

**Project name** Rights First

**Coordinator** Bruss'help

**Start date** 01/01/2022

**End date** 30/06/2024

**Partners**

- NEW SAMUSOCIAL
- SANT JOAN DE DEU SERVEIS SOCIALS - CREU DELS MOLERS
- CRISIS UK
- CPAS VORST
- DIOGENES
- L'ILOT - 'T EILANDJE
- HOBO - GEINTEGREERDE THUISLOZENZORG BRUSSEL
- CPAS BRUSSELS CITY
- ACTIRIS (ASSOCIATE PARTNER)

**Description of the project**

*Summary of the initiative*

In Belgium, many homeless people lose their social rights while others never had any. The loss of social rights results in administrative disappearance. Citizens can access social rights, such as minimum income, by obtaining a domiciliary address. The lack or loss of a home or reference address leads to social exclusion, making it extremely difficult for people to escape homelessness. Both administrative support and assistance in finding housing or employment are required to break this vicious circle.

The project has three components with the aim of helping homeless people living on the streets, in emergency centres or in transit centres:

- 1) Registration of the person with the competent authorities to reopen access to rights.
- 2) Assistance in finding and maintaining housing for people whose social rights are or are about to be reactivated.
- 3) Reintegration into the labour market. The stability resulting from having an address, resources and access to social assistance is essential for support in finding a job or engaging in economic activity.

*Context and need*

In Brussels, many homeless people are not registered with the commune or the competent CPAS. People are not eligible for any social assistance (except for medical assistance) unless they are registered with a local authority. In addition, Brussels is facing a housing crisis with approximately 5,313 people without a roof over their heads or living in precarious housing or in emergency or transit centres. This implies a sharp rise in homelessness in the capital that needs to be addressed while many people do not have social rights.

*Objectives*

The main objective of this pilot project is to re-register the beneficiaries with the competent authorities to give them (renewed) access to their social rights. As a corollary, the aim is to help them to find a housing solution and to reintegrate into the labour market despite the crisis.

### *Methodology*

The project focuses on homeless people who are not registered and therefore not able to benefit from their social rights. The aim is therefore to reach out to the homeless to register them and offer them targeted support in housing and employment.

It is by building a holistic approach with all partners through sustainable partnerships that the objectives should be achieved while developing innovative solutions in administrative procedures to facilitate access to social rights, in obtaining housing and employment.

### *Results*

The Rights First project aims to reach 375 people who represent about one tenth of the total homeless population in Brussels. At the end of the project, it is estimated that about 300 people (80%) will be registered with a municipality. Of these, 190 will have their rights reactivated, 50 will have obtained housing, 70 will receive employment support and 150 will participate in vocational training. 30 alternative housing solutions and 10 partnerships with private companies will be put in place.

**Internet link**    <https://brusshelp.org/index.php/fr/actus/rights-first>

### **Logo**

**rights first.brussels**

### **Contact person**

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