



Y-SÄÄTIÖ

HOUSING FIRST IN FINLAND:

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PAAVO 2008 - 2015

- A government programme coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment
- In partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Criminal Sanctions Agency, the Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, RAY (Finland's Slot Machine Association), 11 cities with highest numbers of homeless people, the Church, NGOs and private companies
- Committed partners and multidisciplinary work over administrative and professional boundaries
- Sub-projects for preventing youth homelessness and homelessness of ex-prisoners
- A development network
- Research supporting development work

TARGETS

- To halve long-term homelessness by 2011 and end it by 2015
- Conversion of all shelters and dormitory-type hostels into supported housing units
- Reinforcing Housing First –approach as a mainstream organizing principle for housing and support services for homeless people
- Quantitative targets:
- 2500 new dwellings, supported housing units or care places in 10 (2008-2011)/11(2012-2015) major cities

RESOURCES

- PAAVO I (2008-2011) total funding appr. 170 M€ including financing from state authorities and cities
- PAAVO II (2011-2015):
- 22M € investment grants from The Housing Finance and Development Fund of Finland for construction of new housing units and renovation (max 50%)
- 10 M€ grants for salary costs of support workers from the Ministry of Social Welfare and Health (max 50%)
- 32,3 M€ grants for buying scattered housing from the private market from the Slot Machine Association (RAY)
- 18,6 M€ grants for development projects (RAY)
- Own funding from project cities (50% of personel costs)

MEASURES AND RESULTS

- HOUSING:

Over 3500 new apartments built / purchased for homeless people

- SERVICES:

- 200 new professional support workers in housing social work
- Housing advice services have prevented 200 evictions per year

- STRUCTURAL REFORMS:

- Housing First principle has been established
- Shelters have been replaced by supported housing units
- Social rehabilitation processes have been initiated

SHELTER RENOVATION: WHY WE WANTED TO GET RID OF SHELTERS AND HOSTELS?

- 2008: 600 bed places in hostels and shelters
- Now: service centre with 50 bed places for emergency use
- The oldest hostel in Helsinki run by the Salvation Army (236 bed places) closed its doors in 2011 and was renovated into a supported housing unit with 80 independent apartments
- Living in a hostel or shelter is always a temporary solution
- No privacy and very limited professional help in your problems
- Hostels sustain a culture of irresponsibility
- Renovation of hostels has increased public safety

COMPLETED APARTMENTS AND APARTMENTS ALLOTTED TO USE IN THE PAAVO PROGRAM 2012-2015

| | Helsinki | Espoo | Vantaa | Lahti | Joensuu | Jyväskylä | Kuopio | Pori | Tampere | Oulu | Turku | ALL |
|--|----------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-----------|--------|------|---------|------|-------|------|
| Supported housing units | 472 | 181 | 118 | 92 | 18 | 16 | 45 | 0 | 26 | 46 | 0 | 1014 |
| Youth housing | 285 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 20 | 435 |
| Supported scattered housing in city rental housing | 0 | 159 | 0 | 123 | 110 | 178 | 25 | 0 | 255 | 28 | 185 | 1063 |
| Supported scattered housing in NGOs etc. | 226 | 120 | 3 | 191 | 17 | 15 | 20 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 18 | 626 |
| Independet housing in city rental housing | 80 | 296 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 376 |
| ALL | 1063 | 826 | 121 | 406 | 171 | 221 | 90 | 0 | 297 | 96 | 223 | 3514 |

MEASURES AND RESULTS

HOMELESSNESS HAS DECREASED:

- In recent years Finland has been the only European country where homelessness has decreased
- 2015: 6785 single homeless persons, 424 families
- Wide definition of homelessness: 80% living temporarily with friends and relatives

LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS HAS DECREASED:

- Definition of long-term homelessness: person who has been homeless for over 1 year or recurrently homeless within two years and has serious health and social problems
- From 2008 to 2015: long-term homelessness has decreased with 1345 persons (35%)
- Housing retention rate 82% (only 18% returned back to homelessness)

CHANGE IN LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS IN PAAVO MUNICIPALITIES 2008-2015

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | Change % |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| PAAVO municipalities | 2991 | 2919 | 2535 | 2190 | 2203 | 2160 | 2078 | 1948 | -35 % |
| Helsinki | 1591 | 1485 | 1400 | 1240 | 1415 | 1415 | 1220 | 1210 | -24 % |
| Vantaa | 140 | 161 | 117 | 148 | 125 | 150 | 134 | 125 | -11 % |
| Espoo | 385 | 388 | 329 | 336 | 247 | 223 | 303 | 245 | -36 % |
| Tampere | 214 | 155 | 124 | 96 | 64 | 72 | 46 | 55 | -74 % |
| Turku | 245 | 219 | 222 | 151 | 149 | 149 | 160 | 124 | -49 % |
| Kuopio | 33 | 84 | 42 | 55 | 44 | 13 | 36 | 45 | 36 % |
| Oulu | 50 | 46 | 88 | 31 | 32 | 27 | 26 | 16 | -68 % |
| Jyväskylä | 55 | 74 | 44 | 38 | 40 | 33 | 51 | 33 | -40 % |
| Lahti | 108 | 125 | 102 | 78 | 65 | 57 | 32 | 31 | -71 % |
| Pori | 85 | 70 | 37 | 43 | 42 | 32 | 47 | 42 | -51 % |
| Joensuu | 85 | 112 | 30 | 17 | 22 | 21 | 23 | 22 | -74 % |
| Whole Country | 3597 | 3457 | 3079 | 2730 | 2628 | 2545 | 2443 | 2252 | -37 % |

HOUSING FIRST IN FINLAND

- Housing as a basic social right
- Housing in normal surroundings
- Own independent rental apartment either in scattered housing or in a supported housing unit
- Own rental contract (normally for unlimited time)
- Separation of housing and services
- Adequate support :
 - intensive support 5 support workers/10 inhabitants in service housing
 - support in scattered housing 1/10

HOUSING FIRST IN FINLAND

Ethical argument:

- Housing first treats formerly homeless people as normal citizens rather than as clients or patients
- Housing is a basic human and social right
- A civilized state takes care of its most vulnerable inhabitants

Economical argument:

- A study conducted by the Technical University of Tampere shows that housing with intensified support halves the use of social and health services compared to service-use during homelessness
- This equates to 14 000 euros of saving per person/year

FORMS OF SUPPORT

In scattered housing:

Floating support, no ACT –team

Use of normal basic health and social services

The role of support worker (social worker) both personal support and case management

Special services, expertise if needed

In supported housing: on site personnel, social and health professional according to needs, different levels of support and service within the same house

Y-Foundation is

- A non-profit social housing provider
- Builds and constructs affordable rental housing
- Owns 16 541 flats in 56 cities and municipalities
- (at the beginning of 2016 we purchased 8631 flats from another social housing provider)
- The staff of 120 employees is mainly based in Helsinki, 20 employees in 6 other cities
- Nationwide work is enabled by a wide network of partners: local authorities and housing companies, NGOs, church social work etc.

History

- Y-Foundation was founded in 1985
- Founding bodies:
 - Five largest cities: Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Tampere and Turku
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
 - Finnish Red Cross
 - The Finnish Association for Mental Health
 - Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
 - Confederation of Finnish Construction Industries RT
 - The Finnish Construction Trade Union.

The housing options of Y-Foundation

- Scattered housing bought from owner-occupied housing companies (5300)
- Real estates: normal rental housing = affordable social housing (9837)
- supported and service housing (1232)
- Support and services are arranged by local social services or NGOs

Väinölä supported housing
Y-Foundation/Salvation Army

- 35 apartments
- personnel 11



Aurora-House

Helsinki Diaconese Institute Care Ltd

- 125 apartments, 72 supported housing and 53 service housing
- personnel 38,5



Salvation Army Supported Housing

- 80 apartments
- personnel 21



NEXT PROGRAMME: AUNE 2016-2020

- MAIN TARGET: 500 HOMELESS PERSONS LESS EACH YEAR
- STRENGTHENING PREVENTION AND TACKLING RECURRENT HOMELESSNESS
- MEASURES:
 - 3 500 FLATS FOR HOMELESSNESS WORK (NEW AND ACQUIRED FROM THE EXISTING HOUSING STOCK)
 - INCREASING HOUSING ADVICE
 - INCLUDING HOUSING AS PART OF THE FINNISH YOUTH GUARANTEE
 - ESTABLISHING LOW-THRESHOLD SERVICE POINTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS
 - SUPPORTING FORMER HOMELESS PERSONS INTO WORK
 - PILOTING FLEXIBLE ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT IN FOUR CITIES

NEXT PROGRAMME: AUNE 2016-2020

- STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF EXPERTS BY EXPERIENCE IN WORK ON HOMELESSNESS
- DEVELOPMENT WORK AND NATIONAL COORDINATION
- SYSTEMATIC DATA COLLECTION, EVALUATION AND RESEARCH
- BUDGET ESTIMATE: 79 M€ OF WHICH 55 M€ FOR BUILDING AND BUYING FLATS
- 24 M€ FOR PERSONNEL COSTS AND DEVELOPMENT WORK
- POSSIBLE USE OF ESF: ON WORK REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS

TRANSFERABILITY OF FINNISH HOUSING FIRST

- POLITICAL WILL (CONSENSUS)
- ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE/MODE OF IMPLEMENTATION
- SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPLY
- GOOD BASIC SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
- COMPETENT ACTORS, NGOS
- RESOURCES (IT IS NOT A MONEY ISSUE!)
- ATTITUDE: NO ONE HAS YET FAILED IN THE FUTURE