
Editorial

With this edition of the European Journal of Homelessness, we mark the 10th anniversary of the journal. The first edition was published in December 2007 and the editorial team are delighted that we have reached this milestone, and wish to thank the contributors, reviewers and readers for supporting the journal. To mark this anniversary, in addition to our usual two editions of the journal, we will also publish a special edition reflecting on research on homelessness in Europe over the past decade from a range of perspectives, and this will be published later in the year.

In this edition of the journal, the ongoing flourishing of Housing First projects in EU member states is reflected in articles from Spain and Italy. Documenting and evaluating specific Housing First projects, the articles contribute a perspective from Southern Europe to the now substantial research literature that demonstrate the success of this approach to housing homeless people. Access to secure housing and ongoing affordability and support are central to the Housing First approach. The central role that housing affordability plays in ending homelessness is outlined by Beth Shinn and colleagues in their contribution to the journal based on the keynote presentation at the European Homelessness Research Conference held in Dublin in September 2015. Their paper provides clear evidence that permanent housing subsidies, which allowed families to pay market rents but ensure that they spend only 30 percent of their income on rent with the subsidy paying the balance, were most successful at ending homelessness and promoting housing stability, rather than project based transitional housing or temporary 'rapid re-housing.' The authors also found that permanent housing subsidies had further positive impacts on family preservation and adult and child well-being. The authors conclude that homelessness among families in the United States is centrally a problem of housing affordability.

Evaluating the outcomes of the various practices that aim to end homelessness is crucial. Indeed, the diffusion of interventions such as Housing First is largely built on the compelling research evidence of the efficacy of this approach. However, how interventions that aim to end homelessness are measured and the appropriateness of the measurement tools should also be the subject of critical scrutiny. Guy Johnson and Nicholas Place apply such critical scrutiny to a very popular measurement tool in homelessness services, the Homeless Outcome Star. They argue that the theoretical assumption underpinning the tool, that homelessness is largely a matter of personal pathology is not supported by research evidence, and methodo-

logical issues in relation to the quality, meaning and comparability of the data collected, suggest that considerable caution should be exercised with its use. Methodological issues are also the subject of the research paper by Van Straaten and colleagues. They discuss in detail the methodology deployed in an observational, longitudinal multi-site cohort study which followed over 500 homeless people for a period of 2 and a half years in the Netherlands. The view that homelessness is a consequence of individual deviance is explored in the contribution by Smidova and Vavra by analyzing public attitudes to homelessness in the Czech Republic. Collectively the papers in this edition of the European Journal of Homelessness contribute to enhancing our understanding of what works to end homelessness and the importance of having robust methodological tools to evaluate the range of interventions that are deployed in homelessness services across the European Union.