

Skopje, 21-22 May 2012

**IMPROVING OF HOUSING CONDITIONS
FOR ROMA
Regional Conference**

Branislava Zarkovic

NGO Housing Center , Belgrade, Serbia

Housing Development Center for Socially Vulnerable Groups



Aim of the Presentation

- To inform on the **profile** of the local NGO from Serbia active in the field of housing for vulnerable groups, including Roma
- To present the concrete experiences of one of the **realized projects** for the most vulnerable (social housing in supportive environment) with special emphasize on the status of Roma population in it
- To present the **advocacy** activities related to Roma population



Housing Center

Housing Development Center for Socially Vulnerable Groups

Housing Center is local, non profit, non governmental organization devoted to the improvement of living and housing conditions of vulnerable groups.

- Founded: 2005
- Members: Architects, engineers of different profile, social workers, sociologists
- Financed by: European Union, UNHCR, SDC, USAID, Government of Serbia, private donors, Habitat for Humanity, Open Society Foundation



Housing Center

Housing Development Center for Socially Vulnerable Groups

VISION

The vision of Housing Center is a society based on human and democratic principles, in which each individual is able to have a dignified and secured life, in which there is a support system for the marginalized groups and in which differences are evaluated positively.

MISSION

The mission of Housing Center is to contribute to social inclusion of vulnerable groups and enhance the quality of different aspects of their housing, as well as to provide support in the efforts to develop our society as a democratic one that respects human rights and recognizes the differences.



Housing Center – activities

- **Implementation of projects aiming to improving housing conditions – construction & reconstruction – construction management**
- **Increasing social inclusion of vulnerable groups**
- **Research in the filed of housing for vulnerable groups**
- **Education and trainings**
- **Advocacy**



Housing Center – achievements

- **278 housing units for the most vulnerable population built, including Roma**
- **1 school for Roma children built**
- **1 hospital reconstructed after the floods**
- **19 collective centers repaired**

- **Research on homelessness conducted**
- **Right to housing promoted through all activities**



Social Housing in Supportive Environment

- Innovative and sustainable housing solution for the most vulnerable groups in Serbia
- One of the extended social rights
- Not only the housing solution, it is also
 - **instrument for achieving social inclusion**
 - **exit from the circle of isolation and exclusion**



Components

1. Construction of housing units

Some **1.200** housing units built 2003 – 2011

In 44 municipalities for about 3.000 vulnerable individuals

2. Creation of “supportive environment”

Tailored and continuous support measures given by the local community, Center for Social Work and HOST FAMILY.



Creation of “Supportive Environment””

➤ **Host Family:**

Acting as the good neighbor promotes the values of solidarity and tolerance and facilitate developing the feeling of belonging

➤ **Center for Social Work:**

Rendering professional services of social work and create individual tailored support programs to families

➤ **Local Community:**

Financing the realization of the right to social housing in supportive environment and support services



Innovative Aspects

➤ Role of the Host Family:

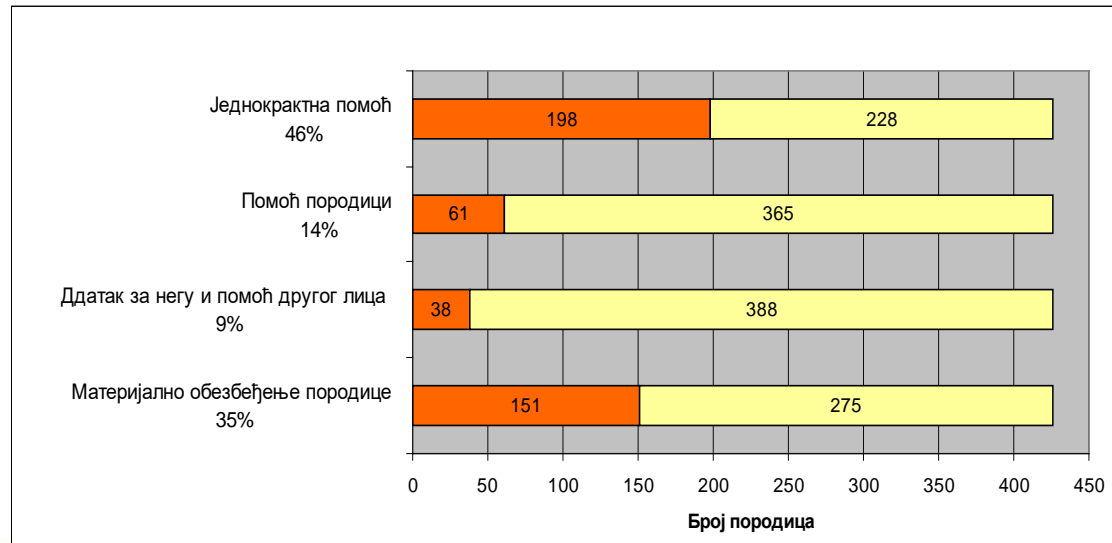
Host family is local or refugee family, vulnerable, functional, with working ability, which share the everyday life with other tenants:

- Contact person with CSW
- Catalyzer of the social life in the building
- Initiate dialog and communication
- Facilitate the social integration process
- Promote the values of **solidarity**



Social Protection System and SHSE

- **MOP - 56 %** Roma families
- **Children allowances – 81 %** Roma families
- **MOP - 35%** families (Srbija 1-2%)
- **Children allowances - 14%** families
- **One-time financial support - 46%** families
- **Disability allowances - 9%** families



Social Inclusion and SHSE

- **ALL CHILDREN** are regularly attending primary or secondary school – **226 dece (100%)**
- **ALL ROMA CHILDREN in SHSE** are include in educational system



Buildings

Zaječar



Buildings



Kragujevac



Buildings

Petrovac na Mlavi



Buildings

Vranje



Buildings

Negotin



Buildings

Leskovac



Homelessness in Serbia

- Housing Center conducted the first research on homelessness in Serbia and is coordinating the National Working Group on homelessness
- Proposal to adopt ETHOS typology as a wide definition of homelessness
- Residents of the informal and illegal settlements are seen as homeless people and the responsibility of state to provide access to adequate accommodation is recognized

















Thank you

Housing Center

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