FEANTSA Pre-Conference Programme 2022
Thursday, 2 June 2022
Croke Park Hotel, Dublin, Ireland

General Assembly 09.00 – 13.00
The FEANTSA General Assembly is open to all FEANTSA members to participate. During the meeting members will receive updates on FEANTSA’s work programme, priorities for the coming months and years and the opportunity to shape our networks work around ending homelessness in Europe.

Site Visits 15.00
Site visits are open to all conference participants, as part of your registration you can select which site visit you want to attend. Please note site visits are capped with a limited number of availability, places are secured on a first come first served basis.

A series of site visits have been organised by our Irish members. An overview of the visits are below.

**Sophia - Sean McDermott Street**
Long term supported housing for couples who have experienced homelessness and have complex support needs. Service has been in operation for 5 years and offers 24 hour on site supports to couples who live in their own door apartments. Over 90% of residents have both addiction and mental health support needs.

**Sophia Cork Street**
Long term supported housing for families, couples and individuals who have experienced homelessness. All own door independent apartments. Housing was built on lands formerly owned by a religious order and has refurbished buildings repurposed as apartments on site. On site services include childcare, and a cafe along with onsite qualified support team.

**Dublin Region Housing First – Peter McVerry Trust**
Visit and discussion with the Dublin Region Housing First team which is operated by Peter McVerry Trust on behalf of Dublin’s four local government areas and the regional homeless executive.

**Urban Regeneration & Vacancy – Peter McVerry Trust**
Visit to three urban regeneration projects in Dublin City Centre. The projects include two social housing schemes under construction/regeneration and one completed scheme. The projects are examples of how long term vacant and derelict buildings can be transformed into housing pathways for people impacted by homelessness.

**Bellevue House Children’s Home in Tallaght – Novas**
Situated in South County Dublin, Bellevue House is a six-bed residential service for unaccompanied minors from outside the EU, seeking asylum. It is a long-term specialised children’s service, catering for minors between the ages of twelve and eighteen. Opened in 2002, Bellevue provides a holistic care programme for the young people residing there. Meeting fundamental needs such as shelter, heat and food, our work is married with an understanding of and respect for the cultural, religious and ethnic needs of residents.
Women’s Service – Novas
Small Supported Temporary Accommodation service dedicated to women experiencing homelessness. 14 women live in this service, in single ensuite rooms.

Tus Nua – DePaul
Tus Nua Apartments is the first service of its kind in Ireland supporting women leaving prison. Tus Nua is co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020. Tus Nua was established by DePaul as a result of research and visits to prisons in Dublin by the Guild of St. Philip Neri, and a St. Vincent de Paul conference, who recognised an acute need for programmes to assist women released from prison in their transition to independent living in the community.

Sundail House – Depaul
The first of its kind in Ireland, Sundial House is a purpose-built, long-term housing project which provides low threshold housing for people who have experienced extended periods of street homelessness and have entrenched alcohol use issues. The service is managed by Depaul in partnership with Túath Housing.

Chester House – Dublin Simon Communities
41 Bed Long Term Supported Housing Accommodation operated by Dublin Simon Community. Designed for the specific needs of residents with a history of homelessness. Service provides comfortable and private accommodation with shared social, recreational and therapeutic areas. All new bedrooms are accessible and there are catering and laundry facilities on-site. Additionally, a landscaped courtyard garden provides a peaceful outdoor space. Dublin Simon Community staff support residents with life skills, health and welfare, education and training to increase their ability to maintain independent or semi-independent living.

Working Spaces 14.30 – 17.30
Working spaces are an opportunity for FEANTSA members to come together in a non-formal space to discuss various topics related to our work.

Roundtable on Youth Homelessness
This session is led by A Way Home Canada and will bring different stakeholders from across Europe together to discuss next steps around combatting youth homelessness in Europe. Since the last roundtable held in 2019 in Porto the number of coalitions combatting youth homelessness has grown. This session will be an opportunity to take stock on recent developments, and discuss priorities and goals in the coming months and years including Housing First for Youth and Young People.

Open Space to Discuss the Humanitarian Crisis Resulting from Ukraine
The war in Ukraine is placing growing pressure and demands on homeless services to support people fleeing Ukraine. This precise content of this session will be set closer to the conference, as the situation is rapidly evolving, but it will be co-led by the FEANTSA Secretariat and our Polish AC Member Jakub Wilczek. Topics which solutions, practices, policies and funding opportunities to support services support refugees fleeing the war.

Energy Poverty & Homelessness
The link between energy poverty and homelessness isn’t always obvious, but with the cost of living rising rapidly across Europe, with particular pressure on the cost of energy, it is a growing topic. This working space will be an opportunity for participants to share their experiences around high energy prices and the impact it has on working with people experiencing homelessness and in managing shelters and services. Questions will also be
raised around renovations and their impact. This will be a space to explore solutions and highlight the type of policies we should advocate for.

**Housing First Europe Hub – Networking Space**

The Housing First Europe Hub is a partnership established by Y-Foundation and FEANTSA and brings together over 30 housing providers, NGOs, cities, governments, and experts on Housing First. This networking session is an opportunity for partners and all who are interested in learning more about the Housing First Europe Hub’s activities and resources. Please join us to share your experiences and learn more about:

- Scaling up Housing First and systems change
- Research
- Training opportunities
- Housing First and Youth
- Housing and Housing First
FEANTSA Conference 2022
Towards a Vision for Ending Homelessness

3 June 2022, Conference 2022, Dublin
Croke Park, Dublin

08.15  Registration & Welcome Coffee/Tea

09.00 – 09.30  Welcome Address
Kjell Larsson, FEANTSA President
Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Ireland
Mick Price, Chair of Simon Communities of Ireland

09.30 – 10.30  Panel Discussion: What does ending homelessness actually mean?
Chair: Yves Leterme, Chair of the European Platform for Combatting Homelessness
Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA
Meryame Kitir, Minister for Development and Urban Policy, Belgium
Wayne Stanely, Simon Communities
Patricia Bezunartea, Directorate General for Family, Social Services and Social Rights, Spain
Małgorzata Sieńczyk, Saint Brother Albert Aid Society, Poland

10.30 – 11.00  Coffee Break
FEANTSA Policy Conference 2022: Towards a Vision for Ending Homelessness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.15</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Welcome Tea/Coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 – 9.30</td>
<td>Welcome Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 – 13.00</td>
<td>Workshops &amp; Seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop:</td>
<td>Young Women Experiencing Homelessness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop:</td>
<td>Healthcare for People Experiencing Homelessness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar:</td>
<td>Measuring Homelessness What &amp; How</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop:</td>
<td>What housing solutions to specific urban challenges?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar:</td>
<td>Challenging measures that criminalise homelessness</td>
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<td>12.00 – 13.00</td>
<td>Spotlight On...</td>
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<td>Spotlight on Danish Homelessness Strategy</td>
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<td>Spotlight on FAP report</td>
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<td>14.00 – 16.00</td>
<td>Workshops &amp; Seminars</td>
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<td>Seminar:</td>
<td>Climate Change &amp; Homelessness</td>
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<td>Seminar:</td>
<td>Who is the homeless sector?</td>
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<td>Workshop:</td>
<td>LGBTIQ Youth Homelessness</td>
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<td>Workshop:</td>
<td>Workshop: Housing for Migrants &amp; Asylum Seekers during crisis periods</td>
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<td>15.00 – 16.00</td>
<td>Spotlight On...</td>
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<td>Spotlight on Sex Work and Homelessness with Grace Sumner</td>
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<td>Housing First 2.0 - A Renewed Beginning in Finland</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In Conversation with Outreach Workers</td>
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**Get to know our innovative formats:**

**Workshops** – lasting 2hrs, these sessions are dynamic with a strong focus on participant engagement. Workshops will usually have two speakers, who will share their expertise or experiences on a given topic. But the overall session will be designed to allow participants to share their knowledge, challenges and solutions, with time and space for breakout groups to allow for better exchanges.

**Seminar** – lasting 1.5hrs, these sessions are more traditional, with a stronger focus on the expertise of the speakers. The speakers will present for longer, with the focus on Q&A with the speakers, rather than exchanging practices among the participants.

**In Conversation with...** – lasting 1hr. FEANTSA has a rich network and expertise. These sessions are a space to meet with an expert in our field. There is no specific presentation, just a conversation with the expert where participants can ask them questions and get their insights.

**Spotlight on...** – lasting 45 mins. There are so many topics that FEANTSA can’t fit everything into a workshop, particularly for emerging or developing topics. These sessions will include a presentation for an expert on a specific topic for about 20 minutes, to share their knowledge, which is followed by time for questions and answers among participants.
Young Women Experiencing Homelessness

How can homeless services better meet the needs of young women experiencing homelessness? This workshop will present the key principles developed by FEANTSA Youth during our 2021 study session, along with insights into the work of peer workers to support young women experiencing homelessness. Participants will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with ways for supporting young women and will also have the opportunity to break out into smaller groups to discuss how they can adapt their services to better meet the needs of young women experiencing homelessness.

Chair: Dalma Fabian, FEANTSA
Speakers: Pilvi Azeem, NEA project, Finland
Speaker: Riikka Tuomi, Suoernovat-Project, (No Fixed Abode & Naistenkartano ry) Finland

Healthcare for People Experiencing Homelessness

This workshop will identify methods for improving access to healthcare for people experiencing homelessness. Discussion topics will focus on health inclusion and how to make secondary care more inclusive, with a presentation of successful practices from the ‘Inclusion Health pilot project’ at St James’s Hospital in Dublin. The perspective of homelessness services from the ground will also be included, with the purpose to increase connection between the two sectors.

Two presentations will be delivered after which participants will have the opportunity to discuss their work context and share their experiences in smaller breakout groups.
Chair: Austin O’Carroll
Speaker 1: Dr Anna Marie Naughton, GP Adult Homeless Integrated Team, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, Ireland
Speaker 2: Dr. Clíona Ní Cheallaigh, Trinity College, Dublin

Seminar: Measuring Homelessness: What & How

Access to accurate and reliable data is a key component of strategies around preventing and combatting homelessness. Measuring progress towards goals around ending homelessness is critical to evaluate the efficacy of strategies and policies around homelessness. This seminar will provide insights into methods of measuring homelessness with expert insight from Denmark with Lars Benjaminsen and from Ireland with Eoin O’Sullivan

Chair: Rosemarie Tobin, Department of Housing, Ireland
Speaker: Lars Benjaminsen, VIVE Social Policy, Denmark
Speaker: Eoin O’Sullivan, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Working with cities: what are the housing solutions to specific urban challenges?

In this workshop participants will hear from cities and public authorities, as they highlight some of the key challenges they face related to combatting homelessness, along with some ideas for how a city can proactively respond to those challenges. Following the presentations, participants will be broken into smaller groups, where they will have the opportunity to discuss the challenges they encounter in their context at city level for combatting homelessness, and share solutions with one another.

Chair: Pat Doyle, Peter McVerry Trust, Ireland
Speaker: Mary Hayes, Dublin Homeless Executive, Ireland
Speaker: Neil Munslow, Newcastle City, UK

Seminar: Challenging measures that criminalise homelessness

There is overwhelming evidence that people who are homeless are being criminalised for the activities they are forced to carry out in public space. This approach is highly problematic for organisations working with homeless people and many are advocating for changes in different ways.

The workshop will showcase different initiatives to challenge these measures in Europe including a campaign by organizations in the United Kingdom’s to scrap the Vagrancy Act and approaches from Sweden to combat and legally challenge the current trend of anti-begging measures.

Chair: Karen Golden, Galway Simon Communities, Ireland
Speaker: Matt Downie, Crisis, UK
Speaker: Elisabet Kass, Kirkens Korshær, Denmark

Spotlight on Danish Homelessness Strategy

The new Danish Homelessness Strategy is flipping the homeless sector on its head, through prioritising housing and housing first solutions over the use of shelters and hostels. The strategy aims to bring 4,050 Housing First units for people experiencing homelessness. In addition to financing more housing the strategy will limit the funding for hostel use. Municipalities will only reimburse the first 90 days of a person stay in a hostel, this will be phased in between 2023-2025 as part of an effort to transition from a reliance on shelters to housing, however funding will remain for staying in Housing First units. Additionally the municipalities will be required to develop action plans with individuals experiencing homelessness to ensure that when they are discharged from a hostel a home with right supports is available.

Speaker: Karin Egholm, The Board of Social Services, Denmark
Speaker: Ilja Sabaj-Kjaer, HjemTilAlle Aliancen, Denmark

Spotlight on Annual Overview of Homelessness & Housing Exclusion

This session will start with a presentation of the main highlights of the 7th Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe 2022 by FEANTSA and Fondation Abbé Pierre, going through homelessness and housing exclusion recent data, learnings from policy measures taken in the wake of the pandemic and how the end of moratoriums on
evictions impacted homelessness and housing exclusion. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session with participants.

Speaker: Chloe Serme-Morin, FEANTSA

In conversation with Patrick Develtere on the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness:
What is the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness? What are its goals? How does it plan on delivering those goals? How can your organisation benefit from the Platform and support your country meet EU targets of ending homelessness by 2030? This session will provide participants with the chance to ask their questions to one of the key architects of the Platform.

Speaker: Patrick Develtere, KU Leuven

In conversation with Juha Kaakinen: A Finnish View from Retirement
Juha Kaakinen is regarded as one the pioneers of Housing First in Europe. He has been instrumental in Finland’s progress towards ending homelessness, co-initiated the Housing First Europe Hub and has supported the piloting and scaling of Housing First not just across Europe but across the world. For one day only Juha has agreed to come out of retirement to share insights from his work on ending homelessness and Housing First. This is your opportunity to ask Juha anything, and learn from his wealth of expertise.

Speaker: Juha Kaakinen, Finland

Stream II – 14.00 – 16.00

Workshop on Climate Change & Homelessness
Climate change is a growing threat facing society, but what are the implications of climate change for people experiencing homelessness? What is the role of homeless services when it comes to combatting a problem that is traditionally seen as outside of our sector? What consequence of policy efforts to address climate change for housing? This session will provide insights to the intersection of climate change and homelessness.

Chair: Alice Bergoënd, FEANTSA
Speaker: Shakoor Hajat, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Speaker: Clotilde Clark-Foulquier, FEANTSA

Seminar: Who is the homeless sector?
Who is the homeless sector in Europe? This basic, but quite fundamental question, has been the focus of research completed by the European Observatory on Homelessness. Over the past four years the Observatory has been conducting comparative research on the homeless sector across Europe examining the quality of services, regulation of the sector, employment conditions, human resources management and financing and cost-efficiency of homeless services. This seminar will present some of the key findings of the research.
Chair: Volker Busch-Geertsema, European Observatory on Homelessness, Germany
Speaker: Nicholas Pleace, European Observatory on Homelessness, UK
Speaker: Mathias Maucher, Social Services Europe

**Workshop: LGBTIQ Youth Homelessness**

This workshop will focus on sharing practical tools which homeless services can adapt to their organisation to become more inclusive of LGBTIQ young people. The workshop will begin with a presentation of some key resources from True Colours United and Ljubljana Pride Association, to inspire participants with methods of adapting their services. Participants will also be broken into smaller groups where they can share some of the challenges they face and exchange what tools they can use and learn from one another and the different contexts they operate within.

Speakers: Vesna Stefanec, Ljubljana Pride Association, Slovenia
Speakers: Coco Wheeler, True Colours United, United States

**Workshop: Housing for Migrants & Asylum Seekers during crisis periods**

This workshop will discuss the access to housing for migrants and asylum seekers, including schemes designed and delivered by governments during the COVID19 lockdown periods as well as support solutions identified by civil society organisations. In the current context where Europe is confronting with a two-years health crisis and a recent war in Ukraine which has led to over 400 000 displaced individuals in its first three days, identifying solutions and policies that work to ensure adequate accommodation for all is not only timely, but extremely important.

This workshop is for organisations who support migrants and asylum seekers in their services and who are familiar with policies in the field of homelessness and migration. Following the presentations, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions before being broken into smaller groups.

Chair: Dermot Murphy, DePaul, Ireland
Speakers: Lidia Estévez, Senior Policy and Project Officer (Rough Sleeping and Migration) at the Greater London Authority (GLA)
Speakers: Mauro Striano, Infirmiers de Rue, Brussels
Speakers: Katarzyna Przybylska, Habitat for Humanity, Poland

**Seminar: Building Blocks for a Campaign on the Right to Housing**

Ireland, and many other EU countries, is on a campaign to advance the right to housing in both legislation and its constitution. The language of rights, and legal frameworks, can often be presented in an inaccessible language. This seminar will look recent constitutional campaigns around marriage equality and a woman’s right to choose and ask to explore the lessons that could be learnt from organisations interested in campaigning around the right to housing.

Chair: Mike Allen
Speaker: Silke Paasche, National Women’s Council & Member of Raise the Roof, Ireland (to be confirmed)
Speaker: Grainne Healy, Marriage Equality Campaign, Ireland
Speaker: Aoife Kelly-Desmond, Managing Solicitor at Mercy Law Resource Centre, Ireland (to be confirmed)

**Spotlight on Sex Work & Homelessness with Grace Sumner**
In this session Grace Sumner, a sex worker who was previously homeless, will discuss the intersection of homelessness and sex work. This session is not about the labels organisations use, such as sex work, survival sex, sexual exploitation, sex for rent etc and it is not about focused on moral judgements about the behaviour of people experiencing homelessness. Rather its an opportunity to shine a light on a topic often considered too controversial or taboo. Grace will present an overview and a critique of the different models around sex work (such as the Swedish model, criminalisation, decriminalisation etc) and the impact those systems can have on homeless services, and importantly how and what homeless services can do to support people experiencing homelessness who may be engaging in sex work.

Speaker: Grace Sumner

**Spotlight on Housing First 2.0 - A Renewed Beginning in Finland**
Finland has long been famed for its approach to mainstreaming Housing First in reducing homelessness. With goals of ending homelessness in Finland in 6 years Finland has a strong commitment to reform Housing First to strengthen its efficacy in meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness. Since 2019 a Change Lab methodology has been used to review the initial delivery of Housing First, which has led to Housing First 2.0. If Housing First 1.0 was launched by four wise men in Finland, then Housing First 2.0 has been produced by 30 wise women and men. This session will provide an overview of what Housing First 2.0 actually means for our collective mission on ending homelessness.

Speaker: Juha Kahila, Y-Foundation & Housing First Europe Hub

**In Conversation with Outreach Workers**
Outreach street work is a crucial part of supporting people experiencing homelessness as it allows for access to a large spectrum of places where people find refuge, and it can lead social workers to meeting people on their territory. Outreach workers find themselves at the middle ground between the most marginalised and often underserved individuals in homelessness and the services who could come to their support for accessing housing. It is a privileged position that makes it possible to create relationships of trust and a position which comes with great responsibility.

This one-hour session will be a conversation on what is the value of outreach work within the homelessness sector and with two outreach workers that will share their different perspectives and tools of conducting outreach.

Chair: Simona Barbu, FEANTSA
Speaker: Ciaran King, Dublin Simon Community
Speaker: Bob Walker, Arrels, Spain
FEANTSA in the Hot Seat

Join FEANTSA’s Director, Freek Spinnewijn, Deputy Director Ruth Owen and President Kjell Larsson, for an hour where you can ask them anything. If you’ve questions about joining FEANTSA, have ideas about how our work can shift, policy areas that we should focus more or less on or have insights you’d like to share or just have any questions about the organisation you haven’t yet had the chance to ask, this is the session for you.

Speaker: Freek Spinnewijn, Director, FEANTSA
Speaker: Ruth Owen, Deputy Director, FEANTSA
Speaker: Kjell Larsson, President, FEANTSA.

Stream III: 16.30 – 18.00

Seminar: Financing Housing Solutions for People Experiencing Homelessness
This seminar will explore financing housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness. The European Platform on Combatting Homelessness presents new opportunities for European finance for housing solutions. This workshop will examine these possibilities and how they can respond to needs on the ground

Speaker: Laurent Ghekiere, Union Habitat, France
Speaker: Samir Kulenovic, Council of Europe Development Bank, France

Seminar: Local Approaches to Homelessness Among Mobile EU Citizens
In the context of the European Platform on Combating Homelessness launched in 2021, the topic of free movement and its connection to homelessness has been often discussed. We aim to contribute to this conversation by presenting the factors that push EU citizens to destitution and homelessness and identifying solutions for a better inclusion and access to rights, with a focus on accommodation. The presentations will include good practices implemented at local level, giving participants the opportunity to find out more about initiatives that aim to lift mobile EU citizens from homelessness. This workshop is dedicated to service providers who work with mobile EU citizens as well as cities’ representatives where numerous EU citizens live in homelessness.
Chair: Jules Van Dam, Stichting De Tussenvoorziening, Netherlands
Speaker: Heini Puurunen, No Fixed Abode, Finland
Speaker: Noel Neenan Cross Care, Ireland

Seminar: Mental Well Being of Frontline Workers
Frontline workers in the homeless sector work in challenging situations and are at risk of experiencing burnout, vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue. Dr. Adam Burly will discuss some of the challenges frontline workers experience in the course of their work, and how to recognise them within your team or organisation. Dr. Sharon Lambert will also explore how vicarious trauma can impact on staff in homeless services, and how to respond.
The seminar will also present some ideas to promote better health and wellbeing amongst the homeless sector workforce.

Chair: Dalma Fabian, FEANTSA
Speaker: Una Burns, Novas, Ireland
Speaker: Dr. Adam Burly, NHS, Scotland

**Seminar: Inconvenient Truths about Homelessness:**
In this seminar FEANTSA Director Freek Spinnewijn will present 7 inconvenient truths confronting the homeless sector in Europe. With over 20 years of experience working on homelessness across Europe, Freek has developed a unique perspective and expertise. This seminar will share some home truths that are designed to provoke discussion and debate within the sector about how we work and the solutions we focus on.

Speaker: Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA

**Seminar: Housing First and Women:**
This workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to learn about how the core principles of Housing First can and do work for women, how to build successful partnerships across sectors to make Housing First programmes successful, and the role Housing First can play in preventing women from becoming homeless.

This workshop will combine insightful presentations with ample opportunity for questions, discussion and reflection. Our speakers will share their lessons for service providers and cities and regions adapting Housing First programs.

Chair: Saija Turunen, Y-Foundation & Housing First Europe Hub, Finland
Speaker: Lisa O’Brien, Focus Ireland, Ireland
Speaker: Ania Perez de Madrid, Aires Asociacion, Spain,
Speaker: Esther Köb, Housing First for Women, SkF e.V. Berlin, Germany

**Simulation: Child & Youth Homelessness**
What is it like to experience life on the street? How does it feel to navigate the child justice systems? What could we learn from these systems if we experienced them?

This experiential learning session will put every participant 'in the shoes' of a young person engaging with our systems that aim to address the needs of children and youth. Many of these youth have experienced high levels of trauma, violence, instability, and loss. Using integrative teaching and simulations developed in collaboration with young people with lived experience, we will explore what it is like to be a young person moving through various services and systems, including education, foster care, juvenile justice, homelessness, and more.

Participants will get a short orientation and then spend the bulk of the simulation in their player role as children involved in systems attempting to navigate supports. It will be followed by a robust reflection session as a group
and individually with a focus on practical policy solutions to help reform our systems through the experiences of the most vulnerable young people.