

A WAY

MORE THAN A YOUTH EMERGENCY SHELTER - VIENNA

VÍCE, NEŽ JEN NOUZOVÉ PŘÍSTŘEŠÍ PRO MLÁDEŽ - VIENNA



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HISTORY AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

- 2005 – December 5th; Opening
- Political Context and law situation
- Experiences and development
- Impact & Costs



CONCEPT

14 – 20 years old

- 1) Anonymous
- 2) Low-threshold
- 3) Advocacy-based work
- 4) Voluntarily
- 5) Free of charge



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Außerdem ...

- Freiwilligkeit und Einverständnis sind Voraussetzung für unser Handeln
- Unser Angebot ist kostenlos und anonym.
- Termine nach Vereinbarung sind möglich.

Andere Einrichtungen der Wiener Wohnungslosenhilfe haben nach Rücksprache die Möglichkeit, Jugendliche ins a_way zu vermitteln.

Wir vergeben die Betten nach Einschätzung des akuten Bedarfs und unserer Auslastungsquote.

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Notschlafstelle für Jugendliche
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Notschlafstelle
täglich 17 – 9 Uhr
an Wochenenden & Feiertagen 0 – 24 Uhr

Beratung und Begleitung
Mo, Di, Do 9 – 13 Uhr
Fr 13:30 – 16:30 Uhr



U6 (Burggasse Stadthalle)
Linien 6, 9, 18, 48a, 49, N49, N54

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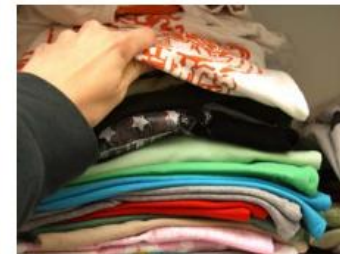


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Die Notschlafstelle
für Jugendliche





Wer?

Egal, warum du auf der Straße stehst – ob Wohnungslosigkeit, Streit in der Familie, Alkohol- bzw. Drogenabhängigkeit oder eine andere Krisensituation – im a_way kannst du dich ein paar Tage ausruhen und einen klaren Kopf bekommen.

Alkohol- bzw. Drogenabhängigkeit sind keine Ausschließungsgründe.

Konsum und Handel in der Einrichtung sind verboten, genauso wie Waffen und Gewalt.

Zehn Jugendliche können pro Nacht in insgesamt fünf 2- und 3-Bett Zimmern übernachten.

Nach Absprache mit uns kann in jedem Zimmer ein Haustier (Hund mit Leine und Maulkorb bei seiner Besitzerin oder seinem Besitzer) mitgebracht werden.

Wie?

Ohne Anmeldung bis zu fünf Nächte im Monat.

Kommst du zum ersten Mal ins a_way, wird auf jeden Fall ein*e Sozialarbeiter*in mit dir sprechen.

Je nach deiner persönlichen Situation bieten wir eine umfassende Abklärung an.

Sofern es unsere Ressourcen erlauben, begleiten und beraten wir euch während unserer Beratungszeiten zu anderen Hilfeeinrichtungen, Behörden usw.

Du kannst bis zu fünf Nächte im Monat im a_way schlafen.

Brauchst du mehr Zeit und willst du deine Wohnsituation nachhaltig verbessern, kannst du im a_way Stabilisierungswohnen auch länger nächtigen.

Bist du zwischen 18 und 20 Jahre alt, benötigst du spätestens nach der ersten Nächtigung eine Abklärung über das P7.

Was?

Schlafplatz, Essen, Information, Beratung, Internet usw.

- kostenloser Schlafplatz
- Sicherung der Grundbedürfnisse (Essen, Duschen, Wäsche waschen, Kleidung)
- Geschützte Atmosphäre
- Freizeitangebote (WLAN, Spiele, Tischfußball, TV)
- Safer Use Beratung und Sprizentausch
- Dokumentendepot
- Stabilisierungswohnen

Einzelfallhilfe, Beratung und Begleitung

- Beratung, Begleitung und Information bei akuten Problemlagen durch Sozialarbeiter*innen
- Abklärung der aktuellen Situation (psychosozial und materiell)
- Vermittlung & Begleitung zu Ämtern und sozialen Institutionen
- Gesundheitliche Stabilisierung
- Psychosoziale Betreuung
- Unterstützung bei Dokumentenbeschaffung (Ausweis, Urkunden etc.)
- Hilfe bei Arbeits- und Schlafplatzsuche

HOW IS THE DAYLY BUISNESS:

- How do you reveive a client? – „the window of opportunity“
- How do you get along the night?
- Rules and what if they are broken?
- Whats the benefit of it all?
- What happens during the day?



„How would you wish to be helped, if you are in that situation?“

TRANSITION FROM MINOR/UNDERAGE TO YOUNG ADULT:

- Change of law, change of duties
- Change of support services
- Social science and emerging adulthood
- We know what it needs, but do we provide it? – the BIG 5 for Care Leavers



THE BIG 5

1

Support

You have at least one adult who is always there for you, and you have supportive family, friends, and/or acquaintances you can rely on.

2

Housing

You have a suitable, affordable place to live either alone or with others, where you can stay for an extended period.

3

School & work

You go to school, study, or work, and you make plans for what you want to do or become in the future.



KINDER
PERSPECTIEF

THE BIG 5

4

Income



You are well-prepared for financial independence and preventing or resolving debts. And if you can't do it (yet) yourself, there is someone who can do it with you. You have a stable income that is sufficient for now and the near future.

5

Well-being



You are mentally and physically well enough, and you feel capable of facing the future. You recognize when things are not going well or less well for yourself, and you know where and with whom you can turn to for help.



EMERGING ADULTHOOD

A distinct life stage between adolescence and full adulthood (Arnett)

High instability in housing, work, relationships, routines

“Yo-yo transitions” – back-and-forth movement between jobs, education, living situations

Ongoing brain development – planning & executive functioning not fully mature

Unequal chances – structural disadvantages strongly influence outcomes

High mobility & weak safety nets → increased risk of homelessness



PATHWAYS INTO HOMELESSNESS

- **Family breakdown-** Conflict, violence, neglect, no safe return option
- **Leaving care-** Abrupt end of support at 18, no right of return; lack of support networks
- **Housing market barriers-** High rents, deposits, discrimination, no guarantors, lack of affordable housing,
- **Economic insecurity-** Low or unstable income, NEET, precarious jobs
- **Mental health & psychosocial stress-** Crises, trauma, limited access to support
- **Invisible homelessness-** „couch surfing“, staying with friends, unregistered situations



You are not alone:

- declaration from 2021 to end homelessness in the European Union
 - Main Method = Housing First
- Complex needs in complex times – but the problem will not solve itself
- Create something so it is possible – social inclusion vs. social exclusion
- Planning guarantees and financial guarantees

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN EUROPE

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES – SIMILAR PATTERNS

Germany:

- **40–41%** of people in homelessness services are **under 25**.
- Strong data collection → young people highly visible.*

United Kingdom:

- ~42% of all people seeking homelessness assistance are **aged 16–24**.
- High rates of care leavers and family conflict.*

Ireland:

- **~25–30%** of the homelessness population are **under 25**
- youth homelessness rising faster than adult homelessness.*

Netherlands:

- Rising youth homelessness since 2010s;
- **~30%** of all homeless people are **18–27**.*

Austria / Vienna:

- Officially 20–30% U30 (depending on data source)
- missing categories (sofa surfing, unregistered youth, rural gaps)*

VIENNA

YOUTH, POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

City of Vienna Population Overview (2025)

- Total population: 2,028,289;
- Young people 16–24: 216,759 → 10.7% of the population.
- Young adults 18 – 30: 365,000 → around 19% *

Youth Homelessness (Vienna, WWH 2023)

- ~ 4,000 young adults experience homelessness per year
- 25–33% of all people using the homelessness system*

Poverty & Social Vulnerability

- Poverty risk among under-25s: 36.5%(male: 43.9%, female: 29.6%) → far above city average

Data Gaps & Limitations

- unified national homelessness statistics
- Large share of hidden homelessness (sofa surfing, temporary stays) not counted
- Youth often move between systems → underreporting likely

STATISTIC OF PEOPLE TURNING 18 WITHIN THE YOUTH WELFARE - VIENNA

- In **Vienna**, a total of **4,150 children and young people** were living outside their family of origin in **2024**
- According to **Statistics Austria**, approximately **1.19% of all minors in Vienna** were placed in out-of-home care in 2024, of which:
- **2,484 children and young people** lived in **residential care facilities or group homes**.
- **1,690 children and young people** were placed with **foster carers or in foster families**.

Reasonable estimation:

If around **15–20% of children and young people in out-of-home care are aged 16–17**, and approximately **half of them reach the age of majority each year**, it can be estimated that **around 300 to 450 young people in Vienna age out of full-time care annually**.

STATISTIC OF PEOPLE TURNING 18 WITHIN THE YOUTH WELFARE - CZECH REPUBLIC

comparable statistic for the Czech Republic, the latest available figures indicate:

- **Around 20,000–23,000 children and adolescents** live in out-of-home care nationwide.
- By the **end of 2023**, approximately **15,900 children** were in **foster family care** and about **7,300 children** were in **residential or institutional care**

Using the same estimation approach as for Vienna:

If **15–20%** of children in care are **16–17 years old**, and roughly **half of them turn 18 each year**, then an estimated **1,700–2,300 young people age out of care annually across the Czech Republic**

WHAT YOUNG ADULTS NEED

FOUNDATIONS FOR STABILITY, DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

- ✓ **Continuity & trusted relationships**

Emotional safety, possibility to return, long-term contact options

- ✓ **Age-appropriate, youth-friendly housing**

Small units, manageable structures, realistic expectations

- ✓ **Flexible, low-threshold support**

Accepting setbacks & “yo-yo transitions”, adapting intensity to life phase

- ✓ **Practical support for transitions**

Help with bureaucracy, income, housing search, daily structure

- ✓ **Stable pathways into affordable housing**

Youth-adapted Housing First, reduced waiting times, tailored options

A national holistic strategy for young adults!

SOCIAL HOUSING VIENNA

- Wiener Wohnen **manages approximately 220,000 municipal apartments**, making it one of the largest public housing providers in Europe (optional: outreach supported housing)
- **Limited-profit housing associations** such as Sozialbau AG or BUWOG also play a major role in providing affordable housing in Austria – **Housing First Umbrella**
- Heimstaden is **the largest private residential landlord in the Czech Republic**, owning **approximately 40,000–43,000 apartments**, depending on the source and reporting date

Děkuji za Vaši pozornost

Thank you for your attention

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0QvceFX6JU>





TURNING 18: A STRUCTURAL CLIFF EDGE

“ADULT OVERNIGHT” DOESN'T MEAN SELF-SUFFICIENT

- End of child & youth support (MA11)
- No right of return → immediate self-responsibility
- Loss of stability: housing, finances, daily structure
- Many spend their 18th birthday in shelters
- Early crises leave long-term marks

JUCA & a_way data: less stable housing situation and more relationship breakdowns in childhood → lower chance of stable housing

- 76% no family contact
- 50% MA11 history
- Street-sleeping ↑ instability by 58%
- Previous eviction ↑ instability by ~90%