Housing First in Europe

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Housing First Europe Hub

- A development network of 30 organisations, founded in 2016 by Y-Foundation and FEANTSA

- Training, research, advocacy, Housing First practices

- Activities are financed by Partners and Associates

- Two coordinators: in Y-Foundation and in FEANTSA in Brussels

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https://housingfirsteurope.eu/

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Core principles of HF in the Guide

- 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-centred planning

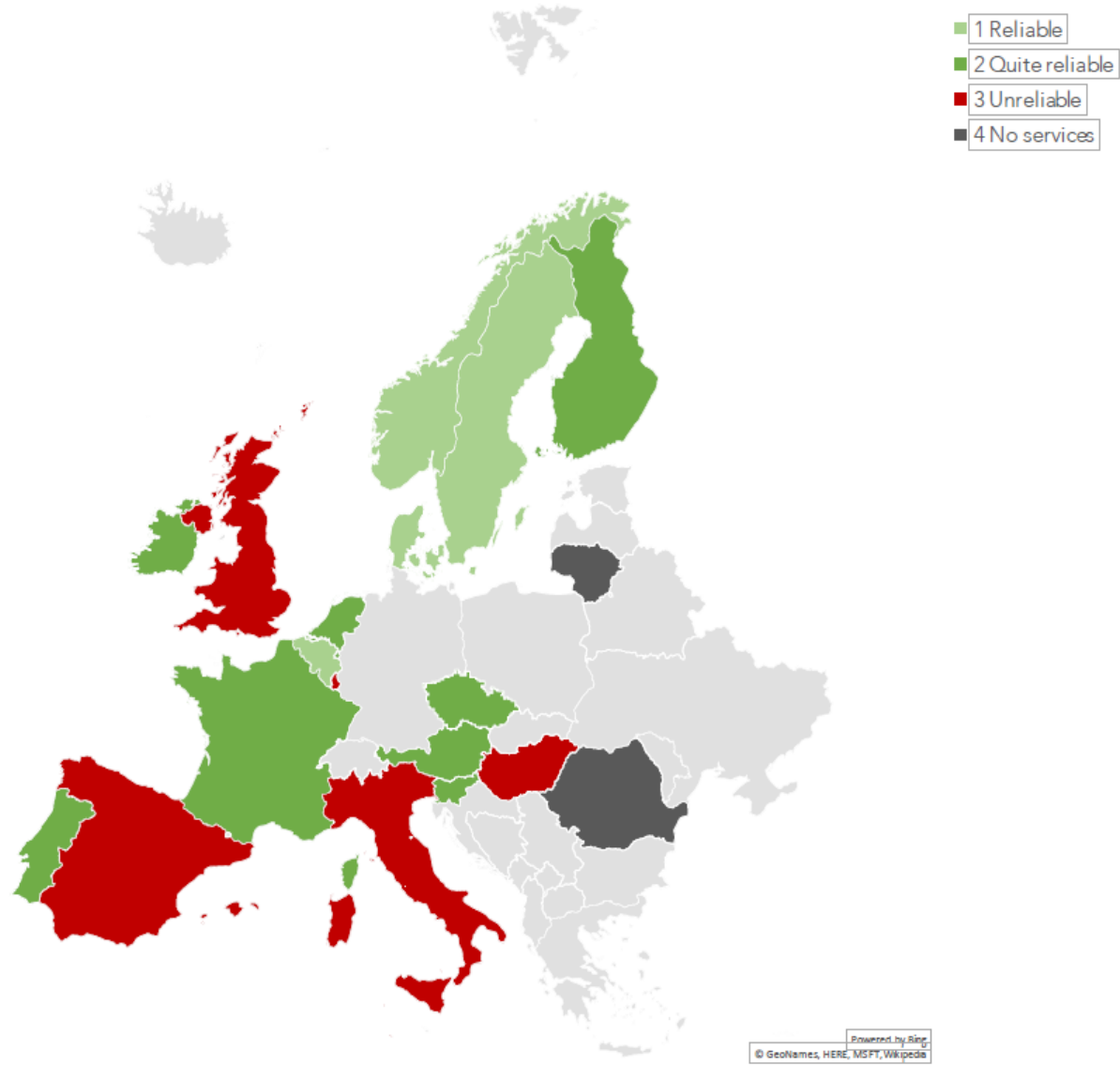- Flexible support for as long as is required

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HF in Europe, an overview

- Variation in the definition and implementation of Housing First even within different countries (HF for Youth, HF for families)
- Targeted for homeless populations with high and complex needs
  - Finland: long-term homeless
  - France, Portugal: homeless people with mental health problems
- The needs of homeless populations vary
- Also welfare services and housing systems vary a lot in different European countries.

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Housing First – role as a response to homelessness

- Finland: **the main** response in the Goverment Programme 2008->
- Denmark: **part** of a national strategy since 2007

- Ireland: Housing First National Implementation Plan in 2018
- Scotland and France: becoming more and more a part of homeless strategy
- Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria: part of a strategic response

- Portugal, Sweden, Germany: **regional or local** programs

- Italy: the Housing First Italy network is leading the development

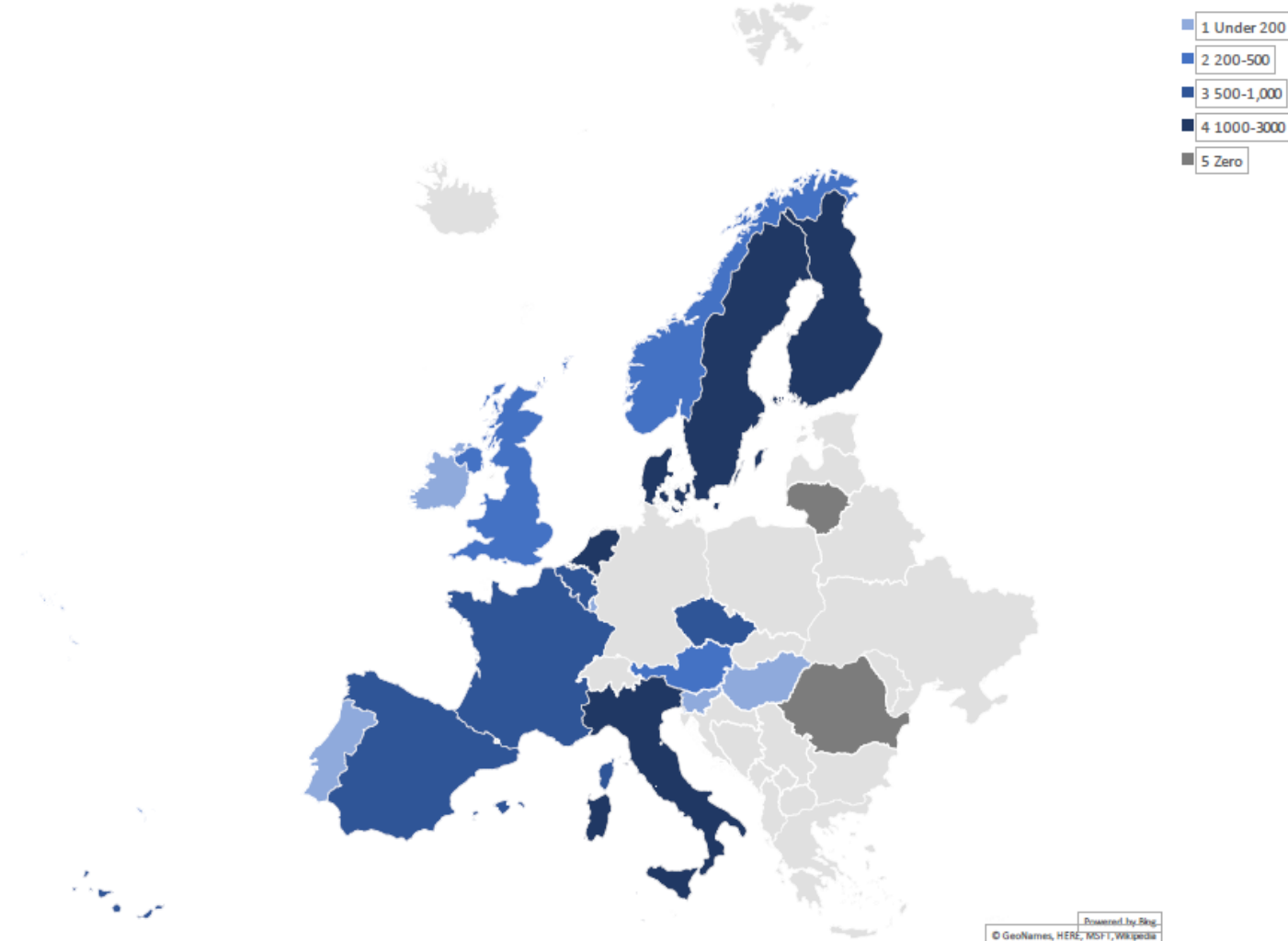- Several countries: pilot projects or trials for a limited time and small number of clients (ESF).

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Level of reliability of funding for HF

Legend:
- 1 Reliable
- 2 Quite reliable
- 3 Unreliable
- 4 No services

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Scope

Estimate of places in HF in Europe:

Legend:
- 1 Under 200
- 2 200-500
- 3 500-1,000
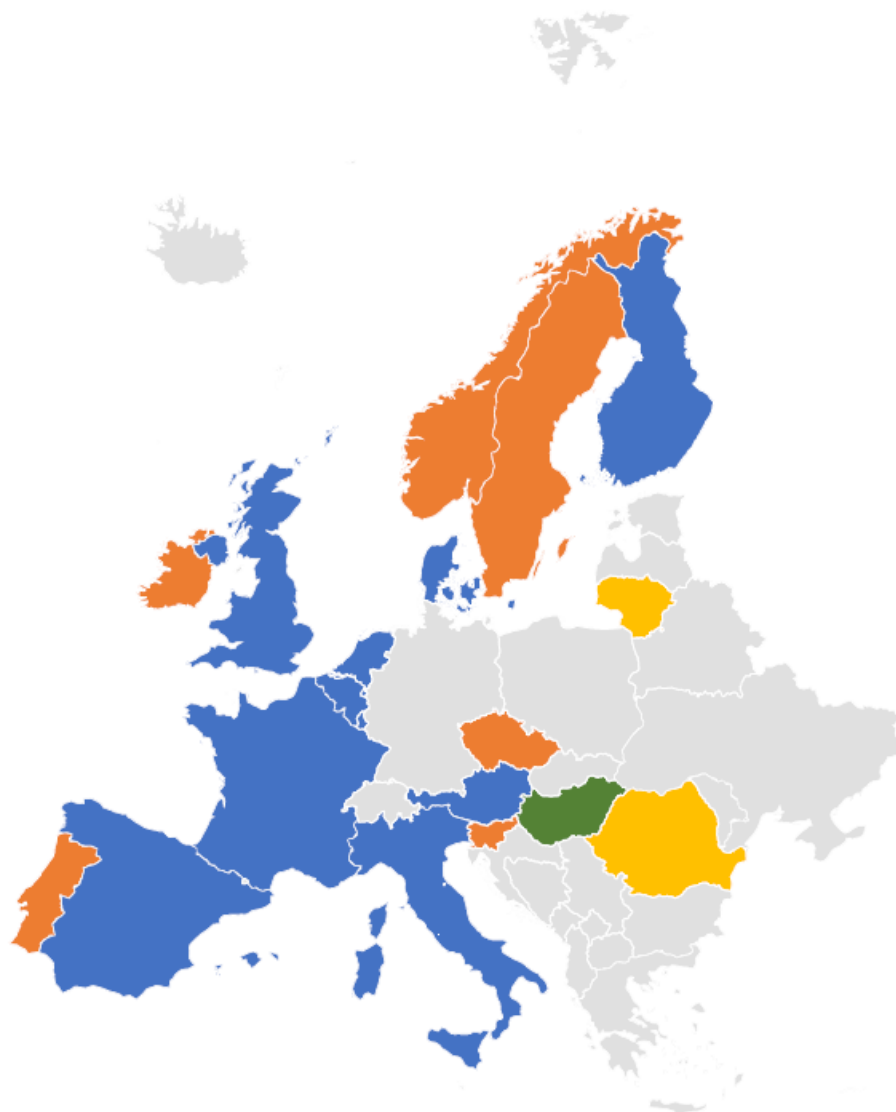- 4 1000-3000
- 5 Zero

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Types of support in HF

- **ACT - Assertive Community Treatment**

    = multiprofessional teams

- **ICM – Intensive Case Management**

    = case managers, use of the general welfare system

- **CTI – Critical Time Intervention**

    = support for a limited period of time

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Types of support offered:

Legend:
- ACT/ICM
- ICM only
- Other
- No services

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Housing in HF

- Most housing is scattered housing; in Finland, Italy and Hungary also other types are used

- In some countries mostly private rental housing (UK, Spain) in others social housing (Denmark, Finland)

- Finding affordable, adequate housing with good security of tenure is a challenge almost everywhere!

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Outcomes

- The only reliable data is about housing sustainment:

  Number of people housed at one year (Housinf First in Europe report):

Belgium	93%
Denmark	80-90%
Finland	82%
France	80-85%
Ireland	85%
Portugal	80%

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Other outcomes

- Very limited and inconsistent data

    - Cost effectiveness

    - Addictions

    - Mental health

    - Social integration

- More research is needed!

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Challenges

- Affordable housing?

- Reliability of funding: sustainability – what happens when the pilot project ends?

- Welfare services available? Level of benefits?

- Too ambitious targets:

    - Short trials with limited resources

    - HF is not necessarily a quick fix for the tenants

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Strengths

- HF is effective in ending homelessness of vulnerable people
- A lot of interest in HF all over Europe
- The approach as such allows room to develop work beyond bureaucratic practices
- People with lived experience of homelessness and volunteers are a resource in support work
- More and more cooperation:
    - Working and learning together
    - National networks to share information and experience

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Dziękuję bardzo!