Housing is a fundamental citizenship right, that must promote people's participation, integration and diversity in communities. Therefore:

1

It has to be PERMANENT, not temporary – meaning stable with no pre-determined time limitation.

2

It has to be INDEPENDENT or individualized, not group-homes – meaning opposed to concentrated spaces with big signs on the door.

3

It has to be SCATTERED or regular in community, not congregated or separated – meaning housing undifferentiated in the regular neighbourhoods or barrios.

The HOME_EU research demonstrated that permanent, scattered and independent Housing First Model is the proper way for people that experienced homeless to attain community integration and mental health wellbeing or recovery.

Consistent evidence across a range of outcomes shows that the Housing First model is more effective at:

- Decreasing time in homeless staircase accommodation
- Increasing time in independent accommodation
- Decreasing psychiatric symptoms
- Increasing community integration
- Promoting equality defined as enhancing peoples' capabilities

Now it is the time to end homelessness towards community integration!

Horizon 2020
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HOME_EU (Horizon 2020 GA/726997) consortium study group

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www.home-eu.org

The global aim of HOME_EU is to contribute towards the advancement of the homelessness policies and practice to end homelessness in Europe.

The HOME_EU project conducted research in Portugal, France, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Spain and compiled data from diverse sources such as: citizens, service users, providers and policy actors to understand how this phenomenon is viewed and to highlight effective solutions, such as the Housing First approach.

The research and comparative analyses that will result from the Project will have a transnational effect on national homelessness policies and on organizational strategies to reverse the social inequality associated with long-term homelessness.

ISPA · Aix-Marseille université · University of Limerick · Università degli Studi di Padova · Radboud University · Uniwersytet Opolski · Karolinska Institutet · FEANTSA · Lisboa Câmara Municipal · AEIPS · CRES CER · Rais Hogar Sí

HOUSING FIRST MODEL

TO END HOMELESSNESS IN EUROPE

Results of the H2020 HOME_EU project

HOME_EU
Homelessness as unfairness

The Housing First (HF) model is an evidence-based practice, that has demonstrated in many locations (The United States, Canada, and in many EU countries) to be effective in reducing long-term homelessness.

HOME_EU Project study domains

Service Users

Compare experiences of Housing First users with users from Stair Case homelessness services (n=573).

Providers

Compare Providers perspectives and experiences of Housing First teams and the Stair Case homelessness services in terms of objectives and intervention strategies (125 service providers and 29 focus groups).

Citizens

Know about the citizen's opinion on homelessness and on the public policies, particularly on the Housing First model (n=5295).

Public Policies

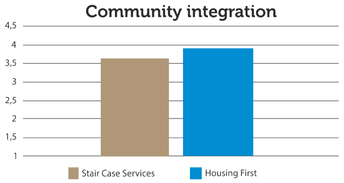
Compare public policies and how Housing First is incorporated in the different countries legislative and/or programatic bodies (79 documents / Two panels of 198 local and 24 national level policymakers involved in homeless policy development).

Housing First Model

- Imediate access to a house in the community (separation of housing and treatment)
- Independent
- Scattered
- Permanent

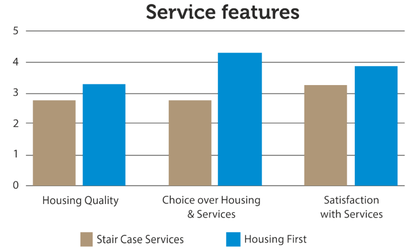
Stair Case Model

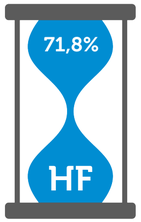
- Transitional accomodation
- Stair case care (treatment adherence & competence training)
- Congregated
- Concentrated
- Temporary



Participants engaged in HF rated more community integration than participants engaged in scattered traditional services.

Quality of housing, choice over housing and satisfaction with services were rated higher by participants involved in HF programs across seven partner countries.



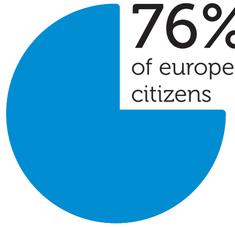


Across all countries participants engaged in HF spent more of the past six months in independent accomodation than participants engaged in stair case services.

Across all countries participants engaged in HF reported fewer psychiatric symptoms than participants engaged in stair case services (from 1 to 5 every day).

-0,06

+0,18



76% of european citizens considers that governments should invest more to end homelessness

and **49%** are willing to pay for the HF innovative model

Housing First approaches are transversely incorporated in the national and strategic policy documents of the 8 countries.

Most of local policy makers **62,6%** consider homelessness in their region a moderate or a major problem.

42,4 % of local policy makers consider that in their country there isn't a policy to reverse homelessness.

16,2 % say HF model is already aimed in local policies and 15,7% indicate HF is implemented in their municipality.

Lessons learned from the HOME_EU – Homelessness as unfairness project

- We obtained convincing and consistent evidence that Housing First programmes are more effective than traditional staircase services in decreasing individuals' time in homeless accommodation.
- Housing First programmes are more effective than traditional staircase services in decreasing psychiatric symptoms, increasing community integration, and enhancing people's capabilities.
- Housing First providers tend to emphasize service users' autonomy and choice over professionally delineated goals whereas in traditional services the support is more focused on service users' basic needs (food, shower, and shelter).
- Staircase model providers perceive more obstacles than HF model providers, including the lack of working tools and equipment, and in balancing work and private life.
- Most european citizens expressed a willingness for their governments to allocate more financial resources to address homelessness.
- The awareness that living on the streets limits one's capabilities, in different fields like employment or health is very high among the European citizens.
- Housing First approach to homelessness is already integrated in public policies across studied countries, but require further implementation and participatory evaluation procedures of the social policies on homelessness.
- Supported by an overall favourable public opinion of the European citizens, HOME_EU strongly recommend the advancement of the independent, scattered and permanent Housing First model as a privileged solution to end homelessness in Europe.