

Seminar 8: Implementation of Housing First (Room: TBD) - Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, DE

Caterina Cortese and Filippo Sbrana, IT: Housing First in Rome: a Community Project Experience

The presentation aims to present the main results, strengths and challenges of a large urban HF program - Housing First Rome. The program has peculiarities that make it unique in the implementation of HF projects in Italy, both in terms of the partners involved, the funding and the type of support provided by the staff. 40 people were housed in single or shared apartments for three years. With the exception of one person who left the program to return to the shelter, all other participants achieved housing and economic self-sufficiency and live within their own resources. High rates of housing stability, recovery, health, well-being, and social integration were achieved, according to the monitoring study. Factors that facilitated implementation and were favouring the success of the program, included training, organisational capacity, and social and community support. Currently, the staircase is the dominant homeless system paradigm in major cities. The challenge is to use the results of the Rome HF as an example. It shows that housing rights can be implemented.



Caterina Cortese is Research Director in fio.PSD (Italian Federation of organisations working with Homeless people), where she carries out studies and social research on homelessness in Italy, housing first programmes, health and social integration, good practices and social innovations for tackling severe marginalization. She is specialized in action-research, policy advice and technical writing activities. From 2022 to 2023 she was a professor of Economic Sociology at the University of Naples "Federico II".



Filippo Sbrana is Program Manager of Housing First in Rome for the Community of Sant'Egidio, where he has been a volunteer for over thirty years in support of homeless people and marginalized adults. He is Professor of Economic History and Departmental Delegate for Research in the Department of International Humanities and Social Sciences at the University for Foreigners of Perugia.

Lisete Cordeiro and Ana Maria Oliveira, PT: Implementation of Housing First in Portugal: contributions to the community integration of homeless people

In Portugal, the Housing First (HF) programme began to be implemented in the city of Lisbon, in 2009, through the AEIPS, a non-profit organization (Duarte et al., 2019) to provide housing and support to homeless people with significant support needs (Greenwood, et al, 2019). The positive results and the international recognition of Housing First (HF) approach, led to the dissemination of this model to other cities in the country and, the National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People (2017-2023) recognizes HF as a good initiative of social innovation to address homelessness (currently, there are more than 10 cities implementing HF and 420 tenants).

However, the dissemination of HF raises questions about feasibility of replication, which requires a better understanding of the contexts, the different funds that support the projects and current legislation. The National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People just supports the teams, which requires, to be sustainable, a different combination of public and private funds.

The present communication reflects the experience and analyses the specificities of the implementation of HF in Portugal, as well as identifying practices that promote effective community integration of people experiencing homelessness.

The presentation consists of three main topics: 1) Describing the distinct phases and stages of the implementation of HF in Portugal; 2) Analyzing the outcome data of the projects; 3) Identifying good practices that promote effective community

integration of homeless people.



Lisete Cordeiro is Co-founder and Executive Director of InPulsar; Sociologist with experience in designing, planning, monitoring, and evaluating social projects; Project Manager of a Housing First Project (Morada Certa| Leiria Housing First). Currently is PhD student in Social Work an Inter University Doctoral between the Faculty of Human Sciences (FCH-UCP) and the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Coimbra (FPCE-UC).



Ana Maria Oliveira holds a PhD in Social Work by Universidade Católica Portuguesa coordinates the Master and the PhD in Social Work. She also coordinates the Post-Graduation of Evaluation in Programs and Social Projects, the Post-Graduation of Artistic Practices and Social Inclusion, the Post-Graduation Management of Projects in Cooperation for Development and the Post-Graduation in Social Responsibility and Sustainability.

As a researcher at the CRC-W, she is currently engaged in the "CApS Project - Catholic University and Service Learning: Innovation and Social Responsibility" and she has also been involved in Service-Learning (SL) projects in social and interdisciplinary work. Her research focuses on areas of social intervention, including families, children and young people, and vulnerable populations. She also conducts research on social intervention models and methodologies, particularly the Strengths Based Approach. She is a member of the "Arts-based Research" and "Service User Involvement" research groups of the European Social Work Research Association and a member of the European Evaluation Society.