





# A Guide to using EU Funds for HOUSING FIRST



I

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Guide to EU Funds and Housing First, drafted by FEANTSA and the Housing First Europe Hub on how to use the European Structural Funds, especially the  **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)** and the  **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**. The EU Funds can help drive investment in Housing First, and Housing First and housing led approaches can be a lever to reducing, ending and preventing homelessness.

The guide will help if you are:

1. Working in governments at national level and are supporting Housing First projects
2. Managing Authorities responsible for the programming and disbursement of the European Structural Funds
3. Organisations working on homelessness or housing who wish to access EU Funds for Housing First (to start projects, expand programmes, help fund support services, help finance housing, etc.)
4. European Commission officials looking for information about how best these funds can support Housing First

This document will provide:

- Short introductions to the different types of EU Funds available for Housing First
- An explanation of the key actors involved in the EU Funds and their roles
- Links to relevant websites where you can find information about how to get more information on the EU Funds for your country or region
- Case studies from  ITALY, the  CZECH REPUBLIC and  FRANCE with inspiring examples of how to use the EU Funds for Housing First
- Contact details for experts from the Housing First Europe Hub who can provide you with more information on the case studies and other examples

## Format

*This document will be regularly updated with new information as it becomes available. New case studies and other examples will be added as annexes and will be posted on the Housing First Europe Hub website: [www.housingfirsteurope.eu](http://www.housingfirsteurope.eu)*

*Collaborative effort: we are constantly seeking to make this information useful to all actors who wish to expand Housing First, particularly as part of plans and strategies to end and prevent homelessness. If you are aware of other examples or sources of information, please let us know: [samara.jones@housingfirsteurope.eu](mailto:samara.jones@housingfirsteurope.eu)*

## Background

**Housing First** means that people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are provided access to regular affordable housing (social, public or private rental housing) and the support that they need, for as long as they need it. Housing First is founded on core principles and has a strong evidence base as a successful approach for people who need ongoing support. Housing First can also be adapted for specific target groups, for example families, women, and young people. More detailed information about the Housing First approach and its positive outcomes in section 2.5. *Why use EU Structural Funds for Housing First?*) and in [An Introduction to Housing First](#) by the Housing First Europe Hub.

**Homelessness:** the [ETHOS Typology](#) provides a comprehensive definition of homelessness and housing exclusion (available in 24 languages).

## Policy Context

Tackling homelessness has become a social policy priority for the European Union, as reflected in the European Pillar of Social Rights (see [Article 19](#)). In June 2021, the European Commission, together with other EU institutions and bodies, all Member States and civil society stakeholders, launched the **European Platform on Combatting Homelessness** under the Portuguese Presidency. This is a new policy initiative under the Action Plan for delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights. In February 2022, an ambitious work plan was adopted for the Platform; one of the four priorities is a focus on EU funding opportunities. This commitment to fighting homelessness, and the potential for expanding Housing First, are important developments at EU level and can help national, regional and local actors in their efforts.

We are currently at the beginning of a new Multiannual Financial Framework (long term budget) for the EU, covering the period 2021 – 2027. This presents many new opportunities for mobilising EU funding and finance for the fight against homelessness. The new Regulations are broadly favourable. Member States and the European Commission are in the final phase of negotiating programmes. This publication aims to help stakeholders grasp the opportunities that this presents to channel structural funds into developing Housing First over the period.

# ETHOS

## EUROPEAN TYPOLOGY OF HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING EXCLUSION

### What is ETHOS?

ETHOS is the European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion. It was developed by FEANTSA as a transnational framework definition for policy and practice purposes. It provides a shared language for transnational exchange. It does not attempt to harmonise national definitions of homelessness in Europe.

ETHOS classifies living situations that constitute homelessness or housing exclusion. ETHOS identifies 4 main categories of living situation: Rooflessness, Houselessness, Insecure Housing and Inadequate Housing. These conceptual categories are divided into 13 operational categories that can be used for different policy purposes, such as mapping the problem of homelessness, as well as developing, monitoring and evaluating policies.

	OPERATIONAL CATEGORY	LIVING SITUATION	GENERIC DEFINITION
Conceptual Category	ROOFLESS	1 People Living Rough	1.1 Public space or external space Living in the streets or public spaces, without a shelter that can be defined as living quarters
		2 People in emergency accommodation	2.1 Night shelter People with no usual place of residence who make use of overnight shelter, low threshold shelter
	HOUSELESS	3 People in accommodation for the homeless	3.1 Homeless hostel 3.2 Temporary accommodation 3.3 Transitional supported accommodation Where the period of stay is intended to be short term
		4 People in Women's Shelter	4.1 Women's shelter accommodation Women accommodated to experience of domestic violence and where the period of stay is intended to be short term
		5 People in accommodation for immigrants	5.1 Temporary accommodation/reception centres 5.2 Migrant workers accommodation Immigrants in reception or short term accommodation due to their immigrant status
		6 People due to be released from institutions	6.1 Penal institutions 6.2 Medical institutions (*) 6.3 Children's institutions/homes No housing available prior to release Stay longer than needed due to lack of housing No housing identified (e.g. by 18th birthday)
		7 People receiving longer-term support (due to homelessness)	7.1 Residential care for older homeless people 7.2 Supported accommodation for formerly homeless people Long stay accommodation with care for formerly homeless people (normally more than one year)
	INSECURE	8 People living in insecure accommodation	8.1 Temporarily with family/friends 8.2 No legal (sub)tenancy 8.3 Illegal occupation of land Living in conventional housing but not the usual place of residence due to lack of housing Occupation of dwelling with no legal tenancy illegal occupation of a dwelling Occupation of land with no legal rights
		9 People living under threat of eviction	9.1 Legal orders enforced (rented) 9.2 Re-possession orders (owned) Where orders for eviction are operative Where mortgagee has legal order to re-possess
		10 People living under threat of violence	10.1 Police recorded incidents Where police action is taken to ensure place of safety for victims of domestic violence
	INADEQUATE	11 People living in temporary/non-conventional structures	11.1 Mobile homes 11.2 Non-conventional building 11.3 Temporary structure Not intended as place of usual residence Makeshift shelter, shack or shanty Semi-permanent structure hut or cabin
		12 People living in unfit housing	12.1 Occupied dwellings unfit for habitation Defined as unfit for habitation by national legislation or building regulations
		13 People living in extreme over-crowding	13.1 Highest national norm of overcrowding Defined as exceeding national density standard for floor-space or useable rooms

Note: Short stay is defined as normally less than one year; Long stay is defined as more than one year.

(\*) Includes drug rehabilitation institutions, psychiatric hospitals etc.

II

# EU FUNDS AND HOUSING FIRST

## 2.1. Introduction to the EU Structural Funds

The European Structural Funds work together to reinforce economic, social, and territorial cohesion within the EU. The most relevant funds for tackling homelessness are the **European Social Fund (ESF)** and the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**. The detailed common provisions of the ESF and ERDF can be found in [Regulation 2021/1060](#).

Put simply, the ESF invests in people and the ERDF invests in infrastructure. The funds are part of the EU budget and follow the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). For the period 2021-2027, the ERDF budget is €226 billion and the ESF+ is €99.3 billion<sup>1</sup>. Both funds can be used to support Housing First. However, neither has previously been used extensively for this purpose. This guide includes examples of good practice for using the EU Funds for Housing First, and we know that there is potential to do far more in this next and future funding periods.

The Structural Funds cover EU policy priorities, as set out in the relevant regulations. Homelessness is not a headline objective, but homelessness (and Housing First) can be included under the broader priorities in the relevant Regulations. The Policy Objectives for EU cohesion policy for the 2021-2027 period are:

1. A more competitive and smarter Europe.
2. a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy.  
→ The ERDF focuses mostly on Policy Objectives 1 and 2
3. a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility.
4. a more social and inclusive Europe.  
→ the ESF focuses on Policy Objective 4
5. a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories.

Each policy objective is broken down into further specific objectives under the different funds (for further details, see sections 2.3. *What is the ESF+?* and 2.4. *What is the ERDF?*)

The funds are 'ring fenced' by theme to address specific EU-wide concerns. This ring-fencing can be very useful for securing funding for Housing First, as there are specific thematic targets that can help to guide funds toward Housing First projects:

- Social inclusion: 25
- % of the ESF+
- Material deprivation: 3% of the ESF+
- Urban development: 8% of the ERDF

Eligibility for Structural Funds depends on the level of regional development. All EU regions are covered, but resources are targeted primarily at less-developed regions (those with a GDP per capita under 75% of the EU average). In these regions, the co-financing for projects can be up to

<sup>1</sup> The ESF has become the ESF+ because a number of previously separate funds have been brought together for the 2021-2027 period. See section 2.3. *What is the ESF+?* for further details.

85% the cost—EU funding will cover up to 85% of all operational programmes. Regions which are classified as ‘in transition’ are eligible for co-financing of up to 60%, and ‘more developed’ regions are eligible for co-financing of up to 40% of costs.

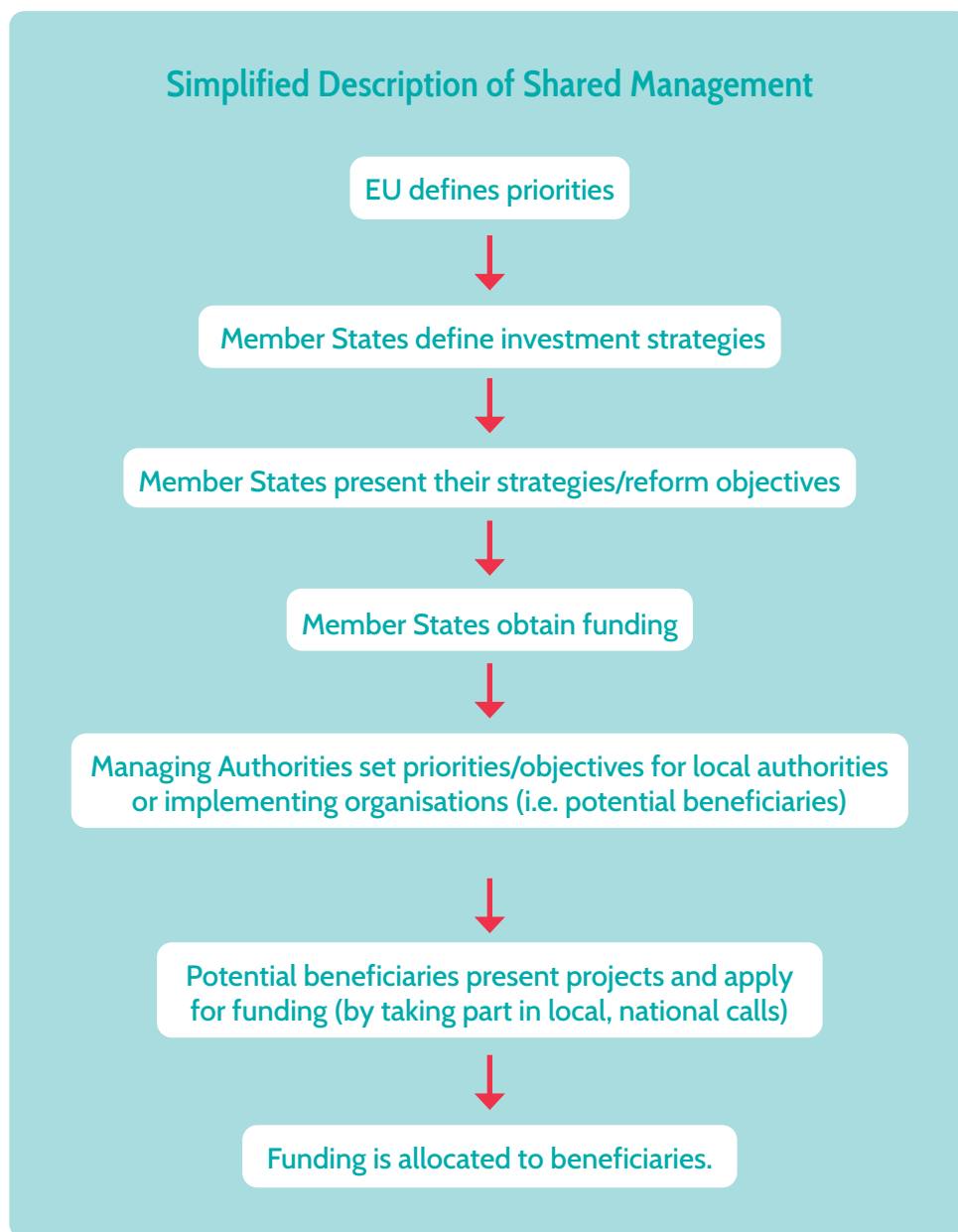
The Structural Funds are implemented through shared management. This means that national and regional authorities have primary responsibility for programming and implementing, while the European Commission plays a supervisory role (see Section 2.2. *How do Structural Funds work? for further details about shared management*). Each Member State works with the European Commission to write a Partnership Agreement, which is a reference document for programming investments. The Partnership Agreement defines the overall strategy for cohesion policy. It covers overall priorities and outlines a series of operational programmes managed at different levels using different funds. The content of the Partnership Agreement will determine whether and how easily the funds can be mobilised for scaling up Housing First. At the time of writing, Partnership Agreements for 2021 – 2027 have been agreed between the Commission and Austria, Finland, Lithuania, Germany and Greece.

Planning and implementation of ESF+ and the ERDF is also influenced by the [European Semester](#), the overall economic governance process of the EU. This is an annual process by which Member States submit economic and fiscal plans, and the European Commission carries out country-specific analysis and issues country-specific recommendations. The Semester process has become increasingly investment oriented. It has also paid some limited attention to homelessness and called for investment in affordable and social housing in recent years. The European Commission has sought to strengthen links between the Structural Funds and the Semester by focusing especially on investment-related recommendations at the beginning of the new programming period (2019). It plans to renew this commitment during the mid-term review of the funding period (2024).

It is worth noting that the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework is unique because it is combined with [Next Generation EU](#), a €800 billion temporary recovery instrument based on unprecedented borrowing by the EU. This stimulus package also creates new scope for financing of housing solutions for homeless people. Indeed, 7 Member States explicitly refer to homelessness in their Recovery and Resilience Plans, with 5 (Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden) proposing housing-led solutions. Read more about Next Generation EU and its implications for homelessness [here](#).



## 2.2. How do Structural Funds work?



The Structural Funds are part of the EU budget and are allocated and spent based on a system of **shared responsibility** between the European Commission and national authorities. This section explains how the entire process of **shared management** works.<sup>2</sup>

1. As mentioned above, shared management means that the European Commission and national authorities in Member States, such as ministries and public institutions, share responsibility for running structural funds. Member States' administrations (at national, regional and local level) choose which projects to finance and take responsibility for day-to-day management. Working together with the Member States, the Commission oversees programming, in line with the priorities set out in the Regulations, and supervises implementation.

2 This entire section is based on Regulation 2021/1060, accessible here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1060&from=EN#d1e32-321-1>

2. The entities within Member States that manage their Structural Funds programmes are known as Managing Authorities. They can be national or regional ministries, public institutions or other bodies. Directorate Generals of the European Commission cover different funds involved: DG Employment for the ESF and DG Regio for the ESF. Geographical units have desk officers dedicated to working on specific countries.
3. The partnership principle means that for each programme, **Member States should organise a comprehensive partnership** in accordance with their institutional and legal framework, including at least:
  - local, regional, urban or other public authorities,
  - economic and social partners,
  - civil society representatives/NGOs working on social inclusion,
  - research organisations and universities (where appropriate).

Partnerships should operate according to a multi-level governance principle and bottom-up approach. The **Member State shall involve partners in the preparation of the partnership agreement and throughout the preparation, implementation and evaluation of programmes.**

4. The Member State and partners **draft the Partnership Agreement**, which sets out the **strategic orientation for programming**. The Partnership Agreement shall contain the following elements:
  - The agreed (selected) **policy objectives**.
  - The preliminary **financial allocation** from ESF+/ERDF funding for actions as defined in the Partnership Agreement.
  - The **list of planned programmes** under the Funds covered by the Partnership Agreement.
5. After analysing the country-specific recommendations and the objectives related to the priorities of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the **Commission approves the Partnership Agreement**.
6. Once the Partnership Agreement is approved by the Commission, Member States **prepare, draft, and submit operational programmes**. Programmes consist of **one or more priorities, with each priority corresponding to a single Policy Objective**. Policy Objectives are described in [Annex IV of the Regulation](#).
7. The **Commission assesses the operational programmes** and their consistency with the Partnership Agreement made with each Member State.
8. Once the Commission approves the programmes, Member States (Managing Authorities and local authorities) implement their operational programmes by publishing calls and selecting projects which address specific issues. For each operational programme, the national authority appoints:
  - a Managing Authority (national, regional, or local public authority or public/private body to manage the operational programme),
  - a certification body, and
  - an auditing body.

The national Managing Authorities set objectives and obtain funding from the Commission. They are then responsible for publishing calls for proposals, selecting and evaluating projects, and allocating funding.

9. Once the Managing Authorities receive funding from the Commission, they transfer the funding to implementing organisations (e.g., organisations working at local, regional, or national levels). This final transfer happens in three steps:
  - First phase (prior to project kick-off) – up to 15% of the total amount.
  - Second phase (while project is ongoing) – a second portion, amounting to no more than 90% of the total including the amount that was received during the first phase.
  - Third phase (after completion of the project) – any amount still pending.
10. The Member State and the Commission review the progress during annual **performance review meetings**. For programmes supported by the ERDF and the ESF+, each Managing Authority submits a final performance report of the programme to the Commission.

### Where to find information about ESF and contacts in your country?

On the ESF website, each country has a dedicated mini-website which includes:

- Who to contact for information and how to apply for funds
- The Operational Programmes
- A database of projects funded in your country

For more information: <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=45&langId=en>

### How to apply?

To apply for funding, NGOs, local authorities, or other types of organisations submit project proposals by responding to calls published by the Managing Authorities at local, regional, and national levels. Ideally, Managing Authorities are in touch with local authorities who are aware of the needs at local/regional level and can shape the priorities and selection criteria accordingly.

## 2.3. What is the ESF+?

### 2.3.1. From ESF to ESF+

The new European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (1 July 2021) will continue to be the **main EU instrument** for responding to social challenges in Europe. Specifically, it “aims at tackling the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, promoting high employment levels, building social protection and developing a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the transition to a green and digital economy”<sup>3</sup>. Any legal entities established in a Member State and any legal entity established under Union law or any international organisation are eligible for ESF+ funding.

The new ESF+ integrates several European funds:

- The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD),
- The Youth Employment Initiative (YEI),
- The EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI).

The ESF+ should mean that funding can be used more efficiently and cover a wider range of activities as well as material support for people in need. The ESF+, much like its predecessor, aims at supporting individuals, regions, and Member States to address and tackle different challenges:

- social challenges (which includes recovering from the **COVID-19 pandemic**),
- employment-related challenges (including the attainment of the EU's employment targets),
- education and climate-related challenges, and, in more general terms,
- challenges related to the social inclusion of people living in the EU.

**Member States are obliged to allocate at least 25% of their resources of the ESF+ strand under shared management to foster social inclusion. Specifically, at least 3% of the ESF+ shared management strand should be dedicated to programmes which address the most deprived persons<sup>4</sup>—including people experiencing homelessness. ESF+ funding is also ringfenced to fund actions that implement the Youth Guarantee<sup>5</sup> And the Child Guarantee.**

### How does the ESF+ differ from the ESF?

- **ESF+ brings a number of previously separate funds together** ESF+ is simpler and more flexible, allowing implementing organizations to access and combine funds that were previously separate.
- It has a broader scope than ESF, because it includes specific references to basic material

3 Towards a more social and inclusive Europe 2021-2027: the new European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) enters into force today (01/07/2021): <https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en/news/ESF-plus-regulation-comes-into-force>

4 Resources addressing points (l) 'promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion' and (m) 'addressing material deprivation', shall be programmed under a dedicated priority or programme (the co-financing rate for that priority or programme shall be 90<sup>41</sup>). Member States can also support transnational cooperation actions under any of the specific objectives set out under points (a) to (l). See Regulation 2021/1057 for the full list of specific objectives: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1057>

5 Member States that had an average rate above the Union average of children of less than 18 years old at risk of poverty or social exclusion for the period between 2017 and 2019, on the basis of Eurostat data, shall allocate at least 5 % of their resources of the ESF+ shared management strand to support targeted actions and structural reforms to tackle child poverty (see [Article 7 ESF+ Regulations](#)).



assistance and migrants, and social integration measures.

- The integration of FEAD and ESF may facilitate the combination of provisions of food/material assistance with support for social inclusion and active measures.
- Member States' obligations on monitoring and reporting have been simplified, and the number of indicators has been reduced.
- **Member States must now allocate 25% of the total budget to social inclusion measures (instead of 20%<sup>4</sup> for ESF).**
- ESF+ has an explicit focus on housing – which can be applied to Housing First (see more details below).

**NEW: ESF+ Regulations present many priorities that allow for supporting homeless people and Housing First** Regulation 2021/1060 lays down the common provisions for the ESF+ and the ERDF, and sets out the policy objectives that should guide their implementation. The regulation also sets the rules for the programming, monitoring, and evaluation of projects implemented under the ESF+ and ERDF.

Regulation 2021/1057 sets out 11 specific objectives for the ESF+ in the policy areas of employment and labour mobility, education, social inclusion, which includes contributing to poverty eradication.

The following specific policy objectives are especially relevant for Housing First:

- (h) Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups. Homelessness is part of the required national strategic policy framework for social inclusion and poverty reduction (see 'Enabling Conditions' 4.4. of the Regulation).
- (k) Enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services (see Enabling Conditions 4.6. of the Regulation).
- (l) Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children.
- (m) Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived persons, including children, and providing accompanying measures supporting their social inclusion.

*In contrast to previous planning periods, the regulations for the 2021-2027 period explicitly include people experiencing homelessness as well as people in housing exclusion as target groups for ESF+ funded projects<sup>6</sup>. The ESF+ priorities include the promotion of social integration of people at risk of poverty, promotion of access to services, active inclusion, integration of third country nationals and marginalised communities<sup>7</sup>, as well as material deprivation. This means that the ESF+ can be used for Housing First.*

## 2.4. What is the ERDF?

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is designed to reduce disparities between more and less developed regions of the EU, improve development in these areas and promote overall cohesion. The ERDF funds the **building or improvement of infrastructure**, including **housing and renovation of existing buildings**, which means it can be used for Housing First. The overall budget for the 2021-2027 planning period is €226 billion.

Under Policy Objective 4 (a more social and inclusive Europe), the following **specific objectives** of the ERDF are especially relevant for **Housing First and homelessness**<sup>6</sup>:

- (iii) promoting the socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households, and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services,
- (iv) promoting the socio-economic integration of third country nationals, including migrants through integrated actions, including housing and social services.

The ERDF should also support **Policy Objective 5 of the European Pillar of Social Rights**, 'a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives', by:

- fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic, and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in urban areas,
- fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic, and environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in areas other than urban areas.

Support under Policy Objective 5 of the European Social Pillar shall be provided through territorial and local development strategies<sup>7</sup>. Where a Member State supports integrated territorial development, it shall do so through integrated territorial investments, community-led local development, or another territorial tool supporting initiatives designed by the Member State. Where implementing territorial or local development strategies under more than one Fund, the Member State shall ensure coherence and coordination among the Funds concerned.

## Implementation of programmes funded under the ERDF

EU Regulations (most importantly, Regulation 2021/1058) foresee the ERDF to be implemented through a **multi-governance approach** involving regional, local, and other public authorities, civil society, social partners (and, where appropriate, research organisations). As was mentioned above, Managing Authorities at the local, regional, and national levels are responsible for publishing calls for proposals, selecting and evaluating projects, and allocating funding.

6 See Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund, accessible here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1058>.

7 See also Article 28 of the 'Common Provisions' for this, accessible here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1060&from=EN#d1e4428-159-1>.

## 2.5. Housing First

There are significant start-up and ongoing costs to establish Housing First services, and to help move towards a housing-led and Housing First approach to ending homelessness. **The EU Structural Funds are potentially a useful lever for all actors** to increase the availability of Housing First services, increase the supply of affordable housing for Housing First, and support the transition and capacity building of the workforce to deliver high-quality services. The ESF+ and ERDF can support this process by financing services and infrastructure (housing and renovation of existing buildings) that many stakeholders would otherwise struggle to deliver. It is not the role of the funds to substitute national, regional or local funding. However, they can add value in supporting the scale up of Housing First.<sup>8</sup>

### Background on Housing First

Housing First is an innovative approach to re-housing for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. People are given access to an independent home with no preconditions and access to the necessary support, which may include mental health care, substance management and budget counselling. Traditional responses to homelessness deliver housing as a reward, or something to be ‘earned’ after a series of stays in temporary accommodation. By contrast, Housing First is founded on the principle that people can exercise choice, and acknowledges their independence while assisting them in their transition to self-sustained living<sup>9</sup>.

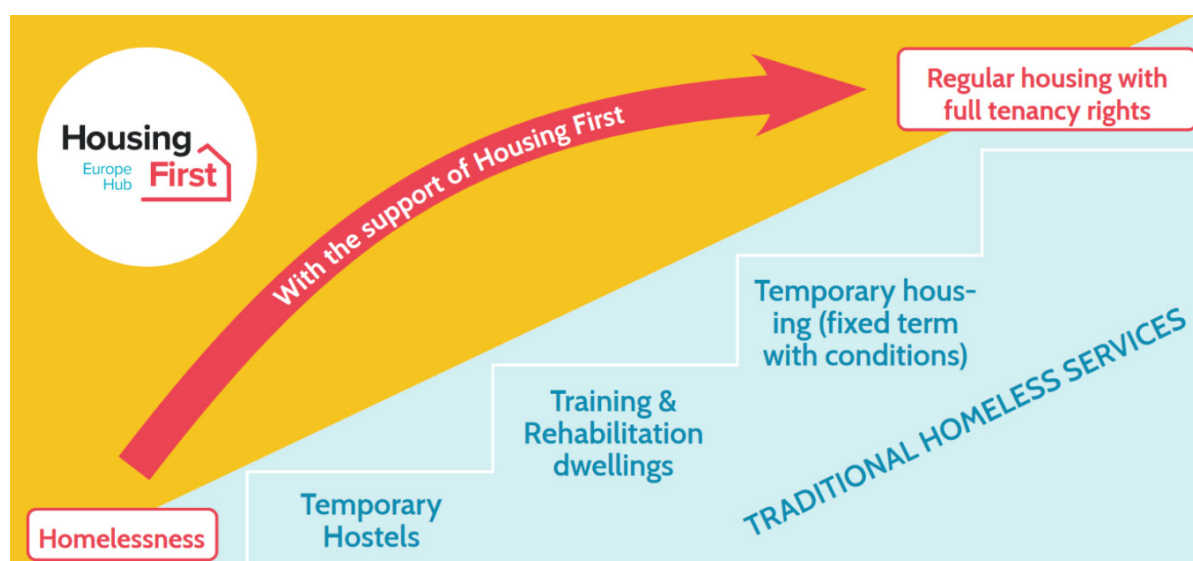


Figure 1: Main differences between staircase and Housing First services. Source: Housing First Europe Hub (2020). *An Introduction to Housing First*.

8 For more information, please see: FEANTSA (2010). *Toolkit: Ending Homelessness: A Handbook for Policy Makers*, accessible here: <https://www.feantsa.org/en/toolkit/2010/10/12/toolkit-ending-homelessness-a-handbook-for-policy-makers>

9 Housing First Europe Hub (2020). *An Introduction to Housing First*. Accessible at: <https://housingfirsteurope.eu/assets/files/2020/11/Introduction-to-HF-and-FAQ-FINAL-17.11.2020.pdf>  
 Housing First Europe Hub (2021). *Achieving a New Systems Perspective to Ending Homelessness through Housing First: A Policy and Practice Guide*. Accessible at: [https://housingfirsteurope.eu/assets/files/2022/02/Systems\\_Perspective\\_Policy\\_and\\_Practice\\_Guide.pdf](https://housingfirsteurope.eu/assets/files/2022/02/Systems_Perspective_Policy_and_Practice_Guide.pdf)  
 Pleace, N. (2016). *Housing First Guide: Europe*. Accessible at: <https://housingfirsteurope.eu/guide/>

## Housing First Core Principles



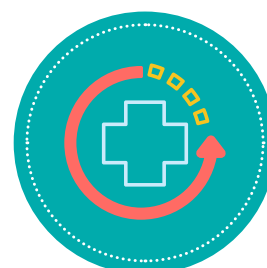
Housing is  
a Human Right



Choice and Control  
for Service Users



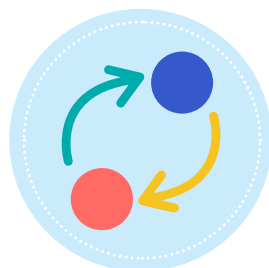
Separation of Housing  
and Treatment



Recovery  
Orientation



Harm  
Reduction



Active engagement  
without coercion



Flexible Support for as  
long as is Required

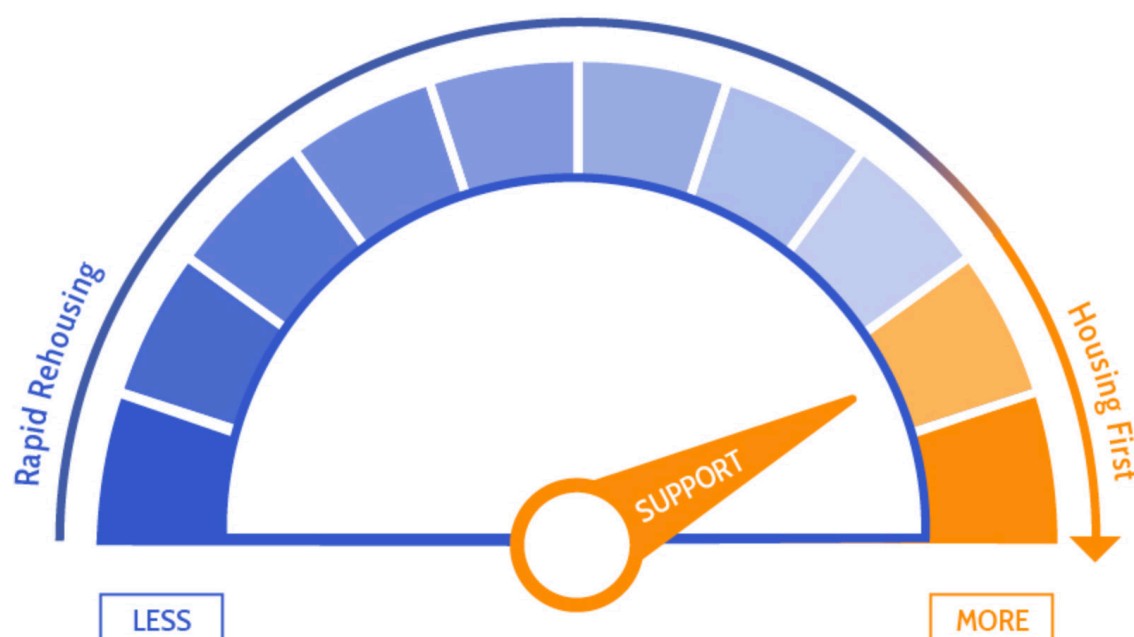


Person Centered  
Planning

*"The core principles of Housing First are defined in the Housing First Europe Guide and are shared across Europe. These core principles apply to Housing First approaches and programmes, and are essential to the successful delivery of Housing First. The Housing First Europe Guide (<https://housingfirsteurope.eu/guide/>) is available in the following languages: Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Spanish and Swedish.*

*The Housing First Europe Hub can support training on Housing First for social workers, housing providers, local authorities, governments, health care workers, etc. More information available at <https://housing-firsteurope.eu/section-training/>.*





*“Housing First can play a key role in ending and preventing homelessness. Everyone needs a home, and some people will require higher levels of support to continue to live in their homes. Some people may need support for a shorter period of time, and some people may only need access to rapid rehousing in order to avoid becoming homeless. A Housing First approach can be applied across a whole housing and homelessness system to reduce, end and prevent homelessness. Countries like Finland and Scotland (UK) are using this approach to significantly re-orient their responses to homelessness to start with ensuring access to housing and necessary support, in order to end homelessness rather than to manage it.”*

Housing First tenants (or clients) are typically placed in apartments scattered across standard private or social housing stock, having the same full tenancy rights as any other tenant, and being required to pay rent just like anyone else. A substantial body of evidence-based research demonstrates that Housing First is a highly successful approach that reduces the number of people sleeping in the streets, while giving individuals a chance to regain control over their lives and contribute to society. Indeed, studies conducted both in Europe and North America show that over 80% of Housing First tenants typically remain housed after the first two years<sup>10</sup>. These results are part of the reason why the Housing First approach has become so popular in North America and Europe, especially in recent years.

<sup>10</sup> Busch-Geertsema, V. (2014). Housing First Europe – Results of a European Social Experimentation Project. *European Journal of Homelessness*, 8(1), 13–28.

Stefancic, A., & Tsemberis, S. (2007). Housing First for Long-Term Shelter Dwellers with Psychiatric Disabilities in a Suburban County: A Four-Year Study of Housing Access and Retention. *The Journal of Primary Prevention*, 28(3–4), 265–279.

## Putting theory into practice: What can be funded?

The examples below demonstrate how Housing First can be funded with ESF+, ERDF, and other sources. In general, ERDF funding can help to fund or create appropriate infrastructure, whereas the ESF+ can be used to fund support services.

### ESF+

**Social integration measures:** to prevent and reduce homelessness and housing exclusion, for instance by providing housing to vulnerable populations with a Housing First approach.

**Employment measures:** re-skilling or up-skilling social and healthcare workers. For example, training social workers on the Housing First approach, building capacity of other support workers, etc.

**Measures addressing specific objective (k) (*Enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare*):** supporting vulnerable individuals in their transition from institutional care to independent living. For example, Housing First for Youth programmes are proven to prevent youth homelessness for young people leaving institutional and foster care systems.<sup>11</sup>

### ERDF

**Measures addressing Policy Objective 4.3 (*Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services*):** investing in housing infrastructure, for instance by building housing or renovating existing housing.

### Simplification measures

Recently, European Commission has been working on simplifying the Funds and their regulations to make them more accessible to potential beneficiaries, particularly (small) organisations that may not have the means to employ additional resources for auditing or administrative purposes. One of the ways in which this has been done is through **simplified cost options**, such as flat rate financing, standard scales of unit costs, and lump sums. Simplified costs have the goal of alleviating the administrative burden for beneficiaries, allowing them to focus more on achieving policy objectives rather than verifying financial documents.

You can read more about simplified cost options on the [European Commission website](#) or on the [Guidance on Simplified Cost Options \(SCOs\) published by the European Commission](#).

<sup>11</sup> For more information about the Housing First for Youth model, please see: Housing First Europe Hub (2021). An Introduction to Housing First for Youth. Accessible at: <https://housingfirsteurope.eu/assets/files/2021/07/HousingFirst4YouthFinalPrint.pdf> ; Blood, I., Alden, S. & Quilgars, D. (2020). Rock Trust Housing First for Youth Pilot. Accessible at: <https://housingfirsteurope.eu/assets/files/2020/10/HF4Y-Evaluation-Report-July-2020-Final.pdf>

III

# CASE STUDIES



## 3.1. Implementing Housing First in Italy through ESF and FEAD

### 3.1.1. Context: Housing First in Italy 2011-2021

Over the past 10 years, Housing First has become more widely used to address homelessness in Italy. In 2011, prompted by the rising numbers of destitute and homeless people in cities, the Italian National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT) carried out a country-wide homeless count, followed by a second count in 2014. Results of these two studies showed that while homeless numbers had essentially remained the same over the years, the services offered on a national scale were very diverse and uneven.

At the same time, to meet EU standards for social inclusion – as outlined in the Europe 2020 Strategy – Italy needed to reform its policies to help raise 2.2 million people out of poverty. A set of tools that could be implemented evenly throughout the country was required. Fio.PSD (the Italian Federation of Organisations for Homeless People) suggested the government draft guidelines for all stakeholders to follow and was tasked with supporting the drafting committee by providing technical advice and collecting recommendations and good practice examples from across the country. The Fio.PSD was chosen because of its long-standing experience with homelessness and Housing First, which includes direct cooperation with service providers and homeless people. Their work resulted in the ‘Guidelines for tackling severe adult marginality in Italy’ (*Linee di Indirizzo per il contrasto alla Grave Emarginazione Adulta in Italia*), a benchmark to guide planning of homelessness services, officially approved in 2015.<sup>12</sup>

#### Why was this case study selected?

Fio.PSD is the leading homelessness organisation in Italy, responsible for advocacy, delivering training, and promoting Housing First practices throughout the territory. It played a key role in defining the national housing-led homelessness strategy, steering decisions of the drafting committee and pushing for Housing First to be used as a key policy principle. Thanks to their work, the national homelessness strategy was drafted through a bottom-up participative approach involving several stakeholders at multiple governance levels – from national Ministries to regional and local authorities – and has the dual goals of (a) making homelessness services as homogeneous as possible; (b) shifting the system away from emergency solutions and towards a housing-led approach.

However, the work of Fio.PSD did not end there. In addition to supporting the drafting committee, the organisation also supervised implementation of the projects under the 2016-2019 call for proposals (see below), training social workers and later conducting evaluation in collaboration with the University of Bologna.<sup>13</sup> An additional follow-up report, covering the most recent period, was published in 2021.

12 Fio.PSD, *Il percorso delle Linee di Indirizzo*. <https://www.fiopds.org/linee-guida-contro-grave-emarginazione/>

13 See: Prandini, R. & Ganugi, G. (2020). *Monitoraggio Avviso 4/2016: Il contrasto alla grave emarginazione adulta e alla condizione di senza dimora*. Rome: fio.PSD. Accessible at: [https://www.fiopds.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Report\\_Monitoraggio\\_Avviso\\_4.pdf](https://www.fiopds.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Report_Monitoraggio_Avviso_4.pdf)



Following approval of the new strategy, in 2016 the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – Italy's MA for the ESF and FEAD – published a call for proposals with a budget of €50 million for the 2016-2019 period. The budget was divided between FEAD (50%) and ESF (50%) funding, with the latter including the National Operational Programme (NOP) for inclusion.

In 2021, the central government renewed the interest in homelessness policy in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza, PNRR), allocating €450 million to the provision of Housing First services and €2.8 billion to increasing the social housing stock.<sup>14</sup> The NOP for inclusion was also renewed with an additional €93.6 million funded through REACT EU, bringing the total NOP investment to €1.3 billion for the 2021-2027 financial framework. As a result, Housing First initiatives are funded through the NOP, whose main aim is to reduce levels of vulnerability among people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NOP aims to prevent an increase in poverty rates by investing heavily in Housing First practices. This is a significant and unprecedented investment in Housing First.

### 3.1.2. 2016-2019 Call for Proposals

The [2016 call for proposals](#), led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, aimed to fund projects tackling adult deprivation and homelessness through ESF and FEAD. Its specific goal was to back regions and local authorities in the strengthening of services using ESF funds and the supply of material assistance to homeless people using the FEAD, and implementing a strong Housing First approach centred upon social inclusion and tailored support.

Specific investment priorities were outlined in the call, along with eligible beneficiaries. These included for instance: regional authorities; cities with more than 1,000 homeless people and at least 250,000 inhabitants; towns with more than 400 homeless people (based on the follow-up study conducted by ISTAT in 2014). The call also stated a specific deadline for applications and described the amount of funds each beneficiary would be receiving, as well as the distribution process.

The call also explicitly stated the following criteria for evaluating applications:

- present a gap the project would aim to fill (for instance, the lack of a specific service),
- list the concrete results beneficiaries wish to achieve through the project, and
- describe how the project falls into the broader territorial homelessness strategy.

#### How were the funds used?

As stated above, projects hoping to receive funding under the ESF-FEAD scheme should have been aimed at (a) providing material assistance to homeless people (FEAD), or (b) strengthening existing services (ESF). The types of projects that could be financed were outlined in the call for proposals drafted by the Managing Authority.

14 Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza, accessible at: <https://italiadomani.gov.it/home.html>

### Typology of services for homeless people (ESF-FEAD Funds) (N 77)

December 2021

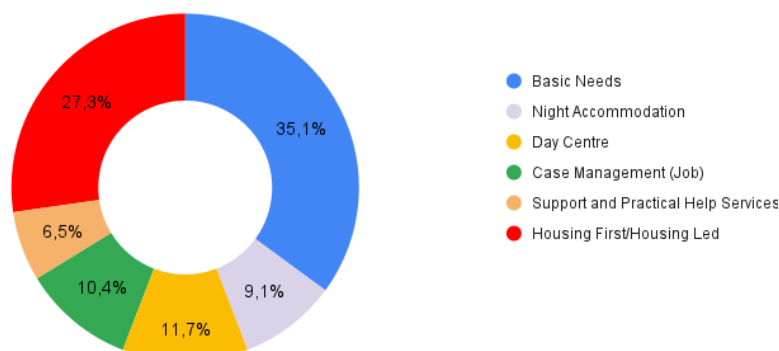


Figure X: Use of ESF and FEAD under the 2016-2021 call for proposals. Source: Cortese & Pascucci (2021). *I servizi come agenti del cambiamento nel contrasto alla Homelessness. I risultati del Monitoraggio qualitativo Avviso 4/2016 e Fondo Povertà.*

### ESF

- Building interdisciplinary teams (including social workers, educators, cultural mediators, psychologists, etc.) to provide individualised, targeted support to homeless individuals.
- Pilot projects.
- Homelessness prevention.

### FEAD

- Material assistance and food distribution (for instance clothing, personal hygiene products, emergency kits, housing equipment).
- Other material goods associated with broader social inclusion projects (for instance, “clothes and tools associated with training activities that aimed to introduce homeless people into the job market”<sup>15</sup>).
- Support measures leading homeless people towards independence and autonomy (for instance to access social services, complete bureaucratic procedures, and other types of multidimensional support).

### Contact:

Fio.PSD – [segreteria@fio.psd.org](mailto:segreteria@fio.psd.org)

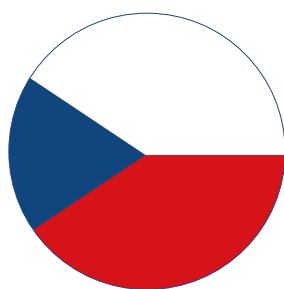
ESF Managing Authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – [online contact form](#)

### Interested in knowing more?

[Fio.PSD website](#) (in Italian).

[2016 call for proposals drafted by the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies](#) (in Italian).

<sup>15</sup> Prandini, R. & Ganugi, G. (2020). *Monitoraggio Avviso 4/2016: Il contrasto alla grave emarginazione adulta e alla condizione di senza dimora*. Rome: fio.PSD. Page 6. Accessible at: [https://www.fiopsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Report\\_Monitoraggio\\_Avviso\\_4.pdf](https://www.fiopsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Report_Monitoraggio_Avviso_4.pdf)



## 3.2. Housing First in the Czech Republic is led by institutional actors

### 3.2.1. Legislative and political context

The legislative and political context of homelessness in the Czech Republic is characterized by an extremely limited rental housing stock (only 18% of the housing market in the Czech Republic is available for rent, compared to an average of 25% in OECD countries<sup>16</sup>) and the lack of a national policy that legislates social housing. This has several implications, resulting in a housing crisis where vulnerable households struggle to find affordable accommodation. Indeed, about 45% of poor households in Czech Republic were overburdened by housing costs in 2016<sup>17</sup>. Additionally, the system is highly fragmented and responsibility for social housing falls onto the many municipalities scattered across the country—which translates into the issue being addressed unevenly, or in some cases not at all.

In 2015, the government tried to address the issue by drafting a non-legal, non-binding document containing its vision, goals, and tasks in relation to social housing: the *Social Housing Concept of Czech Republic 2015 – 2025* (*Koncepce sociálního bydlení ČR 2015–2025*). The document defines current challenges related to housing in the Czech Republic, as well as the steps that should be taken to achieve the goals set forth in the field of social housing. This includes, for instance, drafting legislation that regulates social housing across the country<sup>18</sup>.

Specifically, Czech households face the following challenges in relation to housing:

- A high financial burden for housing. (In 2018, Czech households spent 26,5% of their total expenditures on housing—one of the highest percentages in the EU<sup>19</sup>.)
- Insufficient prevention of discrimination in the housing market.
- A growing number of people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- Residential segregation.

16 OECD (2021). *Housing Affordability in Cities in the Czech Republic*. OECD Urban Studies, OECD Publishing: Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/bcdcf4a-en>

17 FEANTSA & Fondation Abbé Pierre (2018). *Third Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe*. FEANTSA/Fondation Abbé Pierre: Brussels/Paris. <https://www.feantsa.org/download/full-report-en1029873431323901915.pdf>

18 Housing Europe (2015). *The new Social Housing Concept in Czech Republic*. Accessible at: <https://www.housingeurope.eu/re-source-578/the-new-social-housing-concept-in-czech-republic>  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (n.d.). *Social Housing in the Czech Republic*. Accessible at: <http://socialnibydeni.mpsv.cz/en/>  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (n.d.). *Koncepce sociálního bydlení ČR 2015–2025*. Accessible at: <http://socialnibydeni.mpsv.cz/cs/co-je-socialni-bydleni/koncepce-socialniho-bydleni-cr-2015-2025>

19 OECD (2021). *Housing Affordability in Cities in the Czech Republic*. OECD Urban Studies, OECD Publishing: Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/bcdcf4a-en>

- Discrimination in the housing market for some groups (e.g., Roma).
- Insufficient public resources.

A sharp increase in the cost of housing, while incomes have essentially remained the same. This entails that first-time buyers – such as young households – struggle to take foot on the property ladder, perpetuating their dependency on affordable housing. (Buyers in the Czech Republic need to save the equivalent to about 12 annual gross salaries to buy a home—the second highest rate in the EU.<sup>20</sup>)

In 2018, the Ministry for Regional Development proposed a Social Housing Act, following a political roundtable discussion where potential solutions for combating poverty and social exclusion were formulated. However, further actions regarding the Act are currently pending and the Czech Republic remains without legislation on social housing.

### 3.2.2. Three steps towards a Housing First-based national policy

The implementation of Housing First across the Czech Republic happened in three separate, yet interconnected stages.

1) In 2016, the city of Brno launched a Housing First pilot project under the ESF (call number 24 ‘Social Innovation’), targeting 50 randomly selected homeless families with children and providing them with housing and support. The goal of the project was to see whether homelessness for this group could be ended, providing a sustainable model to be upscaled in other cities across the country. Around €400,000 in Structural Funds was mobilised to finance this operation<sup>21</sup>.

Three stakeholders were involved in the pilot, cooperating and pooling together their knowledge and expertise:

- (a) the city of Brno, which provided flats;
- (b) local NGO IQ Roma Servis, which provided targeted support to tenants;
- (c) the University of Ostrava, responsible for conducting evaluation and measuring project impact.

Results showed that 96% of families successfully maintained housing after one year<sup>22</sup>, pushing the municipal government to expand the pool of applicants to all homeless families in Brno.

2) The success of the Brno pilot project drove the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to launch national call (number 108) on ‘Housing First’ in late 2018, with a budget of €6 million (150,000,000 CZK). To address the widespread lack of knowledge about the functioning of Housing First and structural funds, the Ministry organised five informative seminars between January and March 2019. Ministry officials and NGOs supported potential beneficiaries in drafting project proposals, instructing them on how to develop successful applications. Furthermore, the Housing First division of the Unit for Aging and Social Affairs (within the Ministry) consults with

20 Deloitte (2021). Property Index: Overview of European Residential Markets. <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/at/Documents/real-estate/at-property-index-2021.pdf>

21 City of Brno (2018, March 20). Velký brněnský úspěch: Rapid Re-Housing dosáhl svého cíle. Accessible at: <https://www.brno.cz/brno-aktualne/tiskovy-servis/tiskove-zpravy/a/velky-brnensky-uspech-rapid-re-housing-dosahl-sveho-cile/>

22 Ripka, Š., Černá, E., Kubala, P. (2018). „Pilotní testování rychlého zabydlení rodin s dětmi (Rapid Re-Housing)“. Ostravská Univerzita, Fakulta sociálních studií: Ostrava. Accessible at: [https://socialnibydleni.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/RRH\\_Zaverecna-evaluacni-zprava\\_web.pdf](https://socialnibydleni.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/RRH_Zaverecna-evaluacni-zprava_web.pdf)



beneficiaries regularly, such as by ensuring that projects respect Housing First principles and the criteria stated in the call. (For instance, the call specifies certain standards for eligible apartments, e.g., being equipped with sanitary and cooking facilities, having direct access to water, being structurally sound, etc.) The Platform for Social Housing, a network of NGOs and experts, evaluates project fidelity to the Housing First model.

Participants were selected according to a point system, specified in the call, which assigned points to individuals depending on their situation (e.g. their homeless situation, experience with institutional care, history of substance abuse, etc.).

3) Lately, the Ministry has been trying to further upscale Housing First. This has led to the recent drafting, in concert with the civil society sector, of two additional national calls whose first one is set to be published in 2022. The calls envisage a total budget of €35 million over the full 2021–2027 programming period.

## Why was this case study selected?

*The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, MA for European funds in the Czech Republic, played a pivotal role in the implementation of Housing First nation-wide and the switch from a staircase model to a Housing First approach.*

*For example, the Ministry implemented the Social Housing Support project ([Podpora Sociálního Bydlení](#))—a system aimed at building capacity in the provision of social housing and support services. The project pools together knowledge of expert groups from various fields and sectors (academics, NGOs, ministries, municipalities, municipal health and housing departments, etc.) to train cities and their workers about the new social housing system envisaged in the Concept. Training is also provided through a series of free videos and webinars, accessible through the [Social Housing Support project's YouTube page](#). Additionally, it provided targeted support to beneficiaries before and during project implementation, collaborating with the third sector to develop a system based on close cooperation and mutual learning.*

*While the Ministry did play an important role, the key success factor of the Czech case lies in the collaborative relationships that have been established among the main stakeholders involved in the upscaling of Housing First. This includes the Platform for Social Housing and civil society organisations, as well as the Housing First sub-unit and the Ministry for Regional Development. All actors engage in regular open discussions about their work, cooperating towards shared objectives and goals.*

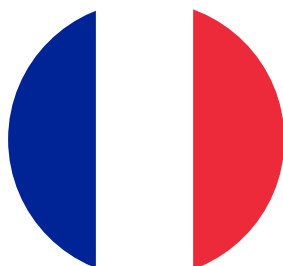
## Contact:

ESF Managing Authority: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs – [socialni.bydleni@mpsv.cz](mailto:socialni.bydleni@mpsv.cz)

## Interested in knowing more?

FEANTSA (2017). [FEANTSA Ending Homelessness Awards 2017: A Handbook on Using the European Social Fund to Fight Homelessness](#).

[Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs website](#) (in Czech). [Call for proposals no.108 \(2018\)](#), drafted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (in Czech).



### 3.3. France on the path to use ESF+ for Housing First purposes

In the previous funding period, housing and homelessness were not priorities for the ESF in France. However, things look set to be different for the new period. The draft programme for the ESF+ national programme on inclusion (2021-2027) includes “actions to support access to and maintenance of housing: multidisciplinary support towards and in housing (excluding investment), including for households housed in temporary housing, to promote access to permanent housing”. This creates new scope to use the ESF to tackle homelessness and to invest in Housing First.

In 2011, France initiated its first Housing First pilot project in 4 sites across the country (Lille, Marseille, Paris, Toulouse). The project, named *Un Chez Soi d'Abord*, was led by DIHAL, the French Interministerial delegation for accommodation and access to housing (*Délégation interministérielle à l'hébergement et à l'accès au logement*) and was based on the Pathways to Housing model<sup>23</sup>. After two years, an independent evaluation showed that (a) over 85% of users were still housed, and (b) the switch to a Housing First model resulted to be economically advantageous<sup>24</sup>. These results motivated the French government to further push the scaling up of Housing First across the country, by basing the 2017 five-year plan for combating homelessness (2018-2022) upon this philosophy.

Fondation Abbé Pierre, leading actor of the homelessness sector in France, has recently become involved in this process by bringing together DIHAL and the General Delegation for Employment and Professional Training (*Délégation Générale à l'Emploi et à la Formation Professionnelle*, DGEFP – the ESF MA in France) and advocating for homelessness to be included in the 2021 programming for ESF+ funding.

#### Why was this case study selected?

*This case study highlights the impact of strong advocates from civil society who were able to change the mindset of policymakers, taking the necessary steps to move away from traditional homelessness service and towards a Housing First philosophy. For the first time, homelessness has been included as a priority in the draft ESF+ and NOP on inclusion. For example, the following target groups have been identified as potential beneficiaries of ESF+ projects:*

- *People experiencing homelessness or living in illicit conditions (e.g., slums, squats),*
- *People at risk of homelessness,*
- *People living in unsanitary conditions,*
- *People having the right of access to social housing.<sup>25</sup>*

23 Fondation Abbé Pierre (2019). *L'état du mal-logement en France 2019. Chapitre 2 : Communication ou révolution ? Le Logement d'abord à l'épreuve du terrain*. Accessible at: [https://www.fondation-abbé-pierre.fr/documents/pdf/reml2019\\_chapitre\\_2\\_logement\\_d\\_abord\\_def.pdf](https://www.fondation-abbé-pierre.fr/documents/pdf/reml2019_chapitre_2_logement_d_abord_def.pdf)

24 DIHAL (2017). *Un chez soi d'abord : Retour sur 6 années d'expérimentation*. DIHAL: Paris. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2017/04/ucsa.pdf>

25 For further details, see: Délégation générale à l'emploi et à la formation professionnelle (2021). *Document de travail. Projet de programme national FSE+/FTJ: 2021-2027*. Accessible at: <https://fse.gouv.fr/la-concertation-fse>

## Contact:

ESF Managing Authority: General Delegation for Employment and Professional Training – [www.fse.gouv.fr](http://www.fse.gouv.fr)

Specific contacts for each Region: [www.fse.gouv.fr/nous-contacter](http://www.fse.gouv.fr/nous-contacter)

## Interested in knowing more?

[Operational programme for ESF+ funding for the 2021-2027 financial framework](#) (in French).

Fondation Abbé Pierre (2021). [\*Ma région lutte contre le mal-logement grâce aux fonds européens !\*](#)

## Looking for more information?

The Housing First Europe Hub will regularly update this document with examples and case studies of how to use the EU Structural Funds to start and sustain Housing First programmes. Keep checking regularly on their website: [www.housingfirsteurope.eu](http://www.housingfirsteurope.eu)

The FEANTSA website is an excellent source of information on the EU Funds: [www.feantsa.org](http://www.feantsa.org)

FEANTSA has co-sponsored an Ending Homelessness Award for projects that use the ESF to address homelessness, and has compiled a list of excellent projects. You can check it out here: <https://www.feantsa.org/en/resources/resources-database-tag=feantsa+ending+homelessness+awards>

## List of abbreviations and acronyms

<b>DGEFP</b>	<i>Délégation Générale à l'Emploi et à la Formation Professionnelle</i> (General Delegation for Employment and Professional Training)
<b>DIHAL</b>	<i>Délégation interministérielle à l'hébergement et à l'accès au logement</i> (Interministerial delegation for accommodation and access to housing)
<b>EaSI</b>	European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation
<b>ERDF</b>	European Regional Development Fund
<b>ESF+</b>	European Social Fund Plus
<b>ETHOS</b>	European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FEAD</b>	Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived
<b>FEANTSA</b>	European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless
<b>Fio.PSD</b>	Italian Federation of Organisations for Homeless People
<b>ISTAT</b>	Italian National Institute for Statistics
<b>MA(s)</b>	Managing authority(ies)
<b>MFF</b>	Multiannual Financial Framework
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation
<b>NOP</b>	National Operational Programme
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>PNRR</b>	Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza (National Recovery and Resilience Plan)
<b>YEI</b>	Youth Employment Initiative



## About FEANTSA

FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless. We are the only European NGO focusing exclusively on the fight against homelessness. Our ultimate goal is an end to homelessness in Europe. Established in 1989, FEANTSA brings together non-profit services that support homeless people in Europe. We have over 120 member organisations from 30 countries, including 27 Member States.

FEANTSA works towards ending homelessness by:

- Engaging in constant dialogue with the European institutions, national and regional governments to promote the development and implementation of effective measures to end homelessness.
- Conducting and disseminating research and data collection to promote a better understanding of the nature, extent, causes of, and solutions to, homelessness.
- Promoting and facilitating the exchange of information, experience, and good practice between FEANTSA's member organisations and relevant stakeholders with a view to improve policies and practices addressing homelessness.
- Raising public awareness about the complexity of homelessness and the multidimensional nature of the problems faced by homeless people.

For more information, please visit the FEANTSA website: [www.feantsa.org](http://www.feantsa.org)



## About the Housing First Europe Hub

The Housing First Europe Hub is a partnership of housing providers, foundations, governments, national platforms, cities, national government ministries, and experts working together to promote the scaling up of Housing First as an effective systemic response to homelessness across Europe.

We support this effort through:

- **TRAINING** – for Housing First service providers, cities, governments, housing providers, etc.
- **PARTNERSHIP NETWORK** – we work with our partners to advocate for and support the implementation of Housing First as a means to transform existing housing and homelessness systems to focus on ending and preventing homelessness across Europe. We also support national and regional Housing First networks as they share practice and knowledge for scaling up Housing First.
- **RESEARCH** – as Housing First is strongly evidence-based, ongoing research is crucial to the innovation and improvement of the approach.
- **COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE** – where practitioners can exchange knowledge and experiences with one another to help improve outcomes for service users

For more information, please visit:

[www.housingfirsteurope.eu](http://www.housingfirsteurope.eu)



This publication has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2021-2027). The information contained in this publication does not automatically reflect the official position of the European Commission. Copyright © 2022 FEANTSA and the Housing First Europe Hub, All rights reserved.





## STAY INFORMED

To learn more about Housing First in Europe and the Housing First Europe Hub, visit [www.housingfirsteurope.eu](http://www.housingfirsteurope.eu).

You can also follow us on social media:



@ HousingFirstHub



Housing First Europe Hub



Housing First Europe Hub