ON STREETWORK

Joy Rodrigo
Cindy Rodrigues
Dan Draut
Mauro Almeida Cabral
Artur Cardoso Pereira
Sacha Breuer

Streetwork is part of the social work that can be developed along different and partially very specific interventions throughout the built environment. The City of Esch-sur-Alzette offers three different typolgies of "streetwork", directed at specific publics and equipped with different working methods. In this session, we present an overview of these three types of streetwork: "Youth outreach Work", "Community Social Work", and "Streetwork".

The Youth Outreach Work, which had to pause for almost half a year because of the departure of a colleague will start again at the beginning of the next school year (in September 2023), and will be done reaching out to young people in schools, attending events, meeting young people in the streets, to know how they are feeling in the city, what are their needs and what do they wish for the city.

Another approach of the social work in public space is the 'Steelwork. Working as a Streetworker can be very challenging as the main part of the job is to get in touch with homeless people—and people in need in general—and to offer a healthy, non-dominant relationship to them which allows us to gain access to their personal story, their doubts and wishes, in order to improve their general situation. Taking care of those relationships is the key to achieve any goal, as we firmly believe that everything depends on a good collaboration between the person and the social worker. Our help is diverse and goes from assuring the access to daily meals, offering a limited follow-up in their own home: it can be about administrative work, the distribution of a sleeping bag, psychological empowerment, harm reduction etc. When needed, we refer the person to specialized institutions (healthcare, drug addiction and/or mental health issues etc.).

Finally, Ensemble Quartiers Esch is a community social work project created in 2016 in a partnership of Inter-Actions asbl the municipality of Esch-sur-Alzette. The service promotes the empowerment of all residents in the neighbourhoods of Al Esch, Brill, Grenz, Uecht and Brouch. One if its main goals is the creation of meeting places and a dynamic network through various offers and actions. The key objectives include:

- Get to know the populations living, frequenting, and working in the neighbourhoods through direct contacts, creating meeting spaces and a dynamic network. The offers and actions are regularly defined and redefined in a "General Action Concept" (CAG);

Convened by Emmanuel Cornelius
Social Development Officer. Community Administration of Esch-sur-Alzette.

SPEAKERS

Youth Outreach Work

JOY RODRIGO has worked in the Youth Service of the City Administration of Esch/Alzette since April 15, 2023. As an educator, she is mainly in charge of accommodation for young people.

CINDY RODRIGUES has worked at the Youth Service of the City Administration since August 2022. As a graduate educator, she is mainly in charge of accommodation for young people, the theatre project where young people get together at least once a week to prepare an entire comedy and dance show, as well as other projects with the youth

Streetwork

DAN DRAUT works as a streetworker for the municipality of Esch-sur-Alzette since October 2019 and has worked with homeless people internationally since 2010. Starting in a youth club in 2007, he switched to the biggest homeless shelter *Centre Ulysse* from Caritas in Luxembourg City in 2010. In 2014 he had the opportunity to work in the homeless shelter in his own municipality from where he started as a streetworker in 2019, starting it from scratch.

CULTURES OF ASSEMBLY
Chair of the City of Esch
Prof. Dr. Markus Miessen
University of Luxembourg
www.culturesofassembly.org

24, Rue du Brill
L–4041 Esch-sur-Alzette

Team:
Markus Miessen, César Reyes,
Marija Maric, Francelle Cane,
Hannes Grassegger

Associated with the
Master in Architecture Programme
Department of Geography and
Spatial Planning
University of Luxembourg
www.masterarchitecture.lu

- Create connections between the different individuals and actors present in the intervention territory;
- Empower residents, individually and/or as a group, to analyse their situations, define the problems and search solutions for positive changes in the neighbourhood;
- Assist individuals present in the territory to improve their living conditions and enhance their autonomy;
- Cooperate closely with local institutional and private actors.

These lines of work serve to improve the togetherness and enhance the empowerment of all residents, a concept used by the association since its early days. The service operates mainly on bottom-up and top-down approaches, meaning that projects are developed either at the request of the residents or through filed analyses conducted by the social workers, which may uncover needs that were not initially identified by the residents themselves.



© Severin Malaud

MAURO ALMEIDA CABRAL started working as a streetworker in 2014. He has mainly worked with homeless people, drug users, and sexworkers in Luxembourg City. He is now working as a streetworker for the city of Esch/Alzette. In 2020, he published the book *(L)armes d'errance. Habiter la rue au féminin,* éditions Academia, an ethnography that focuses on homeless women in Luxembourg. He is currently completing a master's degree in cultural anthropology at UCLouvain (Belgium).

Ensemble Quartiers Esch

ARTUR CARDOSO PEREIRA was born in Portugal and moved to Luxembourg in 2002. He is 29 years old and currently in his third year of the bachelor's degree as educator, specifically specializing in psycho-educational accompaniment. He started working in Esch-sur-Alzette at Ensemble Quartiers Esch – Inter-Actions Asbl at the same time as he began the bachelor's degree.

SACHA BREUER with a BA Degree in Social Work from the Institut Cardijn in Louvain-la-Neuve, started his career as head of social coordination and then head of the social support department of a social housing provider. During these missions, he has been a lecturer on housing issues at Uni.lu's BSSE. In August 2021, he joined the management of Inter-Actions asbl, and since March 2023 is in charge of the Esch/Alzette sector.