

# Understanding the Experiences of Homeless People: A Study of Housing First & Continuum of Care Services in Europe

Rachel M. Manning  
Ronni M. Greenwood  
Branagh R. O'Shaughnessy

University of Limerick, Ireland



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH



# Overview

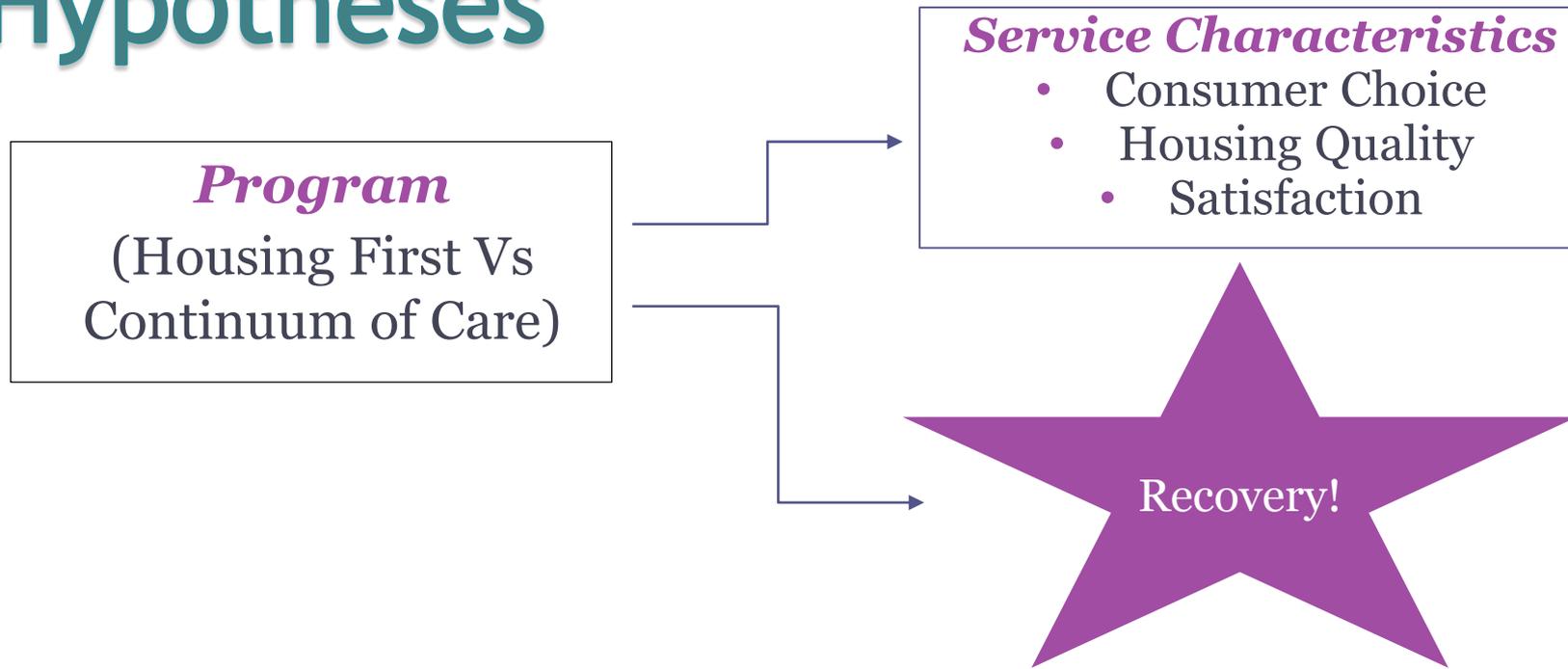
## Our Research:

- As part of H2020 “Homelessness as Unfairness” Home-EU project, we seek to understand how homeless services can most effectively promote recovery among service users.
  - Particularly interested in Housing First vs. Continuum of Care services.

## Why?

- “It won’t work here”;
- “We’re already doing it”;
- “We’re *sort of* doing it”;
- “there’s no difference between the models”;

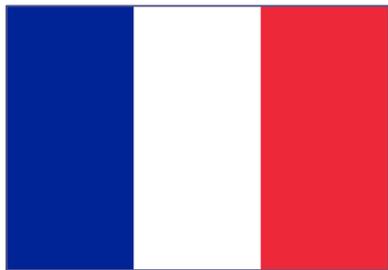
# Hypotheses



- Housing stability (Tsemberis & Eisenberg, 2000);
- Psychiatric symptoms (Greenwood, Schaefer-McDaniel, Tsemberis & Winkel, 2005);
- Community integration (Gulcur, 2007).

# Data collection

- Quantitative snapshot of the experiences of service users in either Continuum of Care or Housing First services (May – Sept 2018) across 8 EU countries:



# Participants $n = 573$

	Ppts (n = )		Age (in years)		Gender (Male)		Relationship (Single)	
	HF	OS	HF	OS	HF	OS	HF	OS
<b>France</b>	40	39	M = 41 (SD = 8)	M = 43 (SD = 12)	62.5%	82.1%	72.5%	84.6%
<b>Ireland</b>	38	45	M = 42 (SD = 2)	M = 40 (SD = 14)	76.3%	72.1%	47.4%	60.5%
<b>Italy</b>	38	46	M = 58 (SD = 10)	M = 54 (SD = 10)	84.2%	84.4%	42.1%	32%
<b>Poland</b>	-	45	-	M = 46 (SD = 16)	-	68.9%	-	57.8%
<b>Portugal</b>	41	36	M = 45 (SD = 12)	M = 49 (SD = 9)	78%	69.4%	87.8%	69.4%
<b>Spain</b>	34	35	M = 47 (SD = 10)	M = 49 (SD = 6)	76.5%	71.4%	52.9%	51.4%
<b>Sweden</b>	21	48	M = 54 (SD = 8)	M = 48 (SD = 12)	81%	83.3%	61.9%	57.4%
<b>The Netherlands</b>	32	35	M = 48 (SD = 9)	M = 47 (SD = 13)	65.6%	82.9%	71%	65.7%

# Choice

**Grand Mean** ( $M = 3.54$ ,  $SE = .04$ );

**Significant interaction** of Country & Group:  $F(6,399) = 40.89$   $p = .001$ ;

## Across countries:

- Significantly more choice in HF ( $1.09$ ,  $SE = .08$ ,  $p = .001$ ).

## Within countries:

- HF participants consistently reported more choice:



# Housing Quality

**Grand Mean** ( $M = 3.04$ ,  $SE = .03$ );

**Significant Interaction** of Country & Group:  $F(6,484) = 23.31$   $p = .001$ ;

**Across countries:**

- Overall, housing quality significantly higher in HF (.19,  $SE = .06$ ,  $p = .001$ ).

**Within countries:**

- Better housing quality in HF in all countries, except France & The Netherlands



# Satisfaction with Services

**Grand Mean** ( $M = 3.64$ ,  $SE = .05$ );

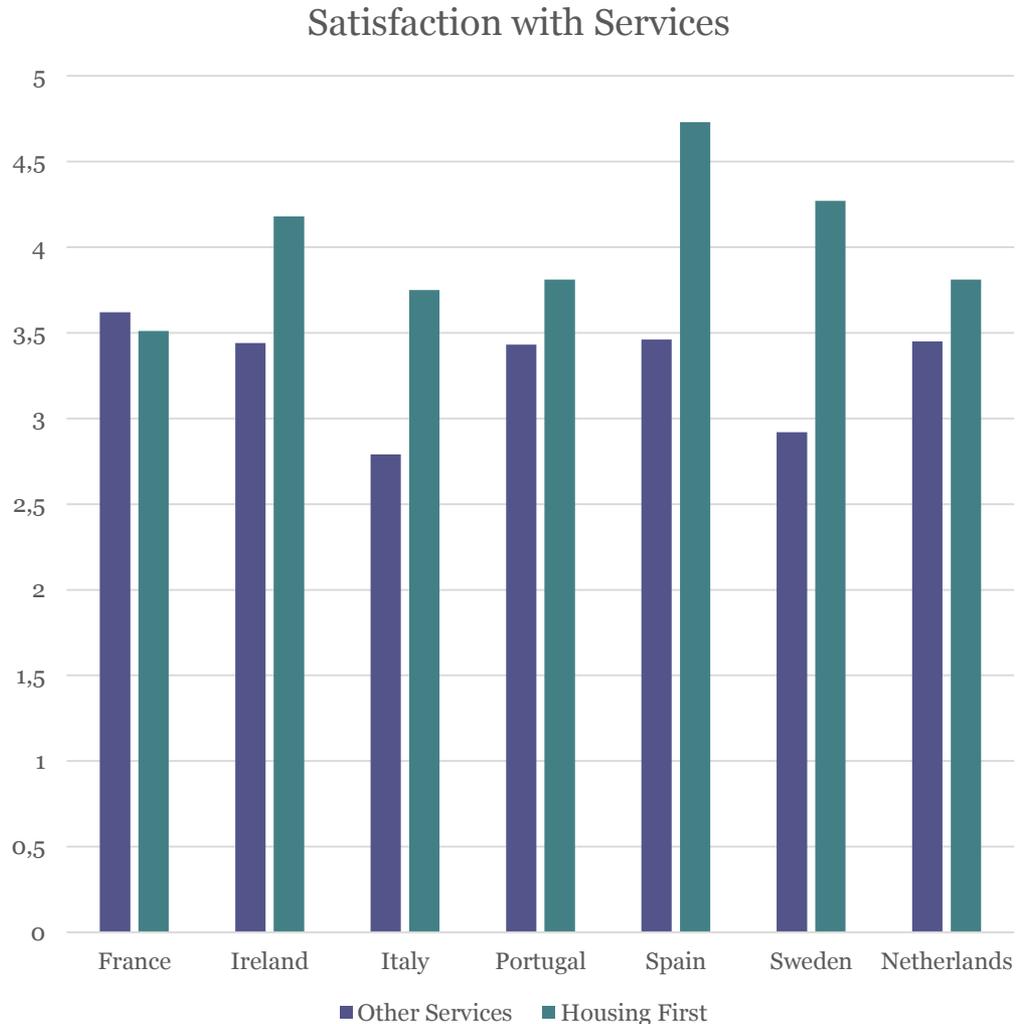
**Interaction Country & Group:**  $F(6,407) = 11.92$   $p = .001$ ;

## Across countries:

- Overall, satisfaction significantly higher in HF (.33,  $SE = .09$ ,  $p = .001$ ).

## Within countries:

- HF better housing quality in all countries, except France & The Netherlands:



# Residential Stability

**Grand Mean** ( $M = 38.52\%$ ,  $SE = 1.29$ );

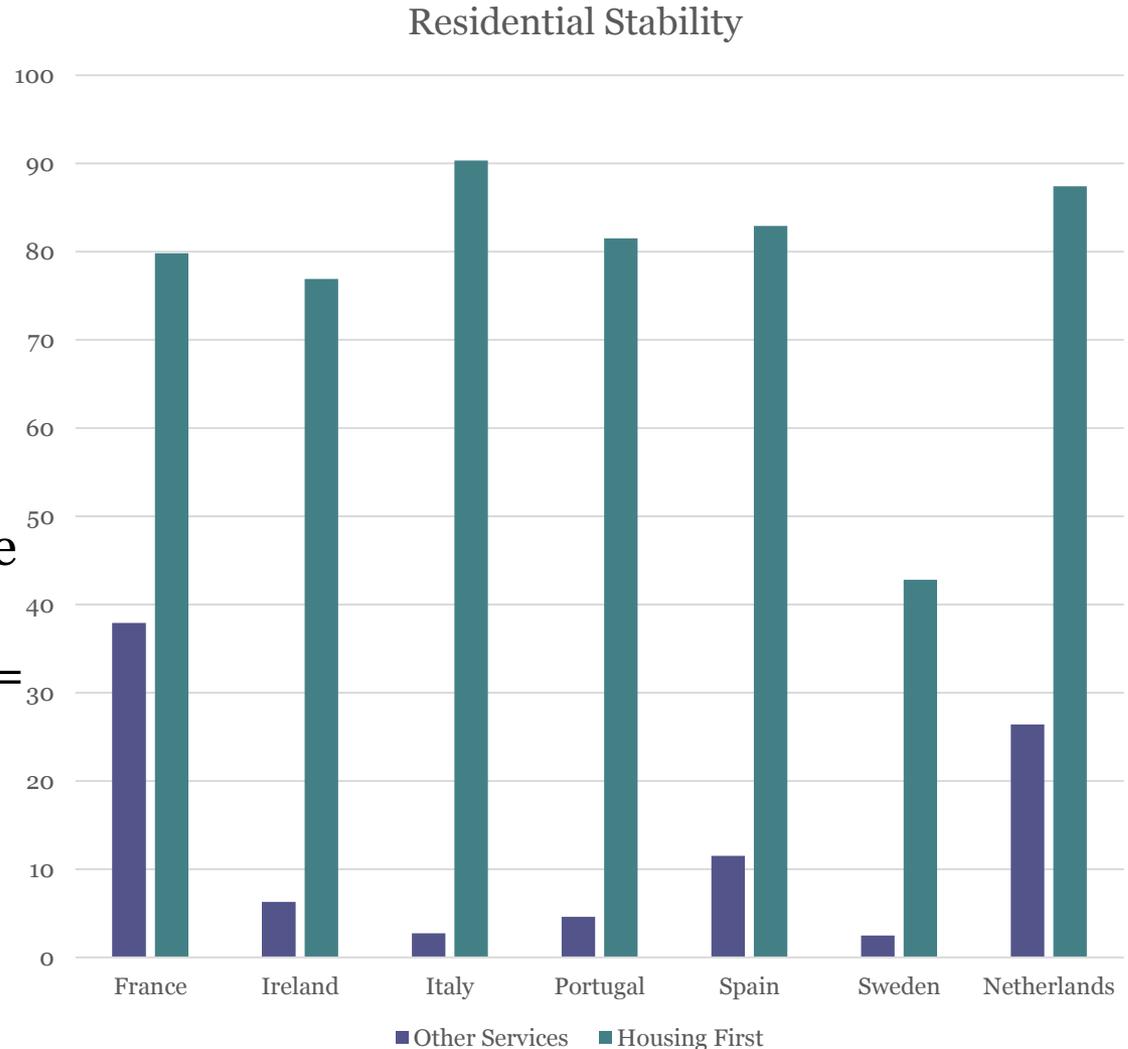
**Interaction Country & Group:**  $F(6,482) = 20.13$ ,  $p = .001$ ;

## Across countries:

- Overall, % time in private housing significantly higher in HF (54,03,  $SE = 2.56$ ,  $p = .001$ ).

## Within countries:

- HF more stable housing in all countries:



# Psychiatric Symptoms

**Grand Mean** ( $M = 1.95$ ,  $SE = .05$ );

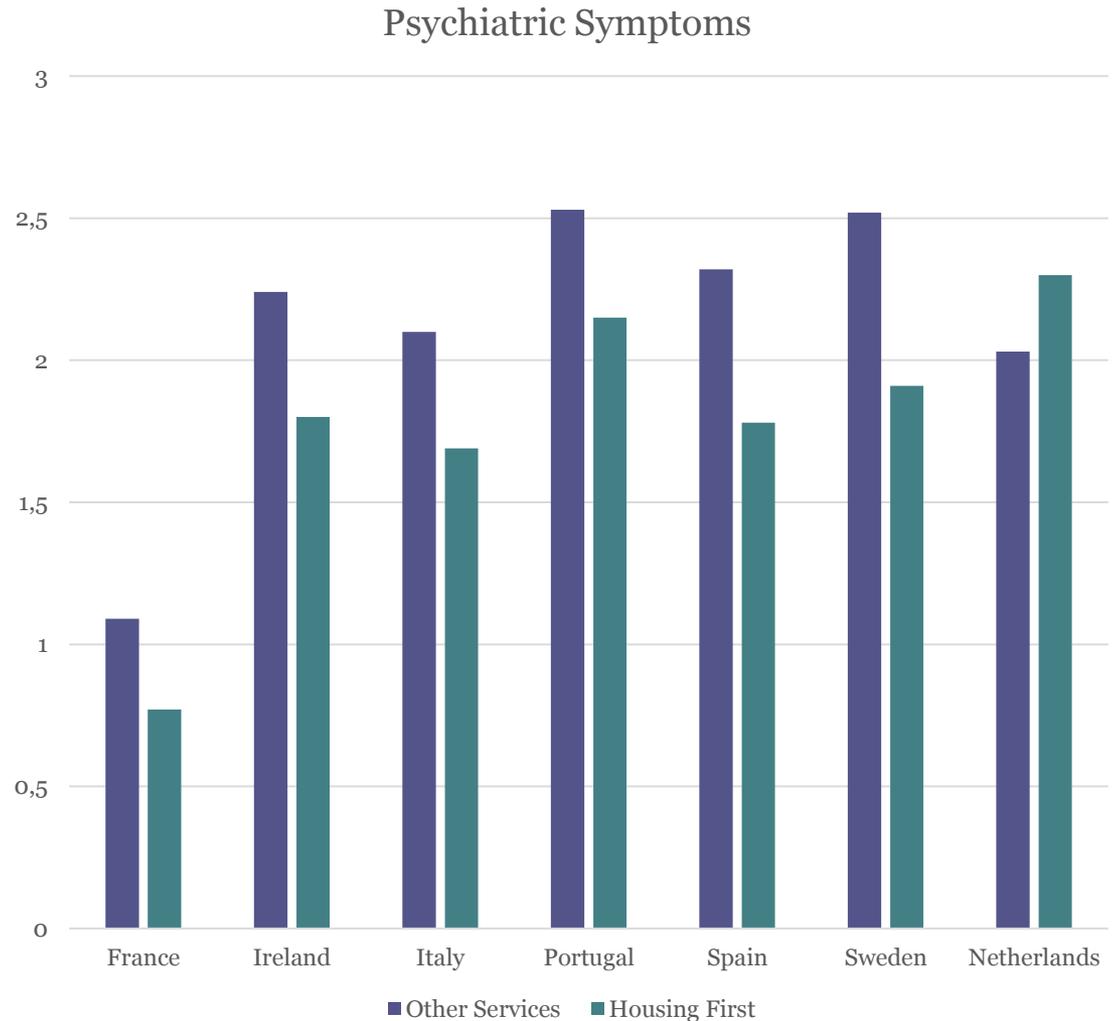
**Interaction Country & Group:**  $F(6,461) = 3.39$   $p = .01$ ;

## Across countries:

- Overall, fewer psychiatric symptoms in HF ( $-.19$ ,  $SE = .09$ ,  $p = .05$ ).

## Within countries:

- HF fewer psychiatric symptoms in Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Sweden. No differences in Spain, France or The Netherlands.



# Community Integration

**Grand Mean** ( $M = 3.75$ ,  $SE = .04$ );

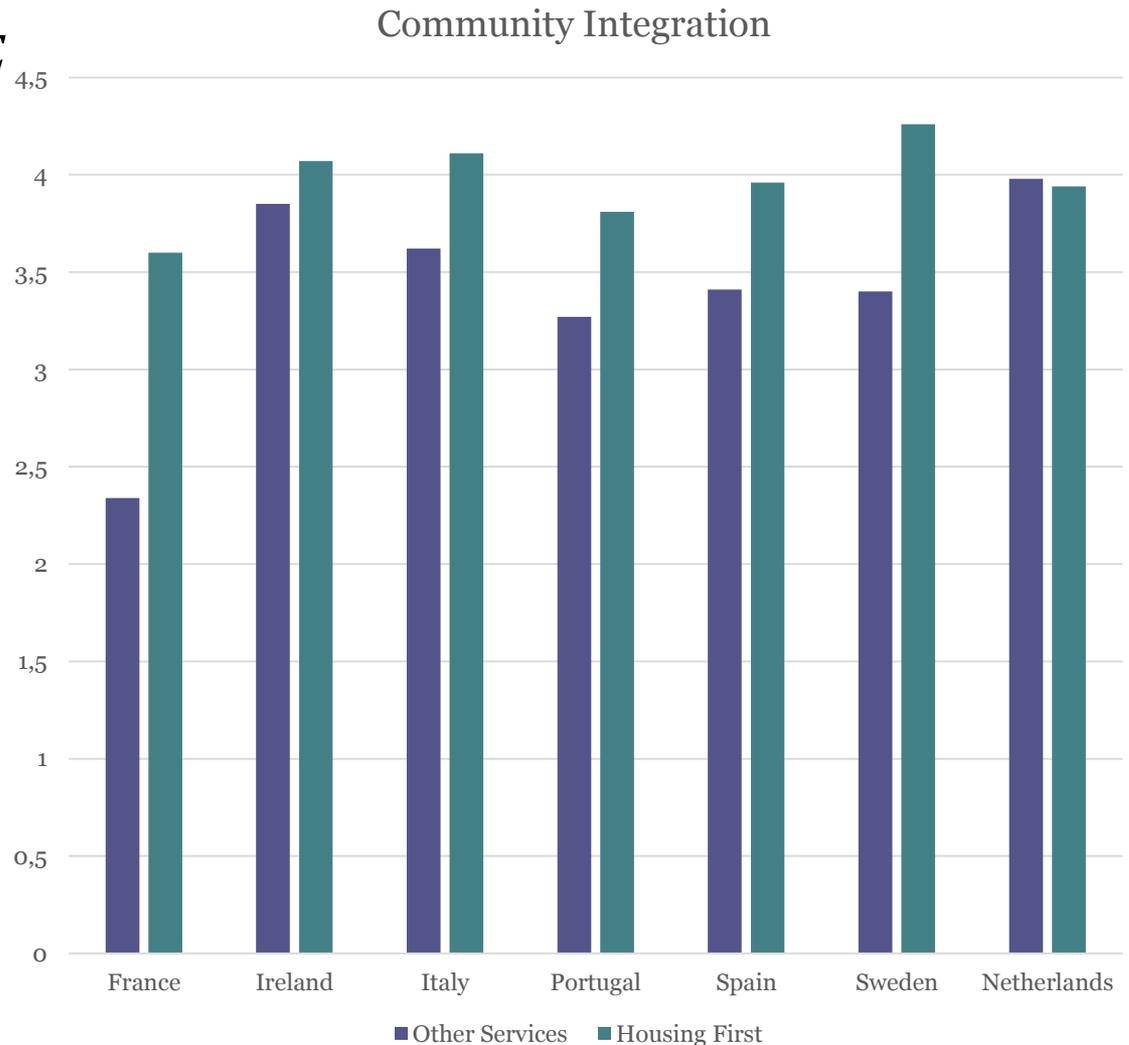
**Interaction Country & Group:**  $F(6,467) = 5.172$   $p = .001$ ;

**Across countries:**

- Overall, integration significantly higher in HF ( $.26$ ,  $SE = .07$ ,  $p = .001$ ).

**Within countries:**

- More integration in HF in Italy, Portugal, Spain, & Sweden. No differences France, Ireland or The Netherlands.



# Conclusions

*Snapshot of homeless services in Europe shows clear differences in service users':*

- Perceptions of services (choice, housing quality, satisfaction)
- Various recovery experiences (residential stability, mental health, community integration).

**i.e.** Housing First does 'work' in different contexts.

## ***Next Steps:***

- Understanding relationships between variables of interest;
- Survival Analysis;
- Linking findings to other ecological levels (e.g., WP2, WP4, & WP5 Home\_EU).



Thank you!