

PUBLIC CONFERENCE HOUSING FIRST: HOW TO MAKE IT WORK?

Date: 6 December, 2022. 09:15-12:30 pm (CET).

Venue: Boulevard Charlemagne 28, 1000 Bruxelles.

In June 2021, with the signing of the Lisbon Declaration, all EU Member States committed to work together towards the ending of homelessness by 2030 and launched the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness. The Platform brings together representatives of Member States, EU Institutions and civil society organisations in their efforts to fight homelessness, by reinforcing prevention and implementing integrated, housing-led approaches.

This initiative comes at a very crucial time. Already before the COVID-19 pandemic, our members had reported on a growing number of people experiencing homelessness across Europe, with groups such as migrants, women or people with mental health problems being particularly affected. Temporary safeguarding measures during the pandemic were introduced in many countries across Europe, which prevented a spike in evictions and homelessness. However, the end of these measures, together with the current war in Ukraine, soaring food and energy costs and general cost-of-living crisis are undoubtedly increasing the risk of evictions and homelessness.

In these circumstances, preventing homelessness and rapidly tackling it when it occurs should be a high priority for every country. For this, person-centred and integral strategies underpinned by housing-led approaches are critical. Housing-led models are diverse but they seek to reduce the time spent in temporary accommodation before someone moves into stable, long-term housing. Conversely, Housing First is a type of housing-led solution that focuses on providing housing right away and without prior requirements, together with tailored, non-conditional support for each individual, particularly for people with complex needs.

This event aims to open the discussion and stimulate the sharing of experiences between civil society representatives, service providers, researchers and policymakers on the development of successful housing-led and Housing First approaches. What is required to transition to these approaches? What kind of support do service providers need to implement housing-led and Housing-first projects? How can governments scale up successful Housing First projects? How can we ensure that States' homelessness strategies are underpinned by housing-led models?

Please register [here](#) by 30th November 2022. For further information please contact Magdalena.Bordagorry@eurodiaconia.org

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Agenda

08:45-09:15	Registration & welcome coffee
09:15-09:20	Welcome words by Anne-Sophie Wislocki, Head of Advocacy, Eurodiaconia.
09:20-10:00	Keynote speech – Samara Jones, Housing First Europe Hub Q&A
10:00-10:45	Best practices session- Successfully implementing Housing-first projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Slezská Diakonie- City of Ghent- Housing Europe member Q&A
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:20	Panel discussion - Common challenges & ways forward <ul style="list-style-type: none">- MEP Estrella Dura Fernandez- Michele Calandrino, DG EMPL, European Commission- Pernilla Parding, Stockholm City Missions- Freek Spinnewijn, Director of Feantsa- Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU (TBC) Moderator : Anne-Sophie Wislocki Q&A
12:20 - 12:30	Concluding remarks Anne-Sophie Wislocki, Head of Advocacy, Eurodiaconia