

## 14<sup>th</sup> European Research Conference Helsingborg, 20th September 2019

VENUE: Helsingborg Campus of the University of Lund, Sweden  
**Bios and Abstracts**

### Seminar 15: Room C224 - Service Needs (1)

Chair: **Lars Benjaminsen, DK**

**Saija Turunen, Maria Ohisalo, FI:** Welfare of the Residents in Scattered Site Housing



Ph.D. **Saija Turunen** is a researcher in the Y-Foundation. She currently co-leads the Research work cluster of the Housing First Europe Hub. Her research interests include women's homelessness, subjective well-being and social integration.

Housing is often seen as the first step towards welfare after being homeless. Despite the wide array of data available about residents in a scattered site housing, up until now, there has been no systematically collected data on welfare available in the Y-Foundation, Finland. Moreover, welfare research mainly focuses on areas that can be objectively measured and less attention is paid to subjective welfare. In many research settings, people who have experienced homelessness could be viewed as 'hard to survey'.

The aim of this research is to investigate the subjective welfare of residents in scattered site housing. The research is to explore the quality of life of the residents. In particular, the focus is on health, finances and issues of everyday life as well as the services that the residents use and the benefits they receive. A further aspect of the study is to explore trust and the attitudes that residents have towards other people and officials.

The results of this research will provide a better understanding of the issues, both positive and negative, that the residents in scattered site housing are facing in their everyday lives. The data will be used to further develop the housing advice services to answer the needs of the residents. This information will also be utilized when designing preventative measures to aid housing stability. The ongoing research started at the end of 2018 and includes residents who have moved into their apartments in last few months. Participation is voluntary.

### **Malte Moll Wingender, DK:** Consequences of Longer Stays in Shelters – a Full Population Study



**Malte Moll Wingender** works in a cooperative analysis institute in Copenhagen called Analyse & Tal, and is board member in the European Anti-Poverty Network in Denmark. As a sociologist he works across different methods, but has specialized in statistical analyses on registry data. His focal areas are social vulnerability, inequality and poverty.

Temporary housing, such as shelters, has received criticism for keeping people in a homeless situation for too long without progress towards reintegration in society and housing rehabilitation. However, the criticisms lack evidence – at least in a Danish context. This study is the first to explore statistically whether and how the duration of stays in shelters affects housing rehabilitation and housing stability. The study utilizes the extensive registry data available for research at Statistics Denmark. This allows us to look at the full population of individuals in 2012-2016, who have been registered in a shelter for a shorter or longer time period. The population is limited to 8.000 people who stayed in a shelter for at least one month. Their change of addresses in the years following is used as a measure of housing (in)stability. After leaving the homeless shelter, the majority of the population changes their address more than once during the first three years. 45 percent changes address at least three times within three years. However, this varies heavily across the length of the stay. Among the group that stayed in a shelter for more than a year, only

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25 percent changed their address three times or more. In general, the results show that longer stays are associated to fewer changes of address subsequently. The study points at some possible explanations for this association. Firstly, people who stay longer are more likely to find own housing after leaving the shelter. Secondly, it seems easier to get treatment for physical and mental illness or treatment for drug and alcohol addiction while staying in a shelter or immediately afterwards. Thus, the study indicates that long term residency in a shelter plays an important role in the housing rehabilitation process.

**Vanessa Cenjor del Rey, ES:** Homelessness and Good Care: a Possible Relation



**Vanessa Cenjor del Rey** holds a BA in Political Science and Administration and BA in Sociology. She is committed to social action and believer and supporter of the European social policies. Nowadays, she is Research & Evaluation Director at RAIS Hogar Sí. Previously, she was the Coordinator of the Fund for Non-Governmental Organisation (Active Citizenship Programme), the EEA Financial Mechanism in Spain managed by the NGO Platform of Social Action. Also, she was co-founder of Encuentro Europa, a consultancy for European matters.

Countless studies have proven the difficult relation between having a good health condition and being homeless. Living without a home is a constraint on the health status of people, and the barriers faced by roofless and houseless people in their attempts to access to health care are many.

Being discharged from the hospital represents a particularly sensitive moment for people lacking a place to fully recover. In order to fill this gap of the public health services RAIS started a programme to cover the needs detected in relation to the difficulty of homeless people in accessing their health rights.

With the aim of testing the results of the program a longitudinal design with pre and post-test measurements has been implemented, including a follow-up 6 months after the entry to the service, one upon exit as well as a follow up 6 months afterwards. The size of the sample has not been predetermined, since it has rested on the capacity of the programme itself. Specifically, on the users joining Espacio Salud for one year (May 2017-May 2018) in Madrid and Murcia. In May 2018 the inclusion of people into the evaluation was closed at 45 persons.

The results will refer to sociodemographic characteristics, health, quality and conditions of life, functioning, access and use of resources, satisfaction with the programme, perceived health by people with oncological diagnosis and biomedical indicators.

The aim of this research is, therefore, to test if the activities implemented within the programme are suitable for the recovery of health and other related aspects of the lives of those taking part on Espacio Salud and, in this case, to prove the importance of these programmes in order to ensure the access to health rights for homeless people.