

Housing First in Europe

Shared aims and characteristics: Presentation of the Housing First Guide

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Housing First – going global

USA, Canada, Australia

EU: Austria, Belgium,
Denmark, Finland, France,
Ireland, Italy, Netherlands,
Norway, Portugal, Spain,
Sweden, UK...

Scaling-up - Evidence of
(cost) effectiveness;
Advocacy

Highlights from the Evidence

Stable housing

- Canada: Housing First service users spent 73% of their time stably housed over two years, compared to 32% of those receiving other homelessness services (At Home/Chez Soi)
- EU evaluations: 80+% housing retention (Housing First Europe research project)



Un Chez Soi-d'abord First observations

(13 months average follow up -172 participants)

- More than 1 in 4 have re-established contact with their family
- 12% have accessed employment or professional training; 20% volunteer activities
- 40% live autonomously (home maintenance, relations with neighbours...) and manage to meet their basic needs
- 15% have regular contact with mental health services since entering the program (even if not mandatory for accessing housing)

- Accessible & free
- Designed for service providers, housing providers, policy makers
- Individual study, training courses, etc.
- Quizzes, videos



www.housingfirstguide.eu

Housing First Guide Europe

Website: English & French

Translations: Czech, Hungarian, Spanish, Italian,
German...?

Videos for each chapter



CLARITY

about what **Housing First** is,
is a crucial first step . . .

What IS Housing First?

*Housing First uses housing as a **starting point** rather than an **end goal**. Providing housing is what a Housing First service does before it does anything else...*

A Housing First service is able to focus immediately on enabling someone to successfully live in their own home as part of a community.

Housing First Guide Europe

Shifting to ***Housing First*** means
doing things differently . . .

Key Supports

Housing Supports

- Help finding housing
- Negotiate with landlords
- Build relations with landlords
- Obtaining rent subsidies
- Setting up apartment
- Landlord mediation
- Develop skills for independent living

Clinical Supports

- Health
- Mental health
- Addictions

Complementary Supports

- Life skills
 - Relationships
 - Conflict resolution
 - Meaningful activities
 - Volunteering
- Income supports
 - Finding work
 - Education
 - Training
- Community engagement

Eight core principles:



Housing is
a human right



Choice and
control for
service users



Separation of
housing and
treatment



Recovery
orientation



Harm reduction



Active
engagement
without
coercion



Person-centered
planning



Flexible support
for as long as is
required

Core principles



1. Housing is a human right:

Legal security of tenure, affordability, habitability, location, etc.



2. Choice control for service users:

Self-determination = starting point, shared decision making, essential to recovery model

Core principles



3. Separation of Housing and Treatment

Housing is not conditional on behavioural change or accepting treatment



4. Recovery orientation:

Focus on the overall well-being of an individual including mental and physical health, social support and social integration

Core principles



5. Harm reduction

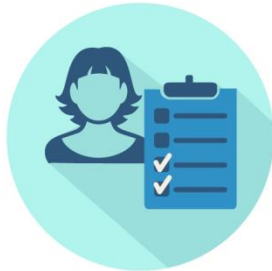
Harm reduction seeks to persuade and support people to modify drug and alcohol use that causes them harm...and offers support, help and treatment but does not require abstinence.



6. Active engagement without coercion

Positive engagement with HF users to engage with the help that they need.

Core principles



7. Person-Centred Planning

Organise support and treatment around an individual and their needs; emphasis on choice and control for service users.



8. Flexible support – as long as required

Support intensity can rise and fall with individual need, from a few months to beyond. Needs change over time.

Planning issues – making the shift

- Embed Housing First in a broader planning framework
- Bring in the experts
- Coalition building and Partnerships

Planning issues: Partnerships are Key

“So get everybody and anybody together. If you aren't sure whether they should be involved, invite them anyway. One of the greatest advantages of collaboration, especially in the early stages, but is important throughout, is that those at the table and part of the development now have a vested interest, when they feel like they are part of something bigger than they are and have influence they become supporters instead of antagonists.

Wally Czech, Lethbridge Housing First, Canada

Housing First Europe Hub

Mission:

***To promote and support the scaling up of
Housing First to end and prevent homelessness***

What IS the Housing First Europe hub?



Y-SÄÄTIÖ



FEANTSA

joint initiative – 2016

- Focus on **activities to share learning and scale up** Housing First
- **Hub Partners** are committed to the **core principles** of Housing First as defined in the Housing First Europe Guide

Training

- Establish **pool of trainers** and regular 'train-the-trainer' seminars
- **Support local Housing First networks** and respond to specific training needs, e.g. Training for social workers, housing workers, etc.
- **Develop university course**

Practice

- **Advocacy:** Develop tools for Partners and others to support scaling up of Housing First at local, regional & national level
- **Support communities of practice – national networks**
- **Roadmap** for scaling up Housing First in a medium-sized city
- **Housing First for Youth** – development of model and trial



- Federation of national organisations working with homeless people
- 110 members in 25 EU Member States
- Committed to ending homelessness in Europe
- Facilitates knowledge sharing, advocacy, research

Research

- **Monitor research & evaluations** of Housing First projects
- Create an **evaluation template** for Housing First projects
- **Make research available** to make the case for Housing First

How will the Hub work?

- All materials produced by the Hub will be available to everyone
- The Hub will support learning communities and Housing First networks to honestly share knowledge and experience
- All organisations are welcome to be involved in Hub activities



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