

# Housing First: some European reflections

FIOpsd Housing First conference  
Torino - 6/12/2016

- Housing First taking off in EU
  - South & North
    - But NO East
  - As **experiment** or as **policy**
    - FI, DK

- What is Housing First ?
  - Principles
    - European guide
    - Collective housing?!
  - Target group
    - Most excluded
      - Chronic and/or complex needs
    - Young, women suffering domestic violence
- Some flexibility BUT **limits**

- Evidence
  - Housing retention - high
    - *Change of tenancy not necessarily abnormal....*
  - Ontological security - substantial increase
  - Addiction/broader health - varied
    - *Importance of social support ...*
  - Many other factors (empl, relationships...) — too random

- Cost benefit
  - Careful BUT works
  - Most excluded
  - 15.000 euro and up for homeless bed — financial incentive to make the change
  - Inevitable process that leads to expensive shelter beds?!

- Some (provocative) questions/reflections
  - How to **scale**?! few 100 persons reached...
    - Smaller cities...
  - How important is the **fidelity** to Pathways model?
    - Consultancy trap / obstacle to change
    - Can we detach ourself from American *leaders* and be more confident ab the European model
  - How to find **housing**?
    - Creativity required...

- Advantage of European cooperation
  - Sharing **evidence**
    - Stop to multiplication of small experiments
  - Broader pool of **innovation**
    - See social support (ACT & ICM)
  - Create political **momentum**
    - Critical mass present
  - Access to **funding**
    - Structural Funds
  - Comparative **research**
    - Pooling research questions

- Housing First Europe Hub
  - New
  - Build on European Housing First Guide
  - Output available to ALL
  - Joint venture FEANTSA - Y-Foundation
  - Steering group = mix
    - Foundations, NGOs, Public authorities (cities/ministries)
    - FIOpsd
- What?
  - **Training** — including international summer uni
  - **Research** & monitoring of evidence
  - **Practical** tools
  - Awareness/**Lobbying**



- Hub Concrete
  - Bring Housing First to scale in middle sized city — toolkit
  - How to do Housing First for youth — toolkit
  - MOOC for social work students/social workers

- Where is Italy?
  - Mobilisation is impressive
    - esp local level
    - Multi-stakeholder
  - Political take up promising
  - Link to EU funds is unique
  - Importance of link with the local community in Housing First projects example for Europe
- BUT
  - Some worries about divide btw what is preached and practice
    - But internal dynamics in HousingFirst Italia will bridge the divide

- Thank you for listening