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The “illegal camp/slum clearance” newsletter gives an account of the actions of DIHAL (the French Interdepartmental Delegation for Accommodation and Access to Housing) in anticipation and support of dismantling illegal camps and reabsorbing slums. 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 your contributions on initiatives in your area, write to us at: pointcontact.campements@developpement-durable.gouv.fr



Headlines

Dedicated “DIHAL” credits, common law State credits, local authorities, European funds – what funding is there for slum clearance operations? : the example of the Nord department

Field operations aimed at slum clearance are based on multiple sources of funding. The “DIHAL” credits (€ 3 million in 2017) obviously make up part of it but represent only one section of the funding: **The share varies, depending on the departments from less than 10% to more than 70%, the average being around 30%.** Other government credits (social cohesion, access to housing, accommodation, etc.) as well as funding from local authorities and European funds are deployed. The ratio of each depends on the area. An example from the Nord department. This department is one of the most affected by the phenomenon of illegal settlements, slums and squats in France: more than 1,200 people live there in 52 different camps and squats (excluding refugee camps).

There are currently four ongoing operations to integrate people living in slums and squats being carried out.

- Four sites have been equipped by the Metropolis of Lille, with toilets, sanitation and waste treatment. In these the state finances the social support operated by the Sauvegarde du Nord;
- A dangerous camp located on the edge of the A25 motorway has been relocated to state land, known

as the Pyramids. Its 27 inhabitants benefit from overall social support provided by the Sauvegarde du Nord;

- The Metropolis of Lille and the government have been setting up insertion villages in mobile homes since 2009. These villages, whose installation has been 80% financed by European funds, host approximately one hundred people whose social support is provided by the AFEJI (Association of Flanders for the education and training of young people and social and professional integration);
- The Metropolis of Lille, the government and the town of Tourcoing have set up an intermediary structure between lodging and ordinary housing. Three places are reserved for inhabitants of illegal camps. This social support is managed by AFEJI.

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The “AFEJI” village

Source: EchodesChins.com

The grant allocated to the Nord department by DIHAL represents only about 12% of the total funding for the clearance of illegal camps. The numerous operations carried out in the Nord

department in favour of these populations are financed by the government by common law credits and by the City of Tourcoing and the Metropolis of Lille.



In the area

Positive result of the complete clearance of a slum in Vaucluse

In 2014, the government undertook a project in the conurbation of Avignon to absorb a slum of 34 people from Romania located in a flood zone on the banks of the River Durance. The slum had been given an eviction order in November 2014. With the support of CAF 84, the Compagnie Nationale du Rhône, and social services the government backed an urban and social project along with the association ADVSEA 84 to set up an integration path for these people.

One of the most interesting points of this operation was a **partnership with the Compagnie Nationale du Rhône which used houses it owns in Avignon to accommodate families**. In March 2017, all families finally reached independent housing. Access to rights and to independent housing in advance of the integration process was noted as an advantage by

the operator who will continue to monitor families for some time to consolidate their integration.

One of the families includes a father who succeeded in obtaining a permanent job, while his partner is working in temp jobs, and their children are doing well at school.

One of the positive effects of this successful operation has been to attract the support of local and regional authorities for future projects. The government in Vaucluse and the operator ADVSEA 84 are engaged in the process of reabsorbing a caravan camp (90 caravans) not subject to an eviction order, in partnership with the authorities concerned: the department of Vaucluse and the Community of the Conurbation of Greater Avignon.

Results of the citizens conference in Rézé

The town of Rézé launched its citizens' conference in March 2015 to promote the integration of European migrants and to remedy the substandard housing situation. The proposals were followed up by the City Council, especially the one aimed at setting up sites designed to accommodate families from slums. In early May, the town announced **the opening of two new transition sites in September** to accommodate

Roma families living in unsanitary conditions on the Sabliers site in the north part of town. This will enable support to be provided for the regular school education of children, professional integration of parents and the transition towards independent housing.

[For more information on the citizens' conference](#)



DIHAL news

The Mini Maousse 6 competition: exhibition at the Cité de l'architecture et du Patrimoine from 17 May 2017 to 16 July 2017

DIHAL intends to develop innovative housing solutions for the most vulnerable individuals. It is a partner in the sixth Mini Maousse architectural competition (designed for young architects and engineers in France) dedicated to the design of a temporary housing unit that is adaptable, stackable, removable and transportable.

The Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine, the École Nationale Supérieure du Bois et Nantes métropole, students, architects, designers and engineers

have been thinking about rational and economic solutions that would provide decent and dignified temporary housing. **From 17 May to 16 July 2017, models of these projects will be exhibited at the Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine.**

[For more information about the event](#)

Open from Wednesday to Sunday from 11 am to 7 pm

Thursday evenings until 9 pm

Free exhibition

Training to lead French language workshops for parents on May 31

On the 31st of May, a training day was organised by DIHAL for the animation of French-teaching workshops on the theme of parenting. The event was animated by a DSDEN 93 instructor and brought together many social care professionals as well as volunteers that provide French lessons to adults living in slums.

The mediums used centred on the school environment. An exchange of experiences highlighted the importance of offering a context, content and method of teaching that is closely linked to individual needs and the furthering of a person's autonomy.

For instance, the organisation « une famille un toit 44 » set up an eight times two-hour course for learning French during gardening activities thanks to the participation of companies working in that field.



Source : DIHAL



Europe/International

4th Annual Meeting of the Operational Platform on Roma Equality (OPRE)

On 15 May, DIHAL took part in a meeting organized by the Operational Platform on Roma Equality (OPRE) at the Council of Europe in Paris. OPRE is a **joint initiative launched by the Council of Europe, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet)**. The European Commission, the European Ombudsman and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also contribute to this platform as partners.

At this meeting in Paris, “Le Défenseur des Droits” Jacques Toubon and the Chairperson of the National Advisory Commission on Human Rights, Christine Lazerges, presented the main challenges concerning access to basic rights for Roma and Travellers. DIHAL presented the general framework for the action of slum clearance since 2012 and highlighted

the interest and **effectiveness of the universalist approach to social rights, as compared to an ethnic approach that leads to groups tending to be rigidly kept within their specific groupings.**

[For more information on the OPRE platform](#)



Jacques Toubon, Rights Defender (on the right)

Source: DIHAL

ROMACT: integration of marginalized populations through the development of transnational co-operation

The ROMACT program is a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission with the aim of supporting local authorities in the integration of the most marginalized populations, particularly the Roma. **The development of transnational cooperation is one of the components of this program.** Local participants have until June 16 to submit their application on two main

aspects: training in intercultural exchange and mediation. These training courses are aimed at local government staff such as social workers, the police or health professionals.

[For information and application forms](#)



Network/Partners

Meeting with the National Association of City Directors of Education (ANDEV)

At the request of the “clearance of slums” division, a meeting was organized on Monday 15 May with Rozenn Merrien, president of ANDEV (National Association of City Directors of Education) and Director of Childhood at the Town Hall of Saint-Denis. This professional network brings together approximately 330 members and 400 supporters to discuss and share ideas and good practice in the field of local educational policies. The network dynamic is strengthened by an annual conference structured around a particular topic with training

sessions, debates and workshops. The aim was to discuss the respective frameworks for action, in particular relating to the specific groups of families and children living in camps (schooling, access to cultural activities, living together, etc.) Methods of collaboration have been designed with the aim of **promoting better knowledge of the problem by the professionals in these communities, and ensuring that educational policies include these children both in school and outside it.**

Meeting with the “Toilettes du Monde” association

On May 10, DIHAL met with the “Toilettes du Monde” association working in the field of poor sanitary conditions (i.e. no water, no sanitation) in France and abroad. This association works to improve the living conditions of populations living in poor conditions (Roma population, Travellers, seasonal workers) in

camps, squats and slums. It also advises people active in the field on poor sanitary conditions via a guide available online on their website.

[Consult the participatory coaching guide on poor sanitary conditions in France](#)



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

Access to schooling: on 3 April 2017, the Administrative Court of Versailles decided that a special schooling scheme for Roma children is contrary to the principle of equality

<http://versailles.tribunal-administratif.fr/A-savoir/Communiqués/Pas-de-dispositif-special-de-scolarisation-pour-les-enfants-roms>

“With Roma families: When views change”

Local people are involved in the success of the Roma integration project in an integration village in St-Genis-les-Ollières thanks to the involvement of the government and of associations

<https://www.atd-quartmonde.fr/avec-les-familles-roms-quand-les-regards-changent/>

La Croix devoted a long article to a study carried out in the slums on the lives of the inhabitants: reasons for migration, education, schooling, integration paths, social organization in slums, etc.

<http://www.la-croix.com/France/Exclusion/Comment-vit-bidonvilles-France-2017-05-17-1200847748>

Radio France Internationale is focusing on a project to integrate people from slums in the Grand Paris Sud metropolitan area

<http://www.rfi.fr/france/20170408-integration-roms-une-question-volonte-politique>