

## RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE HUMAN REINTEGRATION

### GESTÃO RESPONSÁVEL E REINTEGRAÇÃO HUMANA SUSTENTÁVEL

### GESTIÓN RESPONSABLE Y REINTEGRACIÓN HUMANA SOSTENIBLE



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**Fernanda Caroline Conrado<sup>1</sup>, Kevin Gonçalves Calbusch<sup>2</sup>, Rafael Ávila Lopes<sup>3</sup>,  
Geovani Broering<sup>4</sup>, Renato Rodrigues<sup>5</sup>**

#### ABSTRACT

The homeless population represents one of the most complex social phenomena in contemporary societies, resulting from structural processes of social exclusion, economic inequality and the weakening of family and community ties. This article analyzes the Lages Recupera Program, a municipal public policy aimed at sheltering, assisted transition and socioeconomic reintegration of the homeless population in the city of Lages, Santa Catarina, Brazil. The study adopts a qualitative approach based on literature review, normative analysis and a case study of a municipal public policy. The theoretical framework incorporates contributions from Lenio Streck, Pedro Serrano, Paulo Freire, Moacir Gadotti, José Carlos Libâneo, Selma Garrido Pimenta and Slavoj Žižek, as well as institutional data from IBGE and IPEA. The findings indicate that integrated public policies combining assisted housing, psychosocial support, professional training and productive inclusion have greater potential to reduce homelessness and promote human dignity. The study concludes that the Lages Recupera Program represents an important instrument for sustainable human development aligned with the Brazilian Constitution of 1988, human rights principles and the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

**Keywords:** Public Policies. Homelessness. Human Rights. Social Inclusion. Sustainable Development.

#### RESUMO

A população em situação de rua constitui um dos fenômenos sociais mais complexos das sociedades contemporâneas, resultante de processos estruturais de exclusão social, desigualdade econômica e fragilização de vínculos familiares e comunitários. O presente artigo analisa o Programa Lages Recupera, política pública municipal voltada ao acolhimento, transição assistida e reinserção socioeconômica da população em situação de

<sup>1</sup> Master's Student in Law and Sustainable Development. UNIFACVEST.  
E-mail: fernanda.aluno@unifacvest.edu.br

<sup>2</sup> Master's Student in Law and Sustainable Development. UNIFACVEST.  
E-mail: kevin\_kalbusch@hotmail.com

<sup>3</sup> Master's Student in Law and Sustainable Development. UNIFACVEST.  
E-mail: riovacasgordas@hotmail.com

<sup>4</sup> Dr. in Law. Dr. in Humanity. Universidade Veiga de Almeida (UVA). E-mail: reitoria@unifacvest.edu.br  
Lattes: <http://lattes.cnpq.br/5211119375617252>

<sup>5</sup> Dr. in Law. Universidade Veiga de Almeida (UVA). E-mail: prpe@unifacvest.edu.br  
Lattes: <http://lattes.cnpq.br/6556757529380415>

rua no município de Lages, Santa Catarina. O estudo adota abordagem qualitativa, fundamentada em revisão bibliográfica, análise normativa e estudo de caso de política pública municipal. A pesquisa mobiliza referenciais teóricos de Lenio Streck, Pedro Serrano, Paulo Freire, Moacir Gadotti, José Carlos Libâneo, Selma Garrido Pimenta e Slavoj Žižek, além de dados institucionais do IBGE e do IPEA. Os resultados indicam que políticas públicas integradas que combinam moradia assistida, acompanhamento psicossocial, qualificação profissional e inclusão produtiva apresentam maior potencial de redução da população em situação de rua e promoção da dignidade humana. Conclui-se que o Programa Lages Recupera constitui instrumento relevante de desenvolvimento humano sustentável, alinhado à Constituição de 1988, aos direitos humanos e aos Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável da Agenda 2030.

**Palavras-chave:** Políticas Públicas. População em Situação de Rua. Direitos Humanos. Inclusão Social. Desenvolvimento Sustentável.

## RESUMEN

La población sin hogar constituye uno de los fenómenos sociales más complejos de las sociedades contemporáneas, resultado de procesos estructurales de exclusión social, desigualdad económica y debilitamiento de los lazos familiares y comunitarios. Este artículo analiza el Programa Lages Recupera, una política pública municipal orientada a la acogida, la transición asistida y la reintegración socioeconómica de la población sin hogar en el municipio de Lages, Santa Catarina. El estudio adopta un enfoque cualitativo, basado en una revisión bibliográfica, un análisis normativo y un estudio de caso de política pública municipal. La investigación se fundamenta en los marcos teóricos de Lenio Streck, Pedro Serrano, Paulo Freire, Moacir Gadotti, José Carlos Libâneo, Selma Garrido Pimenta y Slavoj Žižek, además de datos institucionales del IBGE y el IPEA. Los resultados indican que las políticas públicas integradas que combinan vivienda asistida, apoyo psicossocial, formación profesional e inclusión productiva tienen un mayor potencial para reducir la población sin hogar y promover la dignidad humana. Se concluye que el Programa Lages Recupera constituye un instrumento relevante para el desarrollo humano sostenible, en consonancia con la Constitución de 1988, los derechos humanos y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible de la Agenda 2030.

**Palabras clave:** Políticas Públicas. Población Sin Hogar. Derechos Humanos. Inclusión Social. Desarrollo Sostenible.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The homeless population is a multifactorial social phenomenon that reflects the deep socioeconomic inequalities present in contemporary societies. This phenomenon results from the combination of structural factors such as unemployment, job insecurity, chemical dependency, mental disorders, rupture of family ties and absence of effective housing policies.

In Brazil, recent data indicate significant growth in this population in recent decades. Surveys based on the Unified Registry indicate that the number of homeless people in the country exceeds 260 thousand individuals, revealing a trend of expansion of this population group in several urban regions.

In the state of Santa Catarina, the situation is also worsening. Recent studies indicate that the number of people living on the streets went from 5,678 in 2021 to approximately 9,989 in 2023, representing a growth of about 76% in two years.

In the municipality of Lages, located in the Serra Catarinense, estimates point to approximately 397 homeless people, placing the municipality among the ten with the highest absolute number in the state.

The scenario becomes even more critical due to the climatic conditions of the region, characterized by harsh winters, often with temperatures close to or below 0°C. In these circumstances, the absence of shelter and adequate public policies significantly increases the risks of illness and mortality of the homeless population.

The 1988 Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil, often referred to as the Citizen Constitution, established a model of State committed to the promotion of human dignity, social justice and the reduction of inequalities. In this sense, the realization of social rights requires the implementation of structured public policies capable of guaranteeing housing, health, social assistance and productive inclusion.

This article aims to analyze the Lages Recupera Program, a municipal public policy aimed at the social reintegration of the homeless population, evaluating its legal, social and institutional foundation.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

The present research is characterized as a qualitative study of exploratory and descriptive nature, based on bibliographic, documentary and normative analysis.

The investigation was structured in three main stages: Bibliographic review, involving classic works in the areas of constitutional law, public policies and education.

Documentary and normative analysis, with examination of the Federal Constitution of 1988, Decree No. 7,053/2009 (National Policy for the Homeless Population) and institutional documents produced by public agencies such as IBGE and IPEA.

This is a case study, centered on the analysis of the proposal of the Lages Recupera Program as a municipal public policy aimed at the socioeconomic reintegration of the homeless population.

The approach adopted allows us to understand the phenomenon of homelessness in its social and institutional complexity, articulating legal, economic and educational dimensions.

### **3 THEORETICAL FOUNDATION**

#### **3.1 1988 CONSTITUTION AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

The Brazilian Constitution of 1988 established a new legal paradigm based on the centrality of the dignity of the human person and the guarantee of social rights.

In this sense, Lenio Streck points out that the Constitution has a normative and directing character:

The Constitution is not a letter of intent. It establishes normative commitments that bind the State and society, imposing the realization of fundamental rights as a condition for the legitimacy of the democratic State itself. (Streck, 2017, p. 89)

Public policies aimed at the homeless population must be understood as instruments of constitutional implementation.

Pedro Serrano complements this perspective by stating that the effectiveness of fundamental rights depends on the concrete action of the State in reducing social inequalities.

#### **3.2 EDUCATION, SOCIAL EMANCIPATION AND INCLUSION**

The social reintegration of the homeless population requires public policies that promote autonomy and human emancipation.

The thinker and educator, Paulo Freire states: "Education does not transform the world. Education changes people. People transform the world." (Freire, 1996, p. 67).

Freire's perspective emphasizes that educational processes must contribute to the reconstruction of autonomy and human dignity.

Moacir Gadotti reinforces this view by highlighting the transformative role of education: "Education committed to human emancipation needs to be linked to the construction of a more just, democratic and solidary society." (Gadotti, 2003, p. 54).

Public policies for social inclusion must articulate education, work and citizenship.

### 3.3 SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND CONTEMPORARY CRITICISM

Extreme social exclusion can also be analyzed in the light of contemporary critical theory.

Slavoj Žižek observes that: "The most profound violence in contemporary societies is not only visible violence, but that which manifests itself in the social structures that produce exclusion and invisibility." (Žižek, 2014, p. 22).

The perspective shows that homelessness cannot be understood only as an individual problem, but as a result of exclusionary social structures.

## 4 THE LAGES RECUPERA PROGRAM

The Lages Recupera Program proposes a municipal public policy structured in three central axes:

- housing reception;
- psychosocial recovery;
- socioeconomic reintegration;

### 4.1 HOUSE OF THE NEW BEGINNING

The Casa do Recomeço is an assisted transition center for the reception of the homeless population.

The program adopts principles inspired by the international model Housing First<sup>6</sup>, which establishes housing as an initial condition for social reintegration.

### 4.2 PSYCHOSOCIAL RECOVERY CENTER

The program provides care by a multidisciplinary team composed of psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists.

The objective is to promote emotional recovery, strengthen autonomy and rebuild social bonds.

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<sup>6</sup> The Housing First model is a public policy approach that originated in the United States in the 1990s, especially from the experiences developed by Sam Tsemberis, which proposes the immediate offer of permanent housing to homeless people as a starting point in the process of social reintegration. Unlike traditional models of care, which condition access to housing to the prior overcoming of problems such as chemical dependency or unemployment, Housing First is based on the assumption that housing stability is a fundamental condition for individuals to be able to later face other social vulnerabilities, such as mental health, professional qualification, and insertion in the labor market. International studies indicate that this approach presents high rates of permanence in housing and improvement of the living conditions of the beneficiaries (TSSEMBERIS, 2010).

### 4.3 SCHOOL OF MOUNTAIN CRAFTS

Another strategic axis of the program consists of professional training focused on the regional economy.

The timber sector, traditional in the Lages region, is a relevant opportunity for income generation and productive inclusion through the circular economy.

## 5 EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

Among the main results expected from the program are:

- a 40% reduction in the homeless population in 24 months;
- insertion of 60% of the beneficiaries in the labor market;
- reduction of hospital admissions associated with exposure to cold;
- strengthening urban social cohesion.

## 6 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The homeless population is one of the greatest social challenges faced by Brazilian cities. This is a structural phenomenon that requires integrated and sustainable public policies.

The analysis carried out demonstrates that the Lages Recupera Program has a consistent legal, social and institutional foundation, aligned with the principles of the 1988 Constitution, human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

By articulating decent housing, psychosocial monitoring, professional qualification and productive inclusion, the program establishes an innovative model of social reintegration and promotion of human dignity.

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