

# Housing First Guide Europe



## Key principles of Housing First in a Central European Context

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# Key principles of Housing First in a Central European Context

1. FEANTSA
2. The History of Housing First
3. Housing First in Europe
4. Housing First Guide Europe
  1. What and Why this Guide?
  2. Housing First Target group
  3. The Core principles of Housing First



# Introduction: FEANTSA

- **Feantsa:** European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless
- 130 Members from 26 EU Member States
- **Poland:** Caritas Diocese of Kielce, Camilian's Mission for Social Assistance, Pomeranian Forum in Aid of Getting Out of Homelessness, St Brother Albert's Aid Society, The MONAR Association
- **Core-funded by the European Commission**
- **Activities:**
  - Lobbying
  - Research: European Observatory on Homelessness
  - Exchange of experiences and practice
  - Raising Awareness on Homelessness

# History of Housing First

- Originates in the United States
- It is based on a housing and support model designed originally for psychiatric patients leaving long stay hospital
- First appeared as the 'Pathways to Housing' service in New York in early 1990s
- Aimed at 'chronically homeless' people for who traditional services were not working
- Repeated and sustained street homelessness, high rates of problematic alcohol and drug consumption, severe mental illness, poor physical health



# Housing First in Europe

- Both North American evidence and adoption of Housing First approach by Federal Government in USA attract attention in EU
- EU academics begin discussing and reporting on Housing First, considering use in EU context
- 2010 EU Consensus Conference, organised by FEANTSA, concludes by recommending that Housing-led and Housing First approaches need to be part of homeless strategies
- European Commission advocates use of Housing First approach
- 2013 Housing First Europe Progress project: (Housing First can be successful in different European countries)



# Housing First in Europe

- General strategy based in Housing First approach
  - Denmark
  - Finland
- Large scale experimentation:
  - “Un chez soi d’abord” France
- Spreading widely in different municipalities:
  - Sweden & Norway
- Housing First pilots:
  - Casa Primeiro, Lisbon Portugal
  - Spain: Habitat (Madrid, Barcelona and Malaga), Barcelona city council
  - “Housing First Belgium” Belgium
  - Housing First Italia (training and pilot implementation)
  - Vienna (Austria)
- Latest to start:
  - UK
  - Ireland



# Housing First Guide Europe

- Part of FEANTSA strategy to continue **the promotion of Housing First in Europe**
- Funding: **Stavros Niarchos Foundation**
- **Collaborative effort:** Advisory Board members and researcher Nicholas Pleace
- **Online resource on a dedicated website:**
  - 6 units with self-guided activities
    - Written Chapters (6)
    - Videos (11)
  - Languages: EN & FR
- Official Launch: **9<sup>th</sup> June 2016**



Stavros Niarchos Foundation



# Housing First Guide Europe: Homepage



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WELCOME to the  
Housing First Guide Europe!



What is Housing First?



Core principles of Housing First



Delivering Support



Delivering Housing



Evaluating Housing First



Housing First and Wider Strategy





# Housing First Guide: 6 Units



1. What is Housing First?
2. Core principles of Housing First
3. Delivering support in Housing First
4. Delivering housing in Housing First
5. Evaluating Housing First
6. Housing First and Wider Strategy



What is  
Housing First?



Core principles  
of Housing First



Delivering Support  
in Housing First



Delivering Housing  
in Housing First



Evaluating  
Housing First



Housing First  
and Wider Strategy



# Housing First Target group

- The Housing First Guide adopts a broader target group to the original Model
- Housing First is an innovative way of reducing homelessness among people with “**high support needs**”. Support is adapted to the needs of the person
- Housing First services have proved successful at ending homelessness among homeless people with high support needs.
  - European Housing First services can end homelessness for at least 8 out of every 10 people



## UNIT 2. Core Principles of Housing First



1. Housing is a human right
2. Choice and control for service users
3. Separation of housing and treatment
4. Recovery orientation
5. Harm reduction
6. Active engagement without coercion
7. Person-centred planning
8. Flexible support for as long as is required



## Unit 6. Strategic Role of Housing First

- The Guide also debates how Housing First fits in wider homelessness policy
- Relationships with other services
- The specialist focus of Housing First and the ongoing need for other forms of homelessness service within an effective strategy

## Launch event: “Housing First in Europe: latest evidence for policy and practice”

- Official launch event: **9th June 2016**
- 1 day conference before Feantsa Annual Conference
- Venue: Palais d’Egmont, Brussels
- Co-organised with Housing First Belgium and the Belgian Social Affaires Ministry)
  - 300 attendants to the Annual Conference.
  - Teams from Housing First Belgium
- Focus
  - Launch of the Housing First Guide Europe
  - Housing First Belgium Programme 2 year outcomes

# Housing First Guide Europe



Thanks for your interest  
Any questions?

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