



Y-FOUNDATION

## Housing First 2.0

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**HOUSING FOR  
SPECIAL GROUPS**



**AFFORDABLE  
RENTAL HOUSING**

**FINLAND'S FOURTH  
LARGEST LANDLORD**

**Home for all.**

**SPECIALIST IN  
HOMELESSNESS  
WORK**

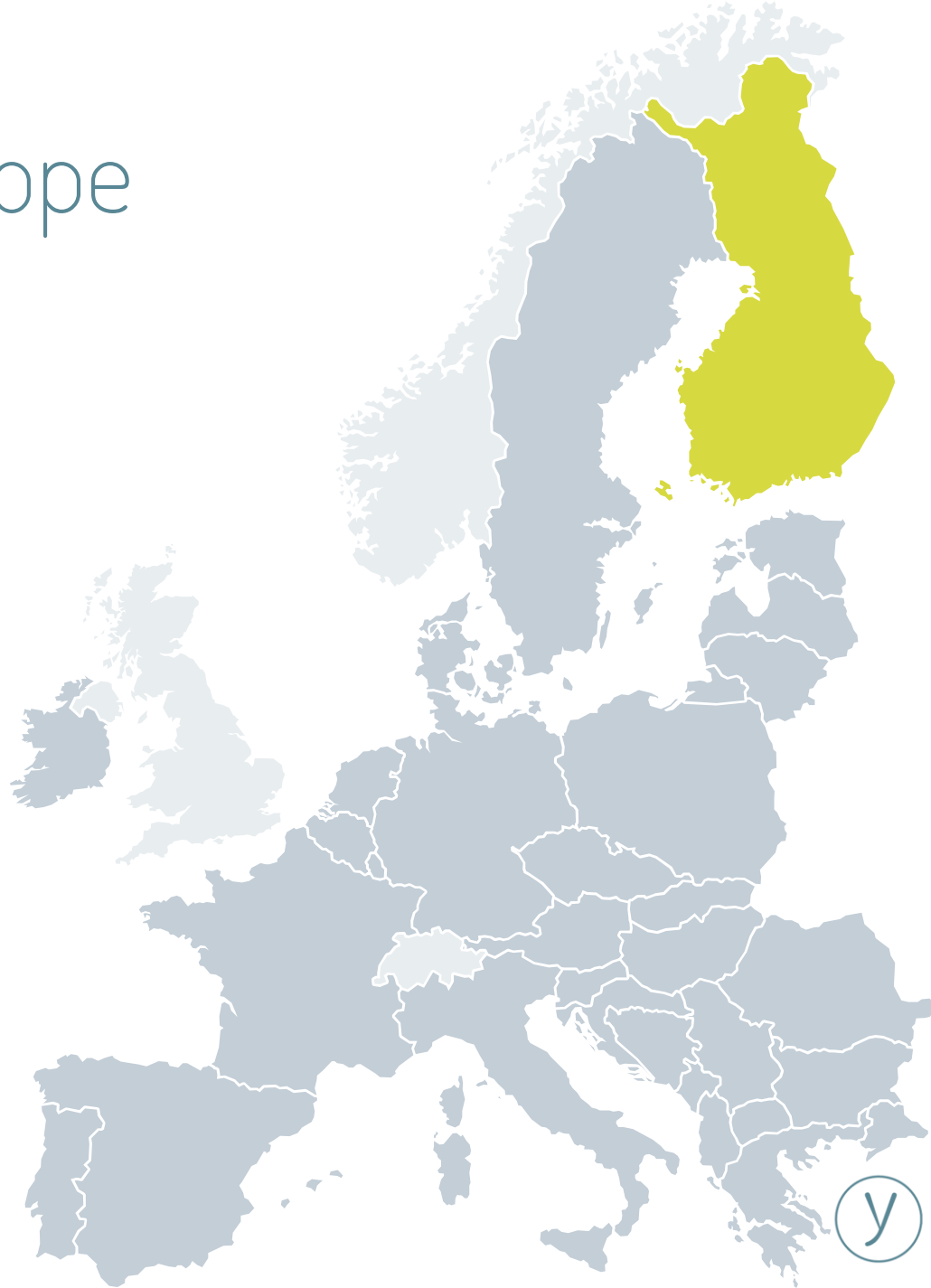
**ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL WELL-BEING**



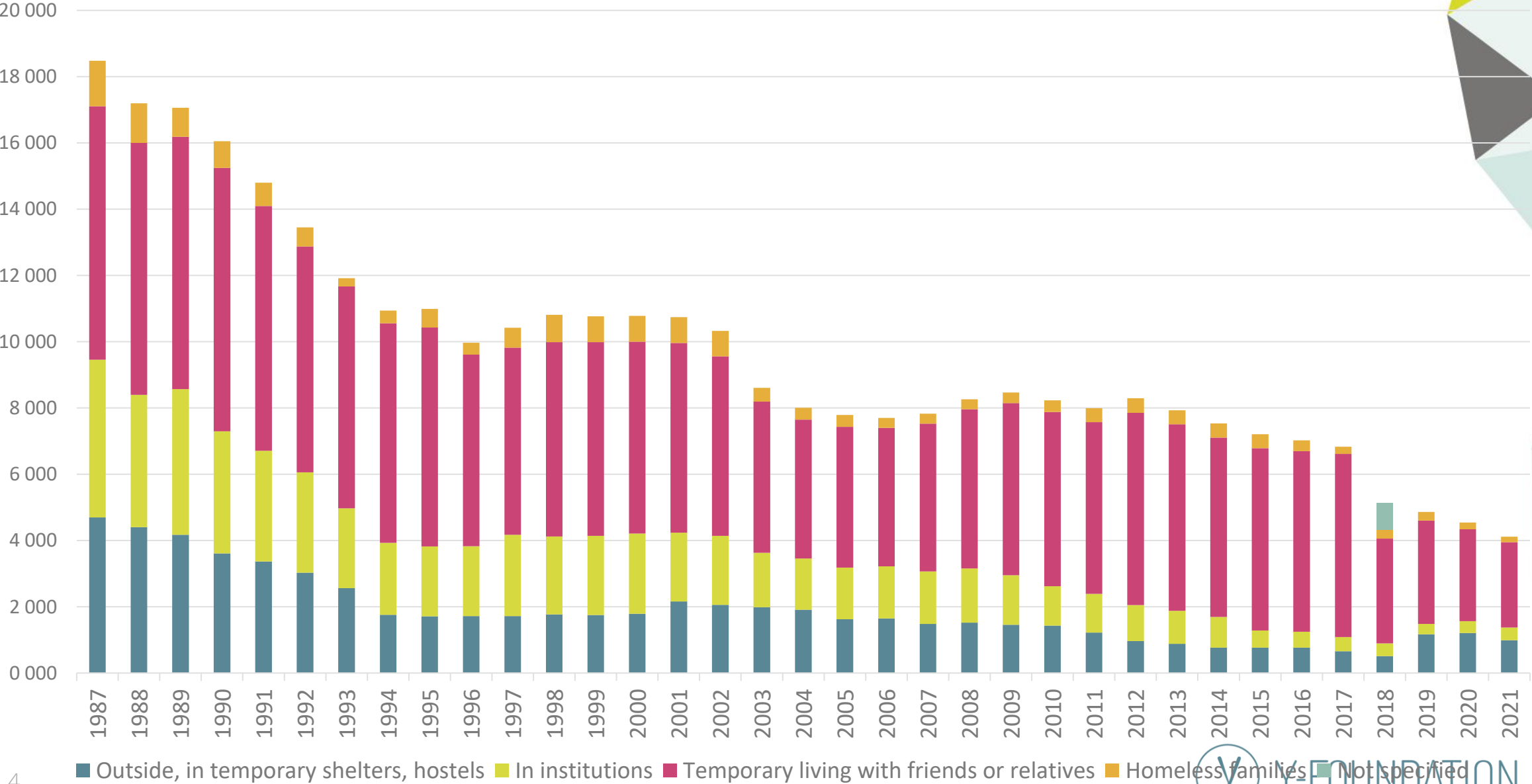
**ADVOCACY**

# Homelessness in Europe

FINLAND IS THE **ONLY  
EU COUNTRY** WHERE  
THE NUMBER OF  
HOMELESS PEOPLE IS  
**ON THE  
DECLINE.**

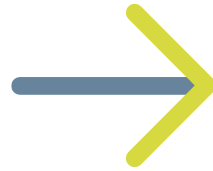


# Homelessness in Finland 1987-2021



# Homelessness has decreased in Finland

**1985: 20 000** homeless



**2021: 3 948** homeless



**-80%**

# Homelessness in Finland 2021

LONG-TERM  
HOMELESS

**1 318**



**3 948**  
HOMELESS  
PEOPLE

SHORT-TERM  
HOMELESS

**2 630**

# How Housing First?

- 2007 Committee of "four wise" proposes a complete change of the system: an apartment, a normal rental contract and adequate support = Finnish Housing First
- 2008-2019 Government programmes based on HF to reduce long-term homelessness and prevent homelessness
- State funding to buy and build housing, to convert shelters into supported housing units and to hire new support staff.

# Housing First in Finland

- Housing as a **basic human and social right**
- Housing in normal surroundings/**permanent homes**
- Own **independent** rental apartment either in scattered housing or in a supported housing unit
- Own **rental contract** (normally for unlimited time)
- Adequate **support** if needed and wanted
- Autonomy/ **unconditionality**
- Normality
- Principles of Housing First Europe Guide



# National Homelessness Programmes

**2008-2011**  
PAAVO 1

**2012-2015**  
PAAVO 2

**2016-2019**  
AUNE

**2020-2023**  
PROGRAMME

Housing First – principle was introduced: no shelters, but homes with own rental agreements. 2 143 new flats in total.

3 523 flats for people experiencing homelessness. Professionals and experts by experience were hired.

Programme concentrated on preventing homelessness and special groups. Expertise by experience has become established as a part of homelessness work.

The Cooperation programme aims to halve homelessness by the end of 2023. The programme emphasizes the responsibility of the municipalities.

# Housing options

FLATS IN SCATTERED  
HOUSING



FLATS IN SUPPORTED  
HOUSING UNITS

'HYBRID'







# Sahaajankatu (City of Helsinki)

80 bed places, closed down in 2009.



©Heidi Piironen HS



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# Väinölä (SLEY)





# Väinölä

- Supported housing
- **33** apartments (35 tenants)
- Opened 2014
- Built by Y-Foundation
- Leased to City of Espoo
- Support provided by Salvation Army (11 co-workers)





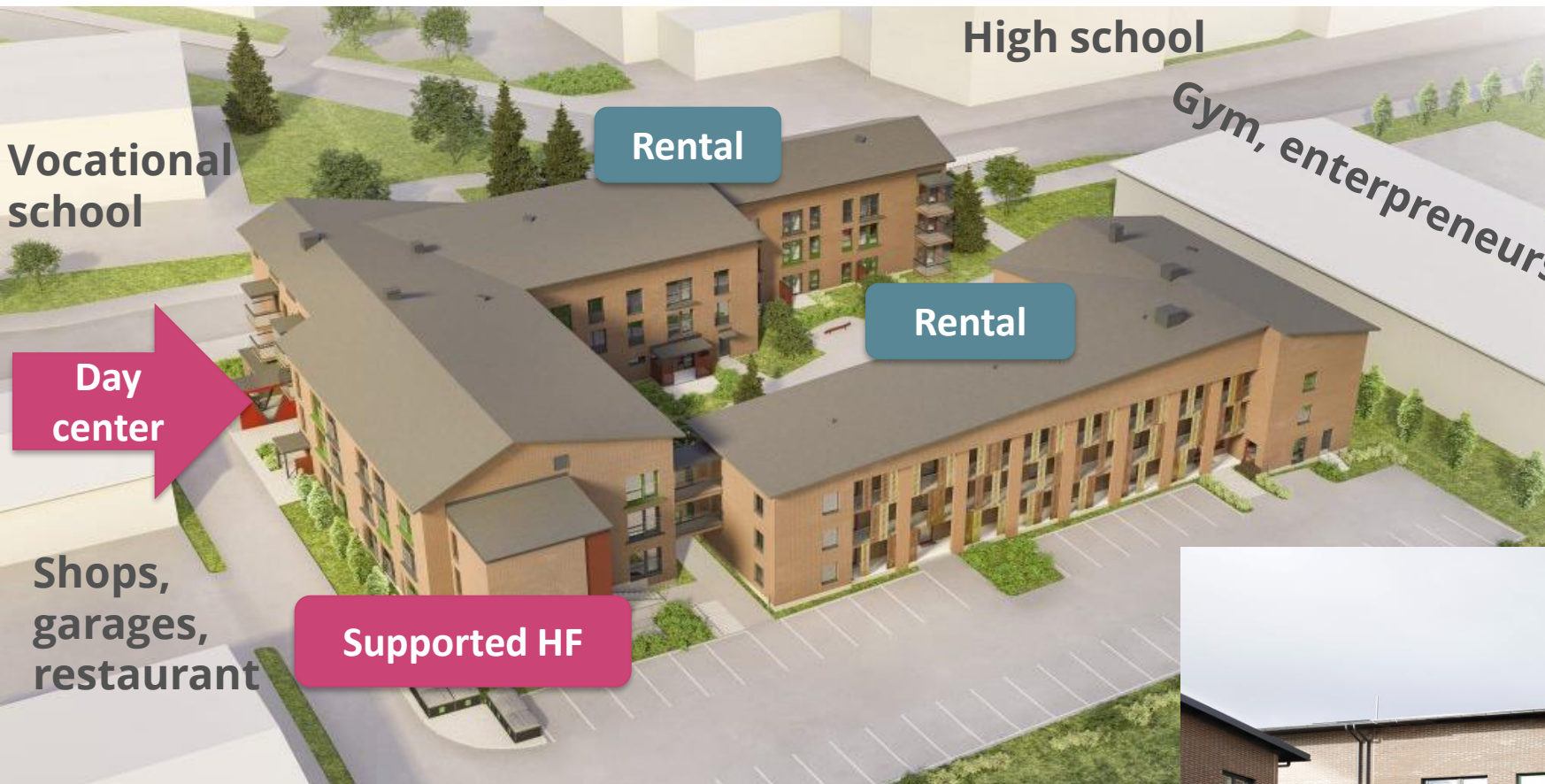
# HOUSING FIRST

From shelters to homes





# HF unit Wäylä + daycenter + scattered housing



Scattered housing





# What has worked:

- Prevention: Housing advisors preventing evictions
- Increasing social housing supply
- Experts by experience involved in planning
- Culture of collaboration
- Development network



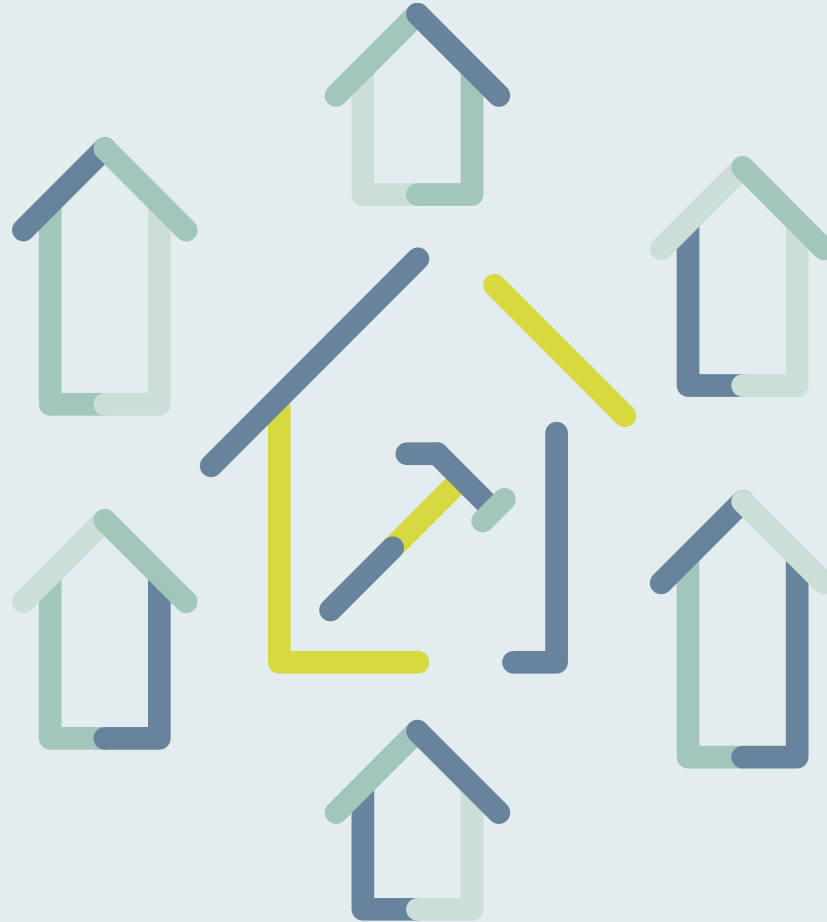
# What has not worked so well: Challenges and Failures

- Attitudes: Complacency
- More people need more support
- ICM has not always been intensive enough
- Lack of integration of basic social and health services
- Insufficient availability of rehabilitation for drug users
- Nimby
- Uneven development of HF thinking and practice
- Lack of small affordable flats

# The Government is committed to ending homelessness

HOMELESSNESS COMPLETELY  
ERADICATED  
**BY 2027**

**CONTRACTS**  
BETWEEN THE  
GOVERNMENT AND THE  
CITIES (MAL)



**SOCIAL HOUSING  
QUOTA INCREASES**  
20 % -> 35 %

**HOUSING COUNSELLING**  
BECOMES STATUTORY

2007-2008 Housing first 1.0 launched in Finland with a report by **four** wise men

2019-2020 Housing First 2.0 launched with a proposal from around **30** smart women and men

Heli Alkila, Helsingin Deaconess Foundation

**Jenni Eronen, No Fixed Abode association**

Virve Flinkkilä, City of Vantaa

**Ritta Granfelt, Y-Foundation**

Mea Hannila-Niemelä, City of Lahti

**Sanni Joutsenlahti, The Finnish Blue Ribbon**

Virva Juurikkala, Ministry Of Social Affairs and Health

**Matti Järvinen, City of Pori**

Juha Kaakinen, Y-Foundation

**Juha Kahila, Y-Foundation, HF National Network**

Aino-Marja Kairamo, City of Espoo

**Jari Karppinen, Ministry Of the environment**

Anne Kinni, City of Helsinki

Heidi Lind, Criminal Sanctions Agency

**Antti Martikainen, Salvation Army**

Irene Merano, Helsinki University Hospital

**Sari Nyholm, Guarantee Foundation**

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**Elina Perkiö, City of Tampere**

Riikka Perälä, Substance abuse prevention association

**Laura Pohjanpalo, City of Espoo**

Aura Pylkkänen, Guarantee Foundation

**Sina Rasilainen, The Housing Finance and Development**

Centre Of Finland

**Sanna Tiivola, No Fixed Abode association**

Sari Timonen, Y-Foundation

**Saija Turunen, Y-Foundation**

# Housing First 2.0 change laboratory

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For the national Housing first 2.0 Change Lab, researchers interviewed 18 experts and actors in homelessness work

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Excerpts from the video-recorded interviews were used to introduce challenges and stimulate work in the Change Lab sessions

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The Change Lab met six times, each session lasting around two hours

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Between sessions, participants produced analyses and proposals for solutions for the following sessions

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In the last two sessions, participants outlined a vision for the development of homelessness work in the coming years

# FROM VISION TO PRACTICAL MEASURES

*To achieve the vision, the Change Lab identified and described six 'spearheads', or concrete sets of proposals:*

1. Enhancing the availability of apartments
2. Housing and services for clients with complex needs
3. Work and meaningful everyday activities
4. Early identification and prevention of homelessness
5. Integration of substance abuse, mental health, health care and housing services based on HF principle
6. Housing social work in structures of municipalities

# HF 2.0 Spearheads

## 1. Enhancing the availability of apartments:

- The production target of ARA apartments should constitute at least 35% of new production in MAL agreements
- The MAL agreements should include city-specific quantitative apartment objectives in line with the goal of halving homelessness and the allocation of apartments to homeless people should be ensured by determining a sufficient number of apartments for the homeless from the municipal rental housing portfolio

# HF 2.0 Spearheads

## 2. Housing and services for clients with complex needs:

- Prioritising housing solutions in line with the Housing First model when procuring services for homeless people
- Municipalities should take responsibility for the sufficient supply of services securing housing and successful domestic life
- The designated social worker in accordance with the Social Welfare Act should assume responsibility for securing the housing of a client in need of special support



# HF2.0 Spearheads

## 2. Housing and services for clients with complex needs:

- Contact to social services should be established immediately in any housing-related crises
- Both the housing division and the municipal social services should be responsible for organising urgent housing
- The special needs of various client groups, such as homeless women, should be taken into consideration in personnel training
- The housing services for substance abuse treatment should primarily be based on leases and the effort to secure the resident's housing (even if the substance abuse treatment does not work)

# HF2.0 Spearheads

## 3. Work activities and meaningful everyday activities:

- Low-threshold activities using social rehabilitation should be made available in all housing services for the homeless
- Social efforts should be made to enable clients to seek education, training and career paths
- Ensuring that the services are not mutually exclusive

## 4. Prevention, early identification of risks of homelessness and securing housing

- Increasing the availability of housing counselling
- Standardised processes and monitoring indicators should be created for cooperation with lessors and Kela
- Housing counselling should be included in the homelessness programmes of the state and municipalities as a key preventive action
- The structural cooperation of housing counselling and financial and debt counselling should be developed
- Implementation of the electronic toolbox compiled in the ASTA project for preventing the financial issues of tenants
- Promoting the availability of financial counselling
- Enhancing multisectorality in all levels of prevention
- Developing multisectoral cooperation

# HF2.0 Spearheads

## 5. Integration of substance abuse, mental health, health care and housing services based on the Housing First principle

- Launching a cooperation network with cities for the development of a service integration for homelessness services
- Ensuring that the state's development subsidy for efforts against homelessness is implemented in accordance with the Government Programme
- Motivating and supporting the cities in preparing the projects
- Designating a contact person for efforts against homelessness in each city
- Organising a national joint development programme to support the fruitful implementation of projects
- Developing multisectoral services for homes
- Enhancing the cooperation between homelessness services and substance abuse services as well as a rehabilitative approach as part of the basic efforts in line with the Social Welfare Act

# HF2.0 Spearheads

## 6. Housing social work in the structures of municipalities and local government regional authorities

- Clarifying the responsibility of the housing division in housing social work
- Involving professionals and experts by experience in the research, planning and assessment of housing-related social work
- Redefining the concept of housing social work based on research
- Paying attention to the situation of particularly vulnerable groups and the enhancement of a women-specific work orientation in the development of housing services
- Recording a quality and cooperation requirement and a requirement of implementing the Housing First principle in the procurement of housing services.

# National programme 2020-2023

1. Aim to halve the existing homelessness (and end it by 2027)
2. 11 biggest "homelessness" cities, city specific plans
3. Social housing share to be increased from 25% to 30% in new housing areas
4. Impact investing (outcomes contracting)
5. Housing advisory services will be statutory
6. Developing new low threshold services and forms of support in scattered housing



# Critical elements of ending homelessness

**Housing First** as the mainstream policy

**Permanent** housing solutions

**Alternative** housing solutions and tailor-made support

**Affordable** social housing (structural prevention)

Method of **implementation**:

- Wide partnership
- Concrete measurable quantitative goals
- Short timespan from decision to execution

General housing **benefit**



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