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The “illegal camps/ slum clearance” newsletter gives an account of DIHAL’s (the French Interdepartmental Delegation for Accommodation and Access to Housing) actions in anticipation and in support of dismantling illegal camps and slum clearance. It gives more information on current events in this field. It is intended for DIHAL’s departmental correspondents and its partners. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or send us contributions about initiatives carried out in your area, write to us at: pointcontact.campements@developpement-durable.gouv.fr



Headlines

Help for education within slum clearance policies

Children’s education is one of the main challenges that arise in slum clearance policies. Children’s rights need to be respected as does the requirement for compulsory education. Education is also the main lever for the integration of future generations. As the 2017 school year begins, this newsletter re-examines educational issues in slums and the concrete actions being taken to promote education in these environments.

Children in slum areas generally receive education through the national provision for newly-arrived pupils who are non-native speakers. In response to the legal objective of school inclusion, while offering the flexibility required to welcome these pupils, **this provision is based on teaching units for recently arrived pupils who are non-native speakers (UPE2A)**. The pupils have the benefit of time specifically devoted to learning French. As soon as possible, links involving spending time in ‘normal’ lessons are arranged. These structures are set up in approximately 9,200 schools and welcomed 52,500 pupils in 2014-2015. CASNAVs, the centres for the education of newly-arrived pupils who are non-native speakers and children from travelling families, offer teaching expertise to the various stakeholders involved in the education of these pupils. A booklet translated into nine languages is freely available on the Eduscol website with a version in Romanian and Romany (written and audio). Since 2008, the Home Office and



Educational support for children in the department of Var

the Ministry of Education have also supported actions for recently arrived parents speaking little or no French. As part of these arrangements, **the ‘Opening School to Parents so Children can Succeed’ initiative (Oepre)** enables these groups of people to be more involved in their children’s education, thereby improving their chances of success at school.

Nevertheless, it is very often the case that for children living in slums, obstacles to their education and to respecting the compulsory schooling requirement are such that **specific actions are necessary to ensure**

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and maintain effective access to schooling. The level of school attendance remains very low. The principle obstacles are well known: they can be linked to **difficulties with enrolment (for which help is available), insecure living conditions, breaks in attendance related to expulsions, the distance between the slum and the school, or the parents' possible perception of the usefulness of sustained school attendance.** Early marriage, when it happens is also a factor in the abandoning of education.

To overcome these difficulties, community based initiatives have evolved, some long-standing, such as **ASET 93's mobile teaching units or the Lyon collective for access to education and support for children living in squats (C.L.A.S.S.E.S.)**(for example, to manage administrative enrolment formalities, carry out the necessary vaccinations, obtain the social tariff for school meals, provide learning support, etc.).

Other initiatives are working with similar aims such as that of the association **'Les Enfants du Canal' (Canal Children) which encourages young people to become involved in volunteer work** in particular with support for education. Similarly, the association

Intermèdes Robinson (Robinson Interludes) in Essonne has set up social/educational workshops with around 300 children benefiting at five sites). Another example is in the Marseille area, where the association **'L'école au présent' ('School Here and Now')** and the departmental Council work in close collaboration to monitor initiatives relating to school enrolment and access to the social tariff for school meals.

Overall, the matter of children's education has occupied a central place in all the actions supported by DIHAL since 2013 through the annual budget of dedicated loans (3 million euros in 2017). **Education is systematically made a compulsory condition of any support that is formalized by contract.** It is undeniable that the level of school enrolment has improved, with very positive results; by way of example, **89% of 185 children assessed by the Saint-Benoît-Labre association in Loire Atlantique attend school and all the children in the two integration villages (12E) in the Lyon area are enrolled**, including at nursery school. The results are even more impressive since the action forms part of a wide partnership framework and a general strategy for slum clearance.

For more information on educational initiatives in projects supported by DIHAL click [here](#)



Regional news

A study day on support for families from squats and slums in Dijon

Since 2012, the Prefecture of the Côte d'Or and the City of Dijon have undertaken a long-term, partnership-based action for slum clearance in the urban area of Dijon, involving about a hundred people. **The action includes working on the existing sites (mentoring in the camps and supporting people's integration through in-depth social assessment), managing a 'stabilization' village aimed at integrating these people, and supporting them in their housing at the end of the project.**

The village was created in 2012 and gives its inhabitants (many of whom are Romanian) stable accommodation and support in becoming independent in terms of housing, access to rights, access to stable financial resources through work or training, and to initiatives involving social landlords. Once they are in independent accommodation, households have the benefit of monitoring by the team from the 'stabilization' village, or of a support measure known as 'To and In' accommodation, whose French acronym is AVDL.

In 2016, five households were able to access housing when they left the 'stabilization' village, and 36 work contracts were obtained by people given such accommodation (permanent contracts, temporary or seasonal



The stabilization village in Dijon

work, substitution, and training contracts). **These figures show an increase compared to 2015.** This action is part of a strong partnership between the local stakeholders (council, stakeholders in integration, etc.) **The 'stabilization' village has been the subject of cooperative action-research carried out by the Institut Régional Supérieur du Travail Educatif et Social de Dijon (Regional Higher Training College for Teaching and Social Work) (IRTESS)** on notions of social and community work.

This action-research has led to a **study day entitled "Social Work, Community and Territory: experimenting to innovate", organised in Dijon on 12 October.** It brought together the stakeholders from the training college, students and professionals in the region.

For more information, consult the website for the Institut Régional Supérieur du Travail Educatif et Social de Dijon (IRTESS) [here](#)



Europe/International

Public consultation on the evaluation of the European Union framework for Roma integration: 3 questions for Freek Spinnewijn, Director of the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)

As the public consultation initiated by the European Commission is now open until 25 October 2017, evaluating the European framework for national strategies to integrate the Roma, DIHAL has invited stakeholders and experts to participate in the “illegal camps/slums clearance” edition of its newsletter.

You have been working for many years at European level on questions relating to the homeless and access to housing for people in very insecure situations. According to you, is there anything specific to the Roma compared to other groups of people?

Not in my opinion, no. There is nothing specific about the Roma as far as access to housing for the most disadvantaged is concerned. This is an issue, but it must be addressed in the same way as housing issues in all the member countries of the European Union. However, we must note that there are differences in their situation depending on the country. In Eastern Europe, discrimination against the Roma probably constitutes the major factor in the exclusion of these populations, and therefore represents the primary lever that can be used to improve their access to housing and their living conditions. In other countries of the European Union, although there is some discrimination, it is not clear whether a specific housing policy for the Roma should be developed because of this. Like everyone else, the Roma primarily need a roof over their heads, which can be provided by a general strategy of inclusion for the poorly housed and populations in poverty.

What is your view of the European framework for national integration strategies for the Roma?

I am struck by the contrast between the efforts made by the European Commission to devise this framework and the opposition to our repeated requests to devise a common European Union framework for action against homelessness. The two issues are, however, similar in many ways. The obstacles the European Commission puts forward in its refusal to draw up an action plan for homelessness, in particular the argument about national sovereignty where a non-EU matter is concerned, have been overcome to deal with the inclusion of the Roma. One could imagine a framework that included all the most disadvantaged citizens of Europe, moving away from the belief that the Roma as an ethnic group are the most excluded people in the EU.



Freek Spinnewijn

So what might be the next stage in the EU after 2020?

The important thing would be to develop action to reach the most disadvantaged and excluded populations in the European Union, those that constitute the margins of the European population on the lowest rungs of the ladder, based solely on socio-economic criteria. We must also examine the phenomena that are co-factors with a general reduction in poverty, and an increase in the very great poverty in many areas of the European union. Effective action would necessarily involve careful targeting of the populations to be supported and better use of community funds such as the ERDF, which are currently too thinly spread to produce real results in the fight against severe poverty and exclusion. A conceptual effort must be made for this European Union funding to regain its effectiveness. I also feel that this European Union framework for the Roma has been launched without the elements essential for its success having been put in place, which largely explains this framework’s lack of results, as it is regularly pointed out. What was probably necessary, was the collection of information on the number and distribution of the target populations and the means of tackling the severe poverty and exclusion of these Roma populations. We have this information available to us with regard to homelessness. We could easily use it to construct a more effective European Union framework and help Europe’s most disadvantaged populations to access housing and escape from their severe poverty and exclusion.

4th discussion meeting of the Council of Europe, Roma civil society and travelling people

On 18 September the European Roma and Travellers Forum at the Council of Europe organised a meeting for “dialogue with Roma civil society”. France was represented by DIHAL, by the association Les Enfants du Canal, which presented its project to

integrate young people from slums through the voluntary organisation, **Rom Civic**, and by the **slum mission of the City of Strasbourg**.

To find out more click [here](#)



57thDIHAL workshop: voluntary work and slums

On 21 September, DIHAL held its monthly workshop, on the theme of **using voluntary work as a tool for the social and professional integration of young people living in slums.**



57th Dihal workshop, Institut Montsouris (Paris)

Sylvain Mathieu, inter-Ministerial delegate for accommodation and access to housing, and Yannick Blanc, President of the voluntary work agency, opened the workshop. Intermèdes Robinson (91), Les Enfants du Canal (75) and Unis-Cité (31) presented their work. Then young volunteers, some from slums and some not, spoke and entered into discussion with the audience. Finally, Emmanuelle Philippe for the local operation in Paris and Daniel Rougé for the City of Toulouse shared their experiences as those officially responsible in this area.

More information [here](#)

DIHAL's participation in the 29th INHESJ national 'security and justice' session

The National Institute for Higher Studies in Security and Justice (French acronym INHESJ) has, since it was established in 1990, offered an annual national training session for people working at a high level on issues of security and justice. Auditor training includes in particular the drawing up of a report produced by a group.

In the 29th national session, one of the groups

of auditors will focus on the theme "Camps and slums: how should local authorities manage them?". DIHAL is associated with this work as an expert adviser. The meeting to launch this work was held on Friday 29 September.

For more information click [here](#)

Visit to the emergency accommodation centre La Promesse de l'Aube, managed by the Aurore association

On Friday 15 September, the illegal camps/slums division went to the emergency accommodation centre La Promesse de l'Aube, managed by the **Aurore association** in the 16th district of Paris. In addition to seeing the modular construction of this CHU (emergency accommodation center), the aim of the visit and meeting with the Centre Director, **Mathieu Garin**, was to exchange views on **differences of caring for groups of people according to their specific aspects**. This centre deals with individuals, families, and people of varying status and life



emergency accommodation center "La Promesse de l'Aube" Paris

experiences, a considerable proportion of whom are poor migrants from Eastern Europe.

[The installation of La Promesse de l'Aube in 46s](#)



Without comment ... and without prejudice Review of the subjects covered on the Internet and in the press

Report in the Nouvel Obs by a young person doing voluntary work: "As a volunteer, I help Roma children in the educational system"

Click [here](#)

Portrait of Jane Bouvier in Le Monde: "The woman making the bridge between the Roma of Marseille and school"

Click [here](#)

Live blogging by the Romanian artist Aurelia Ivan

Click [here](#)

A camp almost totally destroyed by fire in Marseille

Click [here](#)

In Seine-Saint-Denis, children of slums on the way to school

Click [here](#)