

Workshops 29 October

11:30-13:00

Room: Platform 1

NETWORKPSYCHIATRY & EMOTIONAL REFLECTION ON THE NEED OF HOUSING FIRST

STREAM: COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

Network Psychiatry and Housing First. How do they relate to each other? In this presentation, Niels Mulder will show how collaboration and looking beyond the boundaries of your own organisation can help alleviate the housing shortage, homelessness and loneliness. When Niels enters a room, his presence is felt. His presentations are no different. He combines humanity with big-picture thinking, building networks for a world that works for everyone. The session opens with a discussion between Niels Mulder (psychiatrist, Erasmus MC) and Jessica Wesselius (Chair, HVO-Querido), who pose each other central questions on the workshop's core theme: why network-based care, and why now? From there, an expert panel joins the conversation, each speaking briefly from their own vantage point on their relationship to Housing First – including a team leader from Rotterdam's Urban Homeless Team, a personal support worker, a social housing manager, and people with lived experience.

The final part of the session opens the floor: a series of propositions where we invite the audience to respond and interact with ideas around network-based care.

Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Niels Mulder, Emeritus professor, Several advisory boards, The Netherlands

Jessica Wesselius, Chair of the Board at HVO-Querido, Psychiatrist, HVO-Querido, The Netherlands

Chair: Frits Bovenberg, Programmedirector & Advisor, Frits&Gijs, The Netherlands

Target Audience:

Mental health professionals, policymakers, and care providers looking to strengthen cross-sector collaboration - especially those working at the intersection of psychiatry, housing, and social care

Key Takeaways:

How network psychiatry and Housing First connect, and why looking beyond your own organisation's walls matters for tackling housing shortage, homelessness, and loneliness together

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11:30-13:00

Room: Basement

HOUSING FIRST IN AMSTERDAM: HVO-QUERIDO'S PIONEERING JOURNEY

STREAM: HOUSING FIRST IN THE NETHERLANDS

Housing First has been part of Amsterdam's approach to homelessness for 20 years. But every movement has a beginning, and in Amsterdam, it started with people who passionately believed that Housing First could work.

In this interactive session, we travel through the Housing First timeline in Amsterdam, from its early beginnings to the present day, and explore how the experience and inspiration of Housing First helped pave the way for Housing Led approaches to be embraced in national policy.

A journey through time, principles and practice : presented by Rokus Loopik, Martin Kok and Valerie Boogaard, with you as part of the conversation.

Speakers:

Valerie Boogaard, Expertise Center, HVO Querido, The Netherlands

Martin Kok, Owner, M4Buro, The Netherlands

Rokus Loopik, Ambassador Housing First Netherlands, Bureau Rokus Loopik, The Netherlands

Chair: Rokus Loopik, Ambassador Housing First Netherlands, Bureau Rokus Loopik, The Netherlands

Target Audience:

Policymakers, civil servants, and practitioners interested in how Housing First moves from local pilot to national policy - especially those in the early stages of their own city or country's journey

Key Takeaways:

How local grassroots' belief in Housing First helped shape and legitimise the shift toward Housing Led approaches at the national policy level
Practical and principled lessons drawn from two decades of experience - what held true, what evolved, and what it takes to sustain a movement over time

Workshops 29 October

11:30-13:00

Room: The Kiss

BUILDING SUPPORTIVE NETWORKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

STREAM: HOUSING FIRST AND YOUTH

Young people leaving homelessness or navigating difficult transitions often need more than one form of support. Personal relationships, peer networks and professional services can all play an important role. But how can these different forms of support come together around the young person?

In this workshop, Rotterdamse Douwers will share their local approach to building supportive networks around young people, including insights from young people who have been part of the programme. The workshop will then look at the role of the formal care network and how different actors can work together more effectively. A short panel at the end will bring in international perspectives and experiences from other contexts.

The workshop will be interactive and focused on sharing practice, with participants invited to reflect on how broader and better-connected support networks can be built around young people.

Speakers:

Wim van Losser, Founder, Rotterdamse Douwser, the Netherlands

Kate Polson, Chief Executive, Rock Trust, Scotland

Caroline Aïdan, Specialist in Adapted Rental Management, Un Chez-Soi d'Abord- Métropole de Lyon, France

Chair: René Meijborg, Project 010 Manager, City of Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Rachel Hughes, Co-Founder, Rotterdamse Douwers, The Netherlands

Target Audience:

Housing First for Youth providers and practioners, social workers

Key Takeaways:

Importance of Broader approach of personal and professionsal support networks, Best practices of collaboration, Ensuring the voice and needs of young people remain central

Workshops 29 October

11:30-13:00

Room: Disco 1

SPOTLIGHT ON CRISIS' MODEL TO BECOME A SOCIAL LANDLORD FOR HOUSING FIRST

STREAM: HOUSING FOR HOUSING FIRST

How can organisations take on a greater role in providing housing for Housing First? Inspired by the Y-Foundation's model in Finland, Crisis is developing its own approach to becoming a social landlord.

This session will bring together perspectives from the Y-Foundation and Crisis to share experiences and reflect on the opportunities and challenges of developing this type of model.

Speakers:

Saija Turunen, Head of Research, Y Foundation, Finland

Francesca Albanese, Executive Director of Policy & Social Change, Crisis, UK

Target Audience:

Housing First providers and practitioners, housing organisations and social landlords, local and national authorities, and others interested in developing housing supply for Housing First

Key Takeaways:

Insights into different approaches to developing a social landlord model for Housing First, reflections on opportunities and challenges in developing new housing solutions

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11:30-13:00

Room: Platform 3

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING THAT ADDRESSES HOMELESSNESS (HOUSING FIRST) STREAM: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY AND PARTNERSHIPS IN HOUSING FIRST FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE

This workshop will explore opportunities for European investment in housing solutions that address homelessness, with a particular focus on Housing First. It will include a conversation with the Chair of the Affordable Housing Task Force, on the European Affordable Housing Plan and the opportunities it may create for Housing First.

The discussion will also look at what these opportunities could mean at national and local level, and how European investment can help support the development and scaling of Housing First approaches across Europe.

Speakers:

Matthew Baldwin, Head of Commission Task Force on Housing & Deputy Director-General in Energy Department of the European Commission, European Commission

Emilia Postolache, European Affairs Officer, Council of Europe Development Bank

Ruth Owen, Deputy Director, FEANTSA

Target Audience:

Policy makers and public authorities, housing providers and social housing organisations, national and local institutions

Key Takeaways:

A better understanding of European investment opportunities that can support Housing First and housing solutions addressing homelessness, insights into how European-level funding and investment can translate into action and opportunities at national and local level

Workshops 29 October

11:30-13:00

Room: Cinema

BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT – CITIES AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

STREAM: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY AND PARTNERSHIPS IN HOUSING FIRST FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE

How can cities and national governments work together to create the conditions for Housing First to develop and scale?

Housing First implementation depends on action at different levels of government, but strong connections between national policy and local practice are not always easy to build. This roundtable will explore examples of constructive relationships between cities and national governments, and the ways in which different levels of government can work together to support sustainable Housing First and housing-led approaches.

Drawing on experiences from Denmark, Budapest, York and Helsinki, speakers will reflect on how responsibilities, priorities and approaches can be aligned across different levels of government. The discussion will consider what makes these relationships work, how local innovation can influence national policy, and how national frameworks can support cities to develop effective housing-led responses.

The session will be structured as an interactive roundtable, with speakers responding to key questions and sharing reflections on the opportunities and challenges of building stronger bridges between local and national government.

Speakers:

Bálint Misetics, Senior Advisor to the Mayor on Housing and Social Policy, Municipality of Budapest, Hungary

Nicholas Pleace, Professor of Housing and Society, University of York (and European Observatory on Homelessness, FEANTSA), UK

Karin Egholm, Leader in the division working with vulnerable adults, Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing, Denmark

Paula Pönkänen, Project Manager, Ending Long-term Homelessness in Helsinki, City of Helsinki, Finland

Target Audience:

National and local government representatives, housing and homelessness policymakers, Housing First coordinators and practitioners, service providers and national networks, researchers and policy experts

Key Takeaways:

Explore examples of effective national–local cooperation.

Identify key factors that support strong cross-government relationships.

Learn how local practice can inform national policy, and vice versa.

Take away ideas for strengthening partnerships and coordination in their own context

Workshops 29 October

11:30-13:00

Room: Now

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NETHERLANDS – SYSTEMS CHANGE APPROACH STREAM: USING AND BUILDING THE RESEARCH BASE FOR HOUSING FIRST

Spotlight on the Netherlands: A Systems Change Approach to Housing First
Housing First cannot be scaled through individual programmes alone. It requires wider systems change, including access to affordable housing, integrated support, sustainable funding and strong collaboration between municipalities, housing providers, health and social services, and people with lived experience. This workshop will examine how the Netherlands is working to move from separate Housing First initiatives towards a more coordinated, systemic approach to preventing and ending homelessness. Speakers will share practical experiences from the Dutch context, highlighting progress made, challenges encountered and lessons learned in developing partnerships and changing established policies and ways of working. With a foundation of how Housing First has transformed the Dutch context, we'll then explore where new possibilities for expanding Housing First can be learned from abroad for local application in the Netherlands.

The discussion will explore:

- What does a systems change approach to Housing First mean in the Dutch context?
- How are municipalities, housing providers, services and other partners working together?
- What structural barriers make it difficult to scale and sustain Housing First?
- How can Housing First contribute to the prevention of homelessness?
- Which lessons from the Netherlands may be relevant to other European contexts?
- What lessons from other European contexts may be relevant to the Netherlands?
- What action is needed now, and what should systems change in Housing First look like five years from now?

Speakers:

Jodi Sturge, Assistant Professor, Interaction Design, University of Twente, The Netherlands

Marit Lüschen, Action Researcher, Heilige Huisjes, The Netherlands

Chair: Danielle Dulski, Project Assistant, City of Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Emma Byrne, Policy Manager, Focus Ireland, Ireland

Target Audience:

Municipal leaders, policymakers, housing providers, and health and social service partners working to scale Housing First beyond individual programmes - plus international delegates interested in what the Dutch systems-change approach can offer their own context

Key Takeaways:

Why scaling Housing First requires systems change, not just more programmes

Practical lessons from the Dutch experience: what's worked, what's been difficult, and how partnerships and policy have had to shift

The structural barriers that make Housing First hard to scale and sustain, and how it can play a role in preventing homelessness before it starts

Workshops 29 October

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Room: Now

PARTNERSHIPS THAT STRENGTHEN HOUSING FIRST FOR WOMEN STREAM: INNOVATIONS AND ADAPTATIONS IN HOUSING FIRST

This workshop will answer the question what it takes to make Housing First work well for women, and what partnerships are needed to make that possible?

Drawing on practical experience from Housing First for Women Berlin and the INTERACT project's gendered and intersectional perspective, this workshop will explore how Housing First can work effectively with services such as child protection, healthcare and specialist violence services.

Through an interactive exercise, participants will explore partnership challenges in their own context and share promising approaches.

Speakers:

Esther Köb, Communications, Fundraising & Real Estate Acquisition,
Housing First for Women Berlin, Germany

Kristín I. Pálsdóttir, Specialist and INTERACT Project Manager at The Root,
The Root NGO (Ice. Rótin), Iceland

Kristín Hjálmarsdóttir, Specialist and INTERACT Project Manager at RIKK,
RIKK – Institute for Gender, Equality and Difference, University of Iceland,
Iceland

Chair: Dalma Fabian, Policy Officer, FEANTSA

Target Audience:

Housing First and homelessness practitioners, policymakers, municipalities and other professionals working with women experiencing homelessness, child protection services, gender-based violence services

Key Takeaways:

A better understanding of the specific considerations involved in Housing First for Women, examples of partnerships that can support women and families, partnership gaps and promising approaches in own contexts, concrete ideas for strengthening systems over the next five years

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Room: Platform 1

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN EUROPE AND HOUSING FIRST STREAM: COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

Jochen van den Steen is the director of the Sleidingen psychiatric centre in Ghent and Care Representative for Supportive Relational Care in Europe. In his workshop, Jochen compares SRH and Housing First: why one cannot exist without the other, and why self-determination and personal agency are so important in both approaches. SRH does not operate on a 'reward model' when it comes to trust and progress. People do not have to compete to receive services. In addition, lived experience is an important pillar of SRH. What can Housing First learn from this?

Speakers:

Jochen van den Steen, General Manager, Ghent Psychiatric Centre, Belgium
Chair: Frits Bovenberg, Programmedirector & Advisor, Frits&Gijs, The Netherlands

Target Audience:

Mental health professionals, policymakers, and care providers interested in models of care built around trust, self-determination, and lived experience

Key Takeaways:

How Supportive Relational Care (SRH) and Housing First compare.
How self-determination and personal agency sit at the core of both models, and what that means in daily practice, what Housing First can learn from SRH's emphasis on lived experience

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14:15-15:45

Room: Basement

HOUSING FIRST NETHERLANDS: FROM GRASSROOTS TO A NATIONAL MOVEMENT

STREAM: HOUSING FIRST IN THE NETHERLANDS

Housing First has been part of Amsterdam's approach to homelessness for 20 years. But every movement has a beginning, and in Amsterdam, it started with people who passionately believed that Housing First could work.

In this interactive session, we travel through the Housing First timeline in Amsterdam, from its early beginnings to the present day, and explore how the experience and inspiration of Housing First helped pave the way for Housing Led approaches to be embraced in national policy.

A journey through time, principles and practice : presented by Rokus Loopik, Martin Kok and Valerie Boogaard, with you as part of the conversation.

Speakers:

Rokus Loopik, Ambassador Housing First Netherlands, Bureau Rokus Loopik, The Netherlands

Melanie Schmit, Founder, Housing First Netherlands, Housing First Netherlands, The Netherlands

Anke Jansen, Founder, Housing First Netherlands, The Netherlands

Chair: Rokus Loopik, Ambassador Housing First Netherlands, Bureau Rokus Loopik, The Netherlands

Target Audience:

Current and future leaders and pioneers of Housing First across Europe

Key Takeaways:

Evolution & History: Key insights from the pioneer steps of Housing First (US roots to Dutch implementation) up to the current systemic movement (Wonen Eerst). Fidelity & Mindset: Understanding to what extent 'true' Housing First thinking (in attitude and behavior) is safeguarded within systemic approaches like Wonen Eerst. Practical Requirements: Essential requirements to make Housing First work effectively, spanning from the macro level (the bigger picture) to daily practice. Cross-Border Lessons: Shared experiences and actionable lessons from the Netherlands for future European HF leaders

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Room: The Kiss

PREVENTION AND HOUSING FIRST FOR YOUTH APPROACH STREAM: HOUSING FIRST AND YOUTH

Leaving youth care can be a critical moment in a young person's life, and without the right support, can increase the risk of homelessness. How can we make this transition a process rather than a single point at which support ends? What can we learn from approaches that extend care and provide young people with continued support as they move towards independent living?

This workshop will combine short presentations, a fireside chat, a panel discussion and group work. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from different perspectives, share experiences and work together on approaches to making the transition out of care safer and more sustainable for young people.

Speakers:

Bronwen Cannon, Team Leader, Focus Ireland, Ireland & Peter (young person with their support worker)

Matt Bawden, Director of Progression Housing, Centrepont, UK

Connel Mc Kenna, Senior Operational Lead, Simon Community Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland

Chair: Lisa O'Brien, Head of Youth Housing Support Services, Ireland

Target Audience:

Service providers, local municipalities, funders

Key Takeaways:

Embedding HF4Y principles within aftercare and prevention services,
Supporting care leavers, strengthening the link between statutory and community based services

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Room: Disco 1

MOBILISING EXISTING SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK – PARTNERSHIPS AND POLICY

STREAM: HOUSING FOR HOUSING FIRST

The workshop will explore current practices in using social housing to provide stable long-term tenancies for people experiencing homelessness, and more specifically for Housing First programmes. It will unpack the development of such policies in Brussels, Bratislava and Gdansk, while looking at both achievements and obstacles in their implementation.

Speakers:

Katerina Miklej, Project Manager, Department of Affordable Housing and Homelessness Services, Bratislava City Hall, Slovakia

Piotr Olech, Subject Matter Lead, Housing First in Gdańsk, St. Brother Albert Aid Society, Poland

Fanny Vancauwelaert, Housing Advisor, Bruss'Help, Belgium

Chair: Ioana Vlad, Housing Policy Officer, FEANTSA

Target Audience:

Municipalities and local policy makers; social housing providers; homeless and Housing First service providers; advocacy groups

Key Takeaways:

Learning about designing needs-based allocation policies for social housing; insights into opportunities and barriers in the implementation of allocation quotas for people experiencing homelessness; lessons about partnership building between social service organisations and municipalities

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Room: Platform 3

EU AND OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

STREAM: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY AND PARTNERSHIPS IN HOUSING FIRST FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE

How can Housing First organisations and public authorities find and make use of available funding opportunities? This session will provide an overview of EU and other funding programmes that can support Housing First and related initiatives.

Participants will get the chance to get an overview about different funding opportunities, what types of activities and organisations they can support, and what to consider when developing a funding application. The session will also offer space to share experiences and practical tips on accessing funding for Housing First at European, national and local level

Speakers:

Freek Spinnewijn, Director, FEANTSA

Target Audience:

Policy makers and public authorities, housing providers and social housing organisations, national and local institutions, service providers

Key Takeaways:

An overview of relevant EU and other funding opportunities that can support Housing First and related initiatives, practical tips for identifying suitable funding opportunities and developing strong funding applications

Workshops 29 October

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Room: Cinema

SCOTLAND – EXAMPLES FROM 15 YEARS OF HOUSING FIRST AND WORKING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

STREAM: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY AND PARTNERSHIPS IN HOUSING FIRST FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE

This spotlight session will explore Scotland's experience of developing and embedding Housing First, with a particular focus on its long-term collaboration with local authorities and the wider housing system. Speakers from Turning Point Scotland and Fife Council will reflect on key developments, including the shift towards prevention, the right to housing, and access to social and other forms of housing.

The session will consider how Housing First can contribute to wider systems change, what has supported its sustainability over time, and what lessons Scotland's experience can offer to other countries and local contexts.

Speakers:

Nicky Miller, Head of Homelessness and Prevention, Turning Point Scotland, Scotland

Jemma Guild, Lead Officer - Service Commissioning/Housing First, Fife Council, Scotland

Chair: Raphaël Bouloudnine, Psychiatrist, National Coordinator Un chez soi d'abord, DIHAL Interministerial Delegation for Housing and Access to Housing, France

Target Audience:

National and local government representatives, Housing and homelessness policymakers, Housing First practitioners and coordinators, Local authorities and housing providers, Organisations working on prevention and systems change

Key Takeaways:

Learn from 15 years of Housing First experience in Scotland.
Explore how Housing First can support wider systems change and prevention, gain insights into working with local authorities and housing systems, reflect on lessons that could be applied in other contexts

Workshops 29 October

14:15-15:45

Room: Now

RESEARCH ON COST

STREAM: USING AND BUILDING THE RESEARCH BASE FOR HOUSING FIRST

The Cost-Effectiveness of Housing First: Evidence, Impact and Future Research
Evidence on cost-effectiveness can play an important role in strengthening the case for Housing First and supporting its development and scaling. However, assessing cost-effectiveness is complex. Costs and benefits are often distributed across housing, health, social services and criminal justice systems, while many important outcomes such as housing stability, wellbeing, autonomy and social inclusion cannot be understood through financial savings alone. Sustaining Housing First also requires long-term funding for operating and supportive services costs, which are often pieced together from multiple sources and can be politically harder to justify and sustain. This workshop will bring together researchers and practitioners to explore what existing research tells us about the costs, benefits and wider value of Housing First. Speakers will present findings and practical experiences from different contexts, discuss methodological challenges and consider how cost-effectiveness evidence can better inform policy, funding and implementation decisions.

The discussion will explore:

- What do we currently know about the cost-effectiveness of Housing First?
- Which costs, outcomes and wider benefits should be included in evaluations?
- How can data from different services and sectors be combined?
- How can findings be communicated effectively to policymakers and funders?
- Where are the most important gaps in the current evidence?
- What action is needed now, and what should cost-effectiveness research on Housing First look like five years from now?

Speakers:

Elisabetta Leni, Postdoctoral researcher, Y Foundation, Finland

Dr. Carolina K. Reid, Faculty Research Advisor, Turner Center for Housing Innovation, University of California, Berkeley, United States

Target Audience:

Researchers, policymakers, and funders working on Housing First's economic case as well as practitioners looking for evidence to support sustained, long-term funding in their own context

Key Takeaways:

What current research actually tells us about the cost-effectiveness of Housing First, practical guidance on communicating cost-effectiveness findings in ways that actually move policymakers and funders
A look at where the biggest evidence gaps remain, and what cost-effectiveness research on Housing First should look like five years from now

Workshops 29 October

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Room: The Forest

HOUSING FIRST FOR FAMILIES

STREAM: INNOVATIONS AND ADAPTATIONS IN HOUSING FIRST

Housing First for Families is gaining attention in different parts of Europe, but questions remain about if we actually can make it work in practice. This session will look into what approaches are already being developed, what can we learn from each other, and how can we build the networks needed to move this work forward.

This round table brings together speakers from the Netherlands, Ireland and Slovakia to share experiences and discuss the opportunities and challenges of developing Housing First for Families. The focus will be on learning from one another and identifying ways to strengthen collaboration across countries.

Speakers:

Alena Vachnová, Chair of the Board of Directors / Strategy and Innovations, Nadácia DEDO/Foundation DEDO, Slovakia

Manuel Nieto-Guerrero, Project Manager, Dublin, Sophia Housing, Ireland

Julianne Coleman, Project Manager, Cork, Sophia Housing, Ireland

Liesbeth van Duin, City of Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Francisca van der Laan, CVD, The Netherlands

Patrick Bek, Senior Researcher, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands

Chair: Josje van Nes, Ombudsman Rotterdam Rijnmond, The Netherlands

Target Audience:

Housing First practitioners and service providers, organisations working with families experiencing homelessness

Key Takeaways:

Insights into how Housing First for Families is being developed in different European contexts, including lessons from practice, ideas for building networks and partnerships to further develop Housing First for Families

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Room: Platform 1

HOUSING FIRST EXPERTISE CENTRE: THINK CREATIVELY, DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY

STREAM: COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

The Expertise Centre of HVO-Querido invites you on an interactive journey from practice-based knowledge to an inspiring, strengths-based tool. What works for one person doesn't necessarily work for another — this calls for looking again, thinking differently, and daring to experiment. Together, we'll explore how knowledge and experience from practice can be transformed into something concrete, inspiring, and useful for both clients and professionals.

Speakers:

Axel Rueb, Project lead – International learning, HVO-Querido, The Netherlands

Valerie Boogaard, Expertise Center, HVO Querido, The Netherlands

Chair: Frits Bovenberg, Programmedirector & Advisor, The Netherlands

Target Audience:

Mental health professionals, policymakers, care providers, and anyone working with clients where a one-size-fits-all approach falls short, and looking for practical, strengths-based tools to bring back to their own teams

Key Takeaways:

How to translate practice-based knowledge and lived experience into a concrete, strengths-based tool - not just theory, but something usable with clients and colleagues, multiple perspectives on network-based care and Housing First.

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Room: Platform 1

COALITION BUILDING IN COLLABORATION WITH EXPERIENCED EXPERTS

STREAM: HOUSING FIRST IN THE NETHERLANDS

How do we move from hearing individual stories of homelessness to recognising the patterns behind them — and building collective power for change? Drawing on the work of Dakloosheid Voorbij! and lessons from community organising, this session explores how lived experiences and signals from practice can be turned into advocacy, policy change and public action. We will look at what it takes to build genuine partnerships with people who experience or have experienced homelessness, moving beyond symbolic participation towards shared influence over strategy and decision-making. The session will also be honest about the challenges: people facing homelessness have urgent concerns beyond changing systems, while stigma, shame and unequal power can make collective action harder. We will connect these realities to the rapidly shifting Dutch political and policy landscape and ask how movements can keep pushing for long-term change when political priorities change. Above all, the session is about the potential of collective action: how people, organisations and lived experience can come together to make the right to a home impossible to ignore

Speakers:

Nil Şendil, Coordinator, Dakloosheid Voorbij! (The national coalition to end homelessness), The Netherlands

Chair: Rokus Loopik, Ambassador Housing First Netherlands, Bureau Rokus Loopik, The Netherlands

Target Audience:

Advocacy organisations, policymakers, and civil servants looking to build coalitions with people who have lived experience

Key Takeaways:

What it actually takes to build a coalition where lived experience holds a central, structural role - not just an advisory or symbolic one
How to move an organisation or coalition past one-off consultation and toward real, sustained collaboration with the people it represents

Workshops 30 October

11:15-12:45

Room: The Kiss

HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR HOUSING FIRST FOR YOUTH - SUPPLY, MODELS AND PARTNERSHIPS

STREAM: HOUSING FIRST AND YOUTH

Finding the right housing for young people is one of the key challenges in implementing Housing First for Youth. What housing models work in practice, how can we increase access to housing, and what role can partnerships between housing providers and support services play?

This workshop brings together lessons from international and local practice to look at different approaches to housing supply and allocation. Participants will share experiences, discuss practical challenges and consider how stronger partnerships can help create more sustainable housing solutions for HF4Y.

Speakers:

Fiona Dunkin, Housing Policy Manager, Clúid Housing, Ireland

Jemma Guild, Lead Officer - Service Commissioning/Housing First, Fife Council, Scotland

Mirthe Biemans, Director TUIS Nederland, Housing First Netherlands, The Netherlands

Dorothee Jansen, Strategic Programme Management Lead, Portaal, The Netherlands

Target Audience:

Housing Bodies, Service providers

Key Takeaways:

Lessons learned from International and local practice, Building effective partnerships between housing providers and support services, addressing challenges in housing supply and allocation

Workshops 30 October

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Room: Disco 1

PARTNERSHIPS IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR – PRACTICE AND POLICY

STREAM: HOUSING FOR HOUSING FIRST

The workshop will discuss locally driven initiatives to mobilise the private rental sector to house people experiencing homelessness. It will mainly focus on rental intermediation programmes, but it will also explore other regulatory measures that aim to bring more alignment between the private rental market and urgent housing needs.

Speakers:

Ben Rickey, Housing First Coordinator, Housing Department, City of Paris, France

Laura Kováčsová, Director, Municipal Rental Agency Bratislava, Slovakia

Alejandra Puente García, Deputy Director, Housing-led Programme, HOGAR SÍ, Spain

Chair: Ioana Vlad, Housing Policy Officer, FEANTSA

Target Audience:

Municipalities and local policy makers; social rental agencies and social organisations active in rental intermediation; homeless and Housing First service providers; advocacy groups

Key Takeaways:

Understanding the diverse regulatory frameworks for rental intermediation; insights into the negotiating process with private landlords; more broadly learning about local policies to increase housing affordability

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Room: Platform 3

BUILDING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SECTOR ACTORS

STREAM: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY AND PARTNERSHIPS IN HOUSING FIRST FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE

Practical insights into building effective collaboration between Housing First, housing and health/mental health services,
A better understanding of what can enable or hinder stronger connections between the housing and health sectors.

Speakers:

Prof. Michelle Cornes, Professor of Health and Social Policy Inequalities, University of Salford & King's College London, UK

Mickaël Puech, National Housing First France association coordinator, France

Margot Kushel MD, Professor of Medicine; Director UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, University of California, San Francisco, US

Sydney Costantini, PhD Candidate in Economics, University of California, US
Raphaël Bouloudnine, Psychiatrist, National Coordinator Un chez soi d'abord, DIHAL Interministerial Delegation for Housing and Access to Housing, France

Target Audience:

Housing First practitioners and service providers, health and mental health professionals, policy makers

Key Takeaways:

Practical insights into building effective collaboration between Housing First, housing and health/mental health services, a better understanding of what can enable or hinder stronger connections between the housing and health sectors

Workshops 30 October

11:15-12:45

Room: Cinema

EVICTON PREVENTION AND HOUSING FIRST

STREAM: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY AND PARTNERSHIPS IN HOUSING FIRST FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE

How can Housing First approaches contribute to preventing evictions and sustaining housing at scale? This workshop will explore how Housing First principles and practices are being integrated into wider national housing policies and eviction prevention systems in Austria, Finland and the Netherlands.

Through examples from Wohnschirm in Austria, housing advice and prevention approaches in Finland, and Housing+ in the Netherlands, the workshop will look at how different systems are responding to housing insecurity and what can be learned from their approaches. Speakers will reflect on the role of Housing First within broader prevention frameworks, the partnerships needed to make these approaches effective, and how existing services and policies can adapt to the current housing context.

The session will also open up a conversation between Housing First practitioners and policy experts, exploring what needs to change to make eviction prevention and housing advice more effective, while ensuring that Housing First approaches remain centred on people's right to housing and long-term housing stability.

Speakers:

Elsa Wessely, Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs, Austria

Saija Turunen, Head of Research, Y Foundation, Finland

Catelijn Akkermans, Senior Researcher, Hogeschool Leiden, The Netherlands

Target Audience:

Housing First practitioners and service providers,
National, regional and local policymakers working on housing and homelessness, Housing and eviction-prevention professionals,
Municipalities and housing authorities,
Researchers and organisations working on housing stability and prevention

Key Takeaways:

Understanding how Housing First approaches can be integrated into wider eviction-prevention and housing policies.

Learning from different national approaches to housing advice, eviction prevention and housing stability.

Identifying opportunities for stronger cooperation between Housing First services, housing providers and public authorities.

Exploring how prevention systems can adapt to the current housing context while supporting long-term housing stability

Workshops 30 October

11:15-12:45

Room: Now

RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE – IMPACT OF RESEARCH ON POLICY TO DATE; NEW AREAS TO DEVELOP STREAM: USING AND BUILDING THE RESEARCH BASE FOR HOUSING FIRST

Research has played an important role in demonstrating the effectiveness of Housing First and shaping its development across Europe. However, the relationship between research, policy and practice is not always straightforward: evidence does not automatically lead to policy change, and the questions explored by researchers do not always reflect the most pressing needs of practitioners, policymakers or people with lived experience.

This roundtable will bring together researchers, practitioners and other experts to reflect on how Housing First research has influenced policy and practice to date and to identify priorities for the next phase of research. Speakers will share examples of where research has contributed to concrete change, consider the barriers that can prevent evidence from being used, and discuss how stronger collaboration across sectors can make research more relevant, accessible and influential.

The discussion will explore:

- How has research influenced Housing First policy, implementation and development so far?
- Where has evidence successfully contributed to change, and what made this possible?
- What important gaps remain in the Housing First research base?
- How can researchers, practitioners, policymakers and people with lived experience work together more effectively?
- What research and action are needed now, and what should the relationship between research and Housing First systems look like five years from now?
- The session will encourage an open exchange between speakers and participants, with the aim of identifying shared research priorities and practical ways to strengthen the impact of evidence on future Housing First policy and practice.

Speakers:

Nicholas Pleace, Professor of Housing and Society, University of York (and European Observatory on Homelessness, FEANTSA), UK

Lars Benjaminsen, Senior Researcher, VIVE – The Danish Center for Social Science Research, Denmark

Edmond Marquier, Research Analyst, Metropole de Lyon (and Université Grenoble-Alpes), France

Chair: Francesca Albanese, Executive Director of Policy & Social Change, Crisis, UK

Target Audience:

Researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and people with lived experience interested in closing the gap between Housing First evidence and real-world policy change.

Key Takeaways:

How Housing First research has shaped policy and practice across Europe so far - and where that influence has and hasn't taken hold
Concrete examples of research successfully driving change, and what made those cases work, the barriers that keep good evidence from being used, and the gaps still remaining in the research base

Workshops 30 October

11:15-12:45

Room: The Forest

UPSTREAM

STREAM: INNOVATIONS AND ADAPTATIONS IN HOUSING FIRST

Can we prevent homelessness before it happens? This session will introduce the concept of upstream prevention and showcase emerging practice from the Netherlands and Belgium. Looking into practice and research from the Netherlands and Belgium, participants will hear how upstream approaches are being developed in practice, including street-level advocacy and work with schools. Through a short introduction, practical examples and a panel discussion, participants will explore how upstream approaches can be developed and what it takes to get them started.

Speakers:

Evelien Demaerschalk, Researcher Homelessness and Poverty, LUCAS (KU Leuven), Belgium

Pleun Usman, Youth Advocate, Straat Consulaat, The Netherlands

Chair: Josje van Nes, Ombudsman, Rotterdam-Rijnmond (ORR), The Netherlands

Target Audience:

Policy makers, local authorities and organisations working on homelessness prevention, youth and social services; researchers and practitioners interested in developing upstream approaches

Key Takeaways:

A better understanding of upstream prevention and how it can help prevent homelessness at an earlier stage, Inspiration and practical ideas for developing upstream approaches and building collaboration between cities and organisations