

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER 2025

COHORT 7 – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Do you want to participate in the Housing First Europe Hub's Train-the-Trainer programme?

We are excited to start a new Cohort of Housing First Europe Hub Trainers. This Train-the-Trainer programme will bring together representatives from the Housing First Europe Hub's Core and Associate Partners and we are looking forward to welcoming a new group of trainers to our Housing First training community!

This course is designed for people wishing to become Housing First trainers¹, providing them with high-quality training, including a deep understanding of the Housing First approach and training skills that allow them to teach the Housing First principles and philosophy to a wide range of audiences (frontline workers, civil servants, housing providers, funders, etc.) in different contexts.

The Train-the-Trainer programme is delivered in English by certified trainers from across Europe who have previously completed the programme. The material is based on the Housing First Europe Guide - available in many languages on our website. The training includes four sessions – **three residential sessions in three different European countries, one online session, and the Housing First Europe Hub's Trainer's Symposium**. Participants are expected to attend all days of all four sessions and the Trainer's Symposium in order to successfully complete the programme.

To apply, please fill out [this form](#) by telling us a bit about yourself, why you want to join the Train the Trainer course, and about your organisation if it is not a Housing First Europe Hub partner.

The deadline for applications is **March 17th, 2025**

2025 Course dates

- **Session 1:** 5 - 7 May (3 full days of training)
Brussels, Belgium
- **Session 2:** June - online (half-day training) (date TBC)
- **Session 3:** 6 - 8 October (3 full days of training)
Malmö, Sweden

¹ **Please note:** this course is meant for people who already know about Housing First and wish develop their skills as trainers on this topic. If your goal is to gain a basic knowledge and understanding of the Housing First model, the Housing First Europe Hub has prepared a set of introductory courses in multiple languages (EN-ES-FR-IT-NL). All videos can be found on the Hub's [YouTube channel](#).

- **Session 4:** 1 – 5 December (2 ½ days of training; followed by participation in the 2 day Trainers' Symposium)
European Youth Centre, Budapest, Hungary

Meet your Head Trainer

Cara Gibbons – Focus Ireland

Cara has been working with Focus Ireland for over 20 years. She has managed various Dublin-based projects and has worked directly with homeless families, single adults, infants, young children, and teenagers across Focus Ireland's various housing services.

Cara is now part of the Practice Development team in Focus Ireland. This role involves supporting organisational practice and policy development, delivering training on Housing First, addiction, and staff resilience, and supporting the design of a psychological informed environment based on Housing First and trauma informed philosophies.

Cara's training methodology is based on Freire's approach, emphasising dialogue, critical thinking and social justice. DeBono's 6 hats and Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle are used to develop critical thinking and reflection.

Cara has an MA in Social Justice & Public Policy and a Post Grad Certificate in Trauma Studies.

When not working, Cara likes bouldering, rock climbing and being outside.

Methodology

Our training programme is crafted to embrace experiential, social, and hands-on learning methodologies, ensuring a dynamic and engaging experience. Through social learning, individuals collaborate, exchange insights, and learn from one another's experiences, enriching their understanding of the Housing First principles.

The Train the Trainer programme is carefully designed to strike a balance between structure and flexibility. While we provide a structured framework to guide participants through essential concepts and activities, we also emphasise flexibility, allowing room for personalised exploration and adaptation to individual learning styles. This approach ensures that participants benefit from a well-defined learning path while also having the freedom to tailor their experience to meet their specific needs and interests.

At the heart of the programme is an emphasis on critical thinking, dialogue, and social justice, drawing inspiration from Paulo Freire's educational approach. This aligns with the expertise of our head trainer, Cara Gibbons, whose methodology incorporates Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle to foster reflective practice and action-oriented learning, as well as De Bono's Six Hats method.

Additionally, our programme sets clear goals in terms of knowledge acquisition, skill development, and attitude transformation. Participants will have ample opportunity to develop practical courses and programmes, practice their training skills, and build a network of colleagues across Europe. Participants will also have access to training materials they can adapt to suit their own contexts and a wide variety of audiences.

NEW: Session 2 - Online training session

A key update for the 2025 edition of Train the Trainers is a half-day online training in Session 2, focused on effectively delivering virtual sessions. This session will provide participants with practical tools and techniques to engage audiences in an online setting, ensuring they feel confident in facilitating digital training.

NEW: Train the Trainer Project

Participants will develop a Housing First training programme. Working throughout the year, participants will be supported by mentors to create a training programme, lesson plans and training materials that they can deliver back home in their organisations.

Each participant will have an opportunity to showcase their projects and receive tailored feedback from fellow participants, trainers, invited experts, and Hub staff.

Invite Allies – Expand the Impact

We encourage you not only to apply, but also to invite key partners and allies from your network to join this Train the Trainer programme. Housing First works best when different sectors collaborate, so we are keen to include participants from **healthcare, mental health services, justice, housing, local authorities, and other relevant fields**. By strengthening cross-sector collaboration, we can create a more effective and sustainable response to homelessness.

To support participation from these key sectors, **bursaries are available specifically for allies from outside the homelessness sector**. If you know someone who would benefit from participating in this Train the Trainer programme, please encourage them to apply and reach out to us for more information on financial support.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much is the course?

The Train the Trainer programme is open to Housing First Europe Hub Partners, Associates and external organisations. Here you can find the 2024 fees²:

- **Hub Core partners:** the Housing First Europe Hub will cover travel and accommodation costs for one (1) trainee from each Housing First Europe Hub Core Partner organisation. As a Core Partner, you can ask for a reimbursement of up to €350 per session for travel and up to €150 per night for accommodation. Core partners do not pay any fee to access the training.
- **Hub Associates:** trainees from Hub Associate organisations are required to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. The fee per person for Associate partners is €590.
- **Hub Allies:** trainees from Hub allies are required to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. The fee per person for allies is €790.
- **Other organisations:** trainees from other organisations are required to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. The fee per person from other organisations is €990.

Category of member	Fee	Travel and Accommodation
Hub Core partners	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Covered (1 person)
Hub Associates	€590	Not covered
Hub Allies	€790	Not covered
Other organisations	€990	Not covered

For each session, we recommend that trainees budget for:

- Flights to and from the training destination
- 3 nights accommodation (around €150-175 per night) - participants should arrive the NIGHT BEFORE the training starts and depart in the EVENING of the last day of training
- Dinner on each day spent at the training destination

What is included in the package?

² There are **bursaries** available for selected organisations with a 80% discount on the total fee. Contact our Partnership & Project Officer, Laura Fritz (laura.fritz@housingfirsteurope.eu) to find out if you qualify for a bursary or have other questions about the bursary system.

- Full training course, project mentoring and all necessary materials
- Complimentary lunch and coffee breaks on all training days

How many people can I register from my organisation?

Each course is limited to **25 trainees**. Trainees from Partner and Associate organisations are offered first preference on course places. Places will be allocated by mid March 2025 and successful applicants will be notified by the end of March.

If I cannot attend all 4 sessions of the course, will I still receive a certificate?

The aim of the course is to provide independent certification of training and adherence to the core principles of Housing First in Europe. As such, we cannot certify trainees who are not able to attend all four sessions. For more information about certification, please contact our Partnership and Project Officer, Laura Fritz (laura.fritz@housingfirsteurope.eu).

Planning your travel

We ask that trainees arrive the **evening before the course starts**, to ensure that the sessions can start on time at 9:30 each morning. Our local hosts may arrange visits and information sessions about their work on Housing First, we will provide more detailed information about the timing of these visits as soon as possible. The course finishes on Day 3 at 17:30. Please book your travel for later in the evening or the next morning to be sure that you can attend all of the sessions.

Session 4 will also include a **Trainers' symposium** (4-5 December), a space for innovation where current and past Housing First Europe Hub trainers co-design the sessions, to deepen their knowledge in masterclasses and spotlight sessions, update their skills, meet new colleagues and network with our growing pool of Trainers. In order to complete the course, Cohort 7 trainees must stay in Budapest for the whole week, from 1 to 5 December 2025.

Arranging your accommodation and meals

Trainees are responsible for arranging their own accommodation (with the exception of Session 4 at the European Youth Centre in Budapest). We will provide you with the address of the training venues once you have been accepted onto the course. In some cases, we will be able to provide you with a list of recommended hotels and accommodation options.

If you have any questions about the Train the Trainer programme, please contact our Partnership & Project Officer:

Laura Fritz: laura.fritz@housingfirsteurope.eu