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BOSS Capacity Building

Building a Network to Boost Social Secure Europe

Transnational Project Meetings

Webinar in Florence, Italy, 26 November 2021 at 14.30

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Santé Mentale et Exclusion Sociale

Mental Health and Social Exclusion

SMES-Europa is an European non-profit Association which **working and co-working** with Social & Health Association in Public & Private field since 1992 at the interface, intersection between **mental health** and **social exclusion**.

SPECIFIC MISSION OF SMES is: *to operate, working – **together** - at **intersection** of mental health sector and poverty, social exclusion for improving mental, physical and social **WELL-BEING**, promoting **DIGNITY** and human right, access to social and health services, to citizenship and participation, to inclusion and solidarity in European Countries, especially for the most vulnerable people living in extreme social and health poverty conditions.*

Poverty, extreme poverty and social exclusion despite country differences, in both the nature and severity of the problem, **is a structural society problem** and constitutes a political challenge for Europe

Homeless living in severe & chronic *social – physical - psychical* precariousness are a symptom of the malaise of our society and as a permanent injury to democracy, to fundamental rights and social cohesion. They are almost a provocation & challenge, for those who are working in this social and Health/MH field and for responsible of the polis and citizens.



Target and general objectives

TARGET: people living in conditions of extreme poverty and mental illness:

- **Homeless & mentally ill** people living in permanent way on the streets, squats, shelters
- **Mentally ill people** without adequate assistance
- **Elderly people** abandoned as homeless at home
- **Refugees and migrants** without documents

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Improve physical, mental & social **WELL-BEING**
- Promote respect of fundamental human **RIGHT and DIGNITY**
- Facilitate the **ACCESS** to citizenship rights, to social and health service
- Promote **INCLUSION**: participation & solidarity with a special attention for homeless people suffering of mental health diseases.
- Advocacy and lobbying



DIGNITY ... IF THIS IS A MAN

➤ IF THIS IS A MAN...

Consider if this is a man..., Who works in the mud..., Who does not know peace..., Who fights for a scrap of bread..., Who dies because of a yes or a no. (Primo Levi)

➤ THE DECENT SOCIETY...

A decent society, or a civilized society, is one whose institutions do not humiliate the people to those who provide services, and whose citizens do not humiliate one another. (Avishai Margalit)



22499 people dead /missing at sea in last 10 years - UNHCR



SMES NET-WORK Specific Objectives

exchanging to change

The SMES network aims **to develop research and disseminate effective models** of health and social care for deprived and disadvantaged people, in specific way :

- 1. Research/action :** Not enough is known yet about needs and services in the European context:
 - to identify and evaluate innovative services
 - to develop and evaluate new interventions to translate knowledge into practical action
- 2. Information and heightening of awareness :** promoting awareness in society and specifically among social and health workers, policy makers, especially concerning human fundamental rights
- 3. Networking:** improving opportunities of working together and promoting multi-disciplinary co-operation between, enriching itself with diversity :
- 4. Education and training:** SMES works for the promotion and dissemination of effective projects and practices by means of study days, seminars and conferences.
The intention is to offer an opportunity to workers, users, ex-users and their relatives of exchanging ideas, experiences and know-how. *Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices*

Through the analysis of the situation and conditions of life of roofless people, in conditions of extreme deprivation and degradation, we would like to listen their voices and understand their help request, in order to improve adequate, effective, coherent and comprehensive answers, ensuring for each person dignity and well-being, promoting and facilitating the access to fundamental rights and to basic citizen services .



HOW DO WE WORK ?

- Promote respect of human rights, dignity and wellbeing for people living in extreme social and health poverty.
- Facilitate access to citizenship rights, to social & health services, improving physical, mental and social well-being.
- Develop research/action and disseminate effective models of inclusive participation and solidarity with special attention to **Dignity and Well-being** conditions of deprived and vulnerable people:
 - identify innovative services
 - develop and evaluate new interventions
 - translate knowledge into practical action
 - share information and heightening of awareness in society as a whole, and more specifically among social and health workers, policy makers, mass-media .

(cf. **Report 50 Profiles** :http://www.smes-europa.org/REPORT%20PROFILES%20D-&-WB_SMES.pdf
Manual Good Practices : http://www.smes-europa.org/MANUAL_good_practices.htm)

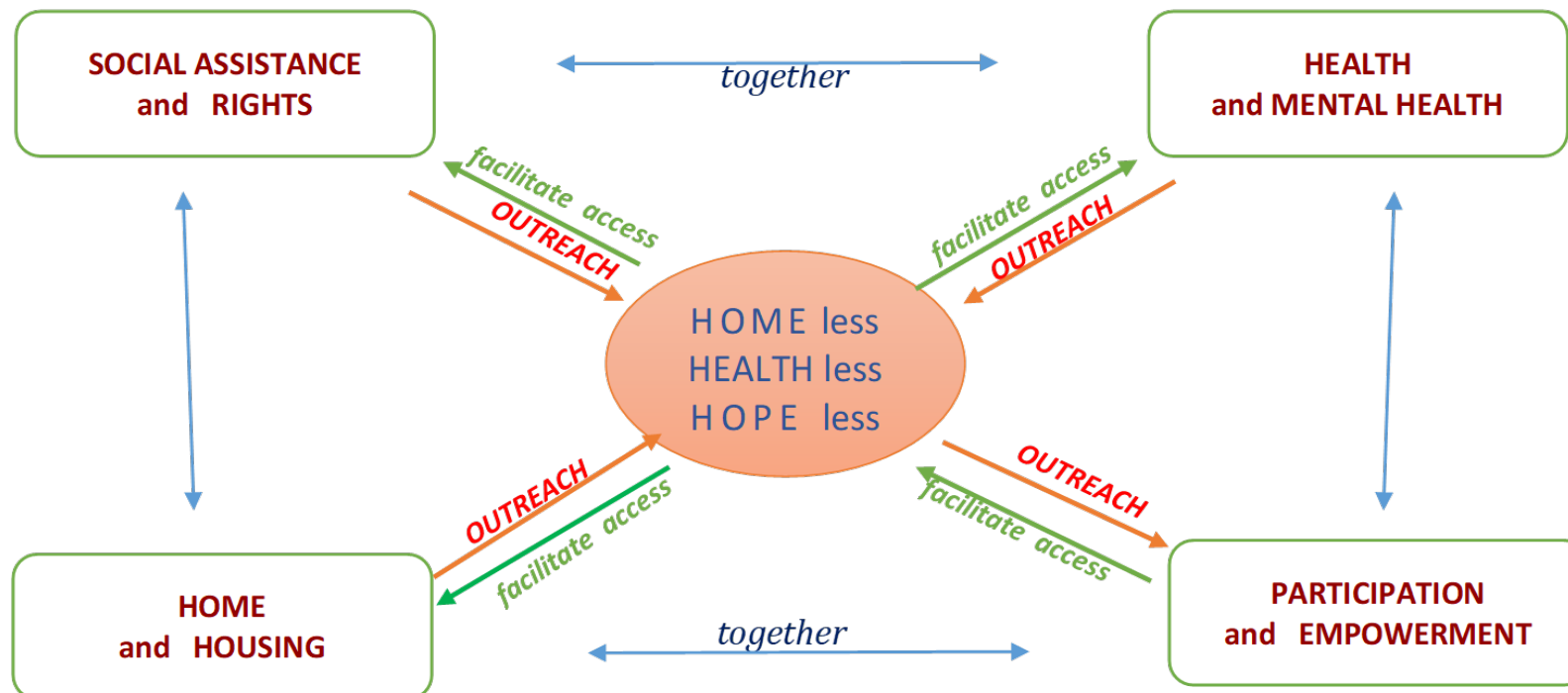


PERSON FIRST and NET-WORKING

A person exists when his voice is **heard** and **understood**
and the person welcomed and accepted

Only then can the person regain confidence in himself and hope in the life

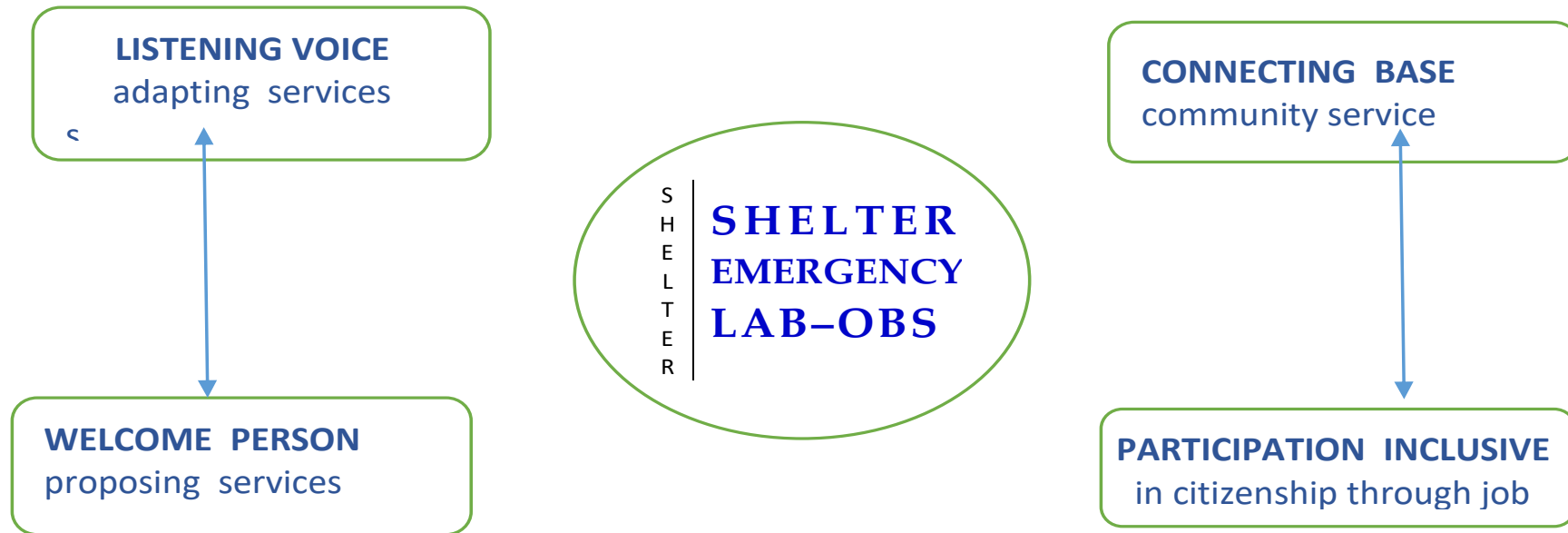
- *MEET ..., listen..., understand ..., evaluate*
- *WELCOME ..., respecting and enhance differences*
- *CONNECT to Community base services*





SHELTER as EMERGENCY SERVICES

http://www.smes-europa.org/D-&-WB_PHASE-3.htm



QUESTIONS

1. WHY some homeless people - with mental health problems - rough sleeping in permanent way or in emergency centres & squats - frequently - giving the impression to refuse any institutional offer of assistance & integration?
2. HOW these services to person – TOGETHER - contribute to promote Dignity & Well-being ?