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Austrians find laughter really is the best medicine

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But in Austria doctors know the health value of a good chortle, and are offering homeless people lectures on how to laugh.

The project began in the southern Austrian city of Graz earlier this month, and has been such a success that other disadvantaged groups, including asylum seekers, are about to be taken on as students.

The courses are conducted by professors such as Leopold Neuhold from the Karl Franzens University in Graz, who has been to four local hostels to deliver a lecture called "laughter is the best medicine."

"This is a fantastic project," he said. "One of the main problems for the homeless is getting a foot back in the door of society ... we hope this program will be the first step toward achieving that goal."

The project is sponsored by the Austrian magazine *Megaphon*.

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