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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# HOUSING FIRST

*Ending Homelessness*

## Housing First in Europe

Opportunities in the EU's policy and funding frameworks

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Organized by





# Housing First in Europe

Opportunities in the EU's policy  
and funding frameworks

# Overview

- EU Policy Context
- EU Policy Processes
- Research Instruments
- Structural Funds
  - Towards 2014 to 2020
  - Opportunities to Support Housing First 2014 to 2020
    - ESF
    - ERDF
- Other EU instruments
- FEANTSA
- Conclusions

# EU Policy Context

- **Social Policy**
  - Shared competence between EU and MS
- **Homelessness on EU Agenda**
  - Gradually emerged as a priority in EU's social inclusion/anti-poverty agenda over 10 years.
- **Europe 2020 Strategy**
  - Lift 20 million people out of poverty by 2020
- **Social Investment Package**
  - Published March 2013
  - Social policy guidance to MS, aims to support implementation of Europe 2020
  - Promotes Housing First as effective means of tackling homelessness
  - Calls on MS to develop “housing-led” strategies

# Policy Processes

## ■ Social Open Method Coordination

- Monitoring and reporting on homelessness and homeless policies

- Currently quite limited/ad hoc but could go further

- Peer Reviews

- e.g. Denmark's Housing First strategy, 2013; Finland's Housing First strategy, 2010

## ■ European Semester

- Cycle of policy coordination to deliver on Europe 2020 targets

- Reporting on homeless policies by MS

# Research/Innovation Instruments

## ■ Social Experimentation

- PROGRESS / E@SI programme
- Funding for public authorities to “test” social innovation
  - Experimental methods such as Randomised Control Trials (RCT)
  - 700 000 € minimum and 1 000 000 € per project
- ‘Housing First Europe’ project

## ■ Horizon 2020

- Research and innovation funding programme of the EU (EUR 80 billion €)
- Addresses societal challenges (29.7billion €), including “inclusive, innovative, reflective societies”
- Possible opportunities for further research into Housing First...?

# Structural Funds

- Support regional development and cohesion
  - Approx. 1/3 EU's budget
- European Social Fund:
  - Employment, education & training, poverty & inclusion, capacity building
  - €70 billion 2014 to 2020
- European Regional Development Fund:
  - Regional development
  - €183,3 billion 2014 to 2020
- 3 levels of investment
  - More developed regions
  - Transition regions
  - Less developed regions

# Towards 2014 to 2020

- EC proposed regulations, adopted by Parliament and Council (Nov 2013)
- EC negotiates with national and regional managing authorities (ongoing)
  - Partnership contracts
  - Operational programmes
  - Partnership with civil society
- National/regional level implementation of operational programmes 2014 to 2020
  - Funding of projects
- EC monitoring and implementation 2014 to 2020 (payments, verification etc)



# Perspectives for 2014 to 2020

- Useful Precedents exist
  - ESF and ERDF both used to fight homelessness in current period
  - Hamburg Region call for HF projects for young care leavers
    - 300 people
    - 2014 - 2017
    - 1.140.000 Euros
- New opportunities to support HF in future

# Opportunities to Support Housing First 2014 to 2020

## ■ ESF

- 20% for social inclusion
  - Includes “Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest”
- Specific reference to homeless services
  - “...may be used to enhance access to affordable, sustainable and high quality services of general interest, in particular in the fields of health care, employment and training services, **services for the homeless**, out of school care, childcare and long-term care services” (recital 4b)
- New focus on « community-led local development »
- Homeless people as specific target group (output indicators)

# Opportunities to Support Housing First 2014 to 2020

## ■ ERDF

- Reference to addressing “social challenges” in framework of sustainable urban development
- Social inclusion:
  - Including investing in **health and social infrastructure** which contribute to... promoting social inclusion through...transition from **institutional to community-based services** (Article 5b);

# Other Relevant EU instruments

- Fund of European Aid for Most Deprived
  - 3.2 billion
  - “Starter packs” could support HF
- Erasmus for all
  - Could support training for sector on HF
  - Experience from Life Long Learning
    - Grundtvig exchanges
    - Leonardo Da Vinci
- .....

# FEANTSA

- Funded through the PROGRESS/E@SI programme
  - Housing First is a priority for our membership
  - Mutual learning and transnational exchange
  - Research of the European Observatory
  - Plan to develop training stream between 2014 and 2020

# Conclusions

- Opportunities to support the “scaling up” of Housing First within the EU
  - Homelessness a priority in anti poverty/social inclusion field (notably in the Social Investment Package)
  - Policy processes, research instruments, structural funds
- There are encouraging precedents (social experimentation, ESF, Lifelong learning)
- However, competition between priorities a challenge; need to be realistic
- Critical time for structural funds programming
- FEANTSA calls for an EU homelessness strategy to support most effective use of EU instruments to tackle homelessness, including through HF

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# Thank you

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