

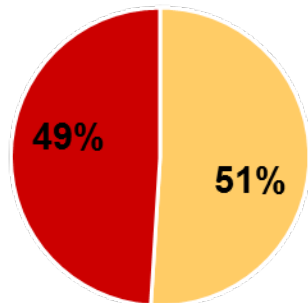
# Perception of Social Work by homeless in Barcelona

Laura Aso Miranda

Collaborator at Arrels Foundation and PhD  
Candidate in Sociology (University of  
Barcelona)

# Some Figures on Homelessness

- **European Union:** 30 million people without a decent housing (410.000 homeless) <sup>(1)</sup>
- **Homeless in Spain:** 30.000 <sup>(2)</sup>
  - Barcelona: 3.000 <sup>(3)</sup>



- Dependent of public /private organizations
- Sleeping in the street or irregular settlements

- **Upward trend** in most Member States and higher risk to fall into homelessness (▲ Unemployment, poverty) <sup>(4)</sup>
- **Homelessness** = Infringement of universal and fundamental rights (State) <sup>(5)</sup>

# Purpose

- Exploring the degree of efficacy of social work provided by public and private organizations addressing homelessness in Barcelona
  - To what extent are the users' needs satisfied?
  - What are the weaknesses of the system (in view of improving it)? How to improve it?

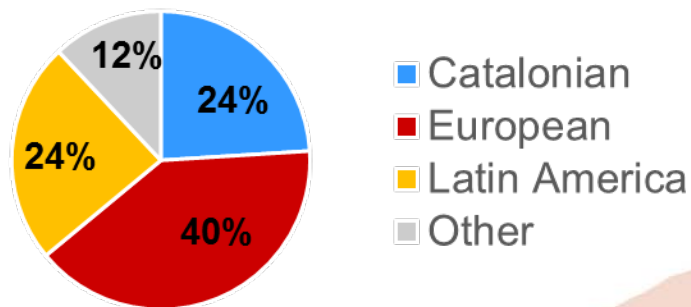
# Methodology of Study

## ■ Qualitative methodology

- Scoring the centres 0-10
- In-depth interviews

## ■ 25 Participants

- Gender: 100% men
- Average age: 49,6 (majority cohort of age: 40-44)
- Nationality



# Methodology of Study

- **Criteria for selecting participants:** being or having been an user of social work in Barcelona
- **Place** to recruit participants: Arrels Foundation's facilities
- Research made between Jan-Feb 2015
- **5 types of centre:**

Shower centres

Toilets

Shelters

Left-luggage offices

Dining rooms

- **Evaluation categories:**

Personal treatment

Comfort

Relationship with other users

Quality

# Results and Discussion

1. **Very different scores** (E.g: 1 and 9) given to:
  - Centres of different types (E.g: between showers and shelters), independently of their private/public nature;
  - One particular center
- ➔ Agreement among participants not easily reached
- ➔ Divergence of evaluations may be due more to the different appraisal parameters rather than to objective differences among centres
- ➔ Some homeless have abandoned themselves to live in bad conditions
  - ➔ Efficacy deficiencies vs. human right to decent housing
  - ➔ Vicious circle of dependency

# Results and Discussion

## 2. Quantity prevails over quality

- Temporary vs. Permanent solutions
- Problems related to social work offered to many users:
  - Broken showerheads, repetitive menus, poorly cooked food, smells and noises in close spaces...

➔ Public entities not concerned with care and dignity of users

- High bureaucratic burden to accede facilities,
- Significant distance between centres,
- Schedule rigidity,
- Difficulties to combine schedules with a job

# Conclusion

## ■ Findings

- Aligned with international evidences on homelessness questioning the *Housing Ready* model
- Indicate the obsolescence of *Housing Ready model* in current society

## ■ Proposals for improvement

- Having enough privacy and freedom to choose who to live with → ***Housing First model***, implemented in some European cities and increasingly gathering attention



# Information Sources

- (1) According to the ETHOS typology, which defines the situation of housing exclusion in the European Union, the concept of homelessness not only includes rooflessness but also houselessness, insecure housing and inadequate housing. See table number 1: fePsh, (2013), *Documento Marco de la Federación de Entidades de Apoyo a las Personas sin Hogar*, p.11. Anexo II: Tablas y datos sobre sinhogarismo, European Commission, (2013), *Abordar el sinhogarismo en la UE. Documento de trabajo de los servicios de la Comisión*, SWD 42 final.
- (2) fePsh, (2013), *Documento Marco de la Federación de Entidades de Apoyo a las Personas sin Hogar*, p. 11.
- (3) Arrels, (2014), *Afrontar el sensellarisme* p. 2.  
[http://www.arrelsfundacio.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/EleccionesEuropeas2014\\_ArrelsFundaci%C3%B3.pdf](http://www.arrelsfundacio.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/EleccionesEuropeas2014_ArrelsFundaci%C3%B3.pdf). The data derive from the Network of assistance for Homeless people of Barcelona.
- (4) See European Commission, (2013), *Confronting Homeless in the European Union*, SWD 42 final, [http://aei.pitt.edu/45917/1/swd2013\\_0042.pdf](http://aei.pitt.edu/45917/1/swd2013_0042.pdf).

# Information Sources

(5) fePsh, (2013), *Documento Marco de la Federación de Entidades de Apoyo a las Personas sin Hogar*, p.16. The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950) and the European Social Charter (1961) support the obligation of the States to warrant respectable accommodation, especially for the most vulnerable collectives (fePsh, 2013). [https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/sites/digital-agenda/files/Convention\\_ENG.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/sites/digital-agenda/files/Convention_ENG.pdf)

<http://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank//CoE-ITA-RPT-2667-EN-European%20Social%20Charter.pdf>

The European Commission considers the fight against homelessness a priority in the strategy of the European Union for social inclusion and part of the 2020 Strategy. See [www.arrelsfundacio.org/wp-content/pdf/femxarxa/Dictamen-del-Comite-Economico-y-Social-Europeo-sobre-El-problema-de-las-personas-sin-hogar.pdf](http://www.arrelsfundacio.org/wp-content/pdf/femxarxa/Dictamen-del-Comite-Economico-y-Social-Europeo-sobre-El-problema-de-las-personas-sin-hogar.pdf)

[www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2010-0499+0+DOC+XML+V0//ES](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2010-0499+0+DOC+XML+V0//ES)



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**EUROPEAN RESEARCH CONFERENCE**  
**Homelessness and Social Work in Europe**  
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THANK YOU  
lauraasom@gmail.com