

INTRODUCTION

Scope and Purpose

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The E-Book is one of the HOME_EU (GA/726997) deliverables and it is focused on information that was not comprehensively described in the sectorial studies integrated into each of the Work-packages. This E-Book provides the description of the overall research designs and methods selected to accomplish the overall project aims, as well as the implementation challenges of trans-national research efforts (many already included in procedural documents produced during the project). We also provide critical reflections the authors found to be relevant for the future.

The other aim of this E-book is the presentation of the development of Housing First Programs within the European Partner Countries, bringing in the vision and challenge of partner organizations implementing programs in diverse communities in very different stages of development.

Therefore, the content is composed of two main sections, one with a Research focus, and the other related to Housing First program development within partner countries.

SECTION I is focused on The HOME_EU Project: Overall Perspective and Challenges, and is composed by six chapters focused on the studies developed. Specifically, in Chapter I - HOME_EU Reversing Homelessness in Europe, authored by the PI and the Coordinating Team is an overview of the initial challenge and a reflection on how the overall aims were attained. Chapter II - Reversing the Unfairness of Homelessness: An Examination of Service User's Experiences of Housing First and Traditional Services in Eight European Countries, authored by Ronni-Michele Greenwood; Rachel Manning; Branagh R. O'Shaughnessy from the University of Limerick in Ireland - is focused on on a service user's specific contribution. Assuming that Housing First is developed as an alternative to the Staircase Model services for homelessness response, in this Chapter we emphasize the core features of an individual's recovery, the access of in-vivo supports, and, without treatment or sobriety preconditions.

The overall purpose of the Service User's studies was to document the experiences of the people involved and how they reported differences in their recovery paths from homelessness. The particular focus was on how Housing First potentiates the individual's ability to increase their capacity to "live a good life", based on the capabilities approach, and applied to this social group. This Chapter further describes how the studies were delineated and present the measures used for the quantitative protocol and the interview guide organized for the qualitative study.

On the critical reflection within this chapter, the authors emphasized the aspects associated with the services implementation efforts and the territorial scope of the projects and the programs in 31 European

Cities, where data were collected, and the effort posed in the measures translation in 8 European Languages.

The overall results by the Service Users of the Housing First Programs were that there are reports of more choice and control over their lives, more choice and satisfaction with the services and the supports, and more housing stability measured as more time spent in independent accommodation.

Finally, in this chapter's qualitative section, it is emphasized the importance of having a home to further enhance the individual's capabilities and strengthen participants to overcome persistent and prolonged homelessness situations.

Chapter III titled EU Citizens and Homelessness, authored by Owen Taylor, Sandrine Loubierre, Aurelie Tinland, Pascal Auquier from the Université d'Aix Marseille describes the implementation of a European public opinion survey. The final version of the European Citizen's opinion survey/study on Homelessness is composed of sections associated with KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices) and WTP (Willingness to Pay), and was implemented through a telephone survey. Through this study we also probed to understand the partner countries' valuation of the Housing First model; and the final version was composed of sections from prior surveys. Concerning the data gathering, the French team was able to complete a final validation of 5631 surveys completed which comprised around 700 surveys for partner country.

The KAP section was focused on prevalence, the sources of funding, and the homeless people's life conditions including perceived causes of homelessness situations; homeless people's capabilities, empowerment, and community integration.

The survey also included the perceived magnitude of the phenomenon and the role of Governments in terms of intervention and spending. Related to practices, the questions were focused on donating, volunteering, and citizen's interactions with homeless people.

Concerning the valuation of Housing First as an innovative social policy and the WTP for this social policy, the results integrated into the project deliverables are quite illustrative of the public support to the solutions focused on providing housing to the homeless people and the need of further investments to design and implement policies able to respond to this extreme social phenomenon.

All the measures were also translated into the 8 European participant languages and the procedure is described in this chapter. The authors finalize the piece with an overall presentation of the measures selected to compose the survey that corresponds to one of the Project published outputs.

Chapter IV is focused on a reflection about new Strategies to Study Organizations with people experiencing Homelessness: The Service Provider's Study, developed by Francesca Desperati; Marta Gaboardi; Michela Lenzi; Alessio Vieno; Massimo Santinello from the University of Padova in Italy. The overall purpose of this contribution is to document the experiences of those who work with people who experience homelessness, gathering information on the factors affecting their professional performance. Through a qual-quantitative process of studies we probed to understand how professional aims are being attained and the difficulties or barriers encountered. The studies were also organized to provide information on how Housing First Programs are introducing changes on how the way services are provided and on the main differences from the staircase traditional homelessness services. The services

for homeless populations are emotionally straining due to constant exposure to the extreme situations that homelessness experiences represent; the organizations are often financially constrained with consequences in high levels of professional turnover, vague definition of roles, and lack of specialized training. The professionals' work conditions and specialized training are crucial for the effectiveness of the services provided.

The measures and guides deriving from the qualitative and quantitative studies were all translated in the 8 partner languages and the studies sections provided us opportunities to expose in the project deliverables analysis on the services profiles including core features, levels of burnout, work engagement and balance, as well as user's capabilities promotion. All these attained through semi-structured interviews with teams, program leaders, and photovoice projects. From this stage derived the SER PRO Questionnaire with 6 dimensions and 24 items that is a relevant new tool to further understand how we may realize and systematize the professional's experiences.

The Chapters V and VI are intertwined and are two pieces resulting of efforts entailed to further understand the political dynamics and trends concerning the social policies on homelessness advancements and implementation efforts. Specifically, Chapter V was titled Homelessness Policies in 8 EU countries: An analysis on Policy formation and implementation, developed by the ISPA-IU Team, Maria Vargas Moniz; Fátima Jorge-Monteiro; José Ornelas, and Chapter VI - Housing First & Homelessness Challenges: A Focus Group with international experts, by Maria Vargas Moniz, included the transcription and analysis of a focus group discussing in-depth models and trends on the advancement of Housing First in Europe and the United States.

SECTION II of the E-Book is focused on the implementation of Housing First Programs in EU Countries: Contributions towards ending Homelessness in Europe, and brings us contributions from Poland, Sweden, and Portugal. The Chapter VII – From Evidence to Practice: Implementation of Housing First Program in Poland, authored by Anna Bokszczanin; Aleksandra M. Rogowska from the University of Opole in Poland; Chapter VIII - The Emergence and dissemination of Housing First in Sweden, by Mats Blids; Ulla Brejer, Hakan Kalmen from the Karolinska Institutet; and Chapters IX and X brings us a report on the implementation of two housing first programs in Lisbon, Portugal, coming from the civic organizations that were project partners and provide an illustration of their journey and the attained results on the implementation of Housing First Programs in the Country. Chapter IX - Casas Primeiro Program: Ten years of Housing First in Portugal, by Teresa Duarte & Inês Almas from the organization AEIPS (Associação para o Estudo e Integração Psicossocial) and Chapter X - É UMA CASA Lisboa Housing First: A program for people who use Drugs and Experience chronic Homelessness by Américo Nave; Cristiana Merendeiro; Maria Carmona from the Association. These contributions probe to document the structure, the challenges, and the advancements of conducting transnational, multicultural research endeavors focused on attaining socially relevant political aims such as ending homelessness in Europe.