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REPORT

ADDRESSING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS & EXCLUSION

Housing solutions for young people

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FEANTSA

European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless

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Introduction

A dimly lit room with a ceiling covered in comic book panels. Three people wearing face masks are sitting around a dark wooden table. The room features a red sofa, a television, and shelves with books and plants. The overall atmosphere is quiet and focused.

ABOUT

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 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 130 member organisations from 29 countries, including 22 Member States.

WHY THIS REPORT?

Young people can find themselves at the intersection of different vulnerabilities, such as poverty and discrimination, exposing those who cannot count on family or social network support to harmful situations. This explains why, for instance, young people exiting institutions of youth care are at particular risk of experiencing homelessness.

Risk factors for homelessness and housing exclusion can range from a lack of financial stability (with young people often enrolled in education or training, in unstable employment, unemployment and/or subject to limited entitlements to social benefits because of age thresholds) to lack of family and social network support systems. At the particularly vulnerable point of transitioning from childhood to adulthood young people must enter highly competitive housing markets, with rising rents and limited affordable housing options. These elements establish a context of significant strain on young individuals, some of whom are unable to secure long-term adequate affordable housing. Of course, young people do not represent a single homogenous group, with access to housing varying depending on structural and individual factors, which often intersect. Some young people face additional challenges in accessing housing due to discrimination or life situation (mental health, substance abuse, exiting from care systems, , family breakdown).

The OECD report “No Home for the young”¹ details the state of play of the housing situation of young

people in OECD countries and presents a range of causal factors. Amongst other things, it reveals that young people aged 20-29 are more likely to live in rental housing compared with the general population even though home ownership remains a strong preference for the majority. The situation is due both to financial constraints and choice. As a result, young people need more affordable rental housing but face a lack of social housing stock and difficulty in accessing the rental market due to financial constraints but also tight rental regulation (that can turn out to be a disincentive to landlords to rent to young people). In the Netherlands for example housing shortages have contributed to a threefold increase in homeless people between the ages of 18 and 29 when comparing 2009 to 2019 figures.

To address the issues faced by young people effectively, FEANTSA recommends implementing targeted interventions that focus on prevention, early intervention, support services, as well as support access to housing, through housing supply and support to housing demand (housing benefits), all of them being tailored to the unique needs of young people. Delivering housing solutions to young people locked out of the housing market requires special attention to their unique needs and challenges. While some aspects overlap with the general population, there are specificities that should be considered for young people. This report aims to showcase examples of good practice in targeted approaches to meet the housing needs of young people. This report is not necessarily an endorsement of the projects presented but intends to acknowledge the project’s interesting and unique features, offering valuable insights into its potential implications and effectiveness within the given context.

1 <https://www.oecd.org/housing/no-home-for-the-young.pdf>

2

Transforming lives through
holistic support



GIROSCOPE

#Community

Giroscope was formed in 1985 by a group of students and young unemployed people who were looking for a solution to their own housing problems. Fed up with renting poor quality private sector housing they decided to take advantage of the low house prices to help themselves and others in similar circumstances. They purchased their first four houses by pooling their giros (unemployment benefits - hence the name giroscope!) and taking out loans where they could. They then set about renovating these houses to provide homes for both their housing needs and other unemployed people too. At this stage the group had no real construction skills and no experience of letting properties. However, once they advertised their first property to let the extent of the housing need became quickly apparent, fueling determination to increase capacity and move giroscope forward. Thirty-four years later Giroscope has 108 properties and houses over 280 people.

The model

Giroscope is a self-help housing project based in Hull (UK). Its main activity is the purchase of empty and derelict properties, bringing them back into use to provide decent, secure, affordable homes to people in housing need. At the heart of its work is a volunteering programme, offering hands-on work experience and training and support to disadvantaged and hard-to-reach people in an effort to help them back into employment. It is also a model of community regeneration, an innovative and replicable model for creating low-cost housing, empowering local communities and creating local employment and training opportunities.

Giroscope aims to create a more vibrant local community by repopulating empty streets and by ensuring that nobody feels isolated from their community due to poverty, homelessness or prejudice. The project is based in west Hull, in an area of high deprivation, low average income and high levels of unemployment. Its work is concentrated in some of the most fragile and rundown neighbourhoods in Hull where housing is generally in poor condition, management standards are notoriously

bad, tenant turnover rates are high, and vacant homes are prevalent. Alongside this, demand for housing from people on low incomes or dependent on state benefits outstrips supply.

Giroscopes integrated approach tackles multiple issues concurrently: lack of adequate housing, decayed and rundown neighbourhoods, deep forms of social exclusion and low employment and qualification levels. Over two-thirds of staff are former Giroscope volunteers. This enables them to provide peer support to new volunteers, using the experiences they had whilst volunteering to empathise and support people who may be facing similar situations or challenges to those that they have overcome.

The local community is involved at every level of Giroscope from trustees, staff, volunteers and tenants. Local people are involved in running the organisation and in key decisions. The organization is trusted by the local community and listens to it. This culture and ethos are embedded in its work: being accountable to the local community and seeking to actively, inclusively and democratically involve people in how giroscope works.

Through a constant dialogue with residents and organisations in the neighbourhood, Giroscope has developed a deep understanding of the issues that affect the local area and the needs of this community.

Financing

Giroscope is a financially sustainable organisation that does not depend on grants or government or statutory funding. It raises capital by arranging loan finance using existing housing stock as security. This finance is used to fund the purchase and renovation of new empty properties. The rental income from tenanted properties covers loan repayments, staff salaries and maintenance and repair costs. From time to time the project receives grants to create new opportunities or to provide additional support to our beneficiaries. Between 2012-2015 Giroscope accessed funding from the government's empty homes community grants programme; enabling them to scale up, build capacity and increase the number of properties.



Impact

The work with ex-offenders, sometimes working in the communities in which they committed their crimes is a key innovative aspect. Giroscope helps to reintegrate marginalized groups back into society, encouraging them to participate in the wider community, develop pride in their work and use their time constructively.

Giroscope's approach has been replicated and transferred: there are about 50 self-help housing projects in the UK making use of empty properties. Being one of the founding organisations of this movement, Giroscope actively shares its knowledge, experience and lessons learnt with new and emerging housing projects and organisations or people trying to set up projects of their own to support the development process, and ultimately create more affordable housing and regenerate deprived communities.

Website: [www. Giroscope.org](http://www.Giroscope.org).

Socials: @giroscope_hull

DUE – “WHERE THE YOUTH ARE”, NORWAY

#PublicEngagement

DUE – “where the youth are” is a housing and community initiative in Bergen municipality that provides targeted support to young people facing difficulties accessing private rental accommodation. A youth coordinator (social worker) is employed to help young people to navigate the private rental market, with the hope of ultimately finding suitable accommodation according to their needs. The coordinator helps them to navigate the system and society. It is an effective and user-friendly way to help youth, including those with substance abuse and mental illness. The youth coordinator also offers therapeutic conversations and emotional support if needed, but the primary approach is to guide the youth towards the specialized services according to the needs of the individual participant.

The model

DUE is a part of the child welfare infrastructure in Bergen municipality. The initiative is a response to the political guidelines and reports about child protection that point to the need for the development of family and local environment-based measures for children and youth as part of preventative strategies for child welfare.

The target group initially was young people (aged maximum 23 years old), who have a link to the state (child welfare, psychiatric, substance abuse, prison). They receive support from a youth coordinator, available from 08am to 08pm every working day. They work two afternoons/evenings every week. Flexible working hours and good preparedness schemes are important success factors. Facilitating a good environment and developing a common identity are of utmost importance for the coordinators to thrive and do a good job in a role that requires a lot of independent work. DUE has expanded their services to include helping younger children, as well as families, using the same model. The target group has been enlarged to include people aged 0-25 years, and their caregivers. This presentation will be limited to describing the main functions of the youth service.

The objective of the DUE initiative is to offer child protection measures to young people within their own local environment, avoiding unnecessary placement in institutions or reducing the length of stay. The idea is to help the youth where they are, both developmentally and geographically, in proximity to their network. For instance, the project offers support through difficult transitions, e.g., from child welfare to social services and specialist health services to municipal health services. The project is based on systematic work informed by the mapping and creation of tailored action plans according to the specific needs of each individual young person, as well as the use of "responsibility groups". The "responsibility groups" are led by a youth coordinator, who collaborates closely with the young person and with case officers in the child welfare service and other important people in the young person's social network.

A youth coordinator offers support find a property on the private rental market, meeting the property

owner with the young person, and looking with them at the rental agreement. Landlords are generally satisfied with the contact with DUE and wish to rent again to another youth in DUE down the line. DUE has a huge network of property-owners that are willing to give youth a chance. The property owners are guaranteed good communication with the youth coordinator who follows up all difficulties that might arise.

The youth coordinator also provides support for activities of daily living, such as financial management, school (homework), work and other day care, active leisure time, treatment (physical and psychological) and networking with friends and family. DUE offers family group conferences, a coordinated set of sessions where the aim is to get the invited family and network to work together with the youth to find solutions to the questions the youth has prepared. The sessions are coordinated by a third-party coordinator purposely designated for the task. DUE coordinator, the child welfare services and other professionals give a short presentation at the beginning of the first session, before the family group council is left to work autonomously. Different assignments are given to members of the group to ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to speak, that the youth is supported during the meeting, and that plans are recorded. This approach gives the young person an opportunity to get support from family and friends while also facilitating a degree of empowerment.

Financing

DUE is operated by the outreach service within the Municipality of Bergen. The services that DUE offers are utilised by several other municipal departments via a contractual service including the child welfare department and social services. Remuneration and compensation for 24-hour readiness are the most important costs. Other expenses, for example, are related to driving allowance, telephone costs, competence-raising measures and employment. The work assignments in DUE are priced on the basis that the measure will be in balance financially.

Perspectives

DUE has approximately 280 clients as of September 2023, approximately 110 of whom are young people either living on their own or seeking to do so. Through the DUE project, new methods have been developed to improve the opportunities for disadvantaged youth in the housing market. Hiring a youth coordinator who follows up on four to five young people, could generate savings that far outweighs the wage costs. Some statistics: From 2015- May 2019, DUE completed 119 youth follow up cases. Of these, 70 lived in a private rented flat. Only 4 were residents in public housing. The rest lived with family, were in the military or at boarding school.

The DUE project has proven to be mutually beneficial for both the municipality at large and crucially the vulnerable young people of Bergen. In Bergen there are now relatively few homeless youths, and there has been a strong reduction in the proportion of the homeless population that is young since the previous count of homelessness: from 20% in 2008 to 12% in 2016.

DUE considers the «UN Convention on the Rights of the Child» to be an important document with regards to informing the design and provision of services at the local level. Meaningful efforts are made to ensure these principles are thoroughly embedded and implemented in their everyday practices.

BRUNOY: THE HOUSE AROUND THE CORNER, HABITAT ET HUMANISME, FRANCE

#Renovation

Located in the town of Brunoy, Essonne, the rue Monmartel building was an aging historic building with a disused commercial space on the ground floor. Habitat et Humanisme acquired this building, owned by the City of Brunoy, to make it a place to live, offering 8 housing units for seniors, young people and families. Habitat et Humanisme are a French based organization that provide affordable and tailored housing solutions to socially marginalized groups in addition to a range of supports, both

personalised and collective, to foster the recreation of social ties and social re-integration more broadly.

The Model

Habitat et Humanisme Ile-de-France is engaged in a project to create a collective building and community space in Brunoy, consisting of 8 housing units designed for single individuals facing precarious situations and vulnerable people in need of personalized social support. The project aims to combine individual housing with a community space open to the neighborhood.

Financing

The project benefited from support from local and regional authorities. The project is financially sustainable and is funded through PLAI (prêt locatif aidé d'intégration), a subsidized rental loan program ringfenced for social housing.

The Impact

Community: The project provides an 80m² communal space where residents can cook, socialize, participate in activities, and engage in discussions on citizenship, environmental, solidarity, and intercultural issues. It fosters social bonds among the city's inhabitants, facilitated by local volunteers and partner organizations. The "La Maison du coin" serves as a versatile space for meetings, training sessions, creative workshops, cooking classes, DIY activities, material lending, educational support, digital assistance, children's reading, and community gatherings, enriching the community's life from Monday to Sunday.

Affordable housing: The building consists of 4 permanent social housing units for financially disadvantaged households and 4 temporary housing units for vulnerable households in need of personalized social support. Social workers, association employees, and volunteer mentors provide assistance to residents. The rehabilitation of the existing building was conducted with a focus on preserving its historical heritage and aligning with ecological transition imperatives, including the reuse of existing materials and the use of lightweight, highly thermally insulating Hempcrete to reduce CO₂ emissions.



AVENUE DE SAXE: LA VILLE SOCIAL RESIDENCE PROJECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, HABITAT ET HUMANISE, FRANCE

Located along Avenue de Saxe in the 7th arrondissement of Paris, the La Ville social residence project provides access to housing for young people between the ages of 18 and 30 years old who face difficulties accessing housing because of a lack of resources. Beginning in 2015, the residence comprises 27 housing units, in addition to a range of amenities intended to foster conviviality and social connection among residents and staff.

The residence is located on the grounds of a recently renovated 19th Century Convent. The renovation that took place was carried out by a large real-estate company called OGIC in 2015 for the purpose of developing an apartment complex. Utilizing a process known as VEFA (vente en état futur d'achèvement), the original owners obliged that the sale of the land was conditional to a development that would ensure the continuity of the social orientation of the

convent. This specification for a socially orientated development allowed Habitat et Humanisme to acquire the necessary space to build a social residence for young people.

The model

A philosophy of collectivity and communality permeates the everyday practices and actions of the initiative, with the entire residence run collectively by a manager, a volunteer advisor and a team of volunteers in collaboration with residents.

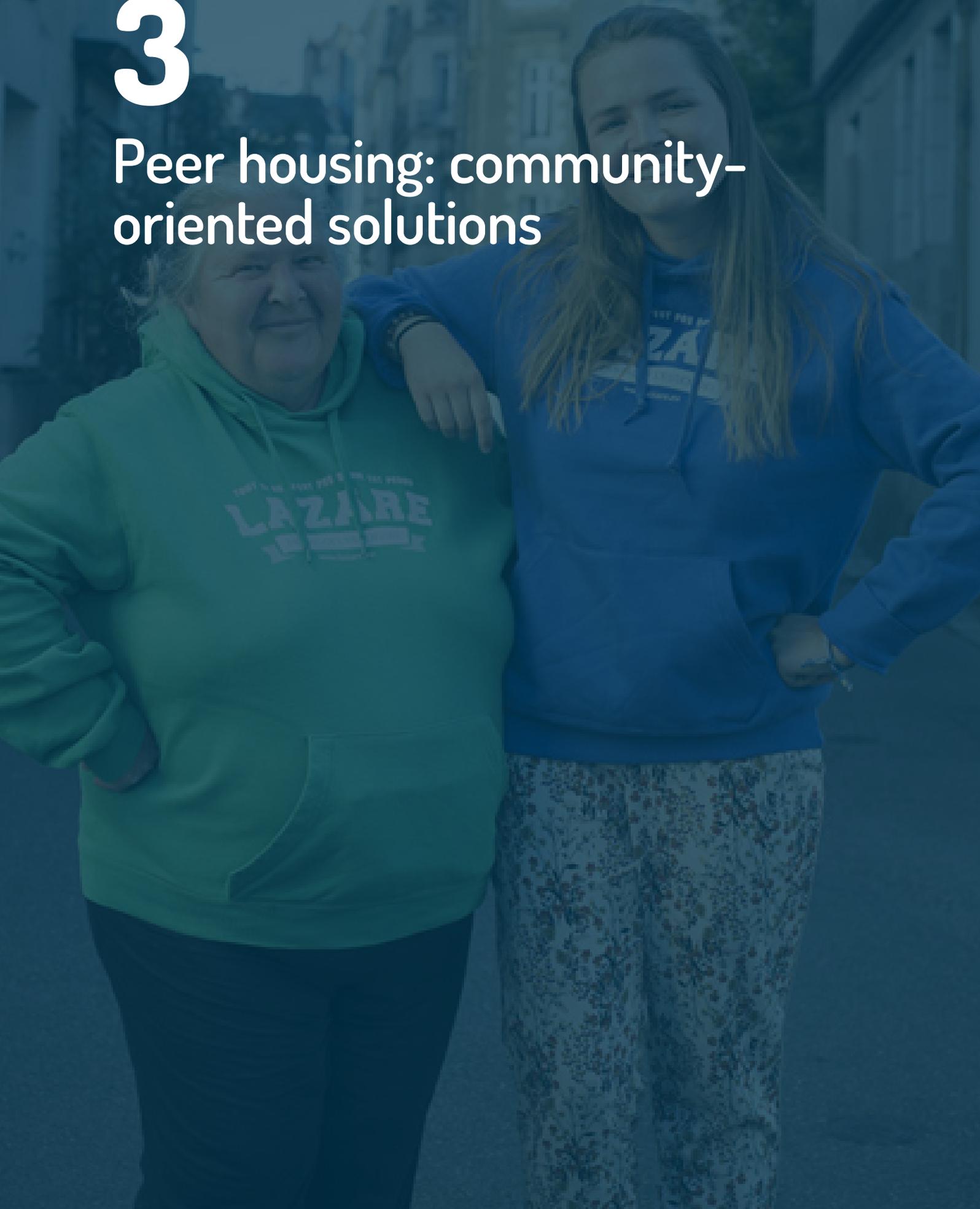
Habitat et Humanisme seeks to encourage living together and to foster conviviality among residents. Participation in the drafting of cohabitation rules, meetings on the operation of the residence, encouragement of collective initiatives: festive times, creative workshops, exchanges of services, etc are formulated democratically between staff, volunteers and residents to promote autonomy, social responsibility and agency.

Habitat et Humanisme affirms its desire to encourage a social mix between young people of diverse statuses and circumstances. The existence of individual and collective living spaces encourages such interactions between young people, leaving them the choice of community or not, according to their desire.

Residents are also provided with individual support in the form of a designated social worker and volunteer. This support promotes socialization and integration and helps residents navigate external resources such as employment opportunities, training and housing. The manager and the team of volunteers ensure residents have access to health, citizenship, leisure and culture in partnership with other stakeholders in the Paris region. The objective being to encourage the autonomy and the agency of each resident to be an actor in their own development.

3

Peer housing: community-oriented solutions



Peer housing can be seen as a carefully designed ecosystem of shared experiences and cooperation, fostering a sense of belonging and social cohesion. It proposes a transformative approach that challenges conventional housing models, placing inclusion through the community at the heart of the solution, particularly beneficial for young individuals who may not be fully prepared for complete independence. This chapter looks at some of the practical benefits and strategic advantages of harnessing peer support to address young people's housing challenges. Successful case studies and innovative funding strategies that have contributed to peer housing becoming a viable and scalable solution to address housing challenges for young people transitioning to independent living are also presented

DAR=CASA FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – OSPITALITÀ SOLIDALE, ITALY

#Renovation

In Italy, DAR=CASA cooperative started in 2014 to provide affordable housing solutions to young people (18-30 years old) who study or are in a temporary job.

The project is a partnership with the Municipality of Milan, Comunità progetto cooperative and the association ARCI Milano. It aims to give an answer to young people's need for low rent housing, while improving their skills through voluntary work in public estates. The project also seeks to overcome social exclusion and segregation through the implementation of a social mix in deprived public neighborhoods.

The model

DAR=CASA contributed to the renovation of two public housing complexes located in Milan's suburban area. Both were in critical condition pre-renovation and contained a large number of empty flats as well as a socially and economically vulnerable residential community.

In addition to providing affordable adequate housing solutions to young people through the renovation of 24 flats, the project enabled a decisive improvement in the sense of safety in the neighborhoods. It also provided for the renovation of common spaces, that became an important social resource for the neighborhoods and in doing so fostered a sense of community.

Financing

The project entailed the renovation of 24 mini-flats (of about 23 to 26 square meters each) and 2 spaces for public services in the two neighborhoods. The project was subsidized through non-profit partners' funds as well as supported by public funds through a 430,000 euros state subsidy.

The start-up and ordinary management (property, facility and community management) costs of the project were supported through the fees paid by the young residents, with a view to self-sustainability of the project over the ten-year contract signed with the Municipality. Young inhabitants pay 380 euro per month for the flat, including expenses.

Perspectives

Over the years, the project has assigned 24 flats to more than a hundred young people. Given the inherent instability in the job and personal lives of the target group, there have been instances where tenants needed to alter their plans due to changing opportunities. The high turnover in residents can be attributed to these unique circumstances. From the start of the project, the young residents have been proactively organizing activities for their neighbours. These initiatives, to name a few, include workshops and after-school programs for children, communal lunches and the establishment of a library.

Common spaces have been a resource for local associations and their initiatives. This has contributed to the construction of local networks and the implementation of public and private social programmes.

STARTBLOKRIEKERHAVEN, THE NETHERLANDS.

#Collaboration

Startblok Riekerhaven is a collaboration between the municipality of Amsterdam, the housing corporation De Key, and the organisation Socius Wonen. The aim of Startblok is to contribute to quicker integration, to encourage self-development and to ensure that all tenants get onto the housing market after living at Startblok. Half of the tenants are young Dutch people and the other half are young refugees.

The model

Startblok Riekerhaven is aimed at young people between 18 and 27 years old. The idea is that tenants can access relatively cheap housing in the capital. Whilst living here under a special youth contract, youth can stay on the waiting list for social housing. Tenants are collectively responsible for their own living environment, which creates a stronger sense of community. In addition to that, there are self-managers, hallway managers (that voluntarily make sure that their hallway is social, safe and clean), a translation team, a terrain team, a handyman team and the foundation Startblok Actief! (a group of residents that organises events), meaning there are plenty of opportunities for extra involvement in the community.

Startblok consists of 405 modular housing units, including 303 private studios with their own facilities and 102 private rooms in apartments with shared facilities. All living spaces are unfurnished. Most of these hallways have collective living rooms. In the community, every hallway has two hallway managers (one Dutch, one refugee status holder) who ensures the hygiene, safety and social cohesion in the hallway in exchange for a monthly discount on their rent of €50. Tenants pay a rent, as well as €1 per month to the foundation Startblok Actief!, which is used to organise activities and events for the residents. They are also the first point of contact if a resident needs help. Outside areas provide sports fields, and a clubhouse. The residents have been building their own BBQ spots, a swimming pool and are provided an opportunity

to participate in gardening. Residents can additionally ask for budget and financial assistance at the foundation Startblok Actief, a foundation also managed by Strablok's residents.

Maintaining close contact with partners such as the municipality, the refugee council, local doctors, local police and local psychologists is also crucial in order to ensure adequate support

Financing

Startblok Riekerhaven originally functioned as a sports complex. The modular homes that were installed on the site were reclaimed and originally situated in another location in Amsterdam. Coupled with renovation costs, moving the units cost roughly €14,000 per home. Additionally, construction of the Clubhouse, the team office and the outdoor area cost around €310,000 in total. The De Key Housing Association financed the work completed.

Perspectives

Research carried out by TU Delft on whether newcomers integrate more easily after living at Startblok suggested that tenants benefit from the formal and informal social networks they form whilst living in Startblok, making it easier for them to get to know the city, the culture and the language. Startblok was the first of its kind and since then similar projects have been founded, both by De Key and other housing associations nationally and internationally. The same project has been replicated by De Key in another part of the city. It is called Startblok Elzenhagen and includes improvements based on the Riekerhaven experience.

Website: <https://startblokriekerhaven.nl/>

LAZARUS, FRANCE

#SocialInclusion

The Lazarus co-housing project brings together people who may otherwise never have crossed paths in life: homeless people, who need a place to call home, and young professionals, who are looking for strong commitment toward solidarity.



More than a roof, Lazarus offers friendship and community to homeless people to help them get back on their feet and move forward.

The model

Lazarus offers co-housing flat shares between young professionals aged 25-35 and people experiencing homelessness or highly precarious living conditions. Indeed, Lazarus welcomes homeless people who were either living on the street or in a shelter, or who are still in temporary accommodation.

A typical Lazarus house includes a flat share for women, a flat share for men and a dedicated apartment for a family. Each apartment, hosting between 6 and 12 people, is equipped with individual rooms and a common kitchen, living room, and bathroom. The house is self-organised, and in each apartment, flatmates are responsible for all daily activities such as cleaning, buying groceries, and cooking.

The family responsible runs daily life in the house. They are also in charge of recruiting new flatmates and opening the house for events with neighbours, friends, partners, etc.

Financing

Lazarus homes are made available to Lazarus by private persons and entities, either free of charge or in exchange for modest rent. Every month, each tenant pays the same rent that covers all running costs including food and utility bills. This means that each house, once opened, is to be fully self-financed. Fundraising is carried out by Lazarus for renovation costs and the acquisition and opening of new homes.

Perspectives

Since its founding in 2011, Lazarus has opened 12 houses in France (Lyon, Nantes, Marseille, Toulouse, Lille, Bordeaux, etc.), 2 houses in Spain (Madrid and Barcelona), 1 house in Belgium (Brussels), 1 house in Mexico (Mexico City) and 1 house in Switzerland (Geneva). In 2022, there were more than 300 people living at Lazarus. New houses are currently being opened in

Europe and North America. In 2016, the consultancy firm KiMSO carried out an impact assessment of the project, which found that 85% of homeless people who have stayed in a Lazarus home were able to find stable housing after leaving, and 40% were able to find employment. 95% of Lazarus residents reported being happy with their housing situation.

4

Cross-sectoral mobilisation



Addressing youth homelessness requires a unified and multifaceted approach. This chapter explores how strategic collaborations across sectors can serve as a powerful catalyst for addressing the housing needs of low-income young people. Public authorities bear a critical responsibility in addressing this crisis, but their efforts are substantially bolstered when combined with the specialized knowledge, resources, and community connections that NGOs can provide. Cross-sectoral collaboration emerges as an indispensable strategy in the pursuit of sustainable and equitable housing solutions. Partnerships between government housing agencies, local NGOs, social housing providers or private property owners contribute to unlocking housing options and facilitating choice, and therefore adequacy, in service provision. This chapter will highlight good practices and provide insights into the mechanics of these collaborations and how to engage in meaningful alliances.

HJEM TIL ALLE, DENMARK

#Prevention

Hjem til alle (“Home for all”) is a cross-sectoral alliance of 22 partners in Denmark, united by the common goal to stop homelessness among young people. The coalition work to ensure that all young people have access to housing, support and networks.

The model

The Hjem til alle organization operates according to the belief that all young people should have access to housing, but housing alone is not enough. It’s crucial for young people to get the support they need, and access to support networks and community services. In Denmark, a wide cross-sectoral coalition has been set up to transform homelessness services with a focus on ensuring that people experiencing homelessness have access to housing and support in their own homes. The “Home for All Alliance” consists of 22 partners who share the common goal to stop homelessness amongst young



people in Denmark. The alliance works both politically to remove the barriers that stand in the way of solving the problem - while at the same time developing new solutions and generating knowledge that can help end homelessness.

The alliance has developed many projects specifically targeting young people. Amongst them, a supportive student housing program provides access to student housing for homeless young people who want to become students. The goal is to provide stable and permanent housing for homeless young adults. Housing First Case Management is combined with access to healthy supportive networks with students. The idea is also to enable homeless young people to tap into existing rental markets and potentially beneficial social networks in settings that they are traditionally excluded from privately-owned student housing and student communities. To achieve this, the Home for All Alliance works to build trust between municipalities and private foundations who own student housing

and will rent 10% of their student housing to young homeless people who aim to return to education.

Financing

The student housing model mainly uses existing welfare mechanisms. Homeless young adults who become students are able to benefit from the Danish student allowance (about €700 a month and higher than the social benefits they would otherwise receive) as well as rent subsidies and an interest-free governmental loan of €300 a month. Meanwhile, municipalities commit to providing adequate case management to support to the homeless young people. The foundations co-finance the project by either lowering the rent or covering potential costs arising from rent arrears, lack of maintenance etc. The community organising programme is funded by a philanthropic foundation.

Website: <https://hjemtilalle.dk/>

ROCK TRUST, SCOTLAND

#UnconditionalSupport

“Whatever it takes, for as long as it takes.” That’s how the standing Head of Services, Alistair MacDermaid, describes the support Rock Trust provides to address youth homelessness in Scotland. Homelessness is understood as a symptom of several important and often inter-linking factors ranging from ‘relationship breakdown, mental health, substance abuse, growing up in care, poverty, childhood trauma, and experience of physical and mental abuse’. The Rock Trust sees its role as offering ‘tailored, trauma informed support’ that recognizes the individual needs of young people whilst also providing them with the same housing opportunities as their non-homeless peers

The model

The Rock Trust works collaboratively with young people, offering a range of services, as a means to offer choices to young people according to their self-identified needs. This means services ranging from long-term support for young people with very complex needs, to basic help for young

people struggling to access housing because of high rents or discrimination. The Rock Trust provides accommodation, but also proposes a wide range of services such as 1-1 support workers, mentors, mediation, and health and well-being support, alongside regular evening groups such as our cooking club, employability drop-in and short educational courses.

The Rock Trust manages to offer such holistic support through partnership with housing associations and public authorities. It has established a partnership with the Almond Housing Association and West Lothian Council to support care leavers aged 16- 25 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) project operated as a 31-month pilot, starting in September 2017, offering access to appropriate independent housing, provided through Almond Housing Association and West Lothian Council, alongside intensive, on-going support from project workers. The key is that housing is provided for “as long as it is needed”. In 2023, it partnered again with Almond Housing Association to transform a vacant derelict care home into two shared-living homes for young people, alongside a staff facility for the Rock Trust support team.

Another example is the Rock Trust partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council to provide a further 17 care experienced young people with permanent, unconditional homes, as part of the Scottish Government’s Edinburgh Housing Pathfinder. Young people with experience of care have been provided with permanent, fully furnished tenancies, alongside the high intensity support they need to manage their own households and cope with living independently. A final example is a recent partnership with Scottish law firm Turcan Connell Rock Trust that will provide support on a range of fundraising events and pro-bono volunteering opportunities.

Financing and impact

Since the programme began, 100% of the young people involved have not returned to homelessness, and thanks to a funding boost from Nationwide Building Society, more young people in West Lothian have been offered new homes. What makes the support they are receiving unique, is that it is unconditional.

5

Empowering the next generation: housing projects



It has become increasingly evident that young adults face unique challenges and obstacles when attempting to secure affordable and suitable housing. This chapter explores the critical need for targeted housing projects exclusively designed for the younger generation grappling with affordability concerns, discrimination, precarity or simply requiring at certain times flexible living arrangements.

“FECSKE LAKÁS”, THE BUDAPEST DISTRICT XIII PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY.

#Empowerment

The Municipality of Budapest XIII District (13th District) provides targeted support to young people through a dedicated program providing housing solutions to young couples. These are intended to provide medium term housing for young married or cohabiting couples who are willing and able to find permanent housing within 8 years.

The model

The local authority of Budapest’s XIII’s district has established a program aimed at providing housing support to young couples, recognizing the financial challenges they often face when starting a family due to soaring rental costs. Under this initiative, the municipality leverages its resources by refurbishing and renovating existing flats, which are then allocated to eligible applicants through a rigorous selection process based on key criteria. The primary objective of this program is to support young couples facing high prices on the rental market by offering affordable and stable housing options for 8 years.

The criteria for eligibility are designed to ensure fairness and transparency and include factors such as age, nationality, and local residency, among others. One key criterion is the couple’s commitment to a housing savings contract of at least HUF 50,000 per month in 2023 (approximately 130 euro).

According to the local regulations, the tenancy is awarded by competitive tendering, for a fixed term of up to 8 years, non-renewable, non-exchangeable (neither by citizen’s exchange nor by another housing competition) and non-transferable.

Financing

The project is financially supported by public finances, primarily through funding provided by the local authority. Some of the renovations carried out for the flats in this project have been directly financed by the local government. This allocation of resources demonstrates a proactive approach to enhancing the quality of housing for residents.

Financing of the Fecskeház housing tender program, that the Fecskeház housing program is only funded by the XIII. It is financed by the District Self-Government. The Hungarian State does not contribute in any way to the maintenance or operation of the project.

The current tenants are responsible for carrying out basic maintenance and condition preservation work within the apartments. The owner, XIII. It is carried out by the District Self-Government.

Perspectives

Budapest District XIII aims to address housing challenges for young people. The potential impact of this project is substantial, by offering affordable housing solutions to young couples directly tackling the pressing issue of high rental costs. This initiative has the potential to empower and support these young people and support financial management by requiring participants to commit to housing savings contracts, promoting long-term financial security.

More information: Housing Unit - District XIII Public Services Ltd.

Website: <https://www.budapest13.hu/onkormanyzat/onkormanyzati-jo-gyakorlatok/fecske-lakas/>

CONFIANCE ILE DE FRANCE JEUNE, FRANCE

#Partnership

Confiance IdF Jeune is a scheme to help young people move into social housing or intermediary accommodation. The scheme is a financial support provided by the Île-de-France Regional Council through the intermediary of an NGO, namely the Fédération des Acteurs de la Solidarité.

The model

Confiance IdF is a regional scheme providing financial assistance to young people under 25 who are struggling to find a place to live because of expensive rents on the private market. It was set up in response to the very high numbers of young people in precarious situations within the region of Paris and its surrounding, even though these young people had resources. The scheme

not only enables access to housing, but also facilitates the first few months in housing through the provision of an initial 3-month subsidy scheme, as they are often very complex for young people who struggle when housing benefits are paid late.

The eligibility criteria for young people to benefit from the scheme is to:

- » be under 25
- » be enrolled in a social inclusion programme (such as vocational training, or work-linked training)
- » Have an income ceiling of €950/month (and €1425 for single-parent families). The income taken into consideration is the net taxable income, without family and housing benefits.
- » If possible, be accompanied by a referral organisation. If this is not possible, the landlord can apply for accreditation to benefit from



the scheme because the financial support is paid directly to the housing provider.

The housing provider (mostly social housing provider) must be certified. Once in receipt of the labelling to access the scheme an application can be made. The subsidy is automatic if the label is valid and if the housing association meets the eligibility criteria (social rental management or social landlords).

Financing and impact

The program is based on a subsidy of 800 euros for people living in the inner suburbs of Paris (generally higher rents), and 600 euros in the rest of the Île-de-France region.

This scheme has been in existence since 2022 and has provided grants to more than 240 young people. The agreement sets a target of supporting 2,000 young people to benefit from the CONFIDANCE JEUNE scheme over the period 2022-2024.

Email: confianceidfjeune@federationsolidarite-idf.org

Website: <https://confiance-idf-jeune.fr/>



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