

The Housing First (HF) model is an evidence-based practice, that has demonstrated in many locations (The United States, Canada, and in many EU countries) to be effective in reducing long-term homelessness.

HOME_EU Project study domains

Service Users

Compare experiences of Housing First users with users from Stair Case homelessness services (n=573).

Providers

Compare Providers perspectives and experiences of Housing First teams and the Stair Case homelessness services in terms of objectives and intervention strategies (125 service providers and 29 focus groups).

Citizens

Know about the citizen's opinion on homelessness and on the public policies, particularly on the Housing First model (n=5295).

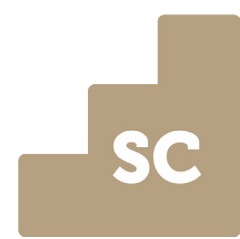
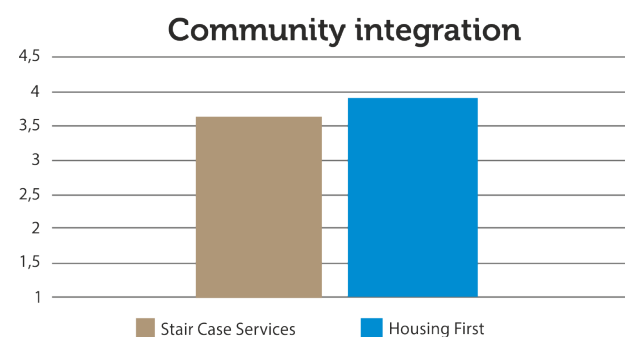
Public Policies

Compare public policies and how Housing First is incorporated in the different countries legislative and/or programatic bodies (79 documents / Two panels of 198 local and 24 national level policymakers involved in homeless policy development).



Housing First Model

- Immediate access to a house in the community (separation of housing and treatment)
- Independent
- Scattered
- Permanent

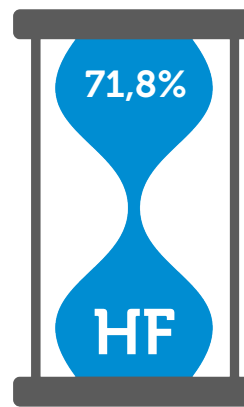
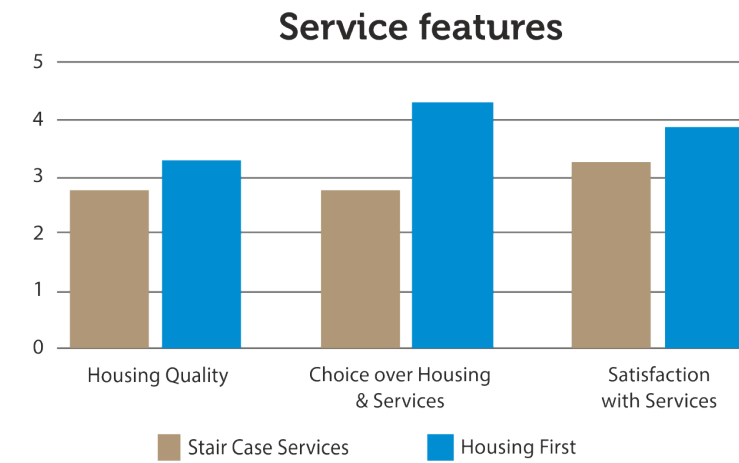


Stair Case Model

- Transitional accommodation
- Stair case care (treatment adherence & competence training)
- Congregated
- Concentrated
- Temporary

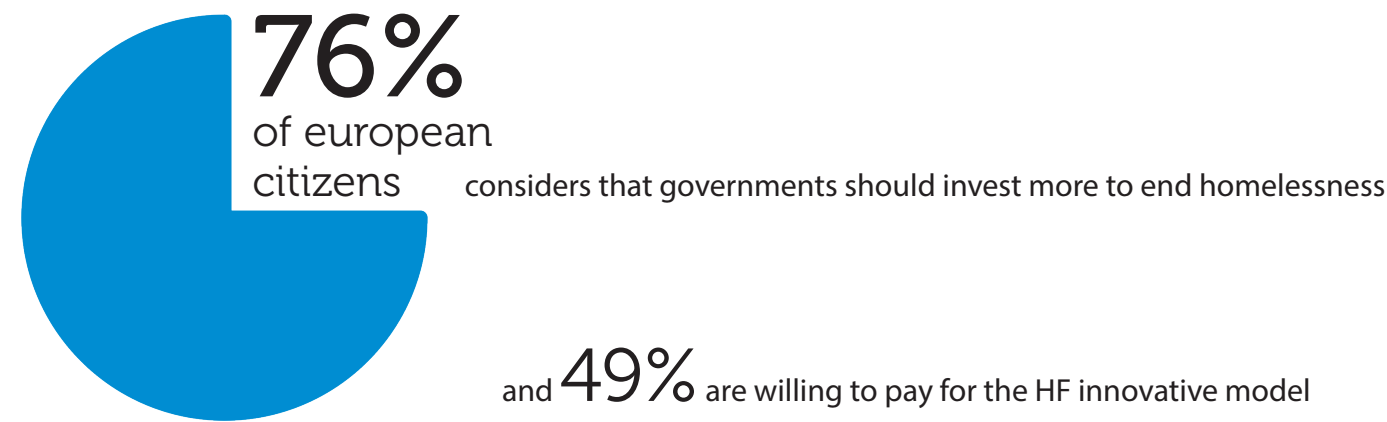
Participants engaged in HF rated more community integration than participants engaged in scattered traditional services.

Quality of housing, choice over housing and satisfaction with services were rated higher by participants involved in HF programs across seven partner countries.



Across all countries participants engaged in HF spent more of the past six months in independent accommodation than participants engaged in stair case services.

Across all countries participants engaged in HF reported fewer psychiatric symptoms than participants engaged in stair case services (from 1 to 5 every day). **+0,18** **-0,06**



Housing First approaches are transversely incorporated in the national and strategic policy documents of the 8 countries.

Most of local policy makers **62,6%** consider homelessness in their region a moderate or a major problem.

42,4 % of local policy makers consider that in their country there isn't a policy to reverse homelessness.

16,2 % say HF model is already aimed in local policies and 15,7% indicate HF is implemented in their municipality.

Lessons learned from the HOME_EU – Homelessness as unfairness project

- We obtained convincing and consistent evidence that Housing First programmes are more effective than traditional staircase services in decreasing individuals' time in homeless accommodation.
- Housing First programmes are more effective than traditional staircase services in decreasing psychiatric symptoms, increasing community integration, and enhancing people's capabilities.
- Housing First providers tend to emphasize service users' autonomy and choice over professionally delineated goals whereas in traditional services the support is more focused on service users' basic needs (food, shower, and shelter).
- Staircase model providers perceive more obstacles than HF model providers, including the lack of working tools and equipment, and in balancing work and private life.
- Most European citizens expressed a willingness for their governments to allocate more financial resources to address homelessness.
- The awareness that living on the streets limits one's capabilities, in different fields like employment or health is very high among the European citizens.
- Housing First approach to homelessness is already integrated in public policies across studied countries, but require further implementation and participatory evaluation procedures of the social policies on homelessness.
- Supported by an overall favourable public opinion of the European citizens, HOME_EU strongly recommend the advancement of the independent, scattered and permanent Housing First model as a privileged solution to end homelessness in Europe.