



Nano Nagle Place, Cork, 25th March 2025

How Erasmus + can inspire lasting change and how
Adapting Housing First can make a lasting difference

Jacopo Lascialfari

- Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità and SMES Europa
- Erasmus + catalyst for learning and development, our experience
- Person First Project
- Adapting Housing First project

FONDAZIONE - ETS



Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità was funded in 2010 as second level Voluntary organisation starting from the Social Inclusion Table. Social Inclusion Table was a sort of consensus conference of the municipality of Florence in which the third sector and the civil society could discuss with the institutions about social emergencies. Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità members are all the organisations working in Florence in the poverty and homeless field (more than 20). In 2024 Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità was transformed into a Foundation.



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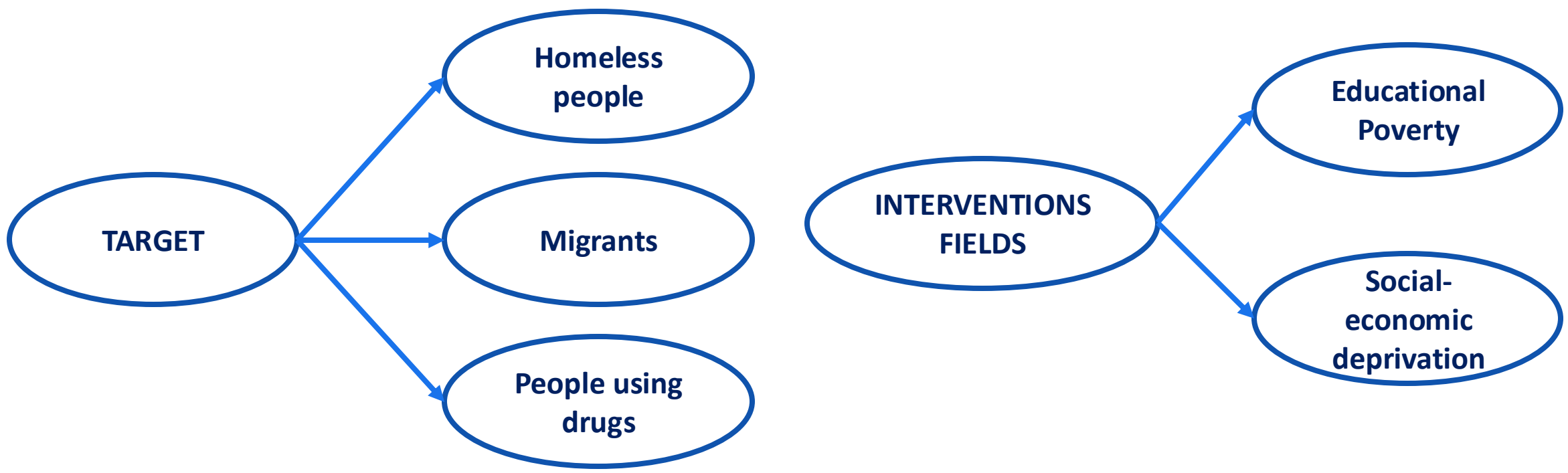
Gruppi di
Volontariato Vincenziano
Città di Firenze



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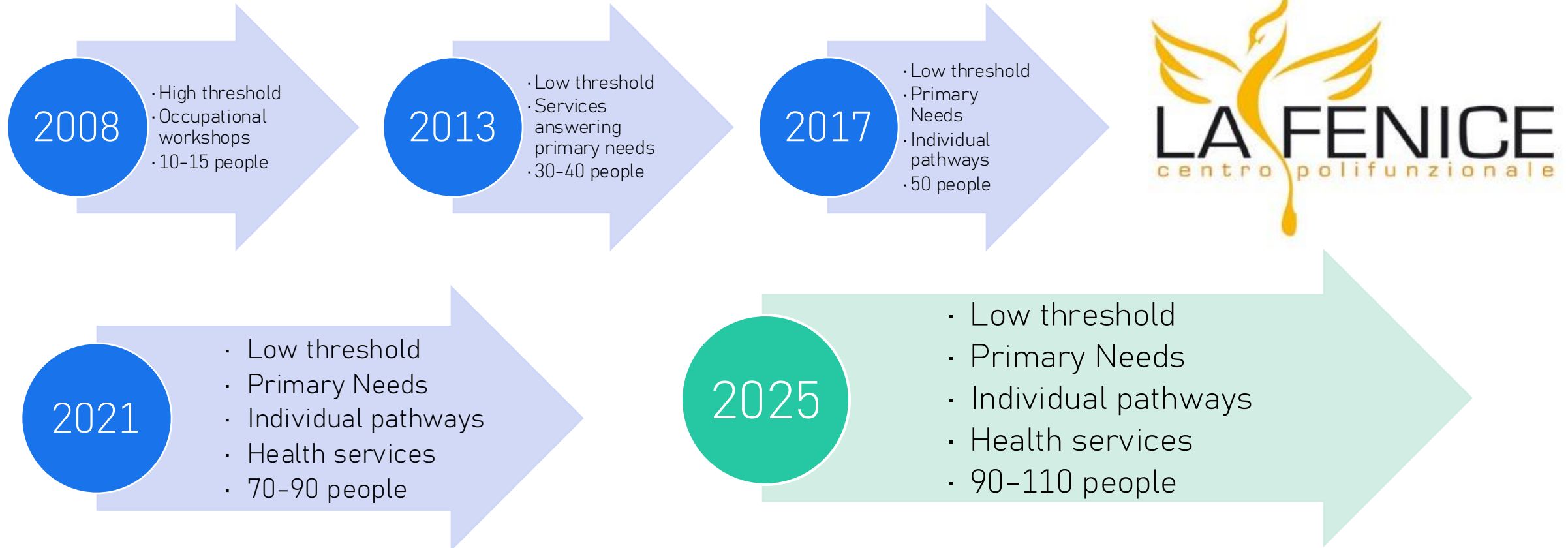
MISSION

Taking care of the last ones means taking care of the own community. A community able to listen the voices of its most vulnerable people is a community able to take care of itself.



La Fenice is the first point of reference for the homeless in a deep state of socio-economic deprivation living in the area of the Municipality of Florence.

Homeless people can access directly from the street and enjoy services answering their primary needs (food, shower, wardrobe ecc.)



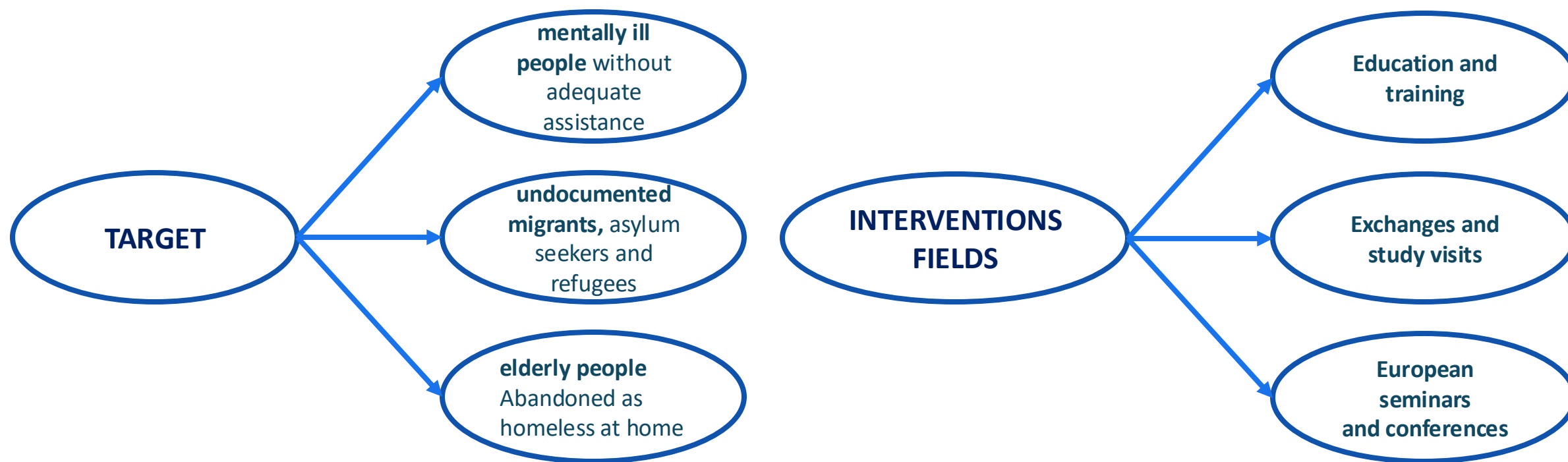


Santé Mentale et Exclusion Sociale
Mental Health and Social Exclusion

is an **European Network** of professional and organisations working at interface of health and social field, for people living in conditions of poverty / extreme poverty, connected with health and mental health problems.



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Erasmus+

Enriching lives, opening minds.



EUROPEAN UNION

Skills and Employability

Erasmus+ focuses on improving the skills and employability of individuals, preparing them for the job market.

Educational Quality

Enhancing educational quality is a key objective, ensuring that learning institutions meet high standards.

International Collaboration

Fostering international collaboration to tackle global challenges is vital for creating innovative solutions.

Inclusive and Innovative Europe

The program aims to build a more inclusive and innovative Europe by promoting equal opportunities in education.

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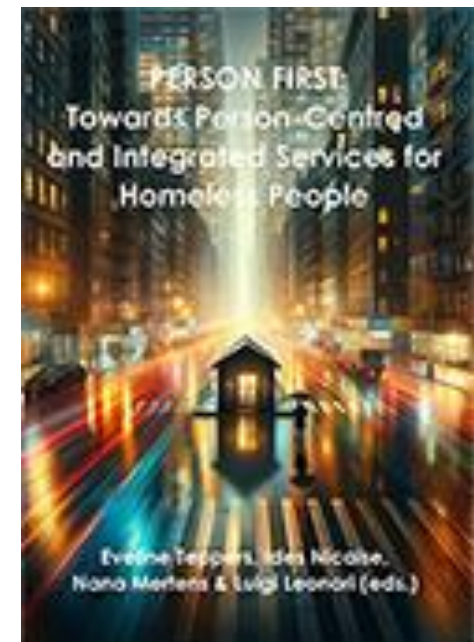
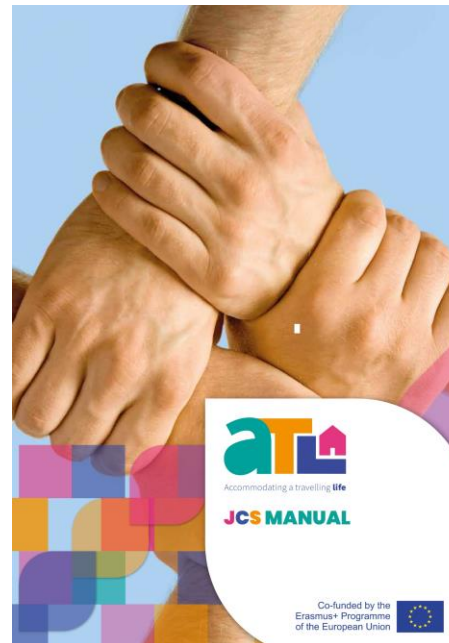


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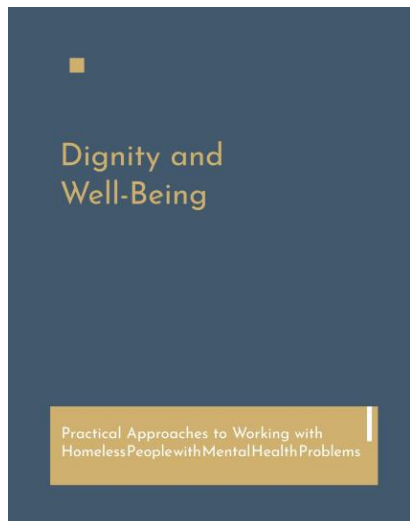
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Dignity and Well-Being

Practical Approaches to Working with
Homeless People with Mental Health Problems



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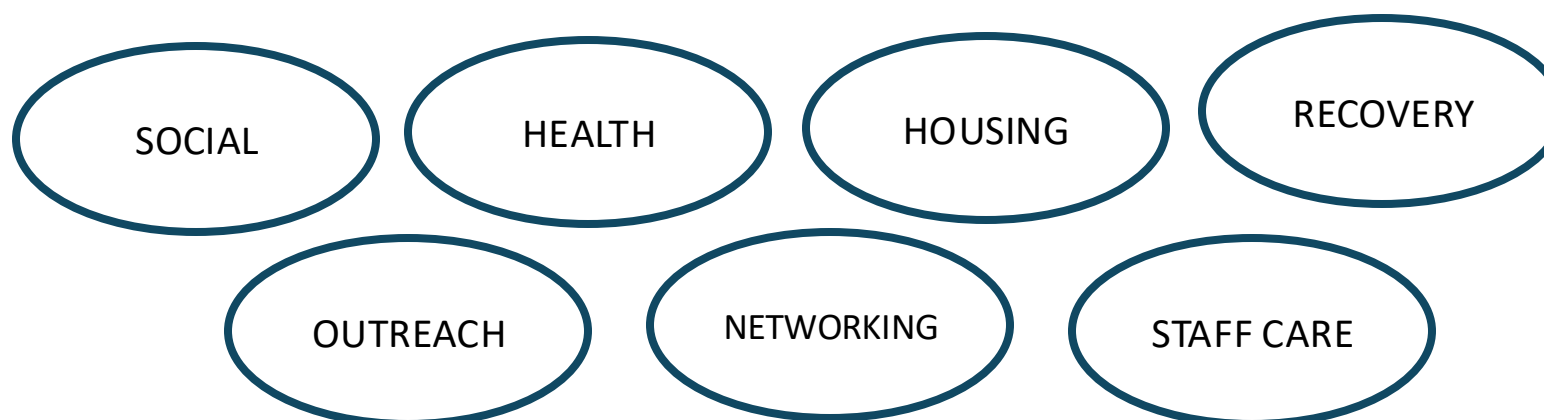


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Centro Hospitalar Psiquiátrico de Lisboa, Coordinator, (Portugal);
Santé Mentale Exclusion Sociale SMES-Europa (Belgium),
Etairia Koinonikis Psixiatrikis kai Psixikis Ygeias (Greece),
Projekt UDENFOR (Denmark),
Istituto Andrea Devoto (Italy),
Caritas Archidiecezji Warszawskiej (Poland),
Parc Sanitari Sant Joan de Déu (Spain)
Midlands Simon Community (Ireland)

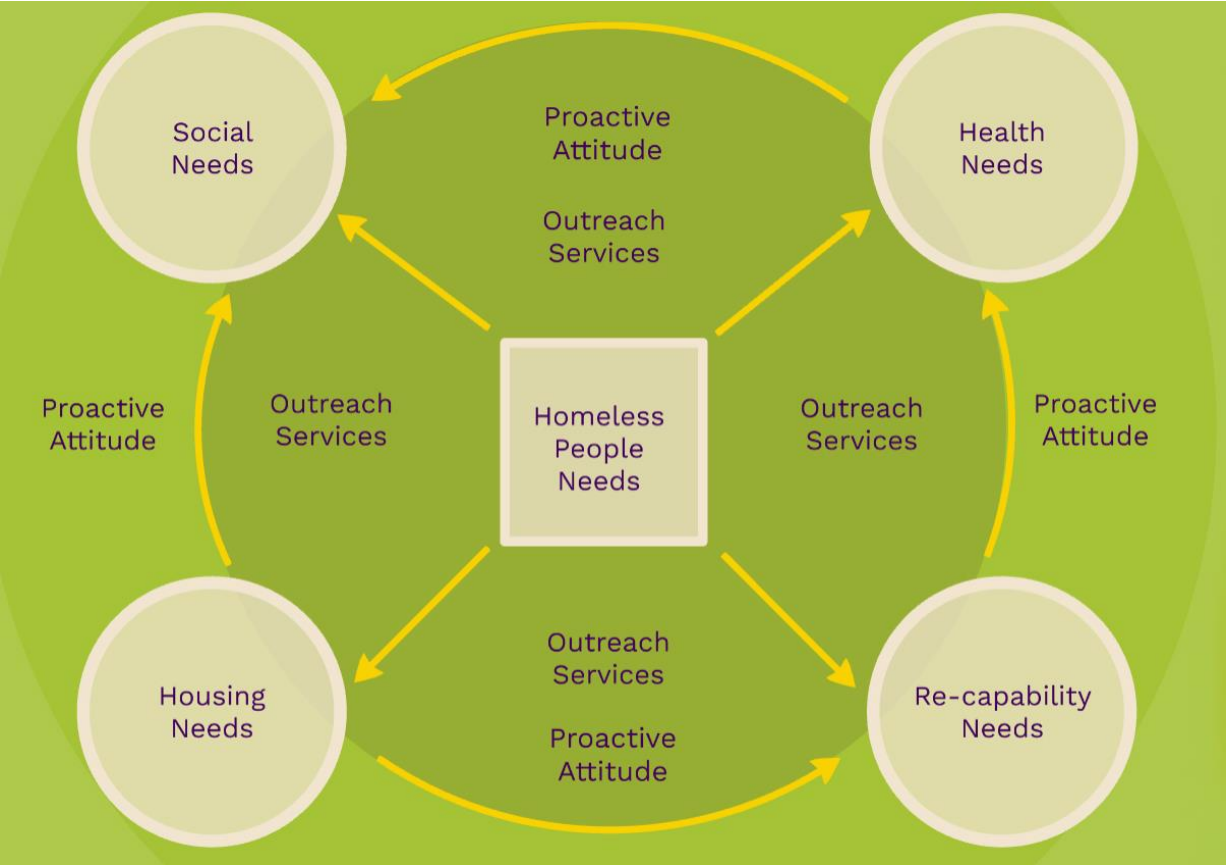
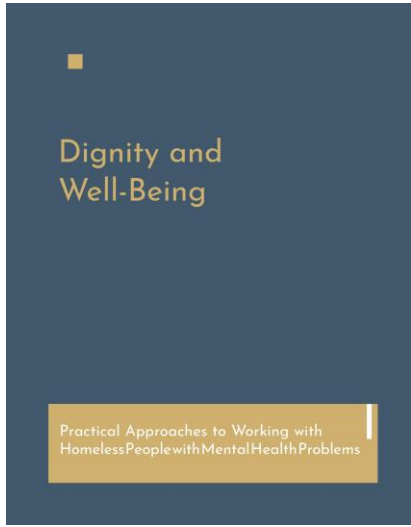
As main output of the project we published a manual aims at helping professionals to develop skills to better approach a homeless person with mental health problems.

The manual is organized in four pillars and three beams that hold together to create a coherent intervention in homelessness:

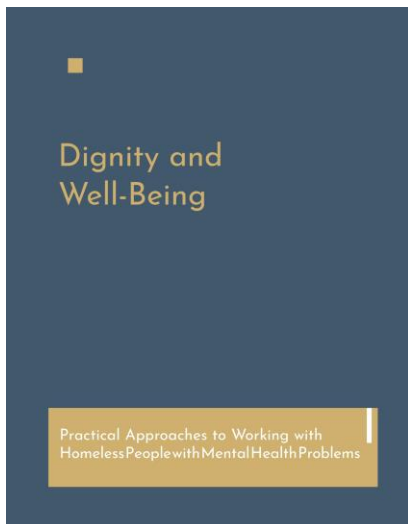


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Social Services

- Virtual Residence
- Documents obtaining
- Mediation towards social institutional services

Housing Services

- Housing counselling desk
- Link with emergency shelters
- Link with transitional housing
- Link with supportive housing



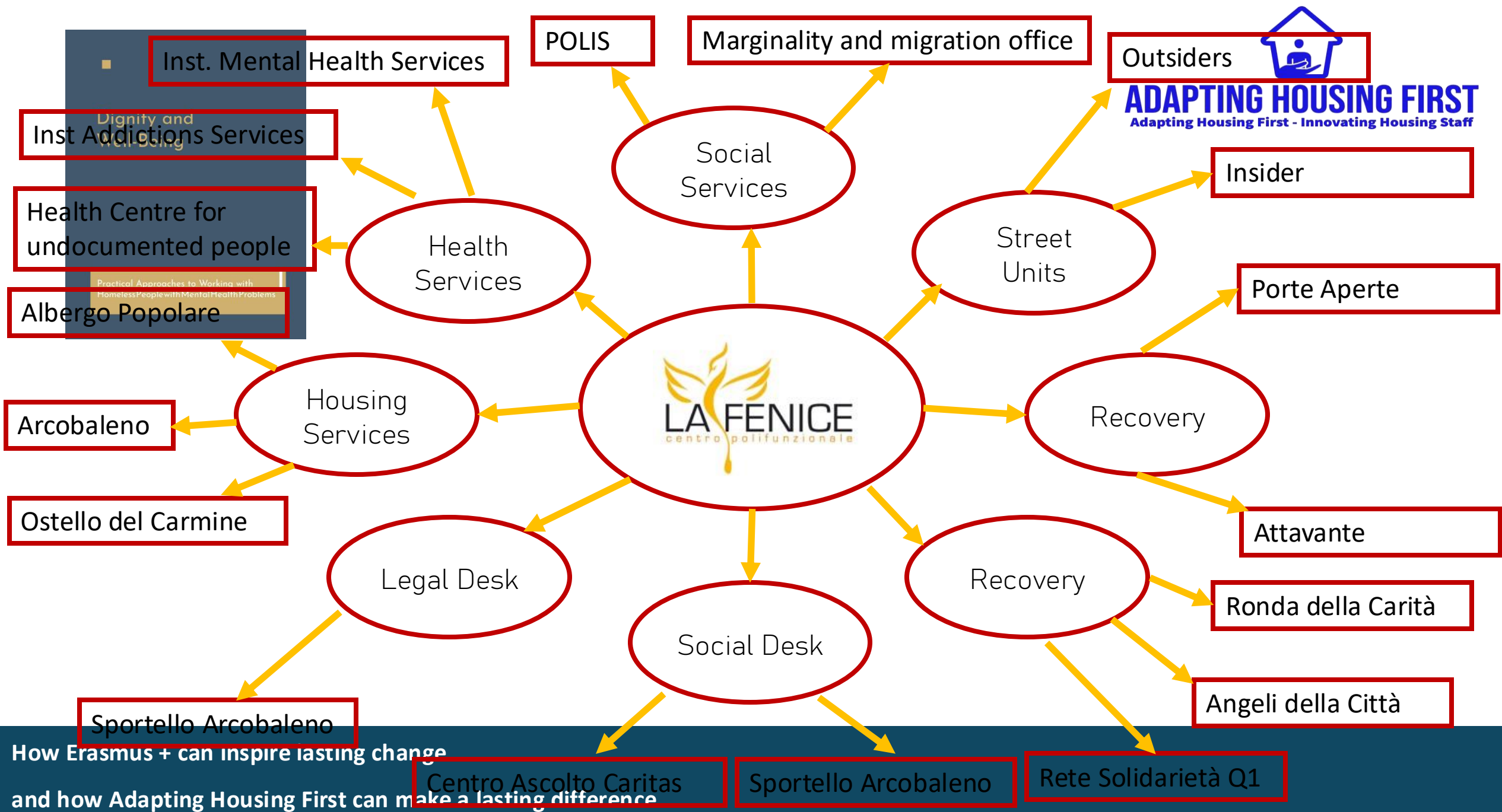
Health Services

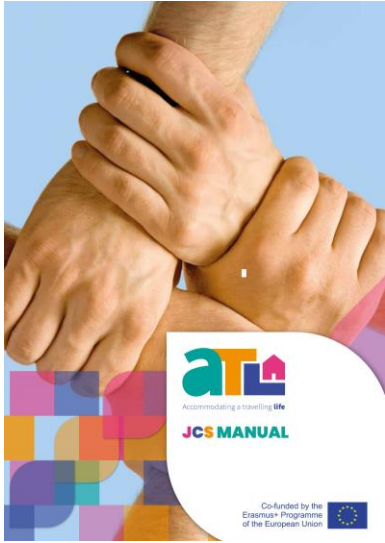
- Health check up
- Psychiatric facility
- Psychological group
- Psychological individual support

Recovery Services

- Services orientation
- Socializing activities
- Job replacement
- Access to culture







Fundacion Intrás, Coordinator, (Spain);
Santé Mentale Exclusion Sociale SMES-Europa (Belgium),
Etairia Koinonikis Psixiatrikis kai Psixikis Ygeias (Greece),
Smes Italy, (Italy),
Caritas Archidiecezji Warszawskiej (Poland),
RJforAll (England)
Deaconess Foundation (Finland)



<https://www.atl-project.eu/>

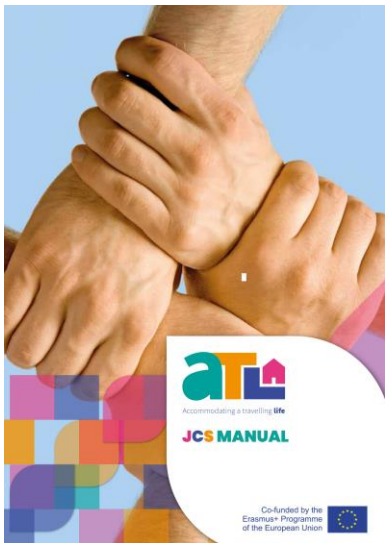
As main outputs of the project we published two manual:

One to train social professional to include in their equipe peer supporter, the other to train people experiencing homelessness to work as peer supporter

Using the manuals we conducted two training courses; one for social professionals, the other for people experiencing homelessness

At the end of the project, in Italy, we trained 10 social professionals and 10 peer supporters

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Direzione Servizi Sociali

Procedura aperta, ai sensi dell'art. 60 del DLgs n. 50/2016, mediante il sistema telematico acquisti regionale della Toscana (START) per l'appalto del Servizio di accoglienza diurna per persone senza dimora ed in condizione di svantaggio e marginalità sociale denominato "Centro Diurno La Fenice", sito in Firenze, in Via del Leone n. 35, e gestione della procedura per le Residenze virtuali- CPV: 85312000-9 Servizi di assistenza sociale senza alloggio.
CIG: 8899106E93

PROGETTO SINTETICO DI SERVIZIO (art. 23, commi 14 e 15 D. lgs. 50/2016)

Relazione tecnico illustrativa

Premessa

Il presente progetto riporta la descrizione sintetica del servizio che si intende appaltare, nei suoi principali aspetti, rimandando il dettaglio dei medesimi ai restanti documenti di gara: capitolato



Today two people expert by experience trained thanks to the project are working as peer supporters in the day centre La Fenice

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Santé Mentale Exclusion Sociale SMES-Europa, Coordinator, (Belgium),
KU Leuven (Belgium),
Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità, (Italy),
Caritas Archidiecezji Warszawskiej (Poland),
EAPN Latvia (Latvia)
Praksis, (Greece)
Maendeneshjem (Denmark)
Vvay (Finland)
NPISA (Portugal)



The main outputs of the project were a research paper and a recommendation document presented to the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament.

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Key points from the research

OBSTACLES TO ACCESS TO THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

EXCLUDING RULES

NO
COUPLES

NO
CHILDREN

NO
UNDOCUMENTED

NO
ALCOHOL

NO
ANIMALS

LACK OF ACCESSIBILITY

EXCLUDING CONDITION

INSECURITY

PROMISCUITY

LARGE
DORMITORIES

LACK OF
PRIVACY

TENSION
BETWEEN
RESIDENT

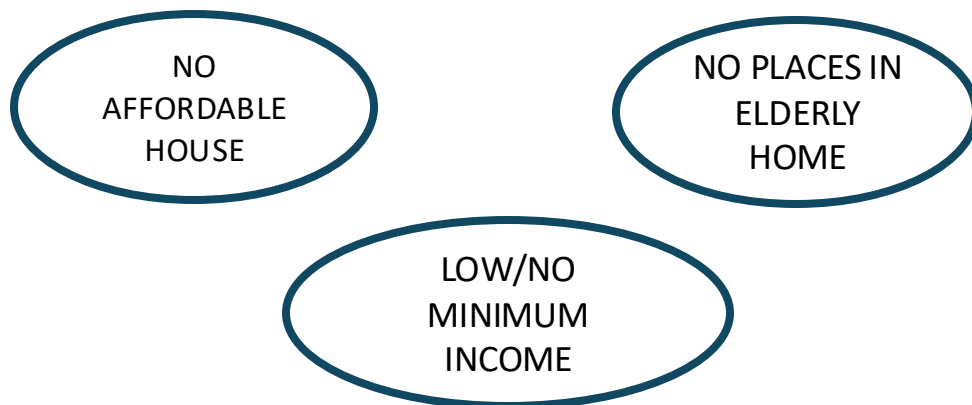
LACK OF APPEAL



TRADITIONAL PATHWAY MODEL BASED ON A SERIES OF STEPS TO ACCESS HOUSING IS INEFFECTIVE

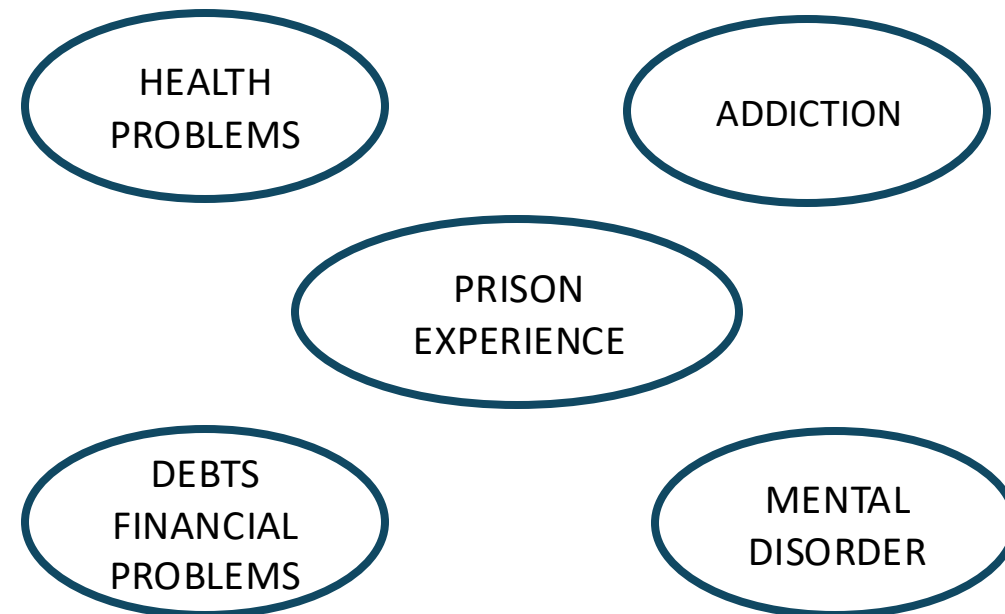


STRUCTURAL DEFICIENCIES IN SOCIAL POLICY



DEAD-END PATHWAYS FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

PERSONAL DIFFICULTIES



SERVICE DEPENDENCY



PROPOSALS

TO OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES TO ACCESS TO THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

EXCLUDING RULES

LACK OF ACCESSIBILITY

LOW
THRESHOLD
SERVICES

SMALL-SCALE
HOUSING

SOCIAL
PROTECTION FOR
UNDOCUMENTED
MIGRANT

FOR FAMILY

FOR
COUPLE

OPEN TO
ANIMALS

EVEN IF WE DO NOT
RECOGNISE ANY RIGHTS TO
THEM, THEY DO NOT
DISAPPEAR AND REMAIN ON
OUR STREETS



PROPOSALS

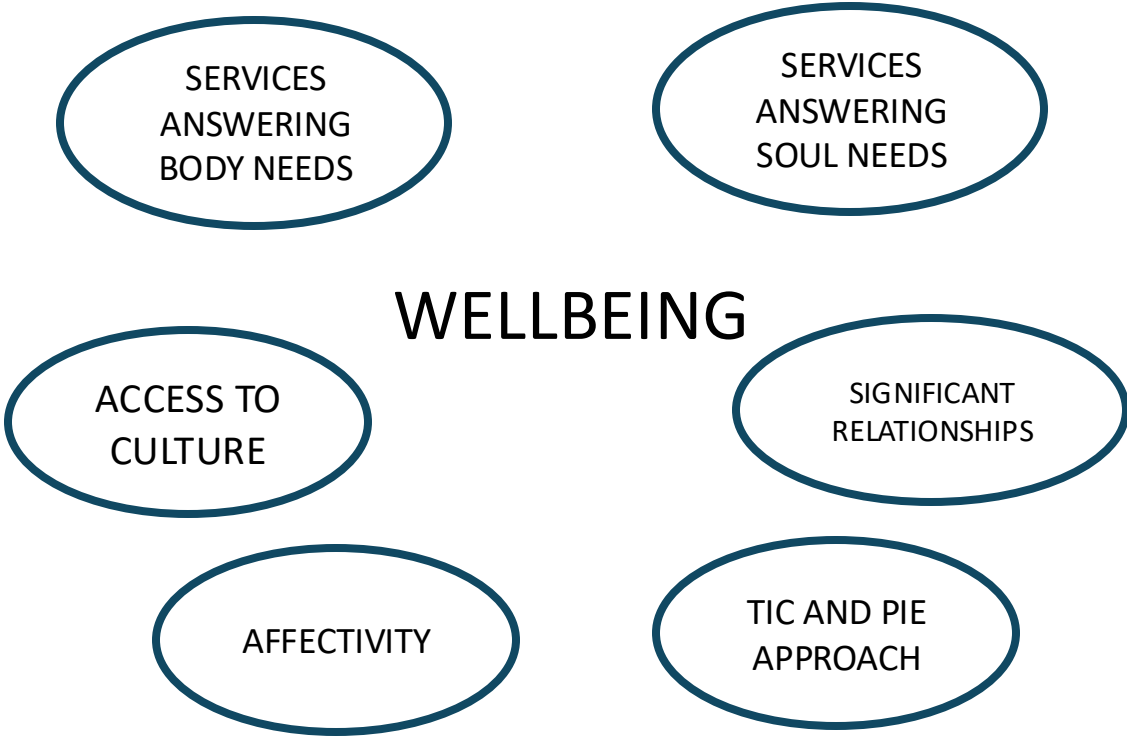
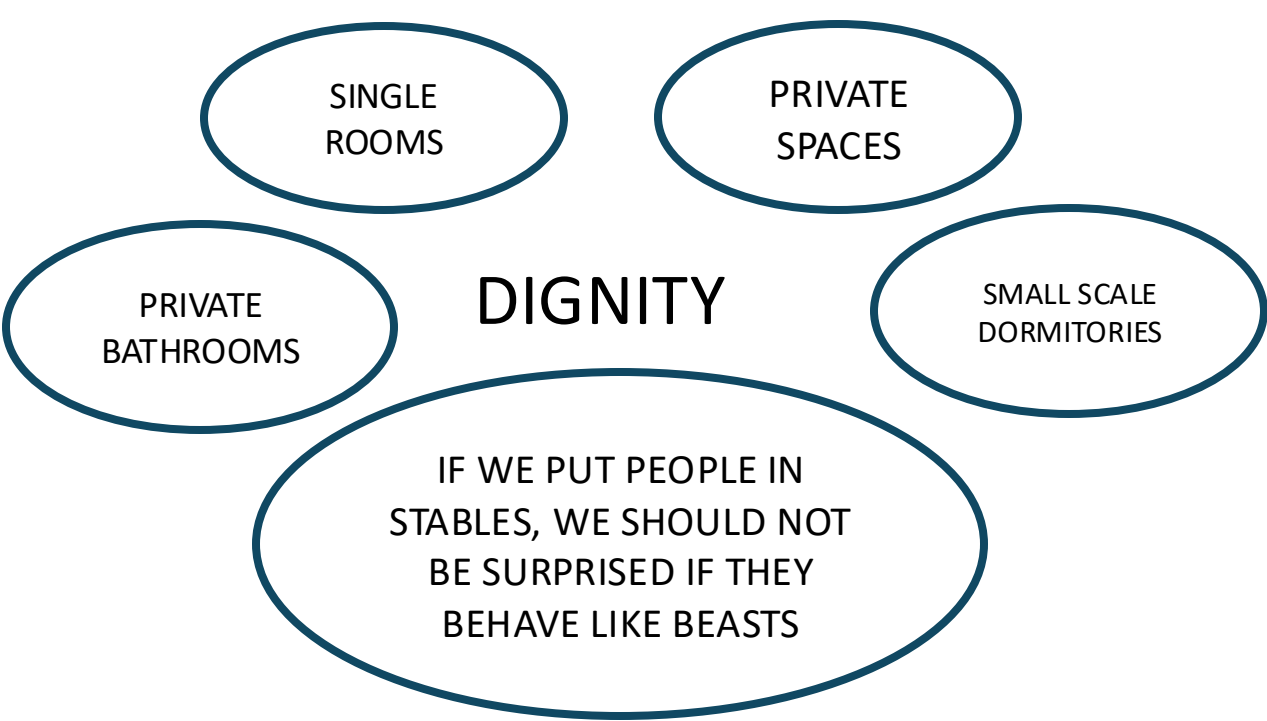


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TO OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES TO ACCESS TO THE
EMERGENCY SERVICES

EXCLUDING CONDITION

LACK OF APPEAL





Person First Recommendations



At EU level

- Adopt the **Person First framework into the EPOCH agenda**: ending homelessness will not be possible without significant investment in '4 pillars' – with particular emphasis on mental health care and a person-centred, participatory approach
- Support the creation of a **European network of self-organisations** of homeless people - examples: Common Homeless Front (BE), SOMOS (PT), No Fixed Abode (FI)...
- Promote a **right to (temporary) shelter for undocumented migrants** within the context of the European Migration Pact

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Person First Recommendations

At national / regional level



- Develop **national / regional strategies to end homelessness**, based on the Person First concept and its four pillars, with SMART objectives and realistic budgets
- Build **partnerships** between relevant ministries, between levels of government, between government and services / self-organisations
- **Put an end to institutional violence** against homeless people (cf. Brussels South 8/23; London 1/24; Paris 4/24...).
- (p.m. Prevent homelessness through...)
- **Upgrade the MIG and solve the 'postal paradox'** (no housing without income ⇔ no income without legal residence): disconnect access to social protection from the legal residence condition

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Person First Recommendations

At local level



- The role of local governments
 - **Dispatch** applicants across services
 - **Fill gaps** in local provision
 - Facilitate integrated services by coordinating **networks** of service providers
 - Fight prejudice and discrimination / promote **solidarity** among citizens
 - **Leave no one behind**
- No local responsibilities without **regional/national support** to level the playing field

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<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/person-first-towards-person-centred-and-integrated-services-homeless-people>

<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/content/person-first-open-access-textbook-workers-homeless-services>

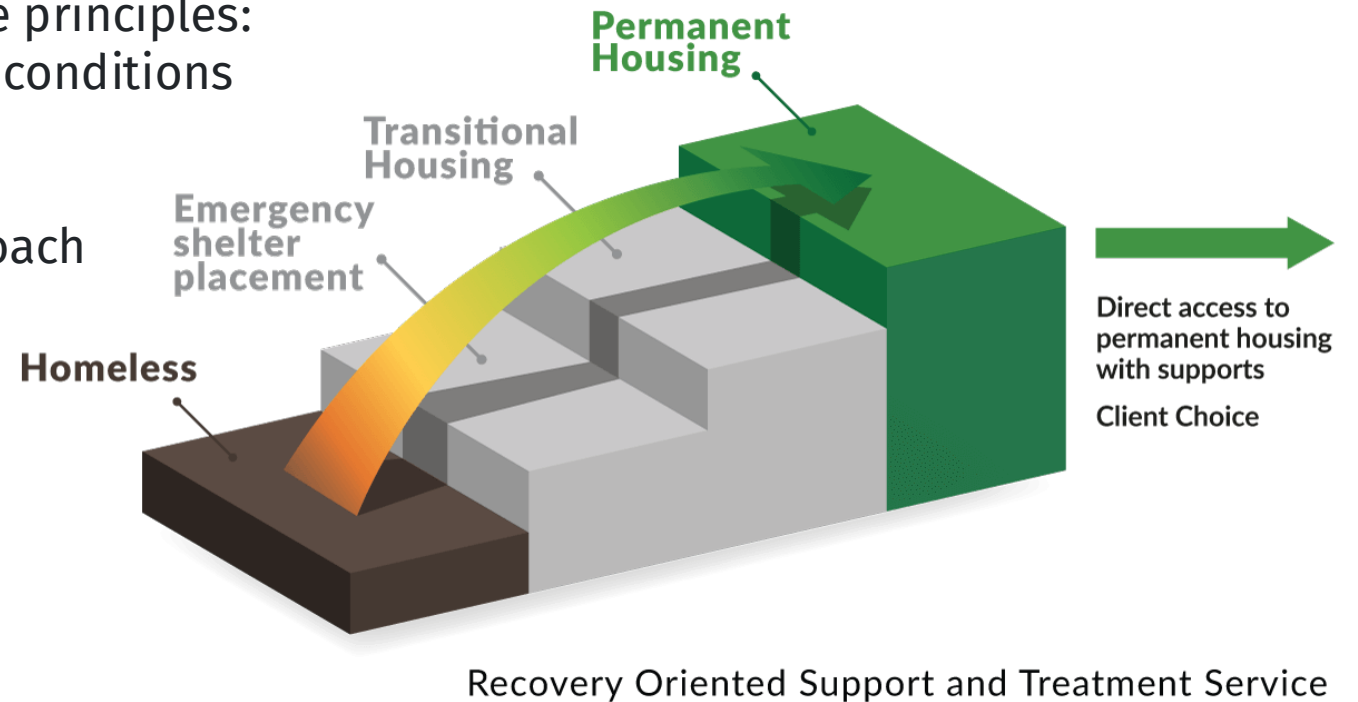
<https://hiva.kuleuven.be/en/research/highlighted-research-projects/Person-First>

<https://www.smes-europa.org/Report%20Survey%20Person%20First-2022.pdf>

HOUSING FIRST

The Housing First approach is underpinned by five principles:

1. Immediate access to housing with no readiness conditions
2. Consumer choice and self-determination
3. Individualised and person-centred support
4. Harm reduction and recovery-orientation approach
5. Social and community integration

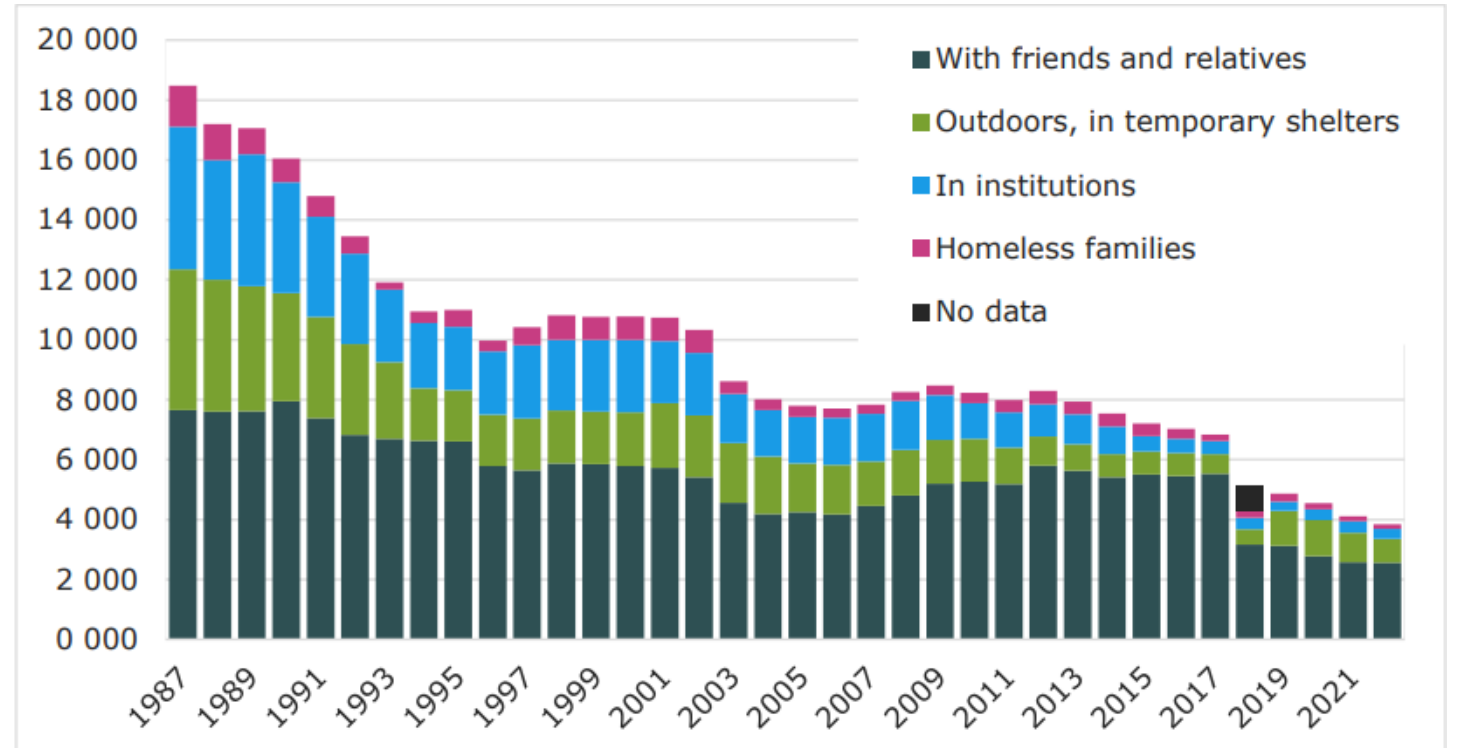


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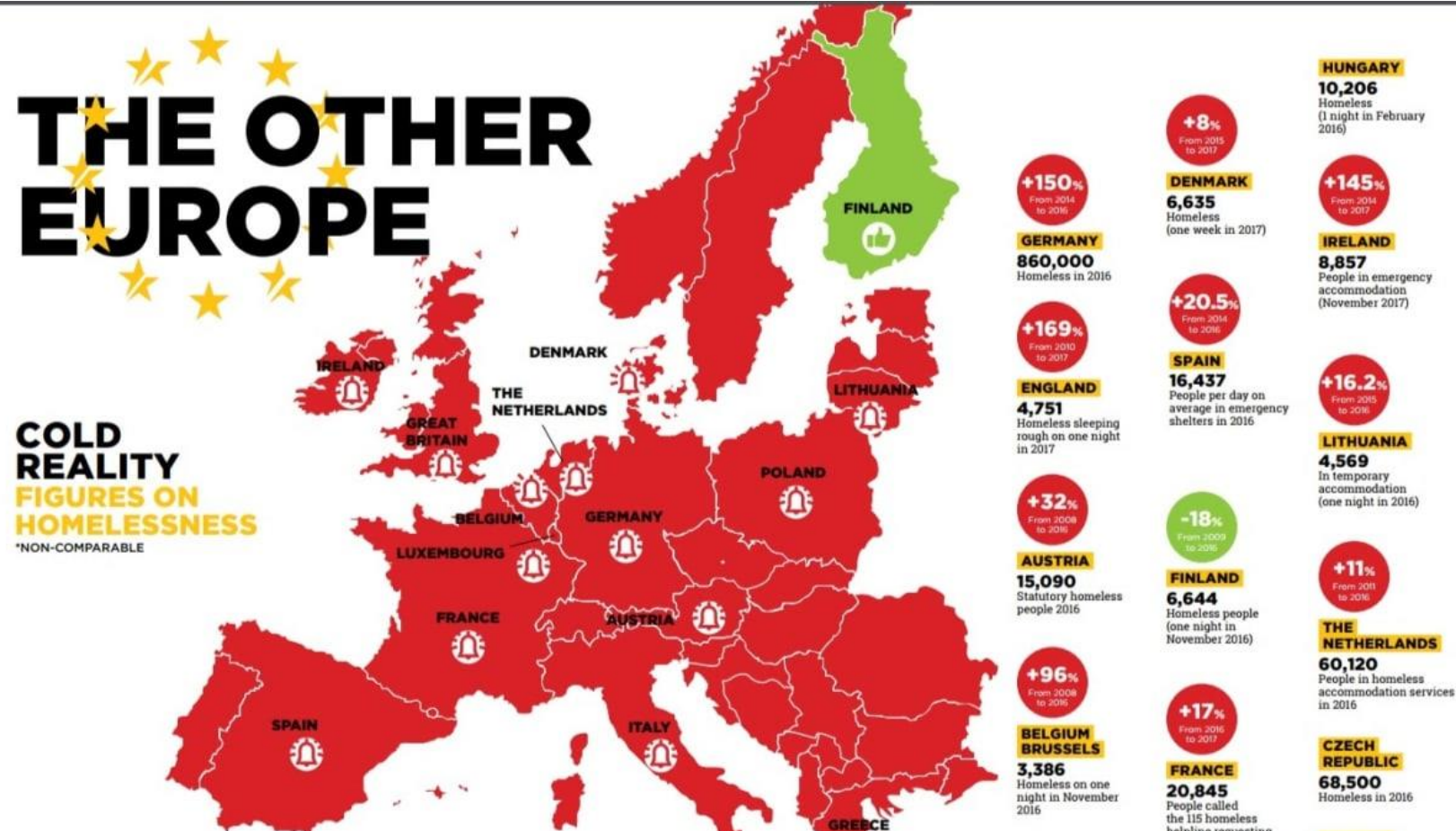


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Housing First is considered a “state of the art” programme in addressing homelessness and housing exclusion. It has been successfully scaled out and the research devoted to it has grown substantially (Aubry, 2020). However, where research lacks in understanding is in “factors in the local context that should be considered while discussing the introduction of this sophisticated method and its fidelity to the western model.” (Wygnańska, 2020)

lack of adequate
housing supply

Different social
housing models

refugee and
asylum seeker
needs

Gentrification



Housing is a Health determinant

After rehousing

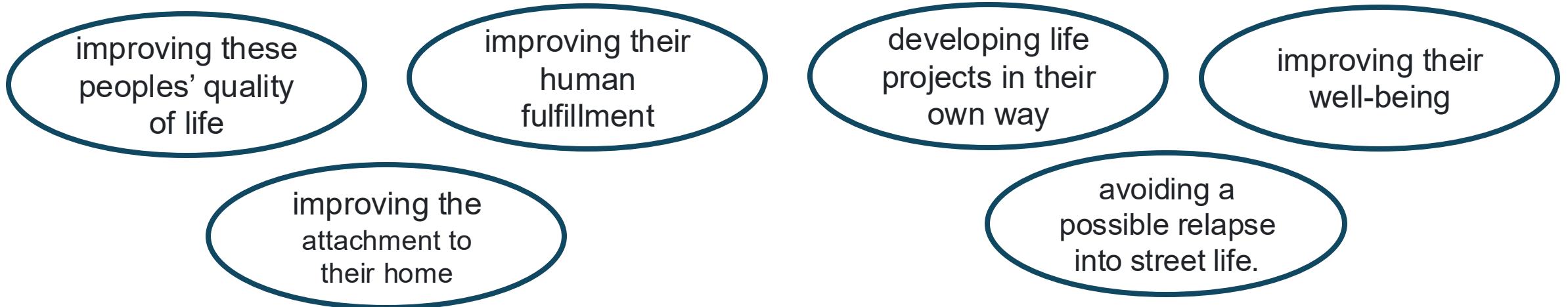
Over the past years, Street Nurses has been able to help some 200 homeless people in Brussels and Liège access sustainable housing by providing intensive accompaniment.

Even when our patients have found stable housing and a solid supporting network, we don't abandon them. Rather, they enter into the last stage of their journey of reintegration, which we call from now on "*My Way*".

Living in the streets leaves huge scars, both physically and mentally. And even with a roof over their heads, they still have a long way to go to restore their health and morale.

A relapse is always possible.

To avoid this with the rehoused patients, Idr transforms the follow-up into a prevention project under the name "*My Way*", in order to firmly anchor people in their new home with the following objectives



to indulge in some small pleasures and simply to feel well in their skin

Thank you

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