


18th SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

16h00 – 17h30	SEMINAR SESSION 1 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars
<p>Seminar 2: Housing First I (Room: X) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE</p> <p>Elisabetta Leni, FI: Examining Housing Trajectories and Service Use Patterns Among Homeless Individuals in Finland: The Impact of Housing First Interventions</p> <p>This study analyzes the housing histories and service use patterns of approximately 1,000 homeless individuals in Finland, focusing on the impact of Housing First interventions. The analysis uses a dataset constructed by linking multiple administrative registers covering the period 2016-2021. The dataset includes individual-level information on primary and secondary healthcare, social security, social services, as well as residential history, demographics, household composition, and mental health diagnoses.</p> <p>The primary objective is to examine housing trajectories and the use of social and health services before and after Housing First placement, taking into account individual risk factors and specific support needs. To assess the impact of Housing First, we compare two groups of individuals who experienced homelessness in 2018-2019: a target group consisting of those who immediately received Housing First support, and a comparison group consisting of individuals who remained homeless for over a year before being placed in housing. Using a quasi-experimental design, we estimate changes in service use by comparing the two years prior to Housing First placement (or waiting list placement) and the two years after placement. In addition, we apply sequence analysis to examine housing trajectories over the four-year period and identify common pathways into and out of homelessness. This will help uncover key factors that influence both the onset of homelessness and successful transitions to stable housing. Preliminary findings will highlight shifts in housing trajectories and changes in service use, particularly in emergency care, hospitalizations, and social services following Housing First placement. These findings contribute to the understanding of how Housing First influences service use and offer potential avenues for improving the homelessness response system. This study also serves as a foundation for future cost-offset evaluations.</p> <div>  <p><i>Elisabetta Leni is a researcher at the Y-Foundation, Finland. After working several years in the non-profit sector in Italy, she obtained a PhD in Economics at the University of Essex, UK. The current focus of her research is on homelessness and social housing.</i></p> </div> <p>Sarah Johnsen, UK: Gaining and Preserving Pioneer Status: Key Lessons from the Housing First Pathfinder Programme in Scotland</p> <p>Scotland has been heralded as an international pioneer in Housing First implementation given the level of political commitment the approach has commanded and pace at which the intervention has scaled up in recent years. This status was catalysed by a major three-year 'Pathfinder' programme which scaled up Housing First provision in five areas (Aberdeen/shire, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Stirling) and housed 579 people experiencing homelessness with so-called 'complex needs' (e.g., co-occurring problematic substance use and/or mental health problems). The Pathfinder served as a litmus test regarding the opportunities and challenges associated with scaling up Housing First at pace.</p> <p>This paper distils nine key lessons emerging from an independent evaluation of the Pathfinder which comprised interviews and focus groups involving more than 200 participants over the programme's duration, as well as analysis of monitoring data, and project-level financial returns. These lessons illuminate the Pathfinder's achievements and</p>	

limitations, together with factors facilitating and inhibiting Housing First mobilisation and mainstreaming at local and national scales. These will inform future delivery as Housing First increasingly becomes the default response for individuals with complex needs as per recent Scottish Government policy directives. At least some, if not all, are likely to resonate in other countries aiming to embed and/or expand Housing First provision.



*Professor **Sarah Johnsen** is Director of the Centre for Homelessness and Inclusion Health at the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom. She has been involved in research on homelessness and related forms of 'street culture' (e.g. begging and street drinking) for more than 20 years. Much of Sarah's most recent work has focused on the experiences of and policy responses for people experiencing homelessness who are concomitantly affected by substance use, poor mental health, and/or other associated forms of disadvantage.*