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This “illegal camps / slum clearance” newsletter gives an account of the DIHAL's (the French Interdepartmental Delegation for Accommodation and Access to Housing) actions) actions concerning the anticipation and the backing of the dismantlement of illegal camps and the clearing of slums. It also gives more information on current events in this field, and is intended for the DIHAL's departmental correspondents and its partners. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or share your contributions to initiatives in your territories, write to us at: pointcontact.campements@developpement-durable.gouv.fr



Headlines

The MOUS* partnership project in Loire-Atlantique for the sustainable reduction of illegal camps and slums takes shape

The challenges linked to the clearance of illegal camps and to the help that must be brought to European migrants who have come from Eastern countries in the hope of integrating, are prominent in the Loire- Atlantique, especially around the city of Nantes. According to the DIHAL's latest survey, carried out in November 2016, the Loire-Atlantique is the second most affected French department (the first outside the Île-de-France), with about 1,700 migrants, which is more than 11% of the whole population living in shanty-towns.

Following a first meeting held last September at the request of the 24 mayors of the Nantes Metropolis (see the October 2016 newsletter), extensive work was led by the State and the Nantes Metropolis with the involment of the municipalities and the Departmental Council. This resulted in an Urban and Social Management Project (MOUS).

The shared framework combines the rule of law in terms of judicial decisions, the security of persons and the support for families during their insertion. This is a long-term approach based on the principles

of humanity and assertiveness, with each partner being aware of the complexity and scope of the topic.

This multi-year partnership project covers the territory of the Nantes agglomeration region, and its ambition is to achieve a sustainable reduction in the number of illegal camps. It aims to do this by means of social diagnoses and the supporting of families in a suitable integration pathway, as well as by identifying opportunities for integration through access to housing and employment. *(Continued on page 2)*



24 municipalities within the Nantes metropolis are affected by the project

*Urban and Social Management Project

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The 'assistance to returning home' dimension, where there are no options for integration, is another approach considered by the project. A working meeting with the French ambassador in Romania, with numerous mayors and state services in attendance, was held in the prefecture on 9 March to present the MOUS project and discuss

the challenges of decentralised cooperation. Finally, the MOUS project has been the subject of numerous technical meetings. On 8 March 2017, the prefect met again with the Nantes metropolis, the mayors and the Departmental Council in order to bring this project to a successful conclusion in the coming months.



DIHAL news

First meeting on the subject of early marriages in slums

On 8 March 2017, the DIHAL held a meeting on the topic of early or even forced marriages in illegal camps and slums. The meeting was attended by some thirty people from State departments (National Education, the police, Prefecture of Ile-de-France), local authorities, associations (Romeurope, Médecins du Monde, Voix des Romes, les Enfants du Canal, etc.) and experts.

This meeting was chaired by Sylvain Mathieu of the DIHAL and was based on **the presentation of two reports. One was presented by Axel Maybon, based on a study in the Ile-de-France and the other by Michaël Guet of the Council of Europe.** Taking care to avoid a cultural approach to this sensitive topic, the two perspectives point out **certain negative consequences resulting from these marriages: de-schooling and domestic exploitation by the in-laws being most prominent.**

Following intensive discussions, the DIHAL announced the formation of a voluntary working group of associations and public services, on the



Source: DIHAL

The working group bringing together the various actors on the ground

following subjects:

- producing indicators and training stakeholders;
- implementing preventive actions directed at the populations themselves;
- actions to combat de-schooling in partnership with the Ministry of Education;
- reflection on the need to amend the law to supervise the fight against these practices;
- developing specialised accommodation solutions for young couples.

Launch of the 9th survey on the situation in illegal camps, slums and squatter settlements

As part of the follow-up to the application of the inter-ministerial circular of 26 August 2012 on anticipating and supporting the dismantling of illegal camps, the DIHAL conducts a national inventory of camps, slums and large squats in France every six months. **The 9th national survey will be launched in April 2017 with**

the DIHAL departmental correspondents, following those of December 2012, July 2013, January 2014, October 2014, March 2015, October 2015, April 2016 and October 2016. This survey constitutes a reference for a census of illegal occupations in France.



In the territories

An Erasmus+ project aimed at academic success tested in Hérault

From March to July 2016, the Praxiling laboratory at the University of Montpellier conducted an experiment with approximately ten students aged 7 to 13 who live in squats and are enrolled in a UPE2A (Pedagogical Units for Incoming Allophone Pupils) scheme in Sète. Together with the project team and the educational team, students whose mother tongue

is Ursari (Romani family), as well as their parents, **participated in activities encouraging language learning (a visit to the Paul Valéry museum, writing multilingual leaflets in French/Ursari/Romanian).** The project builds on digital technology to support learning.

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This experiment involves French collaboration with the Erasmus + "Romtels" project, the aim of which is to foster open and trusting relations between parents and the school to improve schooling and integration paths. Piloted by the University of Newcastle, it also brought together the University of Helsinki and an association dealing with Roma children in Oradea (Romania). The results were shared during a "partner" day on 28 February in London.

[Link to "Romtels" project](#)



Source: Praxiling

Parents of the children in class in the Erasmus + project

The Grenoble communal social welfare centre (CCAS) published a newsletter on the MOUS project, which was engaged in 2012

In 2012, the city of Grenoble, the Grenoble metropolis, the department of Isère and the State, with the support of the European Union, initiated a MOUS project for slum clearance in the agglomeration. This MOUS is structured around three focal points: the first concerns the access to employment and housing of the populations via accommodation or transitional housing, the second is the diagnostic work of the encampments and the

third is intervention on the ground. This partnership has given 87 people access to employment and housing, i.e. 18 households since 2012.

As part of a process of promoting the project, keeping the partners up-to-date and organising its network, the City of Grenoble CCAS, the MOUS operator, launched the quarterly publication of a newsletter.

[Link to the Grenoble CCAS](#)



Europe / International

The ROMÁ network "Taking action here and over there"

ROMÁ was created in April 2010 and brings together associations from the Hauts-de-France region and Maramures county (judet) in Romania. In the Hauts-de-France region, associations are looking for professional opportunities through stakeholders in employment, while **in Romania, ROMÁ puts together funding applications and trains social workers.**

For example, in the hamlet of Ponorâta, emphasis is placed on improving living conditions to prevent migration. The network has built a day care centre, which offers meals, tutoring and early learning activities for 80 children. This construction has received funding from the Norway EEA Grant.

After seven years of partnership, ROMÁ would like to carry out a trial for the return of families inspired by the "villages of insertion" project conducted in the Lille metropolis. The objective is to allow return on a voluntary basis and a financing plan prepared in France and implemented in Romania.

The support for return aims to create:

- a viable business (a Social Economy Society), a permanent job for at least one of the adults, or both, in Romania,
- an "integration housing unit" for the improvement of housing with a view to minimising housing costs.

These two axes: professional insertion and "passive" housing are the guarantees of a viable return.

[UNCCAS report, January 2016](#)

[ROMÁ leaflet, Roma journeys, 2017](#)



Source: AFEJI

Children supported by the ROMÁ network



Network / Partners

Meeting with UNICEF France

On 23 February, the DIHAL received members of the French national committee of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). This meeting was held to present **the "Child-Friendly Cities" network, a scheme created by the Association of Mayors of France and UNICEF France, which brings together 208 cities,**

14 intercommunalities and 6 departments. A "child-friendly" city or local authority and UNICEF partner is distinguished by a commitment to quality and special attention for children aged 0 to 18 years old. The DIHAL and UNICEF are bringing their actions together to encourage cities to take action to protect children's rights, in particular by ensuring that all children attend school.

Meeting with the Collective for the Rights of Roma Children in Education (CDERE)

On 17 February, the DIHAL met four members of the Collective for the Rights of Roma Children in Education (CDERE), **who have presented their work since their study was published in September,**

entitled "Teenagers in slums and squats - is school impossible?" on the schooling of 12-18-year-olds from slums.

Meeting with the Rues et Cités association

On 20 March 2017, the DIHAL met with Sara Danti, the "Roma-Gypsy coordinator" of the Rues et Cités association, which takes action alongside professionals and social workers (such as social assistants, health professionals and education professionals). Solicited by the professionals, the coordinator helps to break

down the various barriers and obstacles to support the families, who are often in a precarious situation. The Rues et Cités association could participate in the DIHAL's national monitoring group by bringing its expertise to the slum clearance mission.



Without comments... and without prejudice Review of the subjects relayed on the Internet and in the press

On 10 March, the Children's Aid Society (OSE) organised a clean up of an illegal camp in Champs-sur-Marne with its inhabitants.

<http://www.leparisien.fr/champs-sur-marne-77420/champs-sur-marne-les-roms-participent-au-nettoyage-de-leur-camp-10-03-2017-6751740.php>

The association OSE had already organised a similar event in January in Saint-Thibault-des-Vignes.

<http://www.leparisien.fr/saint-thibault-des-vignes-77400/saint-thibault-des-vignes-ils-ont-nettoye-les-bords-de-marne-et-l-ancien-camp-rom-23-01-2017-6607725.php>

Slums on the front page of the Gazette des Communes newspaper

The Gazette des Communes devoted its front page to the issue of slums. Written by Rouja Lazarova, the newspaper published an article entitled "The need to tackle slums" on slum clearance, highlighting the positive experiences



Source: Flickr

supported by the DIHAL. [Link to the article](#)

Slum children's dream of going to school in Seine-Saint-Denis published in Le Monde

http://www.lemonde.fr/education/article/2017/03/12/le-reve-d-ecole-des-enfants-des-bidonvilles-de-seine-saint-denis_5093263_1473685.html