



*A new solution to managing
homeless people suffering
from mental illness*

Lille - Marseille - Paris - Toulouse



Photo : Sergio Stern

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citizenship initiative social innovat
research dignity housing recover
care homeless solidarity heal
support multidisciplinary

In France, almost 30% of the 100,000 people living on the street on a permanent basis suffer from a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, added to very poor general health. These people will die 30 to 35 years earlier than the general population due to the lack of healthcare and the dramatic, violent living conditions.

These people slip between the cracks of the classic support devices set up by the State and associations and, when faced with this, social and medical officers are often powerless to act.

Providing adapted, effective solutions is essential with regard to solidarity. Successfully generating concrete improvements where the challenge set seems to be at its most difficult, will also provide proof that we can overcome the most extreme form of exclusion : life on the streets.

An ambitious experiment

The « Housing First » program aims at experimenting with a new way of managing homeless people suffering from severe mental illness by offering them **direct access to ordinary, sustainable housing** by means of **intensive support** on both a social and sanitary level.

A total of **800 people will be involved in this experiment** on 4 different sites (Paris, Marseille, Toulouse, Greater Lille) , **over 3 years** supported by **40 professionals** and monitored by a consortium of **research teams**.

Already being tested in the **United States** since 1990's and more recently in **Canada**, this type of programme has produced **conclusive results** : 80% of the people involved stayed in their housing after 4 years, **their quality of life and health improved and savings were generated by the local community**, in particular due to fewer hospital stays, reduced use of the emergency services and even due to reduced use of the penitentiary institutions.

The target set by this experiment is to test whether this programme can be applied to the situation in France.



photo Emmanuel Grimault



>> for more information, see the video of the program on Dailymotion channel Ministry of Housing :

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xrq8xp_un-chez-soi-d-abord-programme-experimental-d-access-au-logement-et-aux-soins-des-personnes-sans-abri_news?search_algo=1

A program for social innovation

> a **direct access to housing**, without any treatment or abstinence-based obligations, and without passing through temporary accommodation.

> a **housing rental formula that secures both the lessor and the lessee** : the programme guarantees on-time rent payments to the lessor, intensive support of the participants and any reconditioning of the apartment as required.

> an **intensive and multidisciplinary support** to those taking part : the teams are comprised of healthcare professionals (psychiatrists, addictionologists, GPs and nurses) and social officers, housing specialists or even «healthcare mediators-peer educators» who themselves either used to live on the street or have experience of mental illness. **Support covers all aspects of life** (health, housing, employment, citizenship, etc.) and aims at making these people key players in their own recovery.

> a **partnership-based approach** : from a national point of view, a steering committee brings together all of the **major administrations concerned** (housing, social cohesion, health), **associations** and **healthcare professionals**; partnerships are created in the field between the hospital sector, the medico-social sector, associations, housing stakeholders, **local State services** and the **local governments**.

> a **scientific assessment** joined to the programme : on each site, per **100 people benefiting from direct housing access**, 100 more are also **monitored by the research team** and benefit from classic services, which enables a precise comparison to be made between the two different ways of managing the homeless and their respective advantages. The results of this research program will be used to determine **appropriate means for efficiently housing the homeless with dignity**.



photo Emmanuel Grimault

An interministerial initiative

The « Housing First » programme was launched on the initiative of the Ministers for Housing and Health. It is **state-financed** and led by the **Interministerial delegation for accommodation and access to housing** for homeless or inadequately housed people, in direct contact with the **General Directorate for Health** and the **General Directorate for social Cohesion** (Health ministry)

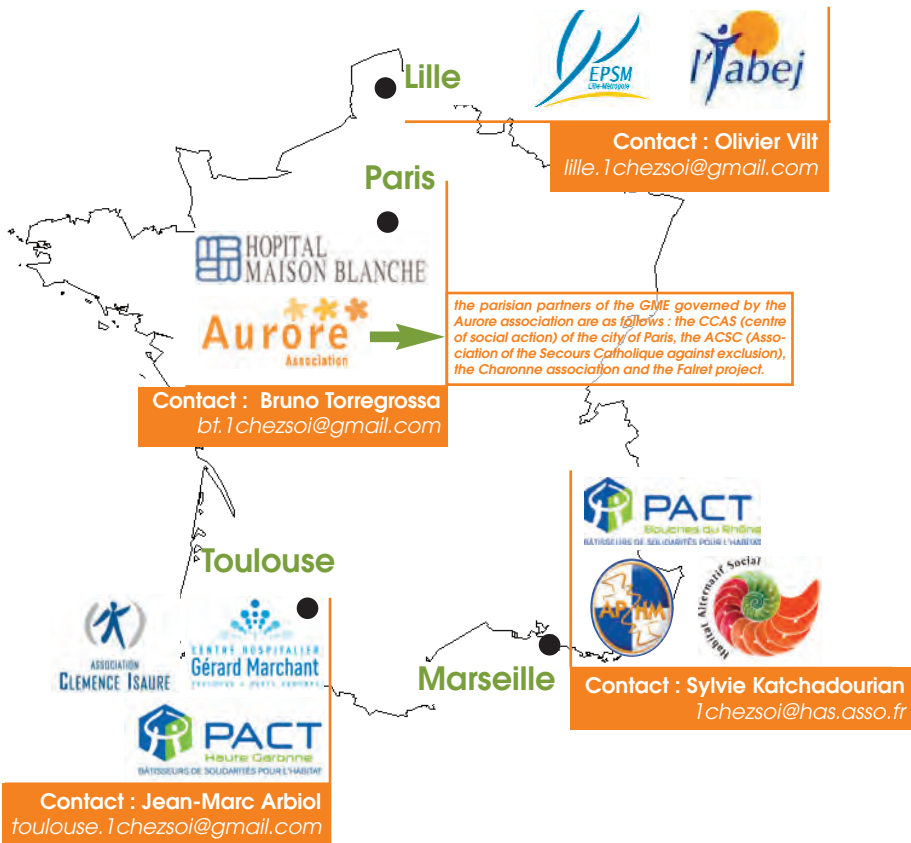


The programme is implemented on each of the 4 sites by project developers originating from associations and hospitals, in close contact with the prefectures, departmental directorates for social cohesion and regional health-care agencies. Local governments, stakeholders in the housing sector and the association network are also involved.



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