



Y-FOUNDATION

**Experience from Finland on  
developing Housing first**

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# HF in Finland

- HF understood widely in Finland
  - 2 programs on long-term homelessness
  - 1 program on prevention
  - Currently being developed: HF 2.0
- HF training organised mainly by:
  - Housing First Development Network
  - Housing Advice Forum

# Starting points

- Adopting Housing First requires new professional orientation & a mind-shift
- Equal professionalism
  - > Dialogue starts from the need of a client
- Individually tailored services according to each person's needs
- Support work is done in a person's home
- Leadership! Permission to do things in a new way

-> Also staff needs support and opportunities to learn from each other!

# New skills are needed

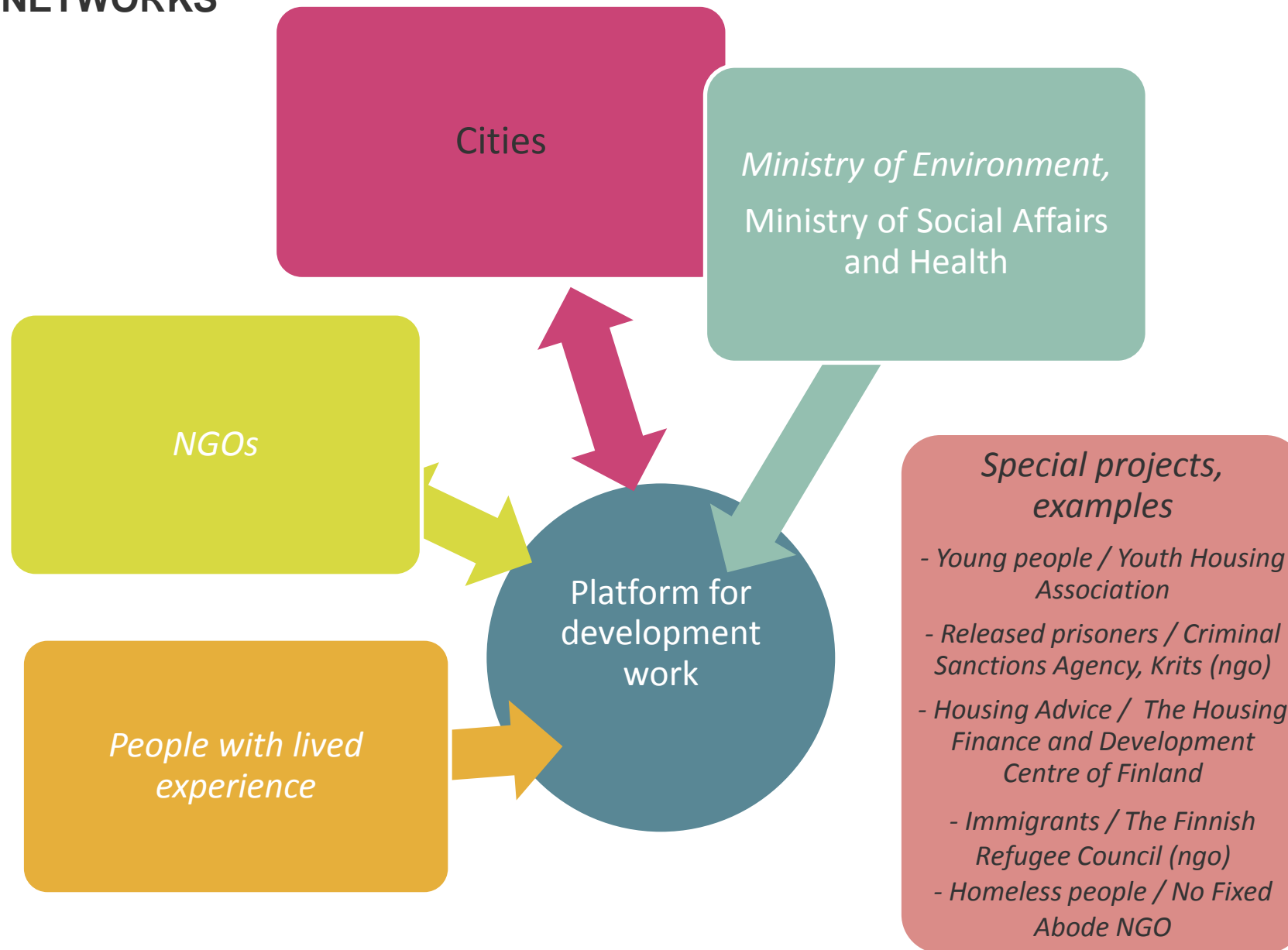
- Law on renting and tenant rights
  - <- a new thing for social and health workers
- Working in multiprofessional teams
- New training needs arise when tenants settle in; how to deal with trauma, how to develop meaningful activities

# Project Networking for Development 2013-2019 2020 -> Housing First Development Network

## GOALS

- To offer a platform for development work in the national program on Housing First
- To clarify the meaning of Housing First principle and to mainstream it in homeless services in cooperation with NGOs and cities  
and
- To strengthen the role of NGOs in developing services for homeless people

## NETWORKS



# In practice:



## Sharing information:

- what happens in homeless services in Finland
- evaluation and research
- best practice: don't reinvent the wheel!



**Training and opportunities for participation in development work (pilots) -National / Regional / Local**



**Tools for evaluation and follow-up work**



**Consultations, project visits**



**International networks**

# Training spearheads

- Most participants work in HF and the needs arise from their work. **Training cannot be contradictory to HF principles.**
- Popular topics run non-stop (e.g. legal issues)
- Training is topical, reflects the needs from the field.
- Constant evaluation after each training session and gathering of ideas and needs. Topics based on the feedback & need



- Always enough time for sharing
- Open to everyone, free of charge, Skype participation available
- Expertise from the networks (many levels: researchers, people with lived experience, frontline workers etc.) , sometimes external trainers,
- Utilising Train the trainer Finnish Edition

# Next step - Training Modules: Legal Issues

Topic	Content
<b>Act of Residential Leases</b>	Content of the Act Rights and responsibilities of the landlord Rights and responsibilities of the resident (including guests) Rental contract: Content of the contract Duration of the contract Relationship with other contracts (e.g. benefits) Terminating the contract secondary leasing
<b>Secondary lease apartment and housing company</b>	Main characteristics of the housing company in terms of renting and support Roles of the owner and the landlord share of responsibilities Renovation of the apartment Disturbances (warnings etc) Control of the key Other payments (water, sauna, parking)

# Legal issues cont.

<b>Contracts of co-operation</b>	Rental activities Organising the support for the housing Monitoring rent payments Practicalities and successful cooperation Evaluation and follow ups A model to provide an alternative model of housing if necessary and housing in crisis
<b>Personal data act, confidentiality and domestic peace</b>	Registers and information gathering Exchange of the necessary information Co-operation with actors in housing (caretakers, board members, neighbours)
<b>Safety in Housing</b>	fire safety risk assessment (fire loads, DIY, electricity and plumbing)

# Other themes

- Reaching and housing the most disadvantaged homeless
- Support received at home
- Participation of people with lived experience in planning and implementation of services
- Neighborhood work
- Community aspect in housing services
- Safety
- Promoting health in services for the homeless
- Securing housing of ex-offenders
- Etc. Etc.

# What next?

- HF 2.0
- Train the trainer Finnish edition
- Training groups for Housing unit frontline workers
- Coaching groups for Housing unit managers





7 Båle st.  
via Kronhagen

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