

**HOUSING FIRST:
EVIDENCE AND
IMPLEMENTATION
SCIENCE**



RAISFundación

Housing First brought...

An effective solution to
take people out of
chronic homelessness

CHANGE

- New paradigm for homelessness policies
- From managing to solving homelessness
- Rights-based approach
- Evidence-based social policies at EU level
- An international community

Housing First confronted...

- **Homelessness is not a cause = not in the political agenda**
- **Structural challenges** (shortage of housing? / evictions)
- **Regional/local responsibility** on homelessness in many EU countries
- **Staircase system** and **assistentialism** are the main approaches
- **Lack of implementation experience** in European contexts
- **Lack of evaluation** = subjective discussion and decision-making

Housing First in Europe today



The Spanish case: Hábitat 2011 to 2017

2011	first ideas from the international network
2012	programme development and advocacy with policy makers and funders
2013	housing + funding political commitments
2014	Habitat + evaluation launched in 3 regions with 28 houses
2015	First evaluation results - local, regional, national advocacy Housing First into National Strategy for the homeless New Housing First programmes in Spain International HF + fidelity networks
2016	Habitat in 5 regions and 75 individual houses First regional strategies integrating Housing First
2017	Habitat in 11 regions and over 150 houses

Main challenges Habitat found

- ❑ **Convincing people** to launch & support the program
 - ❑ Making evidence available (international & national)
- ❑ **Leveraging resources** for a housing-led program for the homeless:
 - ❑ not a cause = no private funding
 - ❑ not in agenda, not a city area = no grants, no structural funds
 - ❑ not temporary = instability of funding
- ❑ Program design with **no previous experience**, little technical assistance:
 - ❑ Unclear model interpretations = later difficulties (no objectives)
 - ❑ Clear model interpretations = later drivers (scattered housing)
- ❑ **Facing the risks**: manage the possibility of ending the program

Key elements of the Network HF Italia

- Managing a bottom up approach
- Role of fioPSD as umbrella organization
- Making homelessness a cause
- Solid evaluation with a Scientific committee
- Testing on several target publics and adaptations
- Working with international networks

So far...

- There is a cause on Homelessness
- The Housing First model has been introduced in Europe
- We are learning about technical and implementation issues
- We are proving that Housing First works
- We created (inter)national communities of practice

But there are big challenges

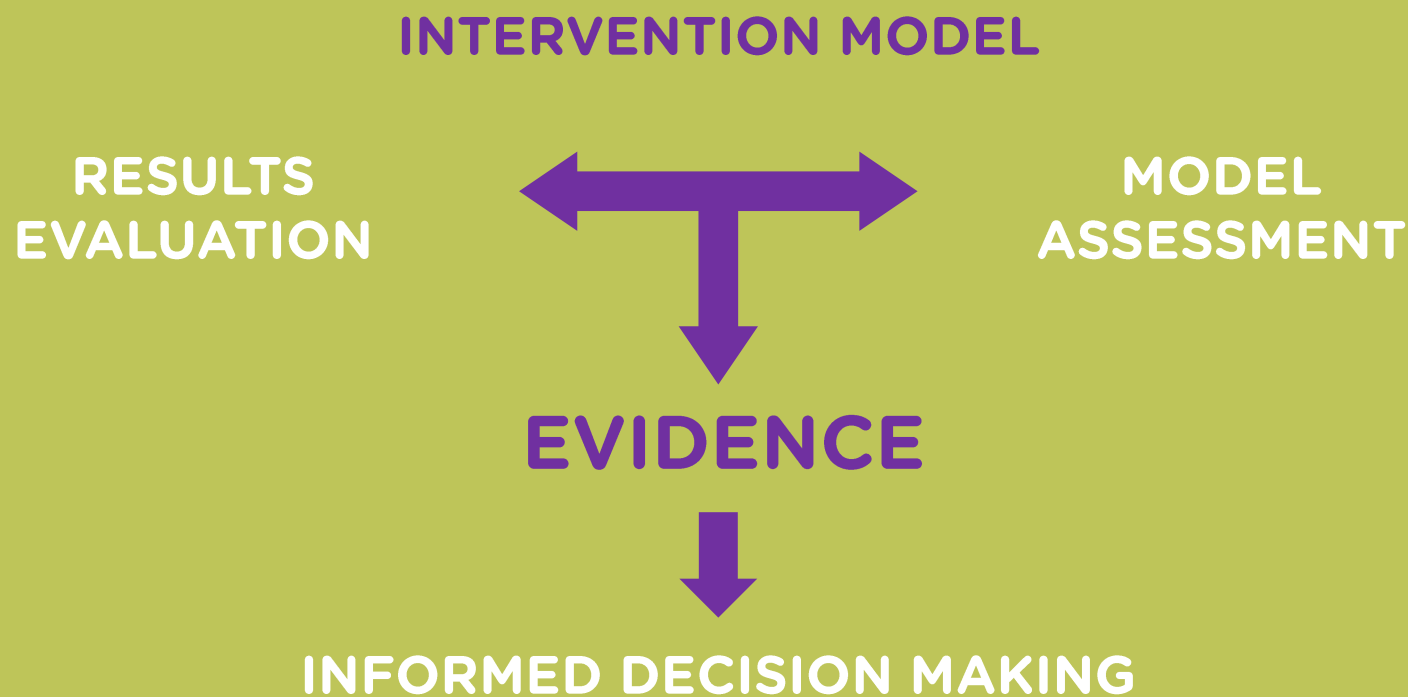
Assessing and building strategies which effectively integrate staircase system services, housing led and housing first

- Paradigm change from the staircase system
- Impulse comprehensive housing-led policies
- Coordinate Social, Health and Housing policies

Adapting the HF model while assuring results

- Evaluating the application in countries and target groups
- Generating continuous improvement of the model/s
- Controlling risks due to the many players in the field

Key elements for Housing First impact



Evidence helps impact!

RESULTS EVALUATION

Results on different target groups
and possible adaptations

Results on social integration

Results on efficiency are still
limited and important to advocate
on coordinated policies

FIDELITY ASSESSMENT

Research shows that high fidelity
delivers better results

It is necessary to assess and
learn from model adaptations

Fidelity is a management and
improvement tool

Better to be transparent in a
context reluctant to change



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Housing First and Research

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