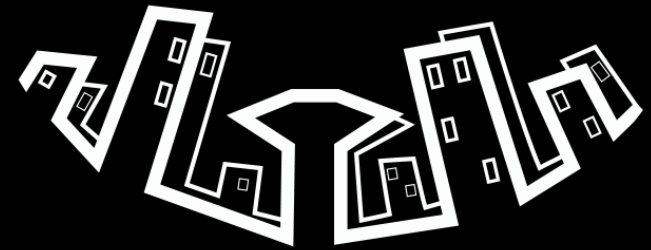




#asunnottomuus
#vvary

Vva ry



No Fixed Abode NGO
Vailla vakinaista asuntoa ry

"Housing is a basic human and social right, and its absence cannot be accepted under any circumstances."

NO FIXED ABODE WAS FOUNDED IN 1986 BY HOMELESS PEOPLE THEMSELVES

Not committed to any political parties' or religious communities' agenda.

Works together with people who are using services to find appropriate housing solutions for everyone.

Aims to reduce homelessness and improves the services of homeless people.

Influences Finnish housing policies together with other stakeholders.

Acts as a guardian of the interests of homeless people in the third sector.

Is a nationwide organization.

NO FIXED ABODE NGO

Organizational work

- Advocacy
- Networking
- International collaboration
- Communications
- Membership services
- Volunteering work
- Asukki magazine
- Campaigns and fundraising
- The Night of Homelessness event on 17th October

Low threshold services

- Vepa – Peers support and volunteering center
- Night Center Kalkkers
- Housing counselor
- Immigration services
- Floating support
- Yökiitäjä – An outreach team patrolling on the streets at night time
- Vartiosaari - Substance-free place for leisure and rest

Kokema Team

- Experts by experience as mentors and trainers

Joint projects

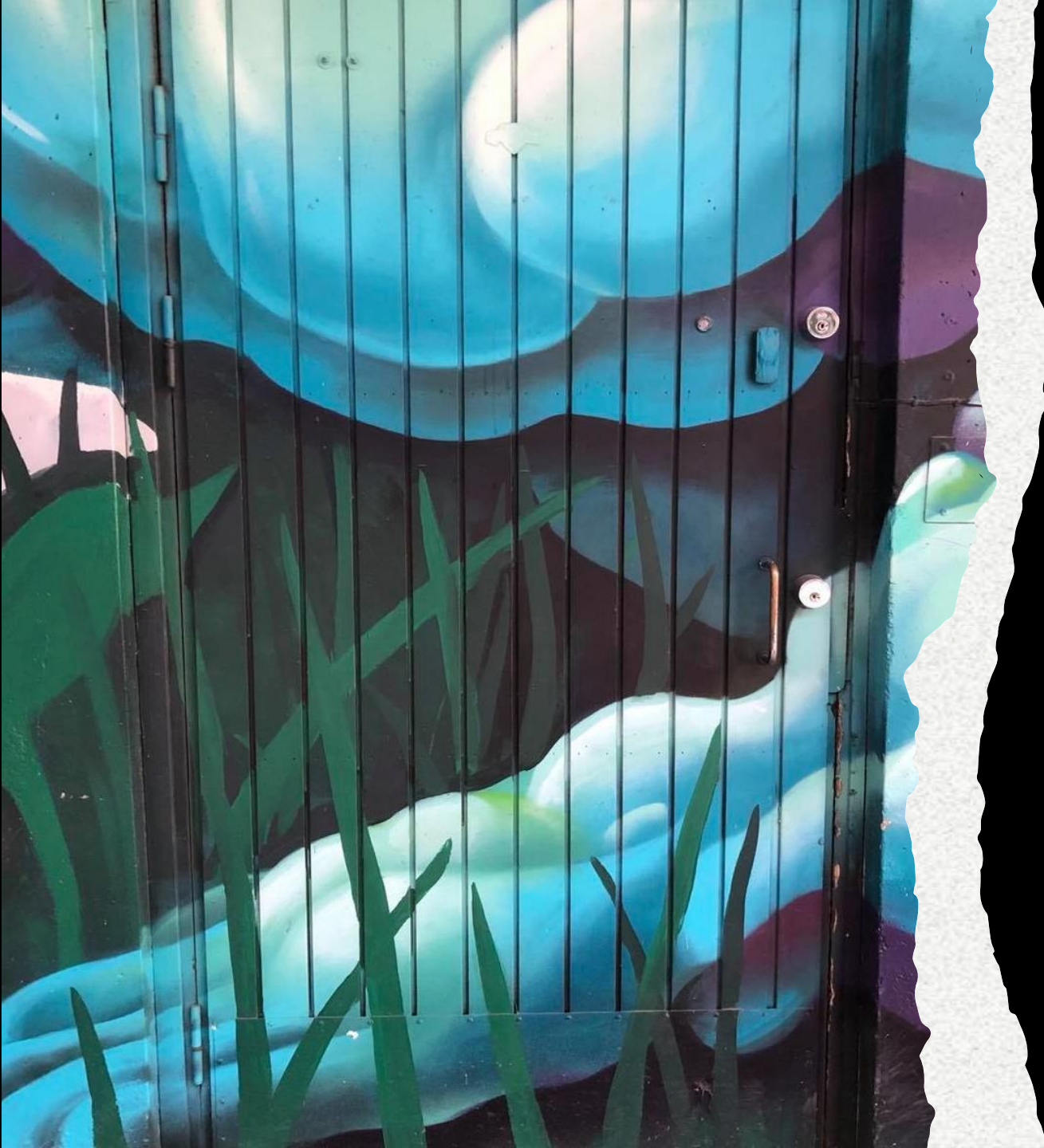
- Supernovat (with Naistenkartano).
- Yksi meistä (with Y-säätiö).

Housing Units – Housing First

- Sällikoti

Temporary accommodation

- Tupa



The values and
the corner stones
for the action:

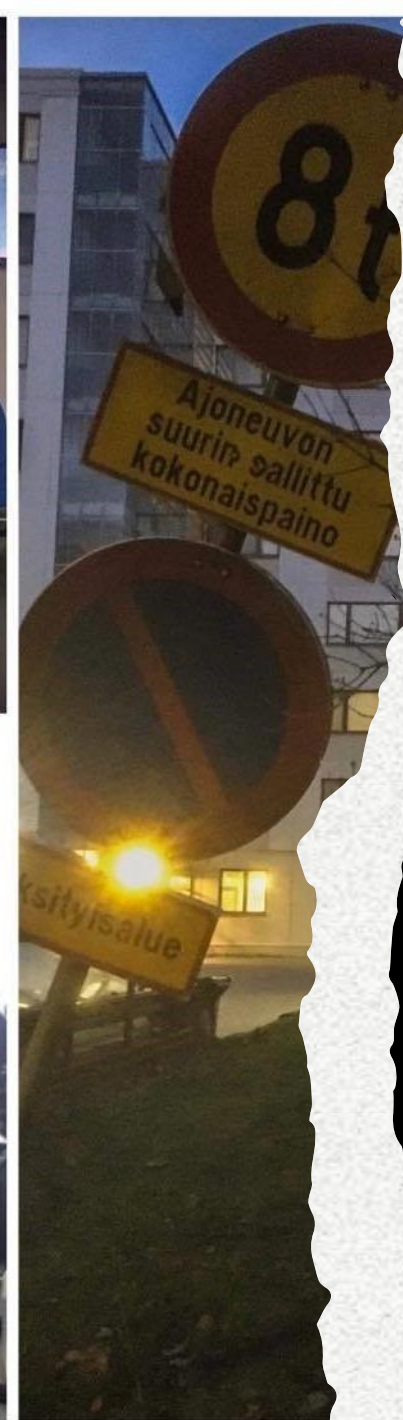
Dignity

Trust

Participation

Equality

**No Fixed Abode NGO
takes bold stand socially.**



Essential ideas of No Fixed Abode 1/2

- Housing is a basic human and social right, and its absence cannot be accepted under any circumstances.
- Every person can live independently if she or he is provided with adequate conditions and support.
- The purpose of all activities is to make sure that everyone will find a decent place to live within a reasonable time
- Homelessness is changing
 - No Fixed Abode changes with it.



Essential ideas of No Fixed Abode 2/2

- Expertise and caring are strengthened when the work community has people who have experienced homelessness themselves.
- Professionals work together with peers.
- People who are experiencing homeless and those who have experienced homelessness will be consulted and involved in decision-making at all levels.
- No Fixed Abode NGO has an active connection with everyday life of people experiencing homelessness.



“Nothing about
us without us”



KOKEMA TEAM

- Experts by experience as trainers and mentors

- **Kokema is based on the work by experts by experience.** Those who are presently experiencing homelessness and those who have experienced homelessness will be involved.
- Workers and people with experience are invited as experts to train researchers, as well as professionals in social and health care sector.
- Building a trust-based relationship with homeless or formerly homeless
 - > grassroot surveys and interviews
 - > snowball effect
- Experts by experience have gathered the views of homeless people and people with experience in homelessness to be used in all planning concerning services for homeless people.



Not just a tick in a box!



ENGAGING PEER SUPPORT WORKERS IN THE WORK COMMUNITY

- Ensure the equal treatment of peers with other employees and participants of the organization.
- Preparation of the staff for inclusion of peers in the work community eg. by informing them about aims, input and the added value.
- Ensure that peer support workers voice will be heard in staff meetings and they will not be left out of joint decision making, and welcome peers into the team.
- Offering peer support worker an opportunity to get training and/or otherwise ensure that s/he will be provided with adequate information and tools to carry out the job.
- The management's strong support and comprehensive interest in the life history.
- Management need to support peers in forming groups of peer support workers.

A peer support worker helping the residents of supported housing in coping with everyday life and as an intermediary between service producers/officials and the resident

Helpline / advice service worker

A peer instructor in a working pair model: An expert by experience & social work professional form a team → to benefit from each other's knowledge & competences

Lecturer by experience: lecturing to social work professionals, practitioners & students of her/his own experiences

Permanent member of policy and working groups which plan and develop homelessness services

A builder of a network of 'freelancer EbEs' with other homeless or people who have experienced homelessness

A community worker: Assisting the residents living in the poor quality and risky neighbourhoods to collect and promote their requirements for improving the housing conditions

A civic activist taking part along the professional workers in the preventing activities, i.e. motivating and supporting residents to prevent eviction

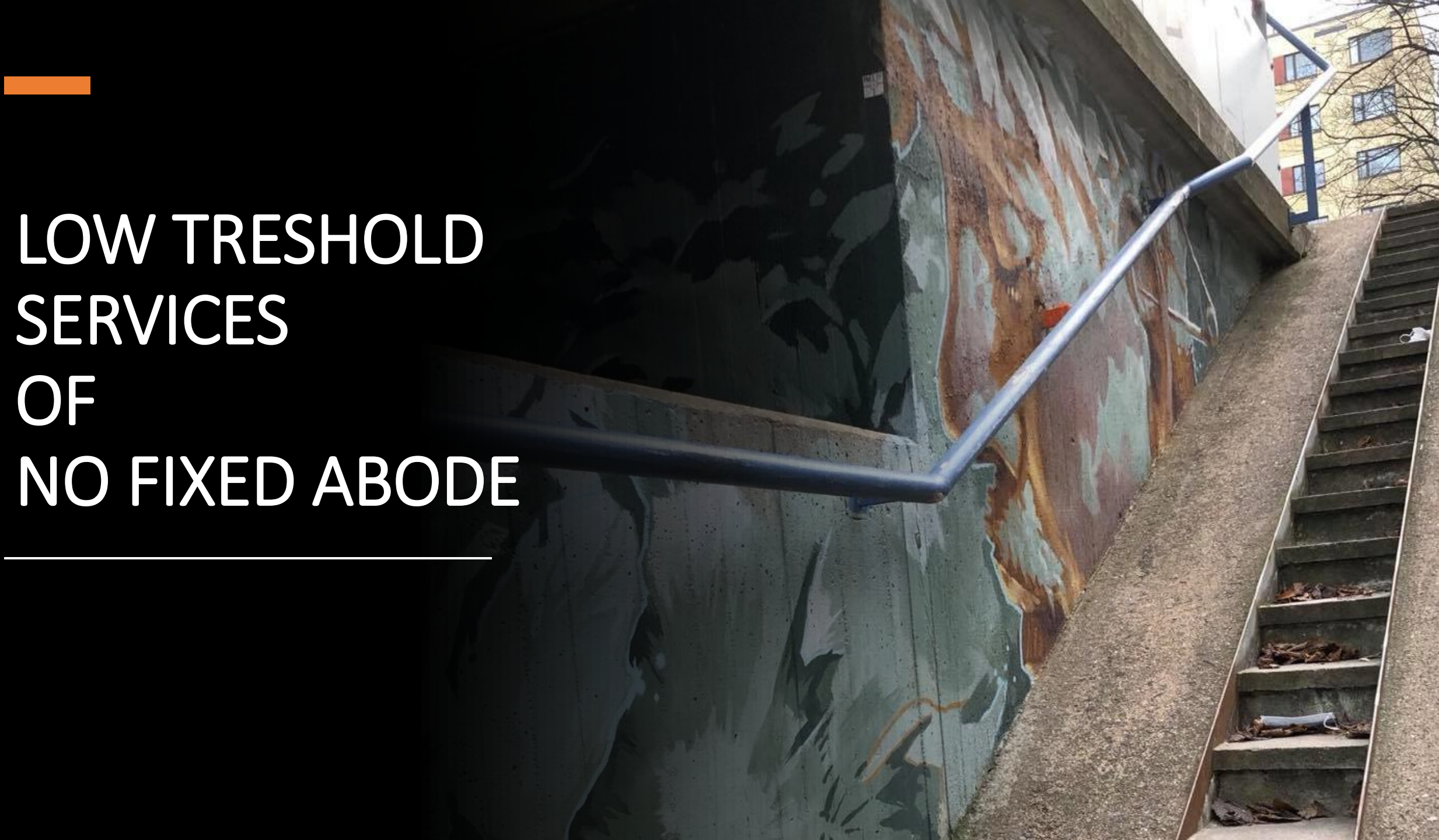
A peer researcher: conducting interviews, interpreting responses together with a researcher trained professional

“Appreciating the peer support work
is a basic and grounding principle in changing
the work culture and hierarchy. How to react
in different ways of
thinking and working.
The change in professional identity
is essential.”

Jussi Lehtonen, No Fixed Abode



LOW TRESHOLD SERVICES OF NO FIXED ABODE



Basic human needs and support for the homeless



- The low threshold services of No Fixed Abode are aimed at everyone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- Reaching out to people experiencing homelessness.
- Meeting basic human needs: temporary shelter, safety, food, clothing and first aid as well as advising and guiding on services.

Vepa – Peer support and volunteering centre

Vepa is a low threshold day center where you can rest, spend time, talk about your situation and receive support for the suitable services. Vepa serves a warm meal. Coffee, tea and bread are available all the time. In Vepa there are a computer and a phone for running errands. From Vepa you can get clothes that are donated.

Through Vepa you can contact and reserve an appointment with our housing counselor and an immigrant specialist, and get in contact with a floating support worker. Vepa is run by peer employees.

Open hours: From Mondays to Fridays 9AM to 7PM, except on Thursdays 9AM to 2PM, 5PM to 7PM.



Night center Kalkkers

Low threshold crisis spot for the homeless. In Kalkkers you can rest safely, get first aid and some snacks and food, talk about your situation and get help to find suitable services. Kalkkers is open for half a year during the winter season. In Kalkkers donated clothes are handed out. There are a computer and a phone for running errands.

Kalkkers does not provide shelter. A warm place to spend the night is offered to fifteen people regardless of their place of domicile or inebriation. Peer employees and social workers work together in Kalkkers.

Open hours: From Monday to Sundays 10PM to 6AM (only in winter season).





Housing counselor

Housing counselor Ulla Pyyvaara helps the homeless and those at risk of homelessness by offering comprehensive guidance and counseling with a solution-focused approach. Housing counseling provides help in finding a suitable housing solution, making housing applications and providing guidance on livelihood issues.



Immigration services

Immigrant services are targeted at homeless immigrants, especially when the rights to social security and services are unclear. Immigration expert helps individually to sort out the situation, find solutions and guide people to get appropriate services. In addition to housing issues, you can find out about your rights to social security and services.

Immigration expert Heini Puurunen is counseling in English and Bulgarian.



Yökiitäjä – Outreach team working in night time

A night-time team patrols in Helsinki metropolitan area and reaches out the homeless people who have dropped out from the service system. Two nurses, Tumpppi and Vesku, prevent injuries that threaten life and health, provide first aid and food, and support access to the service system.

People can inform Yökiitäjä if they are worried about someone sleeping rough or have noticed someone whom they believe to be homeless.



Floating support

Floating support and service counselling offers individual support for homeless people, released prisoners, and people who are suffering from substance abuse and mental health problems. Juhani Haapamäki helps people in critical life situations and goes alongside them, for example, in dealing matters with authorities, social services or housing issues.



Supernovat

Supernovat project creates a new kind of peer-based group activity for women who are in prisons, who are experiencing homelessness or women with substance use issues.

The essential part of Vva ry in Supernovat is a working pair model where our experts by experience meet women and guide them towards the service system.

Supernovat is a joint project (2021-2023) with Naistenkartano ry.



Housing first

In 2008 Finland became the first European country to embrace housing first model to give rough sleepers a home, as quickly as possible, with an own lease contract that's permanent and stable. The policy works by getting rid of homelessness shelters.

- Permanent housing enables people to live independently.
- People can choose how to engage with services. Giving up completely intoxicants is not required completely – instead, the approach is one of harm reduction that respects the person's autonomy.
- Staff meet clients as equals to build trust and empower them.
- To support people's integration into their community and helping them build strong networks.
- ***No Fixed Abode still runs SÄLLIKOTI that was the first piloting project for housing first model in Finland.***

• (The Finnish model was born separately from a model in the United States that carries the same name.)



the social counselors, together with the residents, draw up a plan for what kind of service the self-sufficient needs
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Housing first housing unit - Sällikoti

Vva ry runs one housing unit Sällikoti in Helsinki.
Sällikoti was the first piloting project in 2007 for housing first model in Finland.

There are 27 studio apartments for one person and one apartment for a couple.

In Sällikoti every resident is involved in their own housing, not just receiving a service. The counselors of Vva, together with the residents, draw up a plan for what kind of service each of them need.



Temporary accommodation TUPA

A temporary accommodation unit Tupa opened in March 2022 in Itä-Pasila, Helsinki.

In Tupa there are 50 rooms for long-term homeless.

The City of Helsinki buys the service from Vva ry, which arranges both accommodation and 24-hour support for people who are staying in Tupa.

The housing services of City of Helsinki at Hietaniemenkatu selects people to Tupa.

The aim is to direct people who are staying in Tupa towards their own permanent housing.





- **The Night of Homelessness** is an event that has taken place on 17th of October, declared by the United Nations as the day against poverty and social exclusion, from year 2002.
- Citizens' movement of The Night of Homelessness believes that homelessness is a national disgrace.
- The movement demands compliance with the Finnish Constitution according to which every person should be guaranteed the right to domicile.
- The compassion and active support is with the most unprivileged.
- The movement stress cooperation beyond political or religious boundaries.
- No Fixed Abode coordinates the event.

HOMELESSNESS IN FINLAND 2021

- In the end of 2021, there were 3 948 homeless people living alone in Finland. This was 393 less than in 2020.
- The number of people who were classified as long-term homeless was 1 318. The number increased by 264 compared to the previous year.
- The number of homeless families and couples was 165, which is 36 less than in 2020.
- The number of homeless women decreased by 174 in comparison to 2020. The number of homeless women is 891.
- There were 3 057 homeless men, which is 219 fewer than in the previous year.
- There were 711 homeless young people under 25 years of age in Finland, 143 less than the previous year.
- There were 720 homeless immigrants, which is 234 less than in 2020, but long-term homelessness increased in the group by 66 persons.

*“Homelessness is a situation
and a circumstance,
not a characteristic of anyone.”*

Thank you!



@VVA_yhdistys



@vaillavakinaistaasuntoary



@vva_ry

Vva ry



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