

Seminar 3: Housing First (1) (Floor -1, Room 9)

Chair: **Volker Busch-Geerstema, DE**

Ignacio Eissmann, Isabel Lacalle and Felipe Estay, Chile: Supported Housing Program: Approach to the first results of the Chilean experience of adaptation of the Housing First Model



Ignacio Eissmann is a Sociologist and has a Master in Government and Society from the Alberto Hurtado University and PhD in Social Work and Welfare Policies from Boston College and the Alberto Hurtado University. He is co-founder of Corporación Moviliza, an organization dedicated to developing programs to overcome homelessness in Chile, and co-founder and Director of the Center for Research and Advocacy to Overcome Homelessness in Latin America, CISCAL (www.ciscal.org). Ignacio is also Director of Studies and Incidents of the Jesuit Migrant Service in Chile.

Isabel Lacalle is a Social Worker, with a Diploma in Housing Policy from the University of Chile. Current Executive Director of the Corporación Nuestra Casa in Santiago de Chile, which works so that no one has to live on the street due to lack of alternatives. She is co-founder of the Center for Research and Advocacy to Overcome Homelessness in Latin America, CISCAL (www.ciscal.org). Member of the Zero Deficit Advisory Council, and of the Street, Habitat and Reinsertion roundtables in Santiago de Chile. She was also part of the leadership training program of the Institute of Global Homelessness.



Felipe Estay is a Master in Sociology at the University of Bristol and in Social Policy and Planning at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Currently is PhD student of Sociology in the Catholic University of Chile. He is the Executive Director of the Moviliza Foundation and co-founder of the Center for Research and Advocacy to Overcome Homelessness in Latin America, CISCAL (www.ciscal.org). He also worked at the Ministry of Social Development (Government of Chile), and has conducted multiple consulting research for the public sector and Inter-American Development Bank, in youth and families and support of the Social Protection System.

This paper analyzes the implementation of the supported housing program (adaptation of the Housing First model to Chile) in the period 2019 - 2021, addressing the question: what have been the results in housing stability and improving the quality of life? The methodology considered the review of secondary information and interviews with program participants.

The results show that the program achieve interrupt trajectories of homelessness of the vast majority of people who participate in it, changing their living conditions, and improving the subjective perception of well-being. However, it is still too early to draw conclusions about the impact of the program, since residential stability can only be observed in the long term, in order to identify whether the program is indeed a definitive interruption of homelessness trajectories, or is part of periods brief access to housing within life histories marked by the oscillation between the street, shelters and residential programs. On the other hand, the intervention experiences of this program have shown that it is essential to build human capital capable of adequately implementing this design, since the change in the logic of the intervention is also a change in the way of thinking about public policy in Chile. The gender and life cycle approaches must also be integrated, to recognize that there are fundamental differences, and that the homelessness cannot be thought of in a masculinized way and always situating them as adults who must work to sustain their own processes of overcoming the homelessness.

Eszter Somogyi, Nóra Katona, Vera Horváth, HU: Evaluation of ESF Funded Housing First Programme in Hungary



Eszter Somogyi (MA in Sociology) works at Metropolitan Research Institute, a Hungarian think-tank, has more than twenty years of experience in research and policy consultancy related to urban regeneration, housing policy and complex policy making targeting vulnerable people. She took part in several research and consultation activities targeted to the most marginalized social groups, such as homeless people and Roma communities. Her expertise also includes national and local strategy development aiming to secure affordable housing and linking housing policies with employment and education policies.

Nóra Katona (MA in Sociology and MSc in Survey Statistics) is a researcher at Metropolitan Research Institute, based in Budapest. She has three years of experience in social research related to homelessness, marginalized groups, Roma communities and social inequalities among young people in urban settings. She also has experience with both quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques, data analysis and policy evaluation.



The research examined the results of the first, ESF-funded, deliberately Housing First programme in Hungary. The scheme, however, contradicted some of the basic principles of the original Housing First programme, as rent subsidy was only granted during the project implementation period and not afterwards. In addition, the target group consisted of clients with different levels of support needs.

The research examined nine of the 17 implemented projects by using quantitative and qualitative methods. The quantitative research consisted of two tools; one group of clients was surveyed with a questionnaire, whereas in case of another group of clients the progress was measured by the self-efficiency matrix recorded with social workers. The qualitative measure covered focus group interviews with the implementer teams in order to assess the degree of fidelity of the projects. Due to financial and technical constraints, the impact assessment could not include a control group measurement, but only a comparison of results between client groups with different support needs. The comparison focused on whether the projects were able to compensate for the more severe disadvantages of clients with higher support needs.

The research concluded that the service structure of the projects followed the ICM models and though some included elements of the ACT models, clients with higher support needs were less likely to be able to retain their housing after supported project period. Based on the findings, one of the main recommendations is that a separate program for homeless people with high support needs should be launched and that programmes should ensure greater fidelity to the original principles of Housing First programmes partly by providing training to the implementer teams.

Giuliana Costa, IT: Cohabitation as an Ingredient of Italian Housing First Italian Projects



Giuliana Costa Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in Sociology at the Polytechnic of Milan. Actually her main research interests are connected to local welfare policies in connection to housing led programs and projects. She is currently studying cohabitation models within social policies. She participates in several research projects funded by the European Union, the Italian Government and other research agencies.

This article is focused on Italian Housing First projects that use cohabitation among users/clients as an ingredient of their operational model. Many of them make living "under the same roof and behind the same door" a fundamental ingredient of their action, both in the context of public



16th European Research Conference

22nd and 23rd September, 2022



VENUE: University of Bergamo, Italy

policies and private projects run by non-profit entities. According to a recent evaluation of HF experimental projects in Italy more than 40% are organized into some form of cohabitation. Using hyper-proximity among strangers in HF constitutes a partial deviation from the original model developed by Tsemberis and his colleagues. It poses specific defies and dilemmas that need to be analyzed and contextualized, both in local welfare ecosystems and within theoretical dimensions. From the point of view of providers, sharing domestic spaces allows providers to reduce the costs of social intervention, to better organize the work of professionals and to make services sustainable from an economic point of view, as well as to implement therapeutic and/or educational paths that make sharing - of experiences, ways of doing and being, or of facing problems - a strength. Providing HF solutions that foresee cohabitation can be the result of a shortage of housing units to dedicate to the single projects or, by contrary, can be a deliberate content of these projects. In any case, matching homeless people to live together is not simple and asks for specific skills, both in providers and users. Providers have to minimize conflicts among users and support them in their autonomy process; users have to proof that they have social and psychological skills to live with another person (like being cooperative and tolerant). For all these aspects I argue that cohabitation in HF needs to be specifically and reflexively addressed and “thought”.

Even if it is more and more used, cohabitation as a kind of everyday life hyper-proximity is very little explored and thematized in social work, in social sciences, and in those disciplines that look more closely at the different dimensions of space. Cohabitation is increasingly embedded in housing led settings, but it is under-researched. My research questions are: 1) what is the role of cohabitation in HF projects?; 2) which are the opportunities and constrains given by cohabitation in HF projects?; 3) What organizational tools are used to manage cohabitation? My article is based on a fieldwork in which I interviewed key informants as HF project managers and coordinators.