

INCLUSIVE BMSZKI PROGRAM

Reducing the number of rough sleepers in Budapest

Péter Breitner

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BMSZKI

Budapesti Módszertani
Szociális Központ és Intézményei

Inclusive BMSZKI Program

Origin and requirements



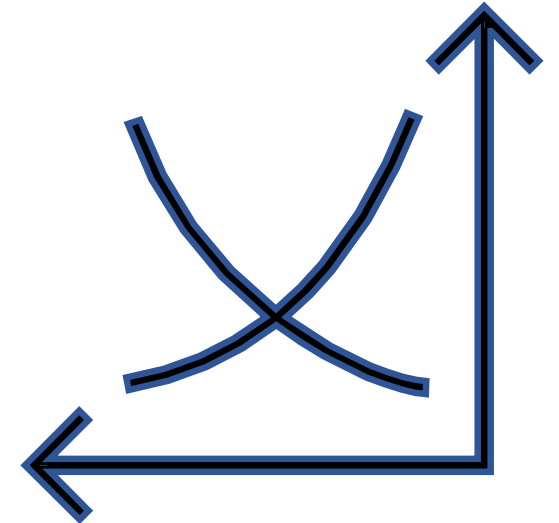
- **2022: New Strategy on Homelessness** issued by the Municipality of Budapest → Updating the previous Off the Street program (2008) of BMSZKI
- **48 elements** -» involving already existing working methods and practices
- **The main target group is rough sleepers** (other homeless people might also be involved)
- **Aspects of inclusion:**
 - Improvement of services **(Through training and workshops for staff)**
 - Protocols, house and community rules
 - Physical environment: space layout, design, social places
- **The values and elements of the Inclusive BMSZKI Program are rooted in the work started in the previous years and decades.** The implementation of the program is considered to be organisational development process: project streams and key people who are responsible for the particular program elements.

The description of the program is available on the [webpage of BMSZKI](#) (in Hungarian)

Inclusive BMSZKI Program

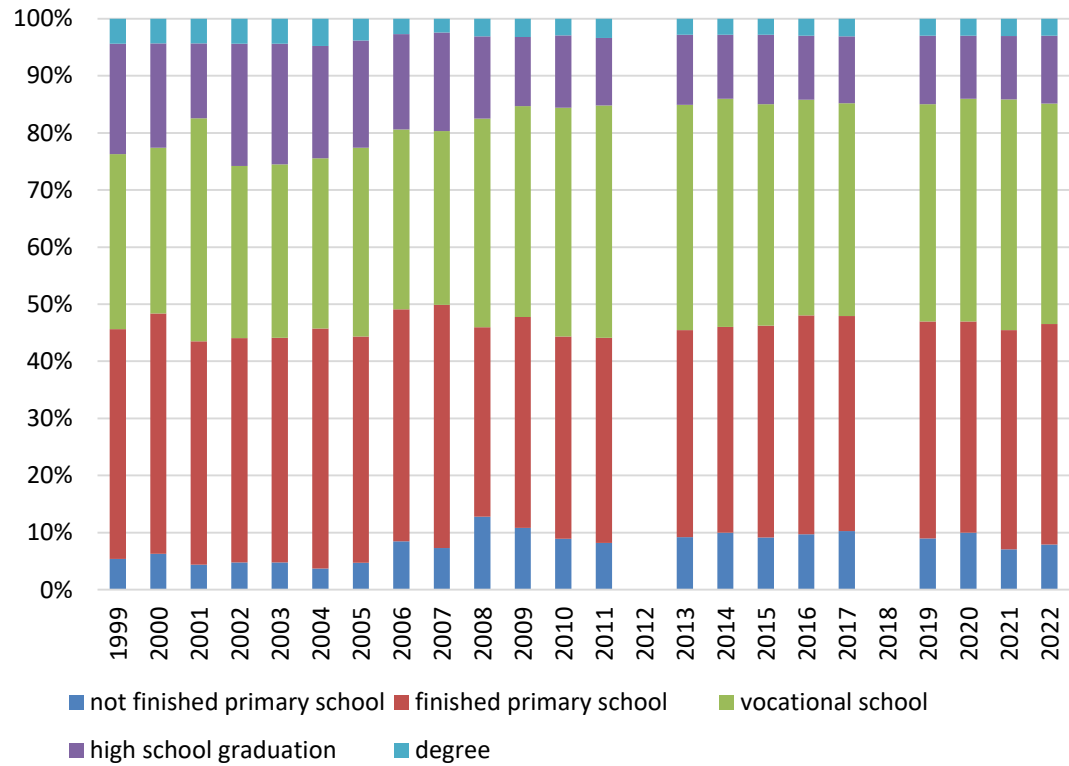
Background: Differences compared to the Off the Street program

- **Changes in services -»**
 - Compared to 2008, considerably more rough sleepers start to use our accommodation services. The Off the Street program can be considered successful.
- **Changes in service users -»**
 - The condition of those who moved in from the street and of those who had lived in shelters before arriving to us is very similar
 - The number of people sleep rough has been reduced
 - The condition of the customers has become worse (health, age, psychological state, education, etc.)

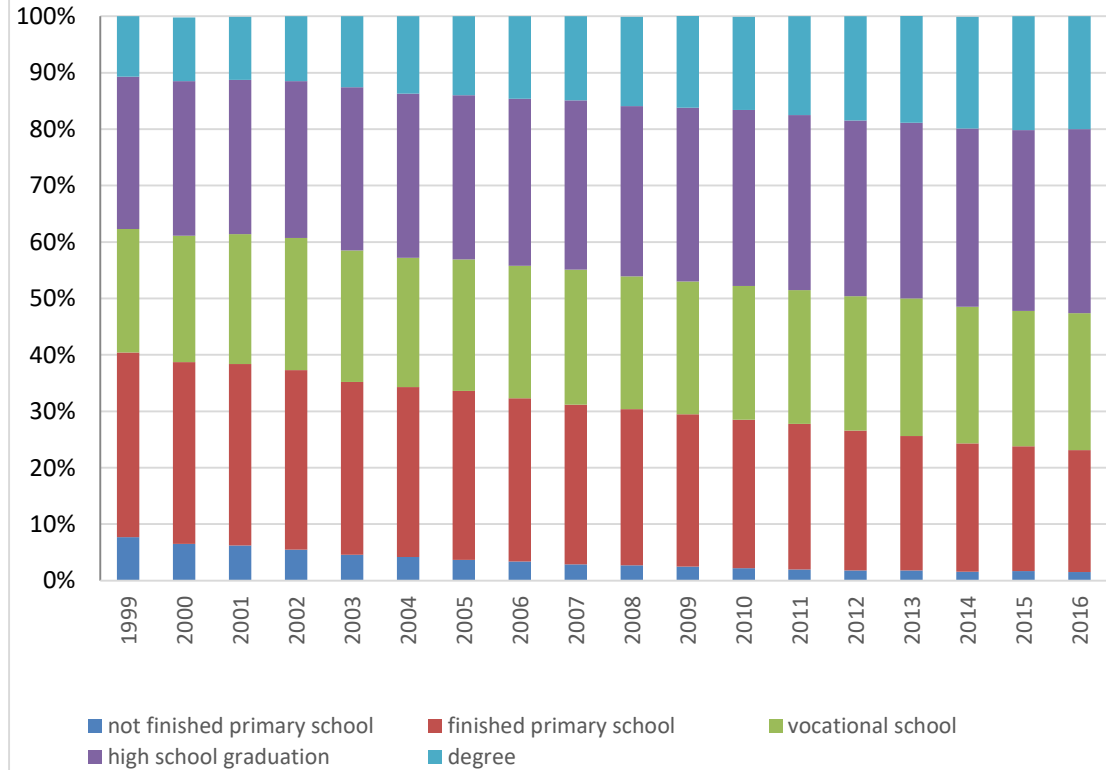


Inclusive BMSZKI Program Background

Evolution of the highest educational level of homeless people between 1999-2022 (%) 3rd of February research



Evolution of the highest educational level of the population aged 15-74 between 1999 and 2016* (%) population labor force survey, Central Statistic Office.



Inclusive BMSZKI Program

The social, economic and policy environment in Hungary



- **Lack of resources for service transformation and infrastructural development**
 - **There is no possibility** to transform mass accommodation services to small housing units or develop housing-led support services
 - **There is no guarantee to get resources for the planned program elements**
 - **We can mostly rely only on resources already available** (Including the human-resource and physical environments)
- **Boundaries between areas of social policy and professions**
 - **There is no integrated social policy on national level**
 - **There are gaps in the cooperation among stakeholders between various fields**
 - **Personal relations among professionals and decision-makers can be used for development and changes (we do use these)**
 - **The homeless service sector can integrate their customers only with the cooperation and support from other actors of social policy and society**

Inclusive BMSZKI Program

Our approach and its values

- **The basic dilemma in the homeless service sector**
 - ⇒ „at micro level” SHORT TERM INTEGRATION
 - ⇒ „at macro level” LONG TERM SEGREGATION

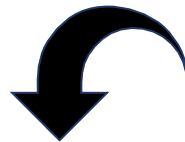


The priority is the short term integration!

- **Ethics of Conviction Versus the Ethics of Responsibility**
 - data
 - identified trends
 - experiencesare at the base of the program.

The main elements of the Inclusive BMSZKI Program

- **Reception of those who sleep rough - providing acceptable alternatives:**
 - ⇒ **as many rough sleepers as possible to enter accommodation services,**
 - ⇒ **stay in and,**
 - ⇒ **come back on the following day (3 in 1)**



The main elements of the Inclusive BMSZKI Program

- Rooms for those who moved in from street
- Alcohol tolerance
- Low-threshold service provision
- Rooms for abstinent people
- „Sober November” program
- *Training for staff about addiction*
- Group meetings for newcomers (with the participation of staff and other service users)
- *Training for group leaders (staff)*
- Admission package and other discounts (lower fee, simplified entry, etc.)
- Luggage storage
- Custody services
- Rooms for couples
- Homeless women: pregnant women, groups for women, trauma-conscious gynecological service
- *Workshops about supporting women*
- Reducing the number of those customers who are banned from services - restorative technics
- *Training about emotion regulation and conflict management in support work*
- In general, strengthening the inclusive attitude and approaches

The main elements of the Inclusive BMSZKI Program

- Improving services for homeless people with high support needs
 - Placements for homeless people with wheelchairs
 - Special units for young homeless people with drug misuse
 - Psychiatric consultations, cooperation with community mental health services+ accommodation services to support homeless people with mental health disorders
 - *Supporting people with mental health issues– training for staff*
 - More placements on convalescent care units
 - Special support units for customers with high care needs or with complex needs (people with wheelchairs, those affected by dementia, people with chaotic behavior issues, etc.)

The main elements of the Inclusive BMSZKI Program

- **Communication**
 - Providing better access to information for rough sleepers
 - Applying easy to understand communication styles
- **Relation-based social work and service operation, developing professional networks**
 - Creating mixed support roles
 - Involvement of peers
 - Outreach to neighborhood (connection toward the public in the environment of the services)
 - Expanded outreach team
 - Group activities that are open for rough sleepers
 - *Cooperation between those helping homeless people in various fields – training for staff*
 - Possibilities to receive visitors, especially hosting their children who are in care
 - Community events – inviting the general public

Thank you for your attention!



BMSZKI

Budapesti Módszertani
Szociális Központ és Intézményei

1134 Budapest, Dózsa György út 152.

Telefon: 06 1 238 9500

Fax: 06 1 238 9502

E-mail: bmszki@bmszki.hu