

## Seminar 20: Housing First in Cities (Room: 00.08)

Chair: **Mike Allen, IE**

### **Lisete Cordeiro and Sílvia Almeida, PT: The Impact of Housing First in a Small City in Portugal**



**Lisete Cordeiro is Co-founder and Executive Director of InPulsar; Sociologist with experience in designing, planning, monitoring, and evaluating social projects; Project Manager of a Housing First Project (Morada Certa | Leiria Housing First).**

**Sílvia Almeida is a Psychologist with a Master's degree in Educational Psychology, Development and Counseling from the University of Coimbra.**

**Working as a community psychologist at InPulsar since 2021.**



The present communication reflects the experience and the impact of implementing a Housing First initiative in a Portuguese small city. The project Morada Certa (right address) | Leiria Housing First was established in 2019, in the city of Leiria, and is financed by three different funds: Leiria City Council, Ministry of Social Welfare and a private company (Lusiaves Group).

The project has been implemented by InPulsar, a non-profit organisation, founded in 2012 that contributes to the inclusion of people in high social vulnerable situations, like migrants, Roma people, people that experienced situations of homelessness, refugees and children ([www.inpulsar.pt](http://www.inpulsar.pt)). The goal of this project is to provide housing and support to homeless people with mental health problems and drug usage dependencies.

The presentation consists of three main topics: 1) Describing the distinct phases and stages of the project development. The pilot of this project began with three houses financed by Leiria City Council. The positive results of the project led to an increase in the number of people integrated in the project, totaling 15 individuals and demonstrated the effectiveness and efficiency of this model; 2) Analysing the outcome data of the residents; 3) Presenting the project's impact in the community and the community's perspectives.

Morada Certa | Leiria Housing First demonstrated that it is possible to implement this model in a small city, being sustainable with a combination of public and private funds. This project also promoted public discussion about homelessness topics and contributed to create the local homelessness units (NPISA), also, being recognised as a good initiative of social innovation by the national homelessness strategy.

### **Nadyah Abdel Salam, FR: Housing First, an Institutional Innovation by Withdrawal**



**Nadyah ABDEL SALAM works on social housing policies in France as an urban planner and sociologist. Her sociology thesis focuses on Housing First as an institutional innovation process, under the supervision of Gérald Gaglio (University of Côte d'Azur - GREDEG). This doctoral research was conducted in partnership with the GIE La Ville Autrement, the Metropole of Lyon and the national association for research and technology (ANRT).**

Housing First presents itself as an alternative way to end homelessness in Western societies.

Its promoters denounce an ineffective but dominant model of caring for homeless people in temporary accommodation in order to prepare them for independent housing. They seek to reorient the system of support for homeless people so that they can live directly in stable housing, with support that is tailored to their choices and needs. However, the withdrawal from accommodation does not take the form of a clean break. The article analyses the process of dissemination and institutionalisation of Housing First in the Lyon metropolitan area, in relation to the strategy driven at national level and the networks promoting Housing First internationally. It explores the possibility of a bifurcation and the dependence on the pathway that leads to the extension of accommodation despite the desire to reduce it. To



# 17th European Research Conference

14th and 15th September, 2023



Venue: Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

understand the transformations at work in social housing policies in France, the analytical framework combines contributions from the sociology of public action and the sociology of innovation.

The paper is based on a four-year ethnographic survey (2017-2020) among the actors involved in putting Housing First on the agenda and deploying it in the Lyon metropolis, in relation to the actors and institutions active at national and supranational level. The methodology combines observational participation, longitudinal monitoring of experimental projects, fifty semi-directive qualitative interviews, documentary analysis and a quantification of the forms of homelessness and institutional responses in this territory.