

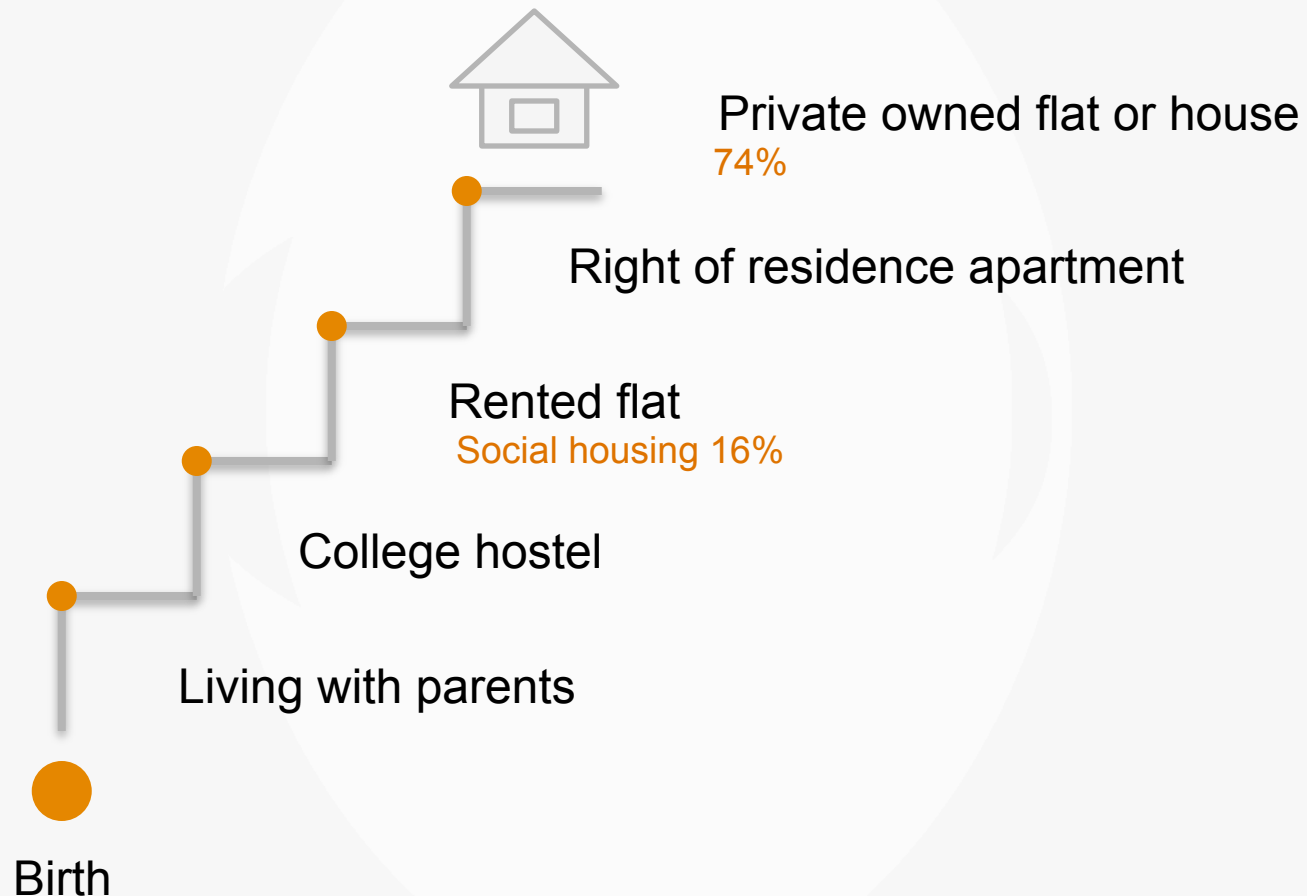


# COMPARING HOUSING FIRST BETWEEN HELSINKI AND NEW YORK

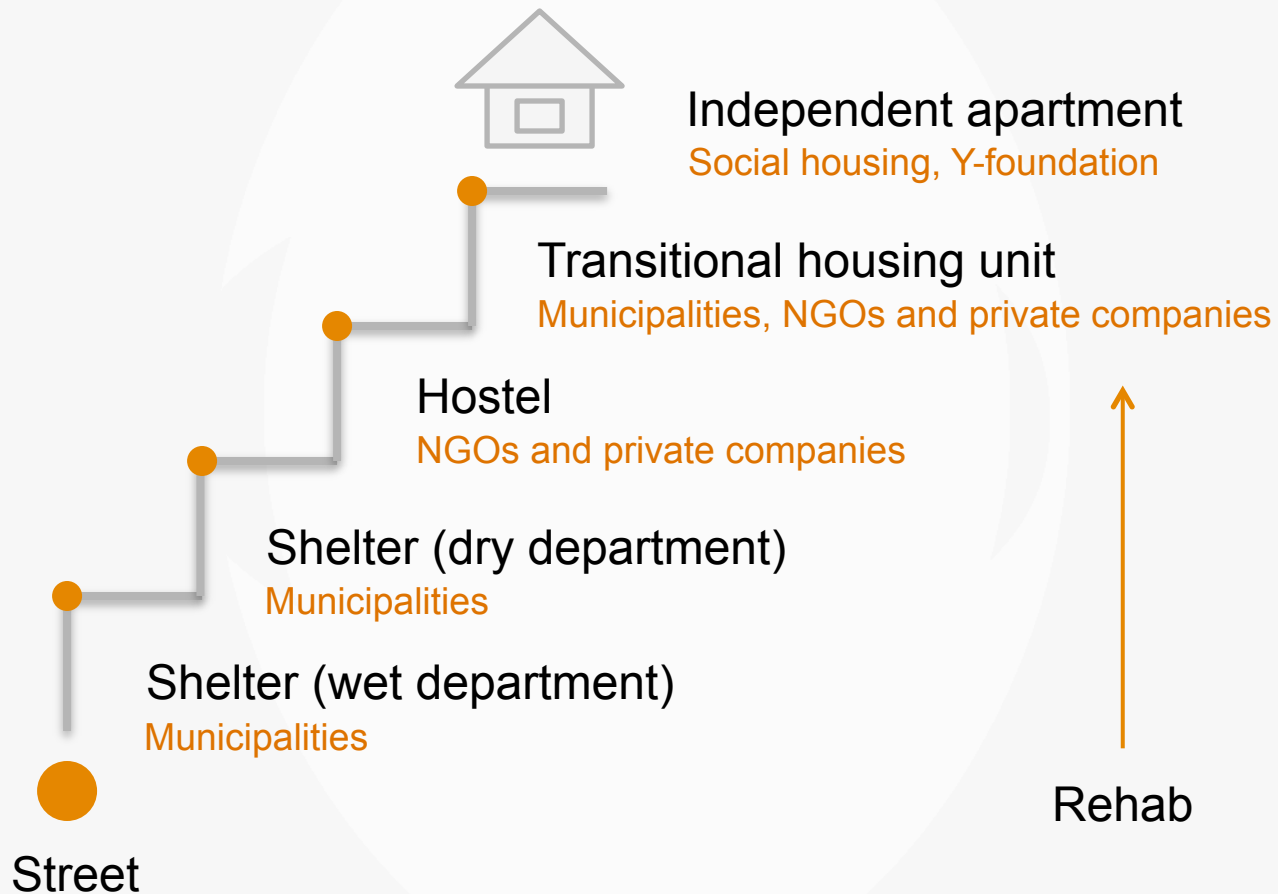
# STUDY METHODS AND DATA

- Comparative study between New York and Helsinki, between original model (PHF) and it's implementations (CHF)
- DATA: Observations, interviews and public documents
- 4 year follow-up study in Helsinki
- 4 month visit in New York
- Institutionalization as a object of examination
  
- Broad question: When a new innovative service model (Housing First) is imported from behind the Atlantic Ocean, how is the implemented model mirroring the original model?

# HOUSING MARKET IN FINLAND



# STAIRCASE MODEL IN FINLAND



# HOUSING FIRST MODEL IN FINLAND



# EXAMPLE OF FINNISH CHF UNIT

Single site HF-unit for 29 LTH men, long term rental agreements, single or double rooms with kitchen, 24/7 housing support, harm reduction, maintained by NGOs, funded by the government and City of Helsinki

Consumer Choice	Tenants was picked up from the shelters and from the streets by the staff, no evaluation of housing readiness
Separation of Housing and Services	Long term rental agreements, 24/7 on site housing support, no obligations for a change of a life style (harm reduction), on site medical care
Recovery Oriented Services	Support and opportunities are provided as needed and wished by the tenants
Community Integration	Homogenous community

# SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCIES

<b>PHF (New York)</b>	<b>CHF (Helsinki)</b>
Scattered housing	Segregated housing units
Mainly private sector apartments	Mainly third sector institutions
Home	Homelike
Separation of housing and services	24/7 on site support
Community integration	Homogenous community
Autonomy	Patronization
Cost effective	Not very much so
Small scale solution	Big scale solution
Neighbourhood effects	Stigmatization, NIMBY
Cures homelessness	Cures rooflessness
Permanent solution (if it works)	Another intermediate step (but permanent)

# SOME PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

- There is only little left in transition from PHF to CHF
- PHF and CHF are aimed for different target group?
- Harm reduction orientation in segregated buildings improves tolerance = less evictions = housing stability is at good level
- In-house support services reduces the people's autonomy – client's are objects of patronization
- HF in Finland is not a paradigm change, it's just a new step in staircase system
- Is there a real difference between institutional care and supported housing units? Many tenants don't think so.



# FEW MORE REMARKS / QUESTIONS

- Good housing stability means low turnover of tenants, there is endless need for new supported housing units in larger cities
- In some cases, harm reduction orientation leaves clients with no substance abuse problem without feasible choices
- Reduction of shelter places, more rough sleepers?
- Concentrating resources on long term homeless people rises a question of social equality, how about homelessness of working poor, senior citizens, young students etc.?
- Lack of shelters creates new business opportunities for providing extremely expensive temporary housing services
- How will the new homeless services integrate a growing amount of immigrants, especially illegal ones?

# FRAMED BY INSTITUTION THEORIES

- Path dependency prevents implementing innovations
- Same decision makers in charge for over 20 years
- Small market, only few established service providers
- Long and tight connections between government and SP's
- Tailored and targeted government funding, lack of real competition
- Lack of small and affordable studio apartments
- Financial capital of service providers is bound to buildings
- Established professions and resistance to change
- The ethos of welfare state and licence to patronize

# NEAR FUTURE CHALLENGES IN FINLAND

- Because of government program, no shelters in biggest cities
- Third sector resources are tied to renovated CHF units
- Because of increased amount of immigration, the situation is rapidly changing and getting worse
- Growing amount of illegal immigrants. The estimated number for 2017, approximately 5000-6000 illegal immigrants will stay in Finland. If the estimate realizes, the amount of homeless people doubles in next two years
- The Finnish parliamentary commissioner has given prejudgement (18.9.2017), everyone is entitled to shelter = someone needs to rebuild the shelters
- Immigration detention centre = a new shelter?



**THANK YOU!**

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