

# Operationalizing ETHOS for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Homeless Response Programs: The LongHome tool

17th European Research Conference  
Leuven, Belgium

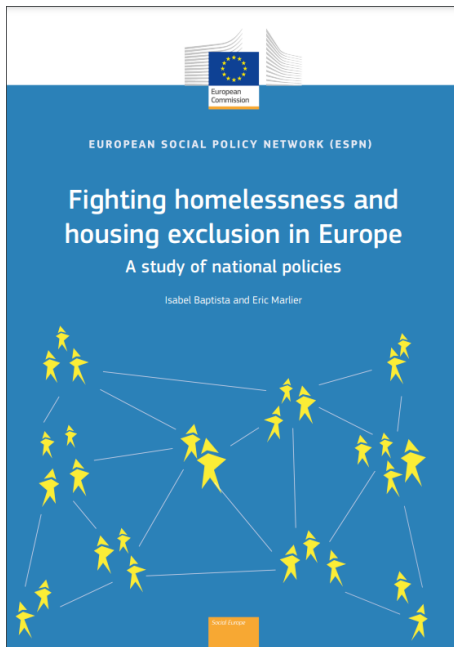
September 2023

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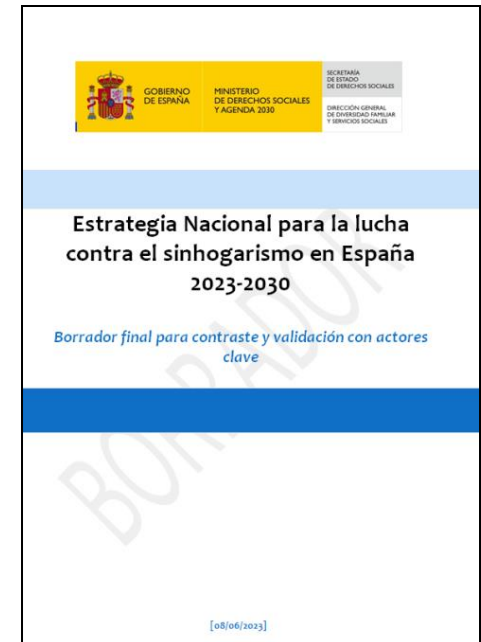


**Baptista & Marlier, 2019**

*“In the large majority of the 35 ESPN countries there is an obvious lack of rigorous and systematic monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of homelessness services”*

*One of main strategic points is “to improve the knowledge, the exchange of information and the evaluation of public support services for homelessness.”*

## **National Strategy to Combat Homelessness in Spain 2023-2030 (Draft)**



## Regional characteristics



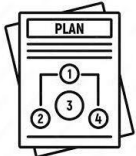
## M&E European characteristics



Atomized, private and decentralized



Responsibility on local authorities



Lack of strategic guidelines



NO consensus on the concept of homelessness



Lack of guidelines about what to measure

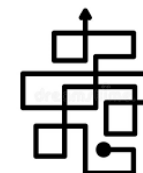
lack of knowledge and guidelines



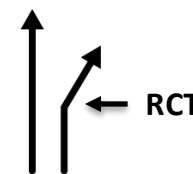
Lack specific funding



Complex



Longitudinal



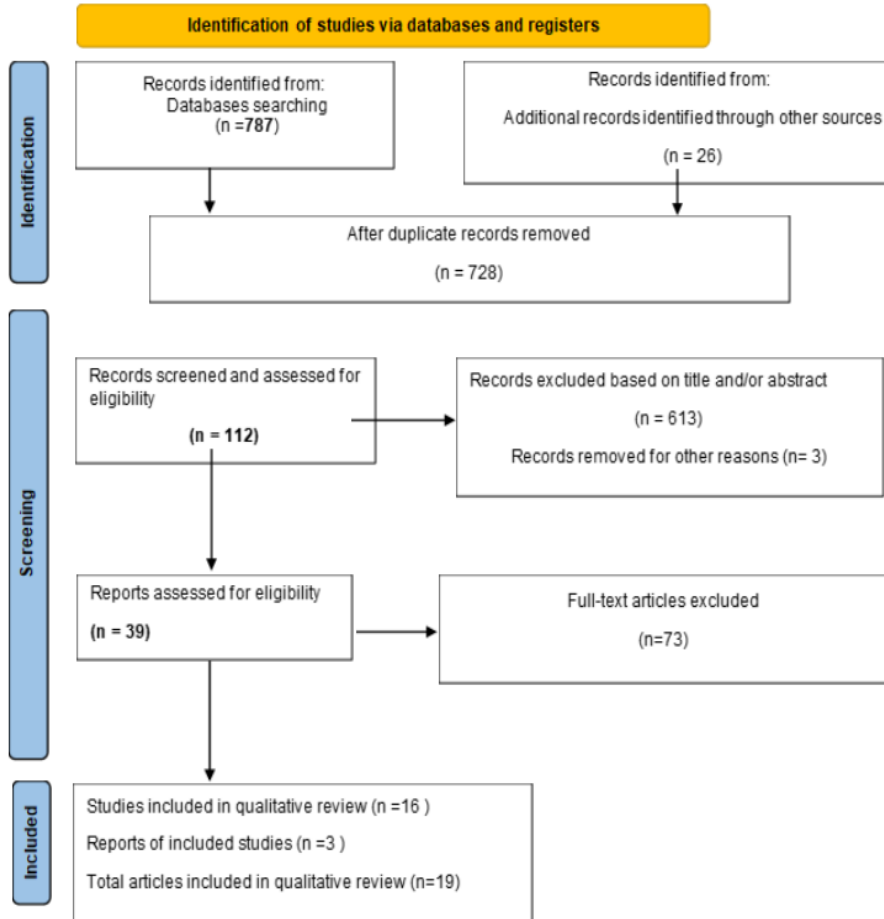
Is there a standardized evaluation method to measure the impact of housing programs on homelessness or at least a consensus on the outcome measure that enables to track changes housing status?

## Results

- A. Lack of established and standardized approaches, particularly within the European context
- B. Importance of a robust theoretical framework as the foundation for impactful impact evaluations
- C. Lack of large-scale, representative RCTs focused exclusively on the European population
- D. Lack of consensus on suitable outcome variables for measuring the impact of homelessness response interventions: *Homelessness, housing, residential stability, housing retention, residential status, housing situation at exit, housing tenure, housing security, and housing maintenance* (47% of papers do not provide a solid definition of the main outcome).

↓  
↓ **Conclusion**  
↓

ETHOS as outcome measure for monitoring and evaluation purposes in homeless response programs.

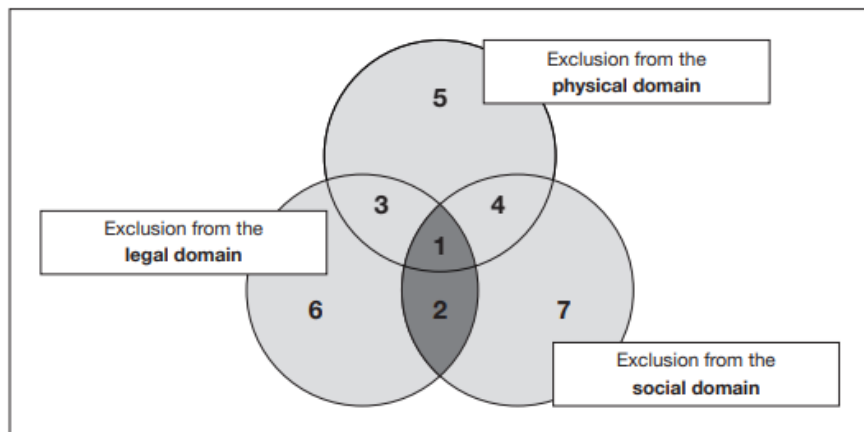


FEANTSA developed in 2005 the **European Typology of Homelessness and housing exclusion (ETHOS)** as a means of improving understanding and measurement of homelessness in Europe, and to provide a common "language" for transnational exchanges on homelessness.

ETHOS classifies living situations that constitute homelessness or housing exclusion. ETHOS identifies 4 main categories of living situation: Rooflessness, Houselessness, Insecure Housing and Inadequate Housing. These conceptual categories are divided into 13 operational categories that can be used for different policy purposes such as mapping the problem of homelessness, as well as developing, **monitoring and evaluating policies.**

	OPERATIONAL CATEGORY	LIVING SITUATION	GENERIC DEFINITION
Conceptual Category	ROOFLESS	1 People Living Rough	1.1 Public space or external space Living in the streets or public spaces, without a shelter that can be defined as living quarters
		2 People in emergency accommodation	2.1 Night shelter People with no usual place of residence who make use of overnight shelter, low threshold shelter
	HOUSELESS	3 People in accommodation for the homeless	3.1 Homeless hostel 3.2 Temporary accommodation 3.3 Transitional supported accommodation Where the period of stay is intended to be short term
		4 People in Women's Shelter	4.1 Women's shelter accommodation Women accommodated to experience of domestic violence and where the period of stay is intended to be short term
		5 People in accommodation for immigrants	5.1 Temporary accommodation/reception centres 5.2 Migrant workers accommodation Immigrants in reception or short term accommodation due to their immigrant status
	INSECURE	6 People due to be released from institutions	6.1 Penal institutions 6.2 Medical institutions (*) 6.3 Children's institutions/homes No housing available prior to release Stay longer than needed due to lack of housing No housing identified (e.g. by 18th birthday)
		7 People receiving longer-term support (due to homelessness)	7.1 Residential care for older homeless people 7.2 Supported accommodation for formerly homeless people Long stay accommodation with care for formerly homeless people (normally more than one year)
		8 People living in insecure accommodation	8.1 Temporarily with family/friends 8.2 No legal (sub)tenancy 8.3 Illegal occupation of land Living in conventional housing but not the usual place of residence due to lack of housing Occupation of dwelling with no legal tenancy illegal occupation of a dwelling Occupation of land with no legal rights
		9 People living under threat of eviction	9.1 Legal orders enforced (rented) 9.2 Re-possession orders (owned) Where orders for eviction are operative Where mortgagee has legal order to re-possess
	INADEQUATE	10 People living under threat of violence	10.1 Police recorded incidents Where police action is taken to ensure place of safety for victims of domestic violence
		11 People living in temporary/non-conventional structures	11.1 Mobile homes 11.2 Non-conventional building 11.3 Temporary structure Not intended as place of usual residence Makeshift shelter, shack or shanty Semi-permanent structure hut or cabin
		12 People living in unfit housing	12.1 Occupied dwellings unfit for habitation Defined as unfit for habitation by national legislation or building regulations
		13 People living in extreme over-crowding	13.1 Highest national norm of overcrowding Defined as exceeding national density standard for floor-space or useable rooms

ETHOS, developed by Edgar, Doherty and Meert:



- A. Robust theoretical framework.
- B. Consistent definition.
- C. Adaptable among welfare states.
- D. Allows to measure change.

ETHOS category	Restrictions on housing use			
	Accessibility	Stability	Adequacy	Habitability
Roofless	Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical
Houseless	Legal	Legal	Legal	Legal
Insecure	Legal	Legal	Legal	Legal
Inadequate	Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical
	Fields of use	Legal	Social	Physical

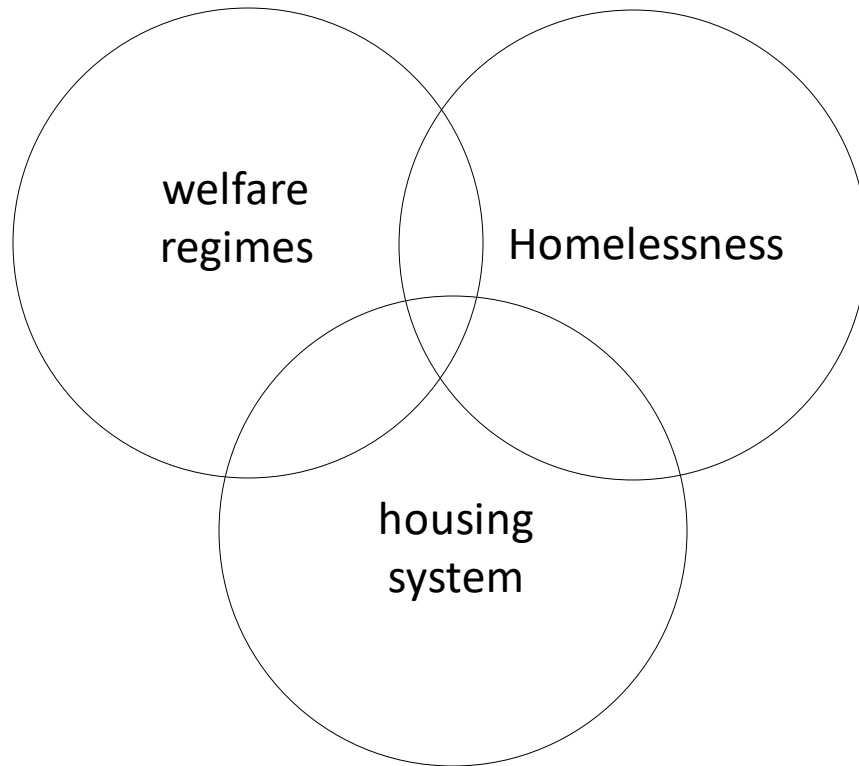
Source: García y Brädle, 2014

ETHOS, developed by Edgar, Doherty and Meert:

	Conceptual category	Operational category	Living situation		
Homelessness	Roofless	1	People living rough	1.1	Public space or external space
		2	People staying in a night shelter	2.1	Night shelter
	Houseless	3	People in accommodation for the homeless	3.1	Homeless hostel
				3.2	Temporary accommodation
				3.3	Transitional supported accommodation
		4	People in a women's shelter	4.1	Women's shelter accommodation
		5	People in accommodation for immigrants	5.1	Temporary accommodation, reception centres
				5.2	Migrant workers' accommodation
		6	People due to be released from institutions	6.1	Penal institutions
	6.2			Medical institutions	
6.3	Children's institutions/homes				
7	People receiving longer-term support (due to homelessness)	7.1	Residential care for older homeless people		
		7.2	Supported accommodation for formerly homeless persons		
Housing exclusion	Insecure	8	People living in insecure accommodation	8.1	Temporarily with family/friends
				8.2	No legal (sub) tenancy
				8.3	Illegal occupation of land
	9	People living under threat of eviction	9.1	Legal orders enforced (rented)	
			9.2	Repossession orders (owned)	
	10	People living under threat of violence	10.1	Police recorded incidents	
	Inadequate	11	People living in temporary/non-conventional structures	11.1	Mobile homes
				11.2	Non-conventional building
				11.3	Temporary structure
		12	People living in unfit housing	12.1	Occupied dwelling unfit for habitation
13.1				Highest national norm of overcrowding	
13	People living in extreme overcrowding	13.1	Highest national norm of overcrowding		

- A. Robust theoretical framework.
- B. Consistent definition.**
- C. Adaptable among welfare states.
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ETHOS, developed by Edgar, Doherty and Meert:



- A. Robust theoretical framework.
- B. Consistent definition.
- C. **Adaptable among welfare states\*.**
- D. Allows to measure change.

Source: Adapted from Stephens and Fitzpatrick, 2007

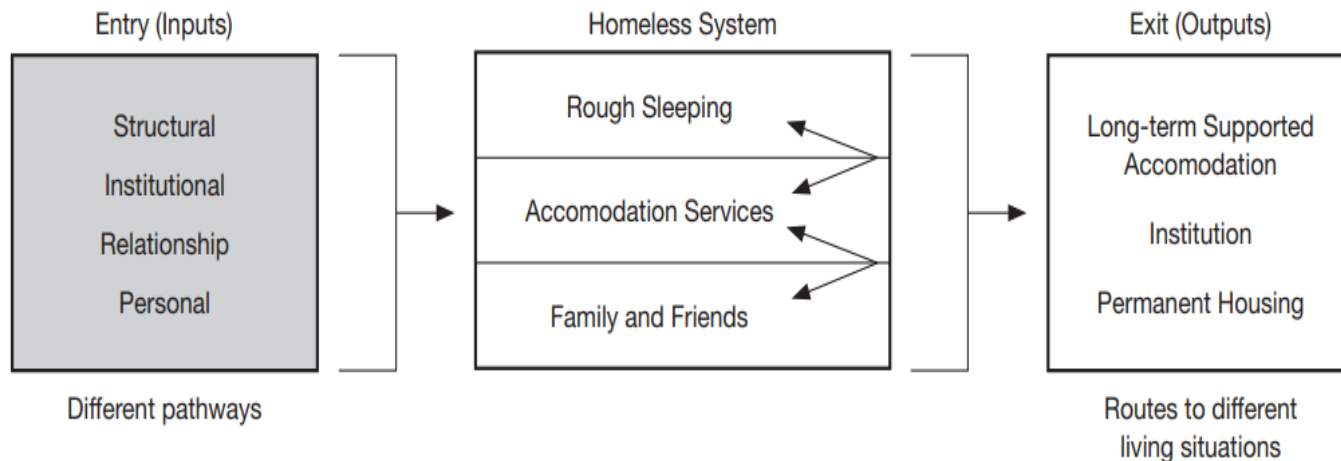
\*Avoid Schrödinger's homeless cat paradox





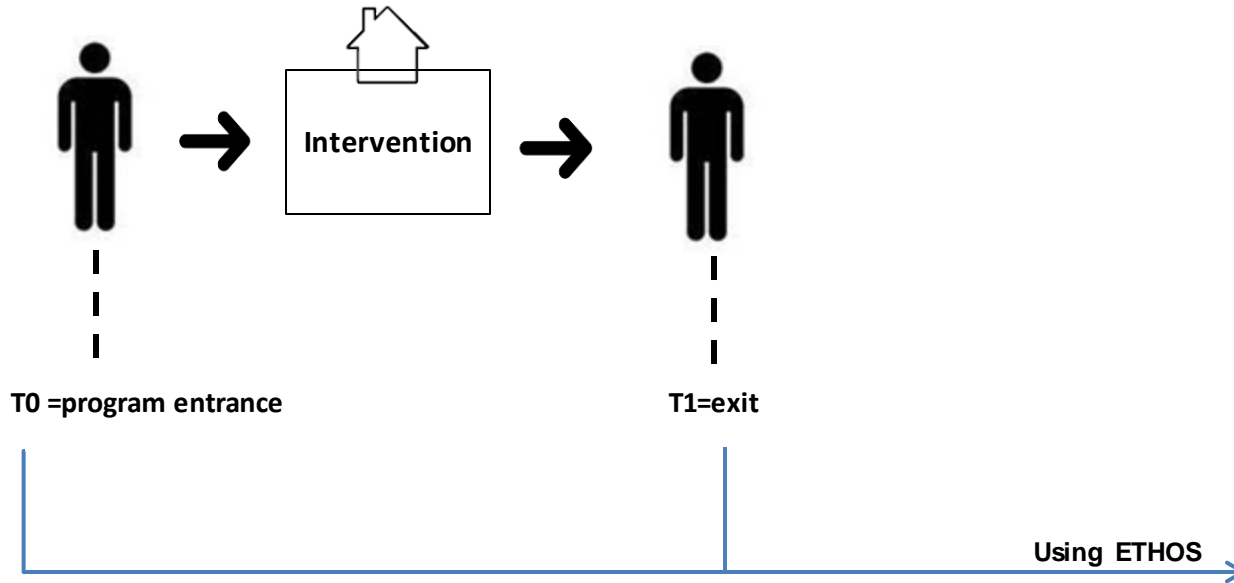
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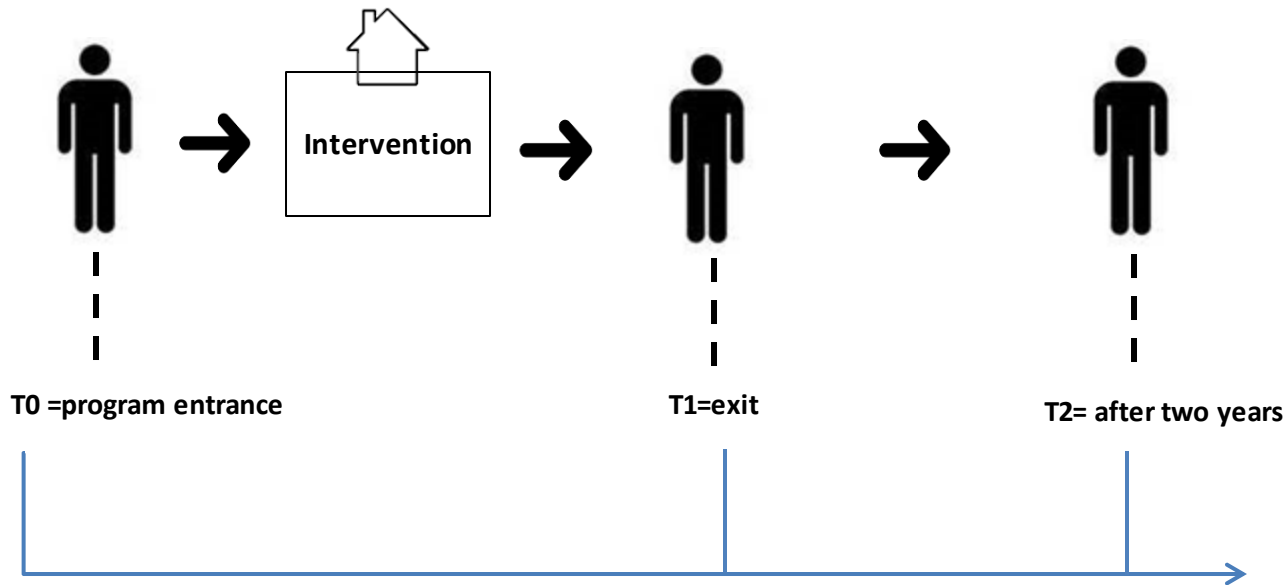
Monitoring indicators on homelessness and housing exclusion Edgar et al. (2007)

# OPERATIONALIZING ETHOS



OPERATIONAL CATEGORY	
ROOFLESS	1 People Living Rough
	2 People in emergency accommodation
HOUSELESS	3 People in accommodation for the homeless
	4 People in Women's Shelter
	5 People in accommodation for immigrants
	6 People due to be released from institutions
INSECURE	7 People receiving longer-term support (due to homelessness)
	8 People living in insecure accommodation
	9 People living under threat of eviction
	10 People living under threat of violence
INADEQUATE	11 People living in temporary/ non-conventional structures
	12 People living in unfit housing
	13 People living in extreme over-crowding

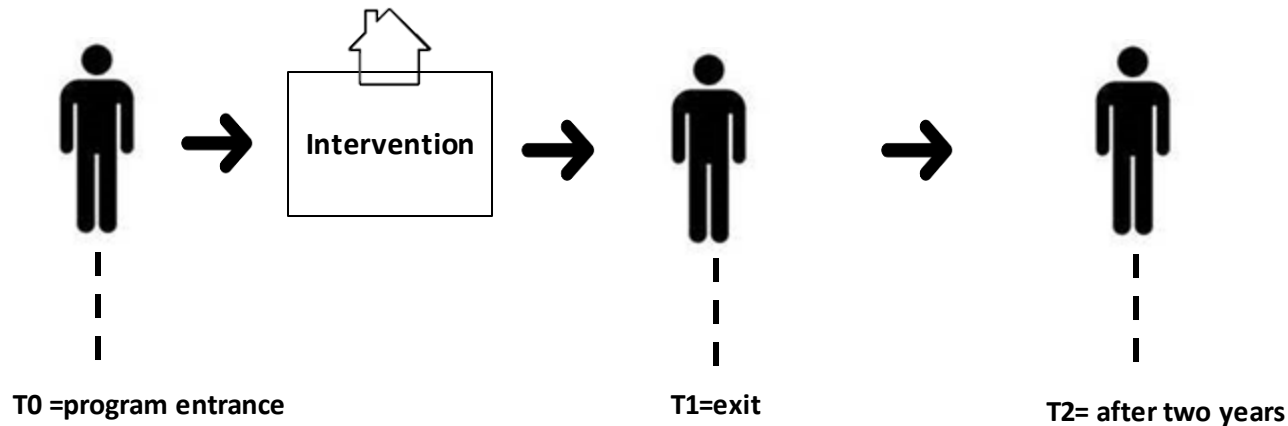




Longitudinal methodology in order to:

- A. Captures the dynamic nature of homelessness
- B. Identify routes into and out of homelessness
- C. Verify if changes persist
- D. 2 years? Long term

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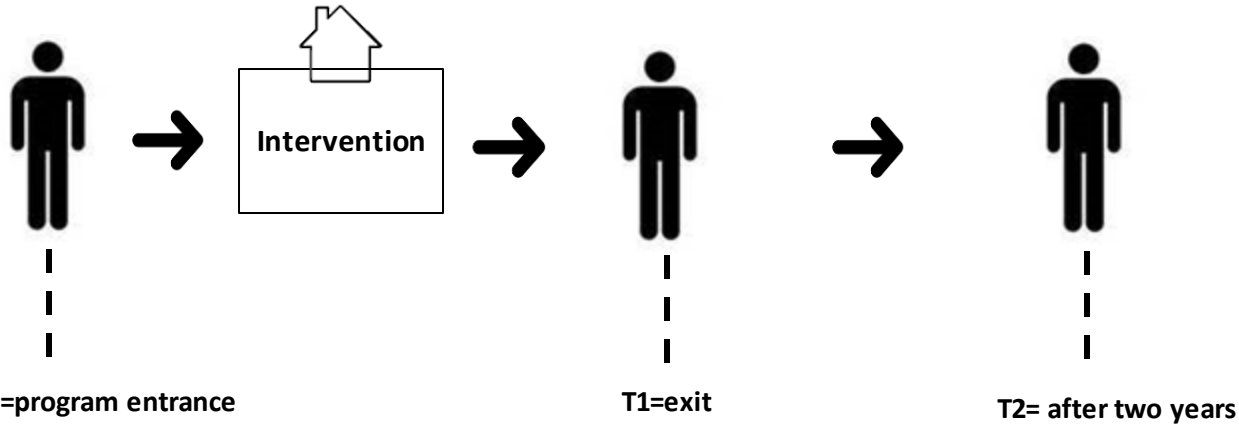


Theoretical framework of new orthodoxy:

- A. Changes in the housing situation to variations in formal support, informal support, and individual capacity (Pleace, 2016).



- B. This approach improves the understanding of variations in the housing situation and explore the effects of homeless services.



## Pre-assessment questionnaire

- ETHOS
- Health
- Employment
- Income
- Informal support network

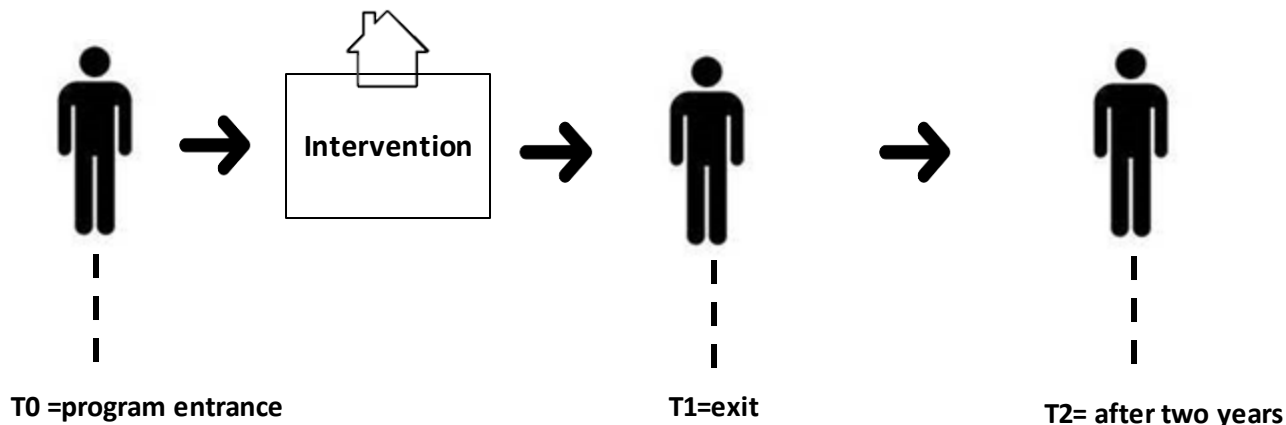
## Exit questionnaire

- ETHOS
- Health
- Employment
- Income
- Informal support network

## Follow-up questionnaire

- ETHOS
- Health
- Employment
- Income
- Informal support network





### Pre-assessment questionnaire

- ETHOS
- Health
- Employment
- Income
- Informal support network

### Exit questionnaire

- ETHOS
- Health
- Employment
- Income
- Informal support network

### Follow-up questionnaire

- ETHOS
- Health
- Employment
- Income
- Informal support network



## Tested for 3 years in two homeless response programs:

1. TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (shared apartments)

Average stay of 8 months



2. TRANSITIONAL SHELTER WITH SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

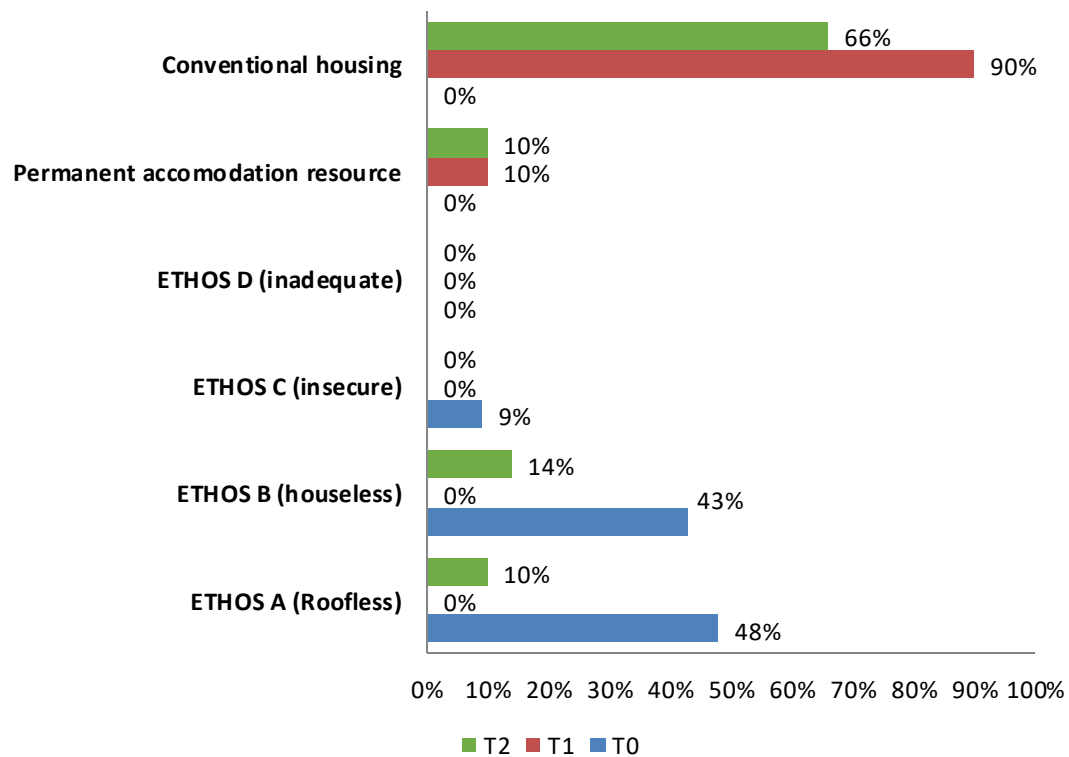
Average stay of 6 months



# OPERATIONALIZING ETHOS: RESULTS



2019



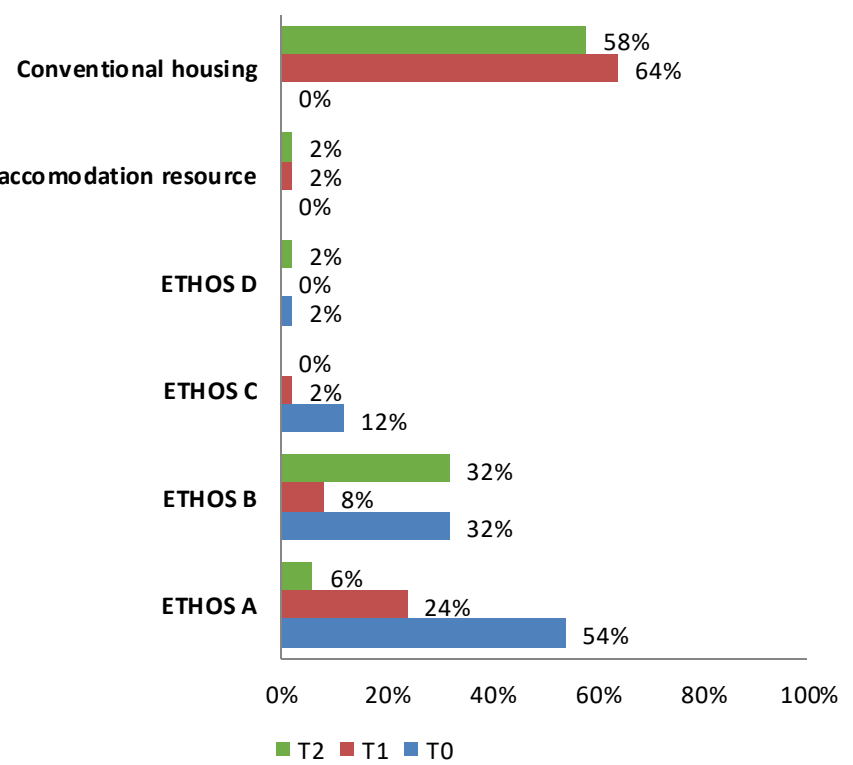
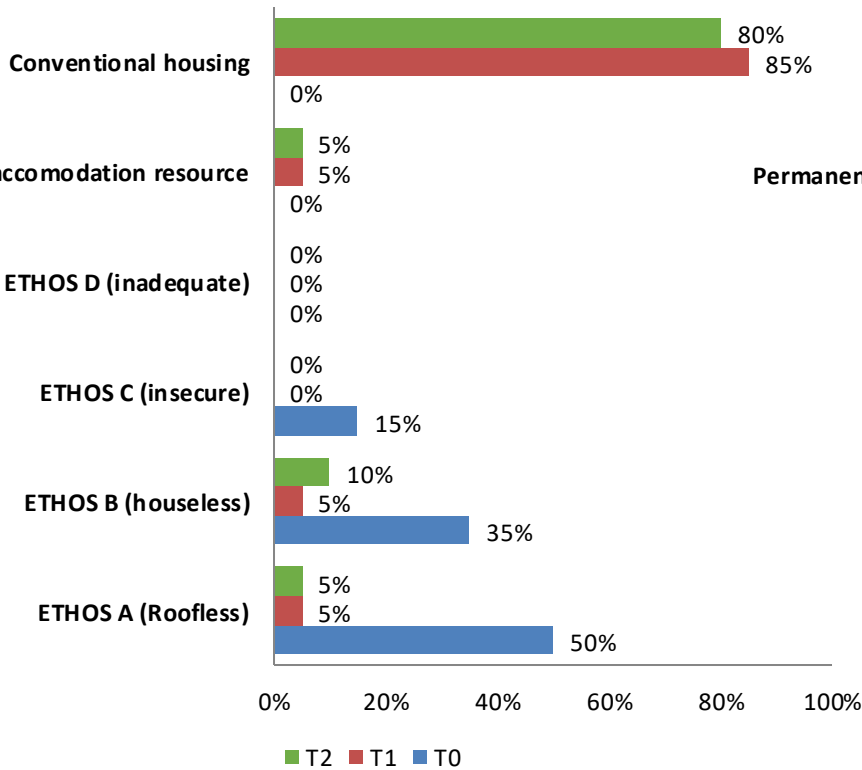
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# OPERATIONALIZING ETHOS: RESULTS



2020

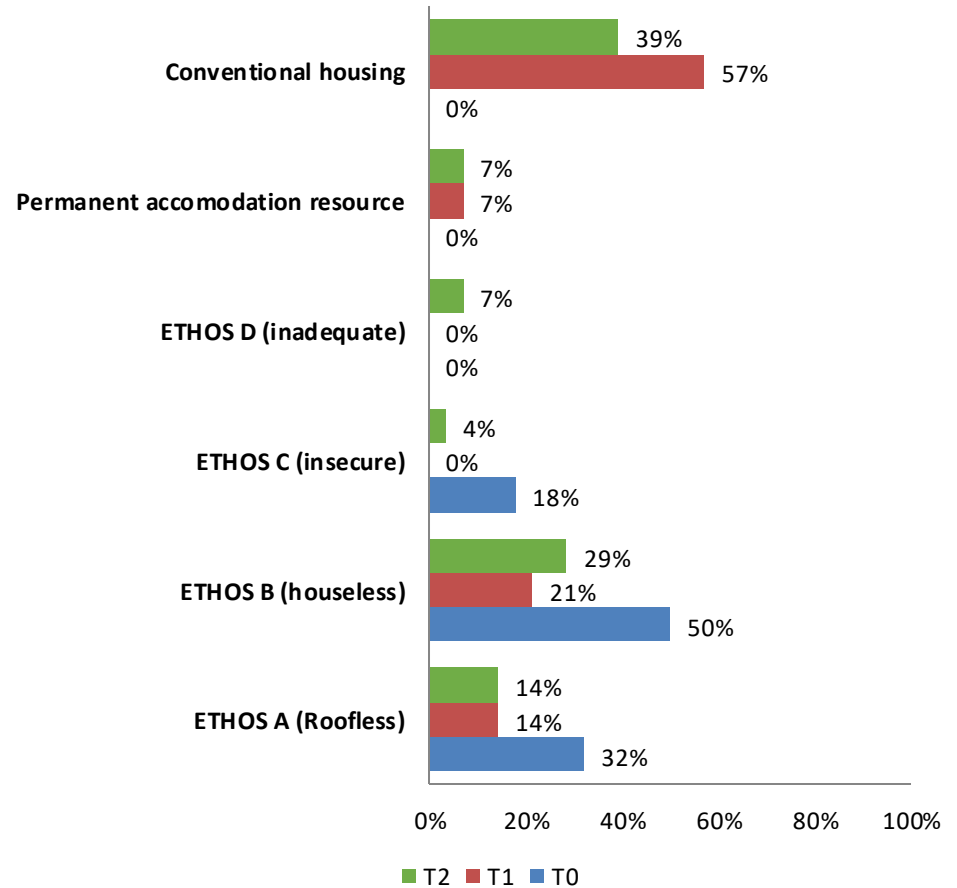
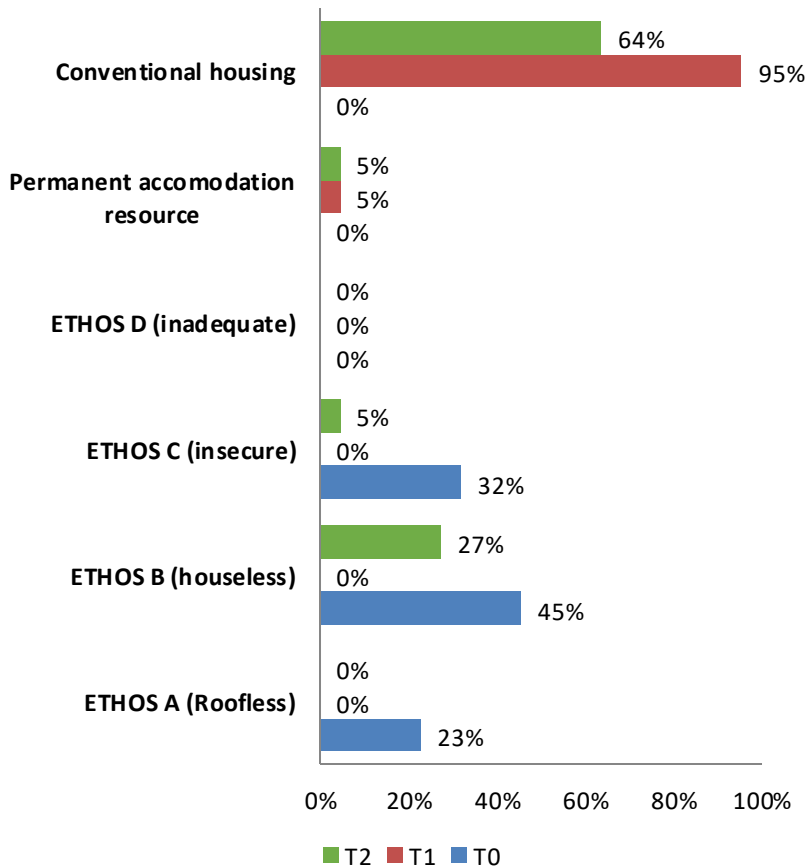




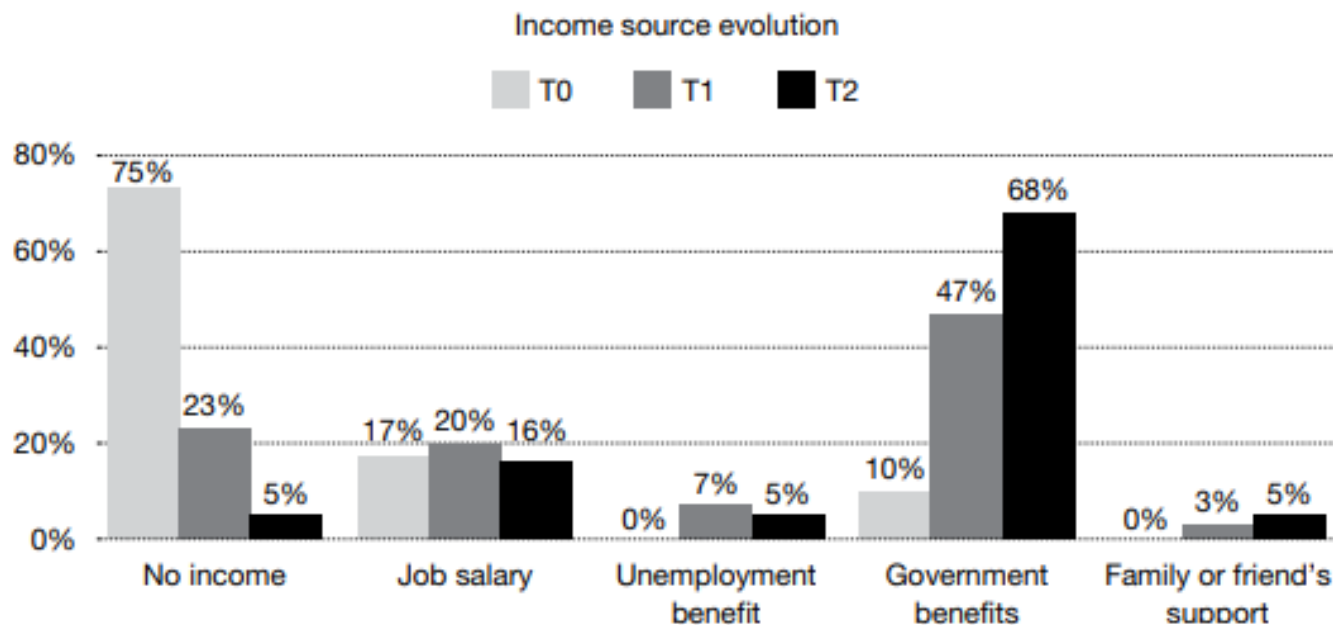
# OPERATIONALIZING ETHOS: RESULTS



2021

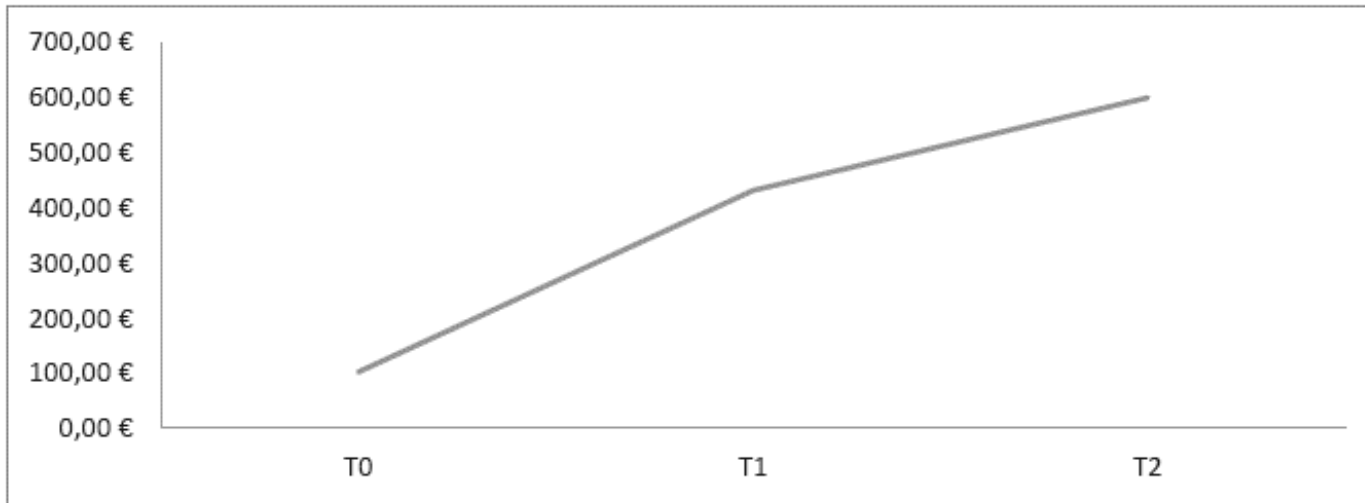


## SOURCE OF INCOME



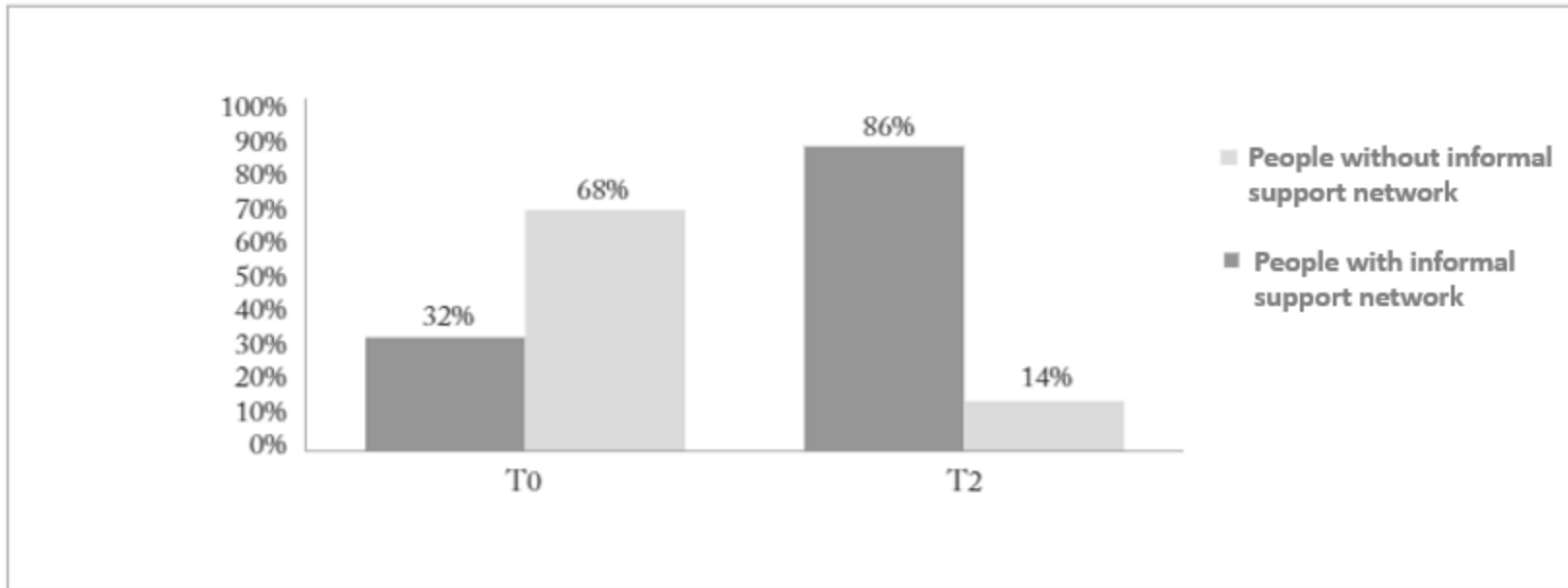
From total people leaving the shared apartments program during 2019

## INCOME



From total people leaving programs in 2020

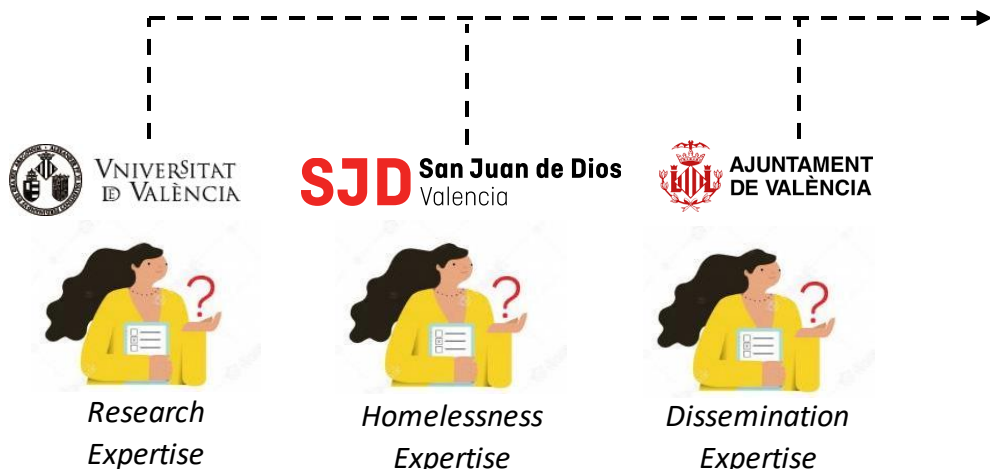
## INFORMAL SUPPORT NETWORK



From people leaving shelter programs in 2020

LongHome tool standardizes a monitoring and evaluation methodology in homeless services, enabling it to be applied in different residential response programs and compare intervention results.

Longitudinal Homelessness



**Longhome:  
Herramienta  
para el monitoreo  
y evaluación de  
los servicios de  
atención a personas  
sin hogar**



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## LongHome: desarrollo de una herramienta para la ...

by JMR Navarro · 2022 — La **herramienta LongHome** permite estandarizar una metodología de medición de impacto en servicios de atención a personas sin hogar, ...

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## Longhome: Herramienta para el monitoreo y evaluación de los ...

**LongHome** es una **herramienta** de monitoreo y evaluación de las intervenciones con personas sin hogar. El nombre es una combinación abreviada de dos.

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**Longhome:  
Herramienta  
para el monitoreo  
y evaluación de  
los servicios de  
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sin hogar**



The **ETHOS** could be standardized allowing the monitoring and evaluation of changes in the housing status of people in homeless response programs.

By using the new orthodoxy as theoretical framework, the changes in **housing status can be linked to changes in formal support, informal support, and individual capacity.**

It allows **adaptation of M&E mechanisms to the reality of the organization**, services provided, and the characteristics of the population.

It could **generate improvements in support services** by producing knowledge about homeless pathways. By harmonizing definitions of key variable, **enables comparisons of results among different response programs** with similar populations.

**ETHOS seems to be effective among different welfare states** and solves institutionalization dilemma.



The **methodology has limitations**, being a pre-post methodology without randomized control group, and lacks causal relationship (M&E not impact eval).

Therefore, it is essential to **monitor exogenous variables** that may affect the process.

We recommend the **ETHOS to be included in NGO client record systems in T0, T1 (and T2).**



Use the methodology for M&E purposes, **not to measure impact.**

**Reliability of data in T2 depends on the % of people reached (>50%)** and the similarity of group characteristics between T1 and T2.

It **requires to choose an additional set of variables** adapted to each homeless response program.



[Longitudinal Study of the Homeless Population in Valencia.](#)

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF HOMELESSNESS Volume 16, Issue 1, 2022.



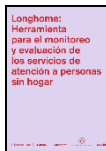
[LongHome: Desarrollo de una herramienta para la medición de la medición de impacto de los servicios de atención a personas sin hogar.](#) PEDAGOGÍA Y

TRABAJO SOCIAL. UNIVERSIDAD DE GIRONA. Vol. 11, Nº 2, 2022.



[Sinhogarismo y fuente de ingresos: estudio longitudinal sobre la influencia del apoyo formal y la renta del trabajo en la reducción del sinhogarismo.](#) OBETS.

REVISTA CIENCIAS SOCIALES UNIVERSIDAD ALICANTE. Vol. 18, nº 1, 2023.



[Longhome: Herramienta para el monitoreo y evaluación de los servicios de atención a personas sin hogar.](#) Dissemination manual developed in

collaboration with Las Naves Innovation Center, Valencia City Council.





**For additional information**

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# QUESTIONS I

Variable		Muestra inicial (N=137)		Muestra transcurridos 24 meses (N=70)		P
		(N)	%	(N)	%	
Género	Hombre	132	96%	65	93%	0,27
	Mujer	5	4%	5	7%	
Nacionalidad	España	90	66%	51	73%	0,30
	Extranjeros	47	34%	19	27%	
Edad	18 - 29	9	7%	1	1%	0,66
	30-39	25	18%	14	20%	
	40- 49	28	20%	15	21%	
	50 - 59	42	31%	22	31%	
	60 - 69	29	21%	17	24%	
	70+	4	3%	1	1%	
	Estudios	Sin Estudios	6	4%	1	
Primarios		86	63%	49	70%	
Secundaria o ciclo formativo		26	19%	11	16%	
Universitarios		12	9%	8	11%	
No consta		7	5%	1	1%	
3- 24 días		24	18%	5	7%	0,11
Duración de la estancia	25 – 183 días	67	49%	32	46%	
	184 – 364 días	25	18%	17	24%	
	364 días o más	21	15%	16	23%	
Situación laboral entrada	Con trabajo	9	7%	4	6%	0,58
	Incapacitado	13	9%	4	6%	
	Sin trabajo	112	82%	62	89%	
	No consta	3	2%	-	0%	
Ingresos a la entrada	Con ingresos	50	36%	25	36%	0,91
	Sin ingresos	87	64%	45	64%	
Días de estancia en calle previos al recurso	0 días	31	23%	15	21%	0,96
	<365 días	61	45%	33	47%	
	>365 días	23	17%	12	17%	
	No consta	22	16%	10	14%	

Comparing sample characteristics between T1 and T2

Monitoreo, Evaluación y Evaluación de Impacto		
Monitoreo	Evaluación	Evaluación de impacto
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continua, se recopilan datos fácilmente obtenibles de forma regular para realizar seguimiento del funcionamiento del programa.</li> <li>• Se realiza durante la ejecución del proceso de manera continua.</li> <li>• Permite realizar seguimiento del progreso y el logro de metas e indicadores establecidos.</li> <li>• Usualmente de carácter cuantitativo.</li> <li>• No permite identificar causalidad.</li> <li>• No permite evaluar el impacto.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generalmente episódica, a mitad y final de la intervención, a menudo realizada por un agente externo.</li> <li>• Va más allá de la consecución de actividades para evaluar los objetivos del programa.</li> <li>• Permite cuestionar la relevancia de los programas, objetivos y actividades</li> <li>• Puede identificar tanto los efectos planificados como inesperados.</li> <li>• Puede responder al "cómo se hizo" y al "por qué se consiguió".</li> <li>• Puede proporcionar orientación para futuros proyectos.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forma específica de evaluación que se realiza de manera puntual, una vez finalizada la intervención, por un agente externo.</li> <li>• Va más allá de evaluar los objetivos, para evaluar los impactos del programa en la población objetivo.</li> <li>• Centrado específicamente en identificar causalidad (que el impacto ha sido producido por el proyecto), a menudo utilizando un grupo de control.</li> <li>• Generalmente enfocado en cambios a largo plazo, como por ejemplo en la calidad de vida de los beneficiarios.</li> </ul>

## Longhome: M&E tool for homeless response services

Longitudinal Homelessness



LongHome tool standardizes a monitoring and evaluation methodology in homeless services, enabling it to be applied in different residential response programs and compare intervention results.

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The tool is based on the theoretical approach of the new orthodoxy, which links changes in the housing situation to variations in formal support, informal support, and individual capacity. This approach improves the understanding of variations in the housing situation and explore the impact of homeless services.



