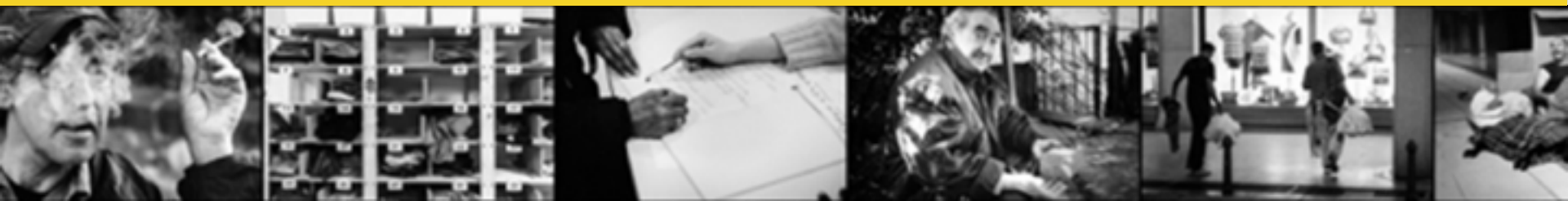


## Housing First Partner Conference Los Angeles 2016



## Network Housing First Italia





# Housing First Italia

## Results, Best Practices and Political Challenges

Marco Iazzolino  
fio.PSD - Network Housing First Italia

Alice Stefanizzi  
Fondazione Progetto Arca onlus  
University of Turin

# We are going to talk about

Italian context

Network HF Italia

Homelessness in Italy

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# Context

- Micro-economic, environmental and social differences between regions and cities
- Important decrease of public investment in the social field
- Welfare mix: interactions and interdependencies between public and private sectors
- Strong Non for profit environment

**Italian context**

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# Homelessness

- 50,700 homeless people
- 0.24% of Italian pop
- 85.7% male
- 58.2% foreigner
- 75.8% younger than 54
- Families, divorced, migrants

Source: Istat, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, Caritas Italia, fio.PSD

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# fio.PSD

- Italian Federation of Organization for Homeless People ([www.fiopsd.org](http://www.fiopsd.org))
- Member of Feantsa ([www.feantsa.org](http://www.feantsa.org))
- More than 100 institutions associated
- Founder of Network HF\_Italia ([www.housingfirstitalia.org](http://www.housingfirstitalia.org))

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Contacts

# Network

- Born in 2014
- Composed by 51 public and private organizations
- 110 social workers employed
- 24 months test
- 10 regions, 20 cities
- 90 apartments (50% private rental housing, 30% religious property, 20% public property)

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# Population

- 187 tenants (45% adults in severe poverty, 20% chronically homeless people, 14% offenders, 11% poor families, 10% homeless with mental disorder)

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Contacts



# Results

- Housing retention (80% of housing retention, 8% found another solution, 12% leave the project, 71% report that feel safe at home!)
- Territorial and social integration (46% meet friends and other people outside, 33% enjoy the neighborhood)
- Sensitization! Other involved: neighborhoods, churches, local shops, volunteers, help centers, employment agencies

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# Team

- Multidisciplinary team (training on addiction, harm reduction, trauma) OR outsourced support (physical health, mental health)
- Shared know how among shelter staff and HF staff
- Great connections with institutional social workers (City council)

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# Peer support

- Most of peer support in shelters
- Few experiments in housing related programs
- Need of research, data and specific education
- Change of approach: the importance of HRM

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# Economics

- Difficulties with private market (lack of apartments! More than one person in a unit?)
- No basic income
- Most of institutional funds to shelters/staircase (lack of data on homelessness costs)

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Contacts

# Fundraising

- Costs for housing, management, workers and administrative activities by providers (or shared by local authorities and organizations through public agreements)
- Private and corporate fundraising
- Marketing campaigns
- Problem with long term rental commitment

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# Advocacy

- 2015 National Guidelines regarding the tackle of adult exclusion provide: European typology of Housing Exclusion (ETHOS) as a common definition of homelessness; results of the last National Survey on homelessness in Italy; minimum standard of services for homeless people through standardized and homogeneous key features for public services (<http://www.fiopsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Linee-di-Indirizzo.pdf>)
- First achievement: National Guidelines pointed out the HF approach as the main feature of public policies to tackle homelessness at all level of government!

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Contacts

# Creativity

- Participatory approach
- Continuous training (workshop, webinar etc.)
- Sharing of staff among organizations
- Sharing of external supervision to reduce costs

Italian context

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# More creativity

- Open to a different population selection
- Technological equipment
- HF as part of the answer to migration crisis (Syria, Eritrea)

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Contacts



# Committee

- 11 Italian universities
- Summer/WinterSchool
- Evaluation (ex ante, in itinere, ex post)
- International training (US, Canada, Portugal, Spain, France etc.)

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Scientific Committee

Contacts

# Research

- Cost of homelessness
- Social design
- Participatory approach
- Story telling (trauma, health, addiction)
- Harm reduction approaches
- Learning by doing!

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# Fidelity

- Translation and adaptation of the International Fidelity Scale (PTH)
- Comparative research
- Production of a Fidelity Scale focused on the Italian context

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Contacts

# Thanks!

**Marco Iazzolino**

Director

at Network Housing First Italia

[m.iazzolino@fiopsd.org](mailto:m.iazzolino@fiopsd.org)

**Alice Stefanizzi**

Director of Fundraising and Communication

at Fondazione Progetto Arca onlus

Ph.D Candidate

at University of Turin

[alicestefanizzi@progettoarca.org](mailto:alicestefanizzi@progettoarca.org)