



Y-FOUNDATION

**Housing First as a key to ending
homelessness in Finland
...and in Europe?**

Juha Kahila, Head Of International Affairs

29.9.2022

**HOUSING FOR
SPECIAL GROUPS**



**AFFORDABLE
RENTAL HOUSING**

**FINLAND'S FOURTH
LARGEST LANDLORD**

Home for all.

**SPECIALIST IN
HOMELESSNESS
WORK**

**ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL WELL-BEING**



ADVOCACY

Strategic objectives 2020–2030



The economic and
social well-being of our
tenants



A fair transition
towards carbon
neutral living

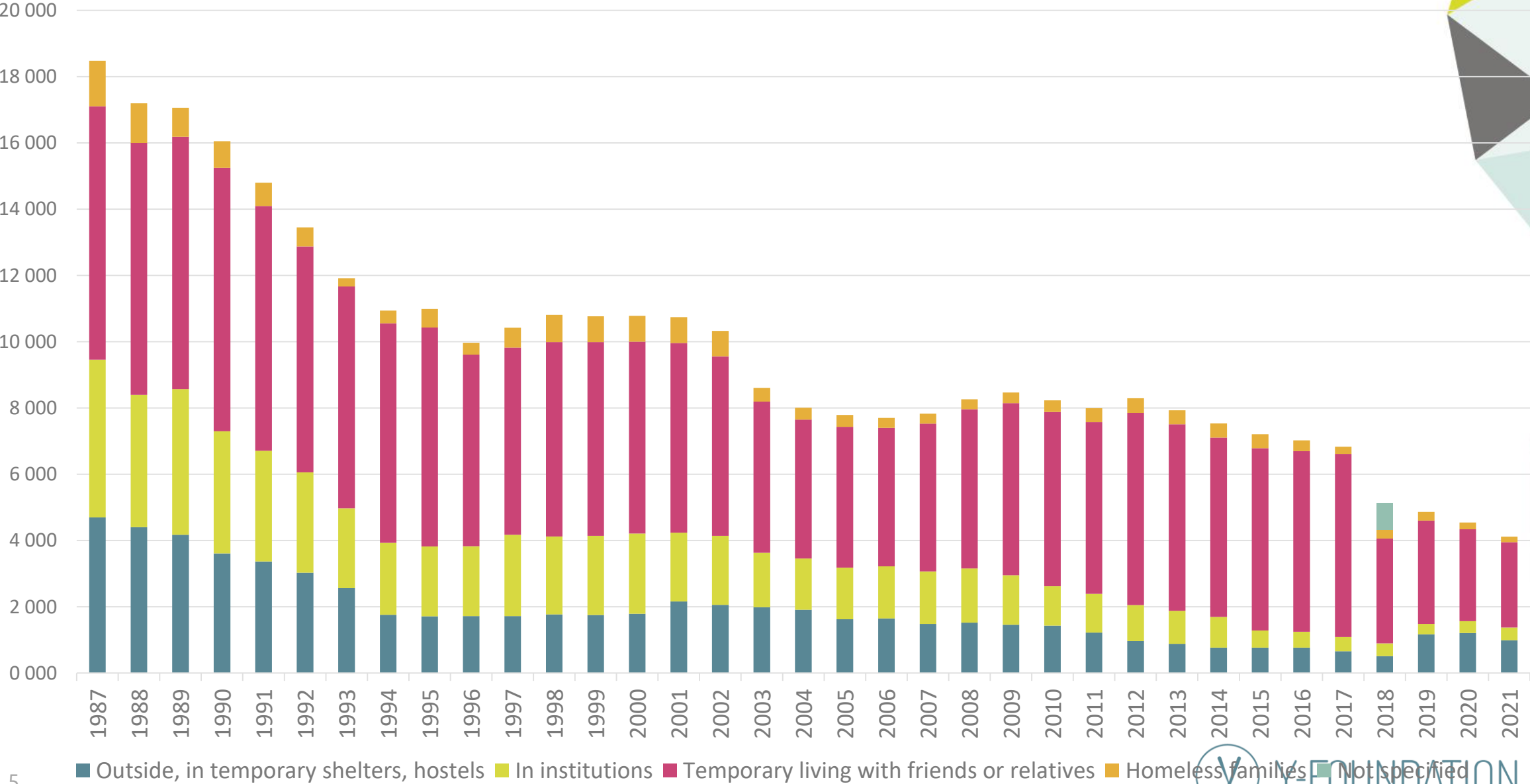


Eradicating
homelessness in Finland
and reducing it
internationally





Homelessness in Finland 1987-2021



Housing First in Finland

Housing as a **basic human and social right**

Housing in normal surroundings/**permanent homes**

Own **independent** rental apartment either in scattered housing or in a supported housing unit

Own **rental contract** (normally for unlimited time)

Adequate **support** if needed and wanted

Autonomy/**unconditionality**

Normality

Principles of Housing First Europe Guide

Ending homelessness is beneficial for the society

-15 000 €

CASE HÄRMÄLÄ: Study showed the savings in emergency healthcare, social services and the justice system totalled as much as €15,000 a year for every homeless person in properly supported housing.

-34 %

HOUSING FIRST UNIT: The overall costs decreased significantly especially among people recovering from mental health problems. The total cost of residents' use of health, social and police services decreased by 34%. Total cost savings were €10 300 per person per year.

Homelessness Action Plans 2008-2019: Public investments and expenditure (estimate)

Programme	PAAVO 1 2008–2011	PAAVO 2 2012–2015	AUNE 2016–2019 ¹²	Together
Total <u>financing</u>	170 M€	100 M€	78 M€	348 M€
<u>Annual cost</u>	42,5 M€	25 M€	19,5 M€	
Investment Grants for dwellings (<u>% of renovation and acquisition</u>)	80 M€ (47 %)	69 M€ (69 %)	54 M€ (69 %)	203 M€ (58 %)
Direct <u>impacts</u>	2145 dwellings, 200 new housing support jobs	3156 dwellings, over 300 housing support jobs	1836 <u>dwellings</u> , 90 <u>housing councillors</u>	7137 <u>dwellings</u>
Number of Homeless persons (single)	2008: 7955 2011: 7606 - 349	2011: 7606 2015: 6785 - 821	2015: 6785 2018: 4882 - 1903	2008: 7955 2018: 4882 = - 3073
<u>Estimate annual savings</u>		12,3 M€	19,5 M€	PAAVO 2 & AUNE: 31,8 M €

The Government is committed to ending homelessness

**HOMELESSNESS
COMPLETELY ERADICATED
BY 2027**

**CONTRACTS
BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT AND THE
CITIES (MAL)**



**SOCIAL HOUSING
QUOTA INCREASES
20 % -> 35 %**

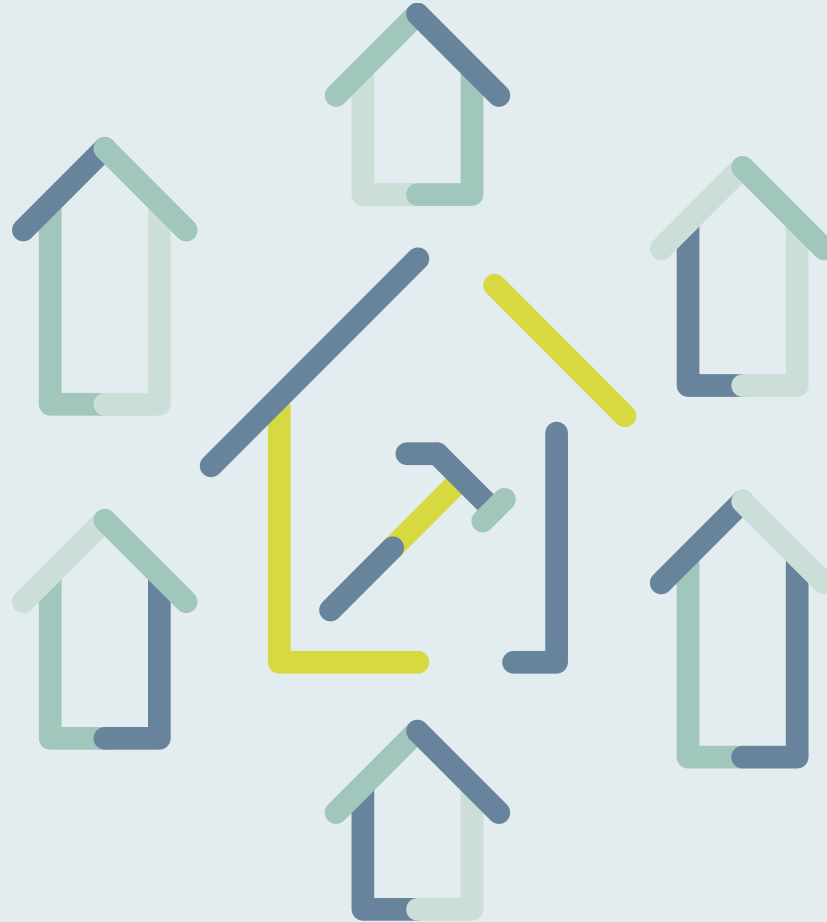
**HOUSING COUNSELLING
BECOMES STATUTORY**

National Homelessness Programmes



Housing options

FLATS IN SCATTERED
HOUSING



FLATS IN SUPPORTED
HOUSING UNITS

'HYBRID'



Sahaajankatu (City of Helsinki)

80 bed places, closed down in 2009.



©Heidi Piironen HS



©Suojapirtti

Väinölä (SLEY)



Väinölä

- Supported housing
- **33** apartments (35 tenants)
- Opened 2014
- Built by Y-Foundation
- Leased to City of Espoo
- Support provided by Salvation Army (11 co-workers)



HOUSING FIRST

From shelters to homes





HOUSING FIRST

From shelters to homes



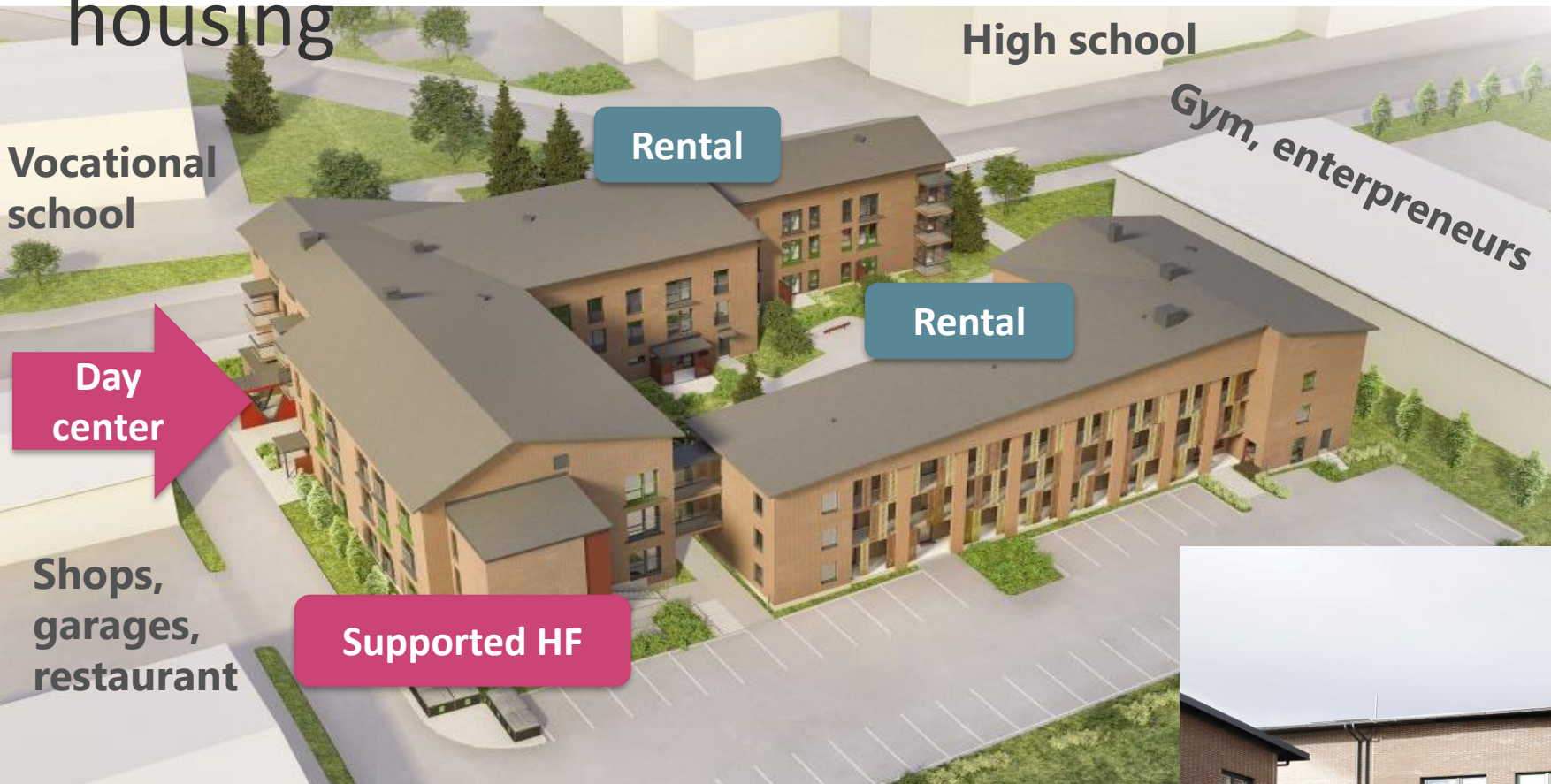
• © Leif Rosas

Alppikatu 25

- Opened in 1936:
 - As a shelter with 250 bed places
- Since 2012:
 - Supported housing
 - 81 independent rental apartments
 - 88 residents
 - Apartment size 19–36 m²
 - On site personnel by Salvation Army
 - 22 employees



HF unit Wäylä + daycenter + scattered housing



Scattered housing



Homelessness in Europe

FINLAND IS THE
ONLY
EU COUNTRY
WHERE THE
NUMBER OF
HOMELESS PEOPLE
IS **ON THE
DECLINE.**



Joint forces in Europe

- **European Platform on Combatting Homelessness**
 - European institutions, EU governments and civil society have committed to working together towards combatting homelessness in the EU.
- **Feantsa**
 - FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless
- **Housing First Europe HUB**
 - The Hub was established by the Y-Foundation (Finland) and FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations Working with Homeless People), along with more than 15 partners in July 2016. Since then, the Hub has grown to include more than 37 organisations from across Europe, and beyond.

We work in partnership with our core and associate partners to promote Housing First as the first and central response to homelessness.

EU Funding

European Social Fund+ (ESF+)

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)

Challenges in Europe

Short term solutions

- No need for more pilots to prove what we already know!
- Project based scaling up: risk of discontinuity and risk of Housing First ending up as an alternative among others
- No national programs

Lack of different housing solution

High social cost of not tackling homelessness

Lack of comprehensive data, which would allow monitoring homelessness in the EU

Homelessness levels have rise. Except In Finland, Norway and Denmark

Cooperation between different sectors

Lack of prevention work

General attitude

New social housing



Successes in Europe

- **Denmark**
 - New homelessness strategy which mainstreams HF
 - All stakeholders agree – deep co-operation
 - From temporary to permanent housing
- **Norway**
 - HF leads the way of working
- **Scotland**
 - Peer work is best in the world
- **Spain**
 - Know how to use different funding sources from The EU
 - New 3 year project / 30million € from EU Covid recovery funds

Different paradigms, different housing solutions

Managing homelessness

Temporary

Short-term

Long-term

shelter

hostel

Permanent

Housing First
Supported housing:

*In supported
housing
units*

In scattered housing

*Independent
Social housing*

Ending homelessness

Critical elements of ending homelessness

Housing First as the mainstream policy

Permanent housing solutions


Alternative housing solutions and tailor-made support

Affordable social housing (structural prevention)

Method of **implementation**:

- Wide partnership
- Concrete measurable quantitative goals
- Short timespan from decision to execution

General housing **benefit**

A photograph of a light-colored wooden door. On the left side, there is a silver-colored door handle with a black grip. Above the handle is a small, square silver lock. To the right of the handle is a large, rectangular silver vent with a black interior. The text is centered on the door.

Shelters solve sleeping
Housing solves ...
homelessness



Y-FOUNDATION

ysaatio.fi | m2kodit.fi

juha.kahila@ysaatio.fi