Research group on Housing and Wellbeing
University of Applied Sciences Utrecht

Overview on the situation of homelessness in The Netherlands

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Outline presentation

- Overview of the situation on homelessness in The Netherlands (figures, policy and trends) during three time frames;
- Approaches specific for The Netherlands and Utrecht;
- To conclude

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Characteristics of the Dutch Welfare State

* From welfare state to ‘participation society’
* Changing housing market
* Increasing complexity
* Political changes

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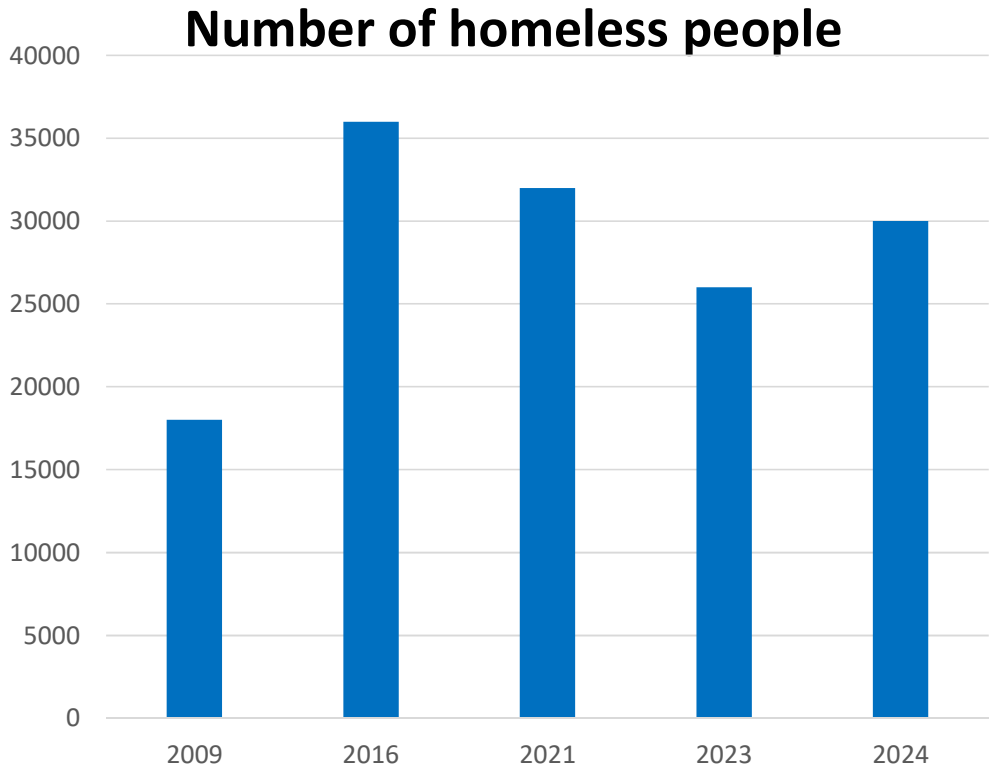
Tabel figures



- 2009 18.000
- 2016 36.000
- 2021 32.000
- 2023 26.000
- 2024 30.000

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Tackling homelessness in three time frames

Until 2002	: Policy responsibility at the National Government
2002-2015	: Regional Policy responsibility
2015 to present	: Shift to local policy responsibility

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Before 2002:

management of policy on homelessness by National Government

Focus of the policy on homelessness:

- Professionalising; providing appropriate care
- Reducing nuisance
- Prevention of homelessness

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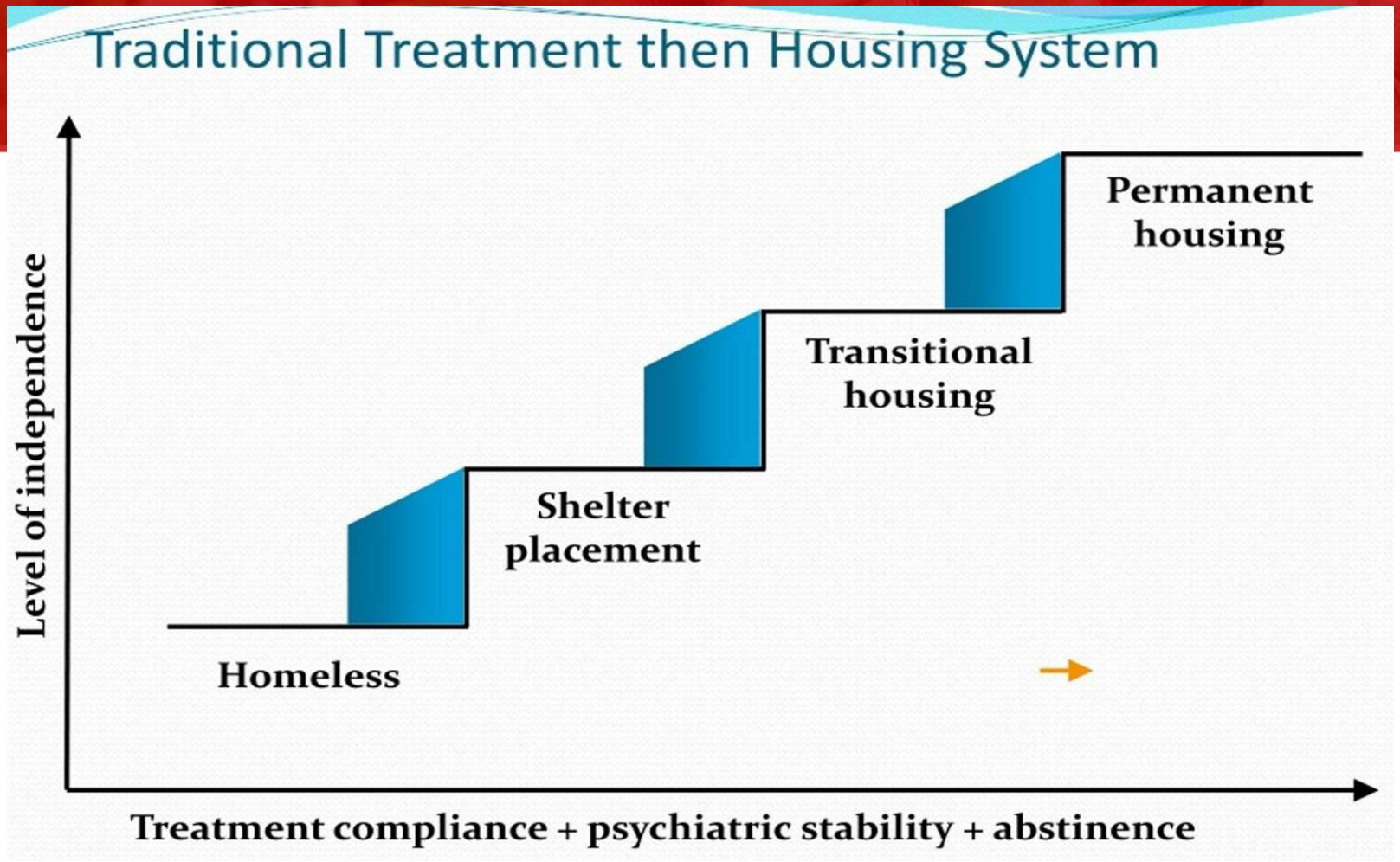
Staircase model



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Homelessness in Utrecht:
People dwelling ‘in tunnels’ under the shopping mall

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Hostels

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Changing approaches toward homelessness: 2002-2015: Regional policy responsibility

Responsibility and coordination was decentralised to 40 regional municipalities

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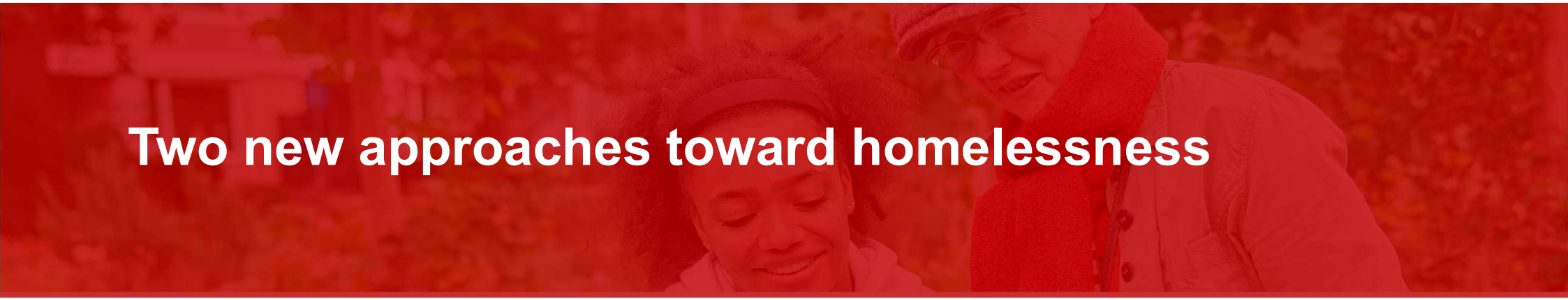

Two new approaches toward homelessness

- Increasing service user involvement
- Mixed housing projects

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Increasing service user involvement: shelter in self management

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Mixed housing projects

Mixed housing projects (community living)

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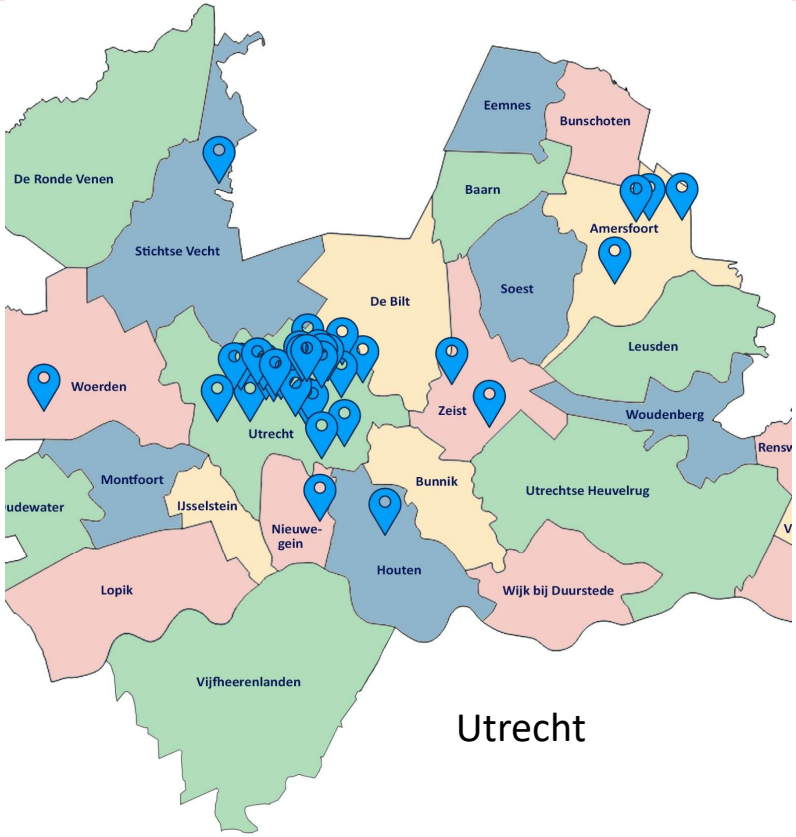
Mixed housing projects: an overview



Utrecht

The Netherlands

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2020 - to present: local management

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Changing approaches toward homelessness:

2020 – present: shift toward local management

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To conclude

Lessons learned from the Dutch experience with the three forms of policy responsibility in preventing homelessness:

Multiple governance levels should be involved – including international and supranational levels – to combat homelessness

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Thanks for your attention

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