Housing First in Italy
Core Principles, Evaluation and Results

European Parliament
Bruxelles 16th October 2019
What is Housing First?

The Housing First (HF) approach originated in the United States during the 1990s is based on gaining immediate access to independent apartments with support from a team of health workers for chronically homeless people and groups assessed as at risk of homelessness.
Core Principles of Housing First*

1. Housing is a Human Right
2. Choice and Control for Service Users
3. Separation of Housing and Treatment
4. Recovery Orientation
5. Harm Reduction
6. Active Engagement without Coercion
7. Person Centred Planning
8. Flexible Support for as long as is requested
New York

Pathways to Housing PA
Housing First: Doing More With Less
Costs per Person per Night

- Pathways Housing First: $76
- Transitional Housing: $92
- Jail: $164
- Emergency Room: $519
- Psychiatric Hospital: $1185

Canada

HF = Housing First

Housing First supports people who are homeless and living with mental illness by combining the immediate provision of permanent housing with wrap-around supports.

Washington DC

Housing First approach

- Homeless
- Shelter placement
- Transitional housing
- Permanent housing
- Ongoing, flexible support

Harm Reduction
Housing First Network

27 Medium and big sized Italian cities (Turin, Milan, Boulogne, Pisa, Padua, Ragusa, Siracusa, Cosenza, Pordenone, etc...)
54 Public and private organizations working with homeless people
120 Social workers
50 Volunteers
10 Researchers
5 International Experts on HF
5 Universities
How was analyzed Housing first in Italy?

→ By Scientific Committee*

- Team of 10 expert, researchers, professors and senior evaluators
- Multi-disciplinary approaches
- Mixed methods
- Involvement of providers, social workers and beneficiaries in the evaluation design

- Monitoring Plan
- Evaluation Plan

** Univ. Torino, Politecnico di Torino, IRES-FVG, Univ. Padova, Univ. di Catania, Univ. della Calabria
Three books about Housing First

Deborah K. Padgett, Benjamin F. Henwood, Sam J. Tsemberis

Housing First
Una storia che cambia le storie

Prima la casa
La sperimentazione Housing First in Italia
a cura di
Paolo Molinari e Anna Znarolla

Scenari e pratiche dell’Housing First
Una nuova via dell’accoglienza per la grave emarginazione adulta in Italia
a cura di Caterina Cortese
Beneficiaries

688 HF users in two years

456 adults (and 232 children)

- Roofless: 37%
- Houseless: 32%
- People living in insecure housing: 25%
- People living in inadequate housing: 6%

- 70% Man and 30% Woman
- 51% Italians e 49% Migrants
- 51 years old (average age)

- Low school level
- Lack of Income, Job, Housing, Family relationship

Source: Molinari and Zenarolla 2018
Results → Beneficiaries

456 adults
(356 housed* + 98 out of program)

✓ 61 adults get in autonomy**
✓ 31 people have abandoned program
✓ 6 get off for health or other problems

* “Housed” means: people maintaining the house after two years (31-12-2016)

** “Autonomy” means: people getting independent housing and job; family reunification; repatriation

Source: Molinari and Zenarolla 2018
Provided Housing

190 apartments

- 70% private rental market
- 14% social/public rental sector
- 16% religious property

- 29% single apartments
- 40% apartments for family
- 31% co-housing
Results → Health, Social Integration, Satisfaction*

- 22% of HF users** declare improving in physical health and 10% worsening**
- 56% declare stable level of mental health
- 80% meet friends outside of home and enjoy the neighbourhoods
- 68% make new friends
- 78% feel «at home»
- 37% know neighbors
- High score (4/5) of the Quality of the Support and Housing Delivering

* SF-12 AUDIT; DAST 10; Community Integration Scale; Quality Service Scale. ** Telephone Interviews were realized after 6 months for 55 HF users - Source: Santinello et al. 2018

** People start to take care of themselves and to recognize ills or minor disabilities
Housing First Costs*

- Average monthly cost for adult: 572,00 euros
- Average monthly cost for household: 626,00 euros
- Average daily cost for adult: 20,89 euros

* OSVALDO – web based software, by University of Catania and Caritas of Siracusa
* «costs» include: Personal cost; Housing sustainment; Additional Services (lawyer, doctors, psychologist, counsellor or coach)
* Sample of 7 pilot projects (Northern; Centre; Southern Italy)

Source: Mazzeo Rinaldi et al. 2018
Current policy statement of Housing First in Italy

- New deal of the Network Housing First – Italy “From the Project to the System” (2017-2019)

- Housing First is recognized as strategic way for tackling Homelessness in to the National Anti-Poverty Plan and in Guideline by Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

- Large scale funding (100 milion of euros – ESF and FEAD) from the Nationale Government to Municipalities and Regional governments to renovate territorial services also by Housing First Approach
How does mean Housing First in Italy for the future?

- Hope and Dignity for the people
- Alternative approach for tackling homelessness
- Wind of change
- Increasing new housing solutions
- Cultural and Service Delivering Challenges
- Political change
Thanks