Conference programme (working draft)

Day 1 – 28th March, 2022

10:00  Registration & welcome coffee

10:30  Opening plenary session

● Welcoming address
  ○ José Luis Martínez-Almeida, Mayor, City of Madrid (TBC)

● Keynote address
  ○ Samara Jones, Coordinator, Housing First Europe Hub
  ○ Marian Juste Picon, President, HOGAR Sí

● Keynote address: Contextualisation of the report and objectives of the conference
  ○ Matt Downie, CEO, Crisis UK

● Presentation of main results and case studies of the report
  ○ Demos Helsinki

● Keynote address: Systemic change and the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness
  ○ Yves Leterme, Chair, European Platform on Combatting Homelessness

12:30  Coffee break

13:00  Workshops – Session 1 (more details on page 3)

14:30  Lunch

16:00  Workshops – Session 2

17:30  Networking event (TBC)
Day 2 – 29th March, 2022

10:00  Registration & welcome coffee

10:30  Workshops – Session 3

12:00  Coffee break

12:30  Closing plenary session

- Keynote address: Looking to the future
  - Juha Kaakinen, CEO, Y-Foundation

- Keynote address: Ensuring political commitment towards systemic change
  - Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner, European Commission

- Panel discussion
  - Ione Belarra, Minister, Spanish Ministry for Social Affairs and Agenda 2030
  - Andy Burnham, Mayor, Greater Manchester (TBC)
  - Renaud Payre, Vice President, Lyon Metropolitan Area (TBC)
  - Raquel Sánchez, Minister, Spanish Ministry for Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda (TBC)
  - Adam Zábranský, Councillor, City of Prague

- Conclusions and future commitments

14:30  End of conference
Workshop list

There will be four (4) different topical workshops over the course of the conference. During each session (1, 2, or 3), we will run all four workshops. Participants will be able to choose one to attend during each session. This way, participants will have the opportunity to attend three workshops out of the four available.

**Workshop 1: Housing stock and access to it**

Housing shortage is one of the greatest challenges faced by those who wish to engage in Housing First, housing-led or re-housing programmes for homeless populations. How do you encourage and support NGOs in acquiring scattered-site housing? And most importantly, how do you advocate for better housing policies that push funding towards the construction of more social housing? These are some of the guiding questions for this session.

**Workshop 2: Designing and implementing a strategy for systemic change**

Finland is a well-known example of designing a successful homelessness strategy that drives systemic change. This has been done thanks to a national Housing First network, as well as a collaborative environment among various stakeholders. Based on this example (although not exclusively!), this workshop helps participants to better understand how to build and maintain such a network, bringing together a multitude of actors and working towards shared objectives.

**Workshop 3: Long-term and sufficient funding**

Sustainable and predictable funding for the housing and support services in Housing First is crucial for success. The next step is to ensure these resources are used properly, guiding systemic change and supporting Housing First programmes for as long as needed. In the EU, the ‘Next Generation EU’ or Recovery Fund programme provides an unprecedented opportunity to access an important amount of funding for homelessness-related projects, including Housing First. This workshop provides the opportunity to discuss how different funding and financing streams can be adapted and created to support a systemic change toward a Housing First approach.

**Workshop 4: Transition support**

Having a system in place certainly helps, however, supporting a rightful and just transition is also essential when driving systemic change. This includes, for instance, a transition of the shelter sector that reduces the number of shelter beds while promoting more Housing First units. Another example is ensuring that the workforce understands how Housing First works and why it should be used as a tool to reduce, end and prevent homelessness. Join this workshop to hear from peer organisations in other countries about their experience in promoting this double transition.