



Housing Program

achievements and visions



HOUSING PROGRAM in KOJATICE

Summary

The People in Need's Housing Program aims to contribute to improvement of living conditions of socially excluded people in Slovakia. It tries to reach this goal by activities focusing on research, assistance in planning and implementation of suitable housing solutions and advocating for policy changes. In the village of Kojatice, Housing program provides assistance in self-help construction of low- cost houses in local Roma settlement.

Background

Kojatice is a small village in Eastern Slovakia, located in a short distance from a regional capital Prešov. The roma settlement in Kojatice is rather small and peaceful, counting 145 inhabitants, making approximately 14% of the population of the village. The settlement is rather poor, even if compared to the average standard of rural roma settlements. Equipped only with electricity and public light, the settlement is mostly composed from shanty houses from clay, Housing and hygiene conditions are considered the most problematic issue by both, settlers and municipality.

Overview

Housing assistance in Kojatice is an individual self- help housing development in local Roma settlement. For the families that wish to participate in the program, our organisation provides architectural design (by the volunteering architects), administrative support, constructional supervision and micro-loan financing. However, full engagement is required from the families regarding the manpower and money as well. Meanwhile, the municipality provides social assistance to all families living in the settlement.

Housing Program Partnerships

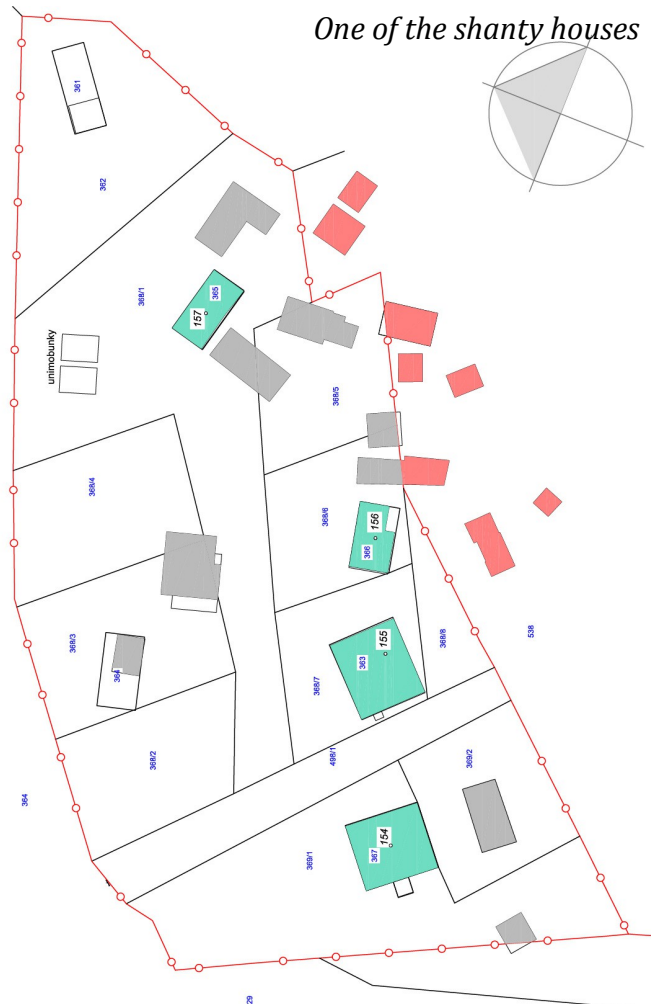
Housing Program in Kojatice is supported by important partners; Slovenské Elektrárne company, member of Enel group, via Pontis foundation and by St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Sciences. Faculty of architecture of Slovak Technical University also joined the project and assists with the architectural part. With the comprehensive support from the municipality of Kojatice, the program begun in 2012. Since then other partnerships and support have been developed.



Roma settlement in Kojatice



One of the shanty houses



Map of the settlement. Only green structures are legal.>

ACHIEVEMENTS

In Chronology

Within the first stage of the Program the Workshop of participatory architecture took place, where **16** volunteering architects and students of architecture made studies how to improve housing conditions of **13** families. New structures and refurbishments were proposed according to the needs and wishes of the participating families. Architects worked in teams directly with clients and results were presented to wide public of the village during final presentation.

Finally **8** families entered the Program and started the saving the money for their future housing. Out of them, **3** families were selected to be the first constructors. The selection was made by open lottery assisted by municipality and the community.

In the second half of 2013, these three families constructed their own small structures under the supervision of local engineer. During the summer period, two workshops for volunteers took place, where architecture students helped families and gained experiences. More than **20** volunteers participated.

In December 2013 the families moved in.

On the way

During the implementation of the program, more individuals, experts, institutions and private bodies were involved. About 5 construction professionals gave their expertise, 3 local craftsmen worked on the site and 3 private companies supported the project by offering discount on material and services.

Budget of the Program in 2013

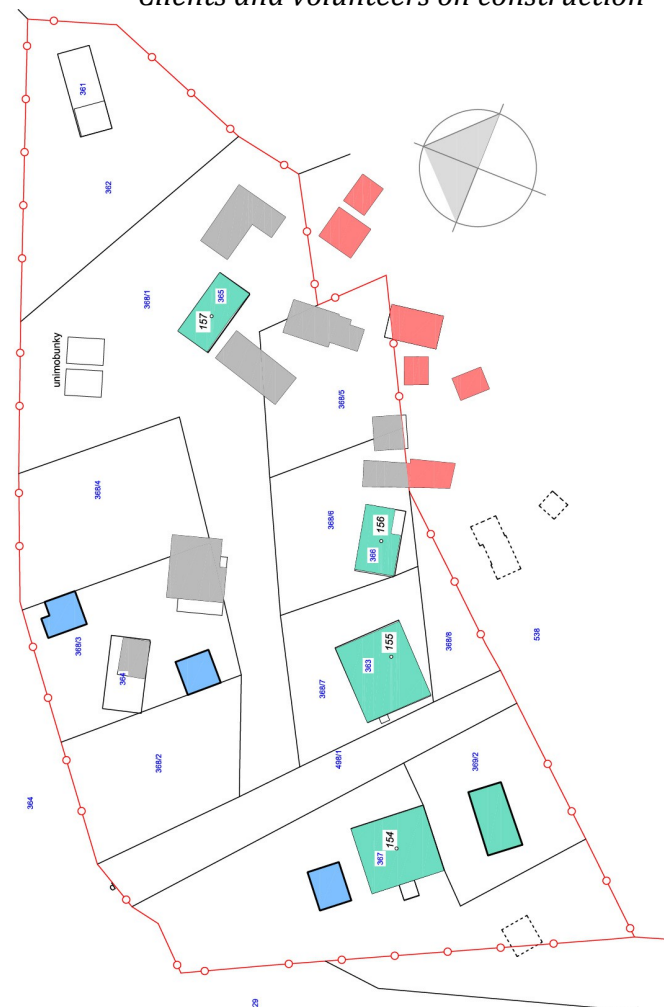
Delivery costs	11 160 €
Workshop of participatory architecture	2 000 €
Tools for construction	2 140 €
Price of material (all 3 houses)	10 700 €
Transport costs	1 600 €
Authorised works & services	1 800 €



Clinets and architects during the participation design process



Clients and volunteers on construction



First construction in the settlement. New houses in blue.>

VISIONS

Heading of the Program

Housing program is targeting the urgent housing need in deprived communities by an innovative approach. Considering the house to be more than a shelter, program recognises the added value of architects and self – help working force of the families as key features. The house represents individuality by its unique design and personal achievement of those who built it. So far, the results achieved in Kojatice prove this ideas.

This approach of the program should be shared and extended. Based on these ideas, the vision of the Program is to provide housing assistance in many communities, that will be tailored to the local context. With various designers and materials, with various funding and administration, as well as with different level of involvement of the People in Need organisation.

Thus it shall be providing decent and affordable housing through unique projects in communities in need and in the same time standing as an ambassador of self- help solutions on the policy-making level.

Step – vise progression

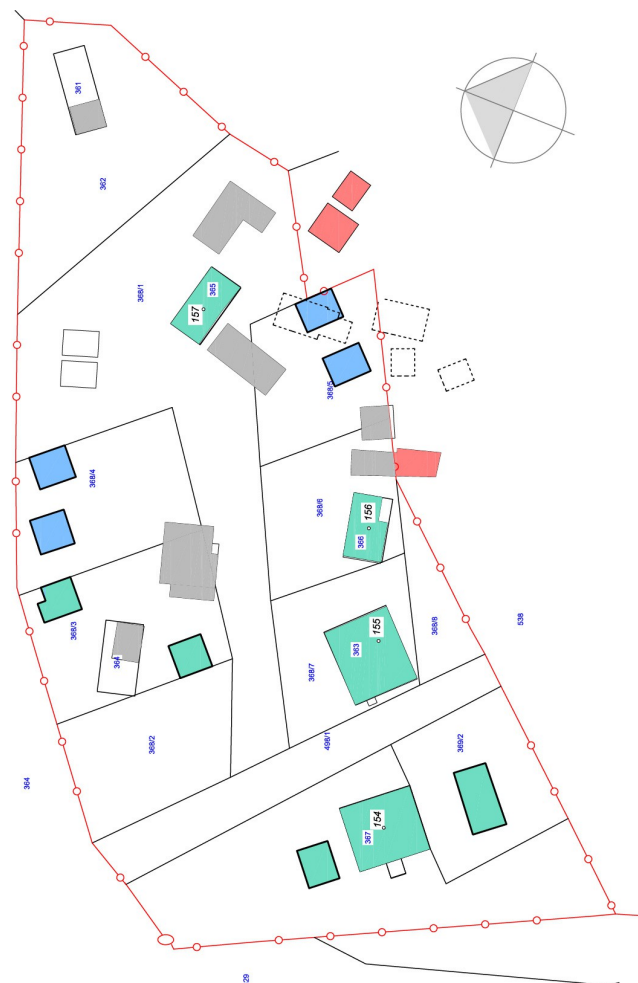
The Housing program has just begun. With three houses built and more in preparation, the first steps have been done. The second steps lead towards reaffirming of the Program in Kojatice by constructing more structures and carefully preparing the expansion. The detailed evaluation of the processes undertaken during the project is needed to verify the feasibility of the project on larger scale. Then a formulation of guidelines for similar projects can be made public and confronted with decision makers. New localities with new stakeholders can be approached and new projects developed. A lot of other steps need to be walked on the track.

Plan for 2014

In the season 2014, 4 new structures are planned in the settlement of Kojatice, the families are already making savings. Evaluation of all stages of program, as well as of the structures, will be prepared. Then a methodology of the project shall be written down. Additional video documentation of all steps of the program is also foreseen. Discussions with a new locatity Petrovany has been already undertaken. At the same time architectural and constructional workshops will again be part of the project.



Young man in front of his almost completed house



Plan for 2014 in Kojatice – to construct 4 new houses.