

AN END TO HOMELESSNESS: *Unlocking Systemic Change with Housing First*

Madrid 28-29th March



MADRID

CONFERENCE
Programme

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day 1 – 28th March, 2022

10:00 Registration & welcome coffee

10:30 Opening plenary session

Local welcome

- José Anierte Rueda, Councillor, City of Madrid / Concejal Ciudad de Madrid

Welcome from the Spanish Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda

- Raquel Sánchez Jiménez

Setting the stage

- Samara Jones, Coordinator, Housing First Europe Hub
- Marian Juste Picon, President, HOGAR SÍ

Keynote address: Contextualisation of the report and objectives of the conference

- Matt Downie, CEO, Crisis UK/Housing First Europe Hub

Keynote address: Systemic change and the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness

- Yves Leterme, Chair, European Platform on Combatting Homelessness

Presentation of main results and case studies of the report

- Juha Leppänen, Chief Executive, Demos Helsinki

12:30 Coffee break

13:00 Workshops – Session 1 (more details below)

14:30 Lunch

16:00 Workshops – Session 2

17:30 Drinks reception and networking opportunity

You are invited to use this networking session to set up informal meetings with conference attendees, speakers, colleagues, fellow stakeholders.

19:30 End of Day 1

Day 2 – 29th March, 2022

10:00 Registration & welcome coffee
Video welcome

- Andy Burnham, Mayor, Greater Manchester

10:30 Workshops – Session 3

12:00 Coffee break

12:30 Closing plenary session

Closing address: Ensuring political commitment towards systemic change

- Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner, European Commission

Perspectives on systemic change

Moderated by Ciara Carty, Focus Ireland/Housing First Europe Hub

- Mikko Aaltonen, Tampere City Council / European Committee of the Regions
- Meryame Kitir, Belgian Ministry of Development Cooperation and of Major Cities
- Renaud Payre, Vice President, Lyon Metropolitan Area
- Manuel Pizarro, European Parliament
- Adam Zábanský, Councillor, City of Prague

Closing address: Looking to the future

- Juha Kaakinen, Senior Advisor, Y-Foundation / Housing First Europe Hub

Conclusions and future commitments

- Ione Belarra, Spanish Ministry for Social Affairs and Agenda 2030

14:30 Lunch

15:30 End of conference

WORKSHOP LIST

There will be four (4) different topical workshops over the course of the conference. During each session (1, 2, or 3), we will run all four workshops. Participants will be able to choose

one to attend during each session. This way, participants will have the opportunity to attend three workshops out of the four available.

Workshop 1: Housing stock and access to it

Housing shortage is one of the greatest challenges faced by those who wish to engage in Housing First, housing-led or re-housing programmes for homeless populations. How do you encourage and support NGOs in acquiring scattered-site housing? And most importantly, how do you advocate for better housing policies that push funding towards the construction of more social housing? These are some of the guiding questions for this session.

Workshop 2: Structures and policies for systemic change

Plans to end homelessness – at national, regional or city level – can be important catalysts for structural and policy change. Finland is a well-known example of designing a successful homelessness strategy that drives systemic change. A national Housing First network has been instrumental in this achievement. This workshop highlights the impact and opportunities of policies and plans to end homelessness, as well as an understanding of how to build and maintain such a Housing First network, bringing together a multitude of actors and working towards shared objectives.

Workshop 3: Long-term and sufficient funding

Sustainable and predictable funding for the housing and support services in Housing First is crucial for success. The next step is to ensure these resources are used properly, guiding systemic change and supporting Housing First programmes for as long as needed. In the EU, the 'Next Generation EU' or Recovery Fund programme provides an unprecedented opportunity to access an important amount of funding for homelessness-related projects, including Housing First. This workshop provides the opportunity to discuss how different funding and financing streams can be adapted and created to support a systemic change toward a Housing First approach.

Workshop 4: Transition support

Having a system in place certainly helps, however, ensuring a cultural shift and supporting a rightful and just transition is essential when driving systemic change. This includes, for instance, a transition of the shelter sector that reduces the number of shelter beds while promoting more Housing First units. Another example is ensuring that all actors understand how Housing First works and why it should be used as a tool to reduce, end and prevent homelessness. Join this workshop to learn from experiences in other countries about the promotion of this double transition.