

**”...you now have the possibility to  
create your own life again”**

**Successes of the two Housing-First-Projects in Berlin/Germany**

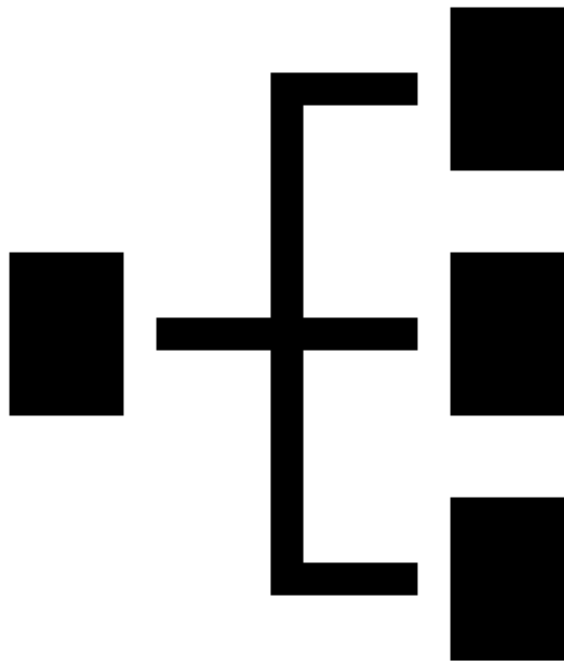
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# Structure

- General project information
- Research design
- Main results of the evaluations
- Conclusions
- Future prospects

# General Project Information

2 multiprofessional teams with 2-3 social workers, 1-3 social assistants & 1 psychologist, 1 public relations and housing acquisition staff (each):

- 1** „Housing First Berlin“ (HFB)  
(Neue Chance gGmbH/Verein für Berliner Stadtmission)  
Goal: 40 flats brokered, of which 10 to women
  - 2** „Housing First für Frauen Berlin“ (SkF)  
(Sozialdienst katholischer Frauen e. V.)  
Goal: 30 flats brokered to women
- ⇒ Worked very closely to the HF principles
  - ⇒ Pilot phase: 01.10.2018 – 30.09.2021



# Research Design

- Target achievement analysis
- Quantitative und qualitative survey instruments
  - Project documentation
  - Individual user documentation
  - Self-assessments and assessments by social workers on life situation
  - Short questionnaire at the end of the pilot phase
  - 37 problem-centred interviews with 43 users and staff members
- Developed participatively with the staff of both projects at the beginning of the evaluation



## Acquisition of Flats

In both projects,

- a specialist worked with the tasks of flat acquisition and public relations
- the target quota of flats to be acquired was reached (HFB: 42 flats/40 persons) or exceeded (SkF: 38 flats instead of 30)

# Housing Stability



## HFB (mixed gender)

Housing stability overall: 97.3 %

- 1 death (overdose)
- 1 man *threatened* 2x with termination
- 1 other man with a delusional disorder gave 2x regular notice, left the 2nd flat with rent debts and was homeless again

## SkF (for women)

Housing stability overall: 100 %

- two women *threatened* with dismissal and eviction

# Improvement of the Living Situation



In the interviews, almost all users of both projects were very satisfied with their flats and their living situation:

”

...you now have the possibility to create your own life again (HFB user)

I would like to use this ... as a springboard to start a new life and then also prepare myself to return to a normal life (SkF user)

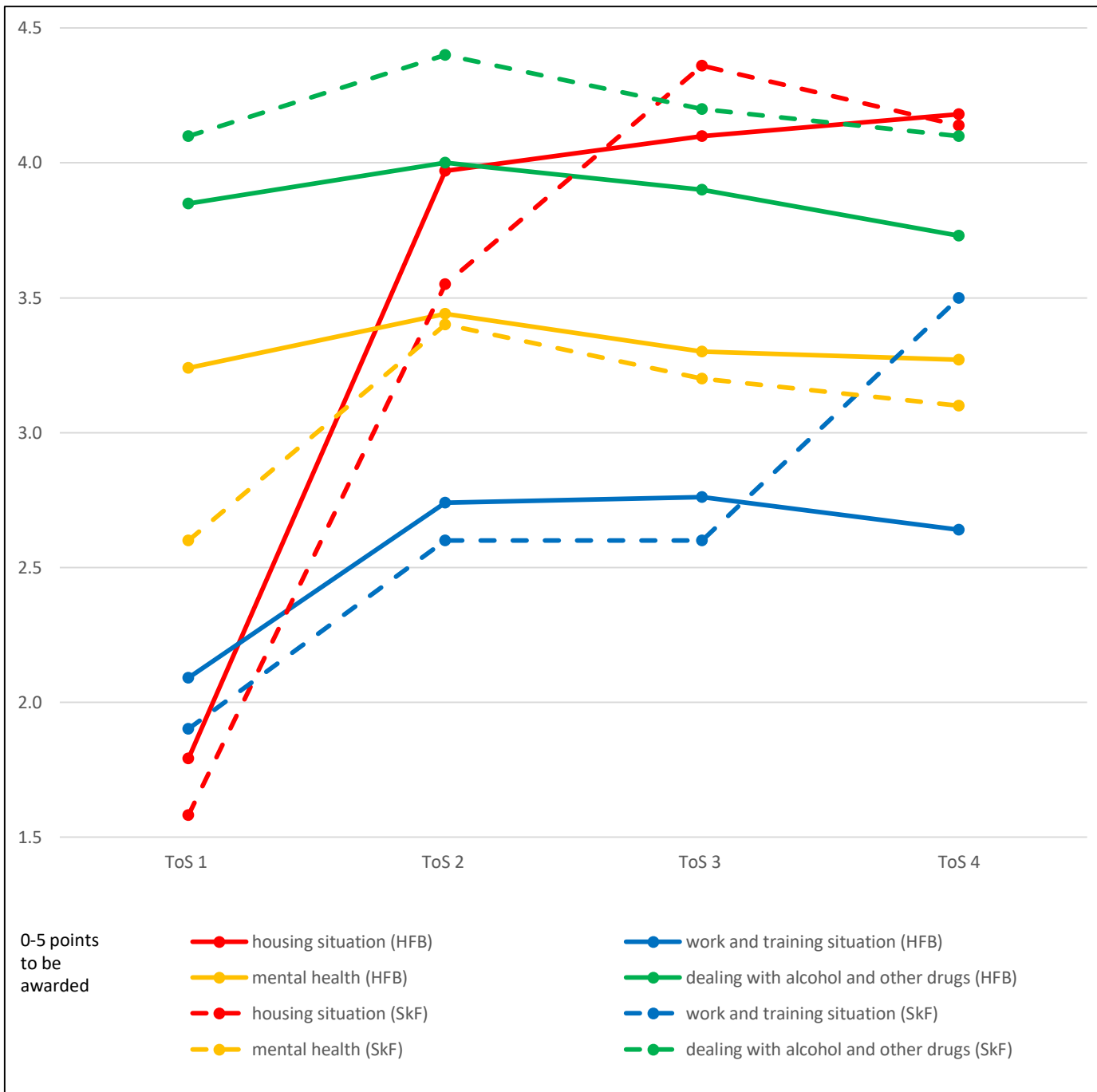
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# Self-Assessment

(selected areas of life)

*Max. 4 Times of Survey (ToS)*  
*ToS 1: Admission to the project*

- With placement in housing (ToS 2) significant increase in satisfaction in the area of housing and work/training
  - "Life satisfaction paradox" in the field of work - objective situation almost unchanged throughout!
- Relatively little movement in mental health and assessment of dealing with alcohol and other drugs
  - Similar in other international evaluations
  - The (female) SkF users start with poorer mental health status, but better handling of alcohol and other drugs





# Self- vs. External Assessment

In contrast to evaluations of other projects with social work support, the self-assessments and professional assessments of the users in both projects are much closer together.

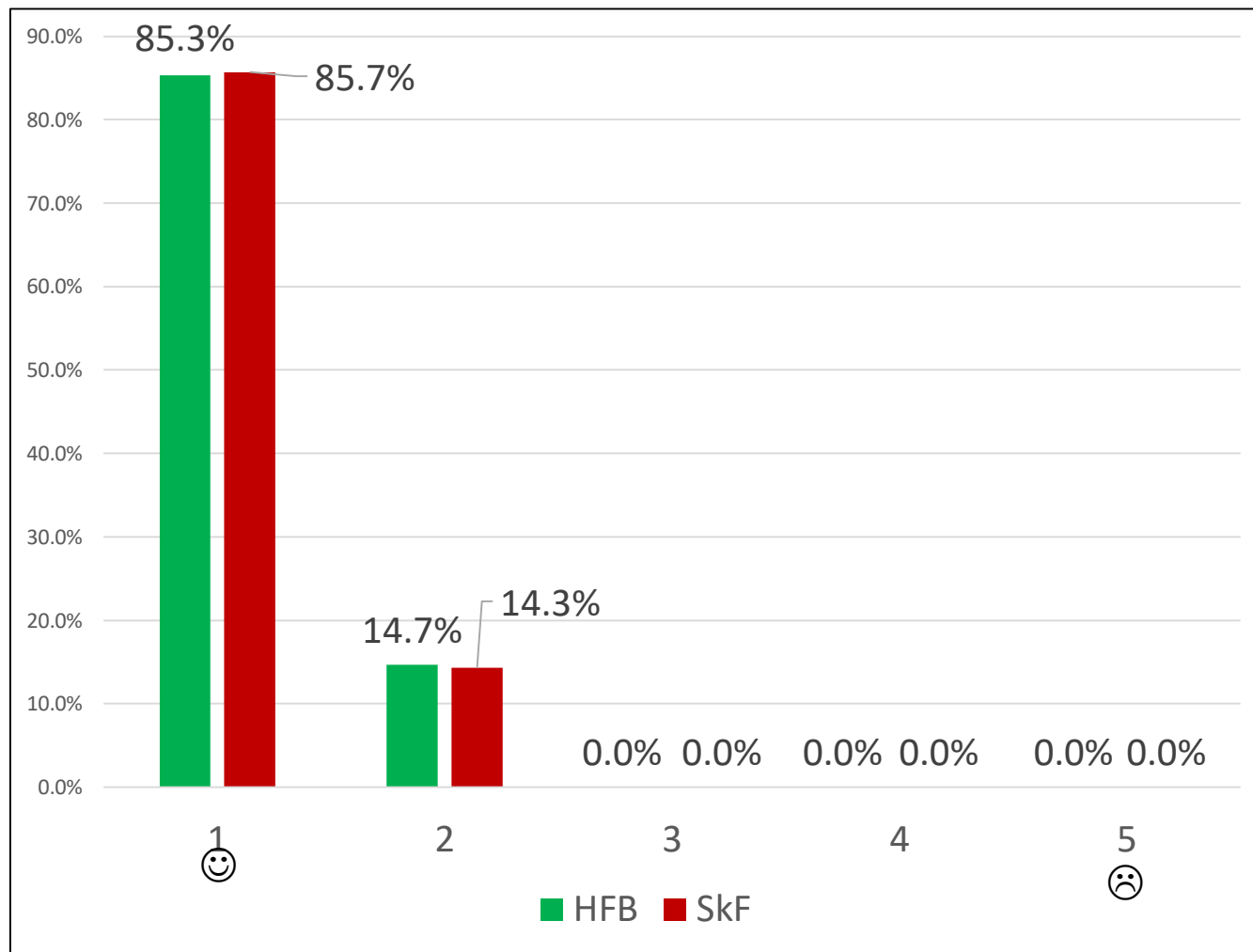


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The important thing is that it really works. I can only say about myself that I don't feel alone. I have more strength. ... [I]t's in the back of my mind that I know I have someone I can call who will then also support me. (SkF user)

Confidence & Safety

# Support Assessment (1)



55 users (HFB+SkF) rated the social work support in the final survey

# Support Assessment (2)

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*In the interviews, the users confirmed*

- the unconditional availability of the support offer
- the choice and control of the support process
- the accepting and empowering approach



*Criticism was voiced only in isolated cases, e. g.*

- interruption of help due to the departure of a social worker (SkF)
- paternalism by a new colleague because of alcohol consumption (HFB)

# Conclusions

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”...and then here comes this Housing First project and they just do everything right, without you having to do therapy first, so that you first become more stable, so that you then maybe sometime get an apartment and here you just don't have to do that, you get your apartment... (user SkF)

- The model projects have acquired more apartments than planned (Target achievement rate: 114.3 %)
- The housing stability ratio is also top in an international comparison
- The core principles of HF related to social work support are observed and have a positive impact



# Future Prospects

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Both projects continued to be funded after the model phase by the Senate Department for social affairs

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The coalition agreement of the new Berlin government provides for the continuation and expansion of the program

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The legal basis for this is currently being examined

# Thank you for your attention!

## **Research reports on the two Berlin "Housing First" model projects**

Gerull, Susanne (2021): Evaluation des Modellprojekts „Housing First für Frauen Berlin“. Alice-Salomon-Hochschule Berlin. URN: <https://nbn-resolving.org/html/urn:nbn:de:kobv:b1533-opus-4907>

Gerull, Susanne (2021): Evaluation des Modellprojekts „Housing First Berlin“. Alice-Salomon-Hochschule Berlin. URN: <https://nbn-resolving.org/html/urn:nbn:de:kobv:b1533-opus-4896>

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