18th SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

16h00 – 17h30	SEMINAR SESSION 1 - Participants will be asked to select one of these 6 parallel seminars

Seminar 3: Housing Programs I (Room: X) - Chair: **Maša Filipovič Hrast, SI**

Maarten Davelaar, Aly Gruppen, Dieke van Ewijk, NL: Supporting the Individual and the Community: Connecting People with Experience in Homelessness and Their Neighbours in Mixed Housing Projects

Mixed housing projects in the Netherlands are home to both socially excluded citizens and 'regular' tenants. Currently, approximately 90 of those projects provide independent living for former homeless people. Mixed housing, occasionally also called community living, refers to social housing projects (apartment buildings or small neighbourhoods) with mostly 30 to 150 residents. Other common characteristics are self-contained apartments, close cooperation between housing organisations and homeless services, the proximity of individual and community support, communal spaces and a focus on fostering friendly interactions (being good neighbours) between the tenants. This fast-growing field in the Netherlands can be labelled as a Housing First, or in some cases housing-led, approach combined with a community component. Recently (2021-2024) we conducted action and evaluative research on seven housing projects in the Utrecht agglomeration with on average 30% of all residents previously experiencing homelessness. This research, involving residents, practitioners, managers and policy makers, confirmed the outcomes of earlier research: most projects succeed in creating a supportive living environment, thus contributing to the social inclusion of former homeless persons. Yet, the new findings also underline the continuing challenges that homeless care providers and their staff face in trying to unlock for their clients the potential benefits of living in social mix housing projects. In order to strengthen a sense of community in these heterogeneous housing communities, individual support workers must encourage neighbourly contact. Beside this, they must help residents tackle misunderstandings, tensions and differences in expectations, address (self)stigma and help the broader community discover its assets. Many support workers struggle with the new tasks, roles and required skills that come with the shift from individual guidance to supporting the individual in the community. For homelessness services it also requires new ways of funding, accountability and cooperation with housing and community development professionals and organisations.

Maarten Davelaar is a senior-researcher at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, research group Housing and Wellbeing. His focus includes housing, homelessness, community development and homemaking. He writes a dissertation on mixed housing at the University of Amsterdam.

Aly Gruppen is a Social Work lecturer and senior-researcher on Housing and Wellbeing at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht. She is an expert on the role of practitioners in mixed housing projects.

■ **European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL**
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Dieke van Ewijk *is researcher at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht and holds a MSc in Urbanism (Delft University of Technology) and a MSW in Community Development. Her fields of interest include the impact of the built environment on social interaction, community building and innovative housing concepts.*

Henrique Joaquim, Pedro Martins, Fábio Simão, PT: Evaluating the Impact of "Shared Apartments" as an innovative Housing Response for Homelessness People in Portugal

This study assesses the impact of the "Shared Apartments" housing response within the framework of Portugal's National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People (ENIPSSA). This is a Housing-based intervention, for 2 to 5 people, with psychosocial support through a person-centered approach.

This project conducted with data from the Algarve region refers to the period between 2021-2025, involving a total of 388 homeless individuals, of whom 224 are part of the treatment group. The analysis measures the program's effectiveness in promoting social reintegration and long-term autonomy.
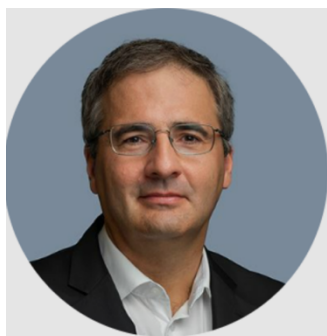
The evaluation employs a quasi-experimental design, using Propensity Score Matching and duration methods, to compare outcomes between participants who accessed "Shared Apartments" and eligible individuals who did not due to limited "Shared Apartments" availability. The key impact indicators analyzed include the probability of overcoming homelessness, the sustainability of housing retention after six months and after one year, and improvements in employment and income levels. Furthermore, the study examines secondary the impact of indicators such as mental health addictive behaviors and social integration, which are critical factors for a successful and lasting reintegration. Preliminary findings appear to indicate a positive, counterfactual effect of the intervention on exits from homelessness and maintaining stable housing. In this context, "Shared Apartments" may offer a more cost-effective solution that fosters social interaction and peer support, albeit with potential challenges related to privacy and compatibility among residents.

These preliminary findings may underscore the importance of sustained social support, personalized intervention plans, and cross-sector collaboration to enhance program scalability and long-term success. The insights gained and the evaluation methodology provide a foundation for replicating and adapting the "Shared Apartments" model and its evaluation across different regions of Portugal and perhaps internationally, contributing to evidence-based policy development in the field of homelessness trough a housing-led approach. Continued data collection and follow-up will refine these findings, supporting continuous improvement and strategic decision-making.

Henrique Joaquim *– Social Worker, Social Work PhD (Universidade Católica Portuguesa), National Coordinator of the National Strategy for Homeless People, Portugal - training in Impact Assessment of Public Policies – Un. Nova SBE; and training at the "Insead Social Entrepreneurship Programme" (INSEAD) – Instituto de Empreendedorismo Social.*

Pedro Martins is full Professor at Nova School of Business and Economics. Director, Economics for Policy Knowledge Center. PhD in economics from the University of Warwick (2005). Lecturer and Professor at Queen Mary University of London (2004-21). Secretary of State for Employment in the Government of Portugal (2011-13): responsible for reforms in employment protection legislation, active labour market policies, the public employment service, and tripartite dialogue. Member of the group of experts advising the Government of Greece and the European Commission on labour market reforms (2016). Current research: collective bargaining, training, and employment services. Scientific Director, Economics for Policy Knowledge Center, Nova SBE (https://economicsforpolicy.novasbe.pt/) and Co-Director, Executive Leadership in Public Administration.

Fábio Simão – Lawyer, Executive Director of MAPS the NGO responsible for implementing this intervention, Portugal.