timeframe of the project lasting two years. In total 240 homeless people went through the programme between 2012 and 2014.

The 240 participants received information on their wellbeing, improved their self-esteem, their health, and most importantly, developed a more positive and constructive perspective on their situation. The project enabled them to become more involved in society. In total, during the monitoring stage six participants successfully found jobs with a further 60 beginning the process of independently looking for work.

