



No. 23

The “illegal camps/slum clearance” newsletter reports on DIHAL (the French Interdepartmental Delegation for Accommodation and Access to Housing)’s actions in anticipation and in support of dismantling illegal camps and slum clearance. It gives more information on current events in this field. It is intended for DIHAL’s departmental correspondents and its partners. Your contributions to initiatives in your regions are welcome at: pointcontact.campements@developpement-durable.gouv.fr



Headlines

Publication of the book “Misconceptions about Slums in France”

DIHAL is a partner of the book “Misconceptions about Slums in France”, published on 12 January 2016 by the French publishing house Editions du Cavalier Bleu. How many slums are there in France today? Who lives there? What is life like in a slum? How do you get out of this situation? These are some of the questions which guided the authors, Hervé Marchal, Lecturer in Social Sciences at the University of Lorraine, Jean-Baptiste Daubeuf, PhD student, and Thibaut Besozzi, Doctor of Sociology. On publication of the book, two of the three co-authors, Hervé Marchal and Jean-Baptiste Daubeuf, answered some questions from DIHAL’s “illegal camps / slum clearance” division.

Why did you write a book on the misconceptions of slums when it is commonly said that everyone already knows about slums?

Hervé Marchal: Exactly! Thinking that we know does not always mean we do know. Slums are the object of many prejudices and stereotypes that we wanted to identify and analyse.

Which misconceptions do you think are likely to hinder slum clearance actions?

HM: Slums and encampments are associated with the clichéd “Epinal image” of Roma and Gypsies. However, the reality is much more nuanced, complex and diverse. Bringing the question of slums back to an alleged cultural affiliation amounts to having a very basic understanding of the actual situation.

You talk about self-fulfilling prophecies. What do you mean by that?

Jean-Baptiste Daubeuf: Cultural belief produces its own effects: it leads to the social marginalisation of populations identified as Roma, who in return tend to retreat to a claimed culture.

What is your view of the State’s action and, more generally, of the actors involved in the issue of slums?

HM: The State is a coordinator, a mediator who tries to provide guidance to all of the actors on the ground. This remote action may seem vague, but it also gives freedom.

And Europe?

JBD: A framework remains to be set for social action on a European level, to put social support in place for poor European populations. Europe seems too involved in a culturalist approach to avoid the slope of radical relativism.

Jean-Baptiste Daubeuf
Hervé Marchal
Thibaut Besozzi

Idées reçues sur les bidonvilles en France



Le Cavalier Bleu
ÉDITIONS

Source: Cavalier Bleu

The book’s cover

How do you compare your work to existing works on the subject?

JBD: This work is not committed in the sense that it does not seek to adopt a position, but it is in the sense that it aims to analyse a current urban social reality in order to suggest a sense of direction for politics. From this point of view, it is complementary to many other works on the subject.

In your opinion, what are the areas to explore for the future?

HM: We believe that researchers have a real added value to bring to state or associative actors. In light of this, we envisage a sociological study of the slums (in its economic, social and humanitarian aspects) in order to account for the great heterogeneity of the slums.



Source: DIHAL

Hervé Marchal and Jean-Baptiste Daubeuf

“Misconceptions about Slums in France” J-B Daubeuf, Hervé Marchal, Thibaut Besozzi, Le Cavalier Bleu, 2017



In the regions

OPCALIA Project: closure of the language training course at the Stains AFPA (French National Agency for Adult Vocational Training) in Seine-Saint-Denis

On 13 January 2017, a meeting was held to close OPCALIA’s trial linguistic and professional integration programme in Stains. This programme **enabled 14 people from slums to receive training in the French language. Ten of the participants have already found employment or training**, in the laundry, construction, security and landscaping sectors. The strong involvement from these trainees, who were in a very precarious situation, was underlined. This project was initiated by DIHAL, together with the Prefecture of Ile-de-France and DIRECCTE (French Regional Directorates for Enterprise, Competition, Consumer Affairs, Labour and Employment). The “Les Enfants du Canal” (Children of the Canal) and ACINA (Welcome, Cooperation, Integration for



Source: DIHAL

Trainees and project partners

Newcomers) associations and the operator Adoma were advisers through the AIOS platform, AFPA provided the training and OPCALIA financed it. This programme could now be extended in Ile-de-France and throughout the country.

Relocation of families from the slums of Lyon to Luzu in Nièvre

In 2015, the Rhone prefecture undertook a major operation to clear the three major slums in the Greater Lyon area, with the implementation of an **ambitious scheme to rehouse and support families in widespread housing and at two temporary insertion sites (12E scheme)**. Two families from these sites have recently been relocated to Luzu in Nièvre. In this small town of 2,000 inhabitants, a large mobilisation of the commune, the department, the social services and the association Habitat & Humanisme allowed these two families (four adults and four children) to



The families were received by Jocelyne Guérin, Mayor of Luzu

Source: Saône-et-Loire’s local newspaper

be accommodated. This is an interesting example of housing families in a rural area. DIHAL has committed to raising the profile of these relocation solutions in more relaxed regions.



DIHAL news

Publication of the CEREMA (French Centre for Studies and Expertise on Risks, Environment, Mobility and Development) report on the application of the circular of 26 August 2012 "in 4 cases and 6 questions"

After four years of applying the 26 August 2012 circular, DIHAL asked the French Centre for Studies and Expertise on Risks, Environment, Mobility and Development (CEREMA) to study the conditions of implementing the circular and the results of the actions carried out in the field. CEREMA studied four regions:

Strasbourg, Bordeaux, Lille and Lyon. Specific general lessons were taken from the analyses of the circular's application.

The report is available on DIHAL's website: <http://www.gouvernement.fr/campements-illicites-et-bidonvilles>



Europe / International

Cahrom (Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers Issues)'s thematic visit to Madrid on the integration of new arrivals

From 14 to 16 December, a **study tour** was organised by the Council of Europe and the Spanish Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality on the theme of **newly arrived "Roma" populations** and responses to integration. **Representatives of Bulgaria, Ireland, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and France** (represented by DIHAL) took part. This visit provided an opportunity to shine the spotlight on an action led by the **Barro Association for the women of the El Gallinero slum in Madrid**. At the end of

380 hours of training, these women are offered jobs as mediators either within the framework of an employment contract or as volunteers. This system has important repercussions in terms of the effectiveness of global intervention towards families and changes in attitudes.

For more information on this initiative:
<http://www.asociacionbarro.org.es>

The ROMACT Programme meeting in Munich

A meeting organised by the European Commission and the Council of Europe on the ROMACT Programme on "**Cooperation on a local level and capacity building for the inclusion of marginalised populations**" was held in Munich on 15 and 16 December 2016. This event, in which DIHAL participated, provided the opportunity to present several transnational cooperation experiences, such as the "**Atlas**" network in Antwerp, the "**Roma Matrix**" project in Glasgow, the **MixCité 113** project

in **Anderlecht**, and projects in **Gothenburg, Bremen and Ghent**. The actions carried out in France by the **Roma network (Capest project)** and **Greater Lyon (with Tinca in Romania)** were presented.

For more information on these projects:
Antwerp: <http://www.eukn.eu/e-library/project/bericht/event-Detail/antwerp-tuppercare-home-party-with-a-social-adviser/>
Glasgow: <http://www.migrationscotland.org.uk/migration-information/resources/roma-matrix-project>
ROMACT: <http://coe-romact.org/>



Networks / Partners

Call for projects in support of decentralised cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development

For the third consecutive year, MAEDI (the French Department of Foreign Affairs and International Development) is launching a call for projects in support of decentralised cooperation initiatives, in particular in the field of vocational training and civic service. **This support could benefit the**

communities that organise reintegration activities for the inhabitants of encampments with the Romanian communities.

[Link to the page for the call for projects](#)

The President of the Republic welcomes the success of the Romcivic project, winner of "La France s'engage" (France is committed) label

The Romcivic programme, supported by DIHAL, is one of the **30 projects selected to receive the "La France s'engage" label**. The President of the Republic also honoured this programme during the launch of the Foundation for Social Investment and Human Development on 17 January 2017. Since its launch in 2014, the Romcivic programme has enabled 92 young people from slums to carry out civic service. More than half of them are now in a position of professional integration.

[Link to the video of the President of the Republic's speech](#)



Source: Les Enfants du Canal

The President of the Republic with young people from the civic service

Meeting with the Association of Cities of the Marseilles Catholic Relief Services

DIHAL met with the Association of Cities of the Catholic Relief Services (ACSC) on 10 January 2017. Since 2014, the ACSC has been implementing **a project for the displacement of slums and supporting families in Aix-en-Provence and**

Marseilles. This project supports 24 families through accommodation, schooling and professional integration. This meeting made it possible to bring up the difficulties encountered by the association, as well as the possibility of redirecting actions.

Meeting with the Essonne DDCS (Departmental Commission for Social Cohesion)

On 4 January 2017, DIHAL met with the assistant director of Essonne's (91) Departmental Commission for Social Cohesion (DDCS), which is responsible for monitoring the clearance of illegal camps. On taking office, she wished to take stock, with DIHAL, of who will join the DDCS in a visit to the camp site in Ris-Orangis.

Meeting with the Quatorze Association

On 9 January 2017, DIHAL met with the Quatorze Association, which is made up of architects who work on inclusive project methods, in partnership with the inhabitants and beneficiaries of the constructions. The association has taken action on several sites in Ile-de-France (Montreuil, Triel-sur-Seine) and in Metz. It was envisaged that the association could participate in DIHAL's work on security problems.



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

France Inter organised a live broadcast from the Place de la Republique in Paris on the subject of poor housing on 21 December 2016

<https://www.franceinter.fr/emissions/l-invite-de-8h20/l-invite-de-8h20-21-decembre-2016>

The Porte de la Chapelle slum is being closed

<https://www.francebleu.fr/infos/societe/paris-le-sort-du-bidonville-de-la-porte-de-la-chapelle-devant-la-justice-1484432954>

A report by Télérama on the "Slums and Precarious Habitats" course at the Ecole d'Architecture de la Ville et des Territoires de Marne-la-Vallée (the School of Architecture for the City and the Territories of Marne-la-Vallée). <http://www.telerama.fr/scenes/quand-l-ecole-d-architecture-planche-sur-les-bidonvilles,151593.php>

The history of slums in France, in an online video

<http://www.ina.fr/playlist-audio-video/301332/bidonvilles-playlist.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VG1LECSINwI>

DIHAL'S "ILLEGAL CAMPS / SLUM CLEARANCE" DIVISION WISHES YOU ALL THE BEST FOR 2017