

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