

Vva ry



HOUSING ENDS HOMELESSNESS

GLASGOW City Chambers 3rd of October
2017 - Sanna Tiivola No Fixed Abode

FINNISH STORY IN A NUTSHELL

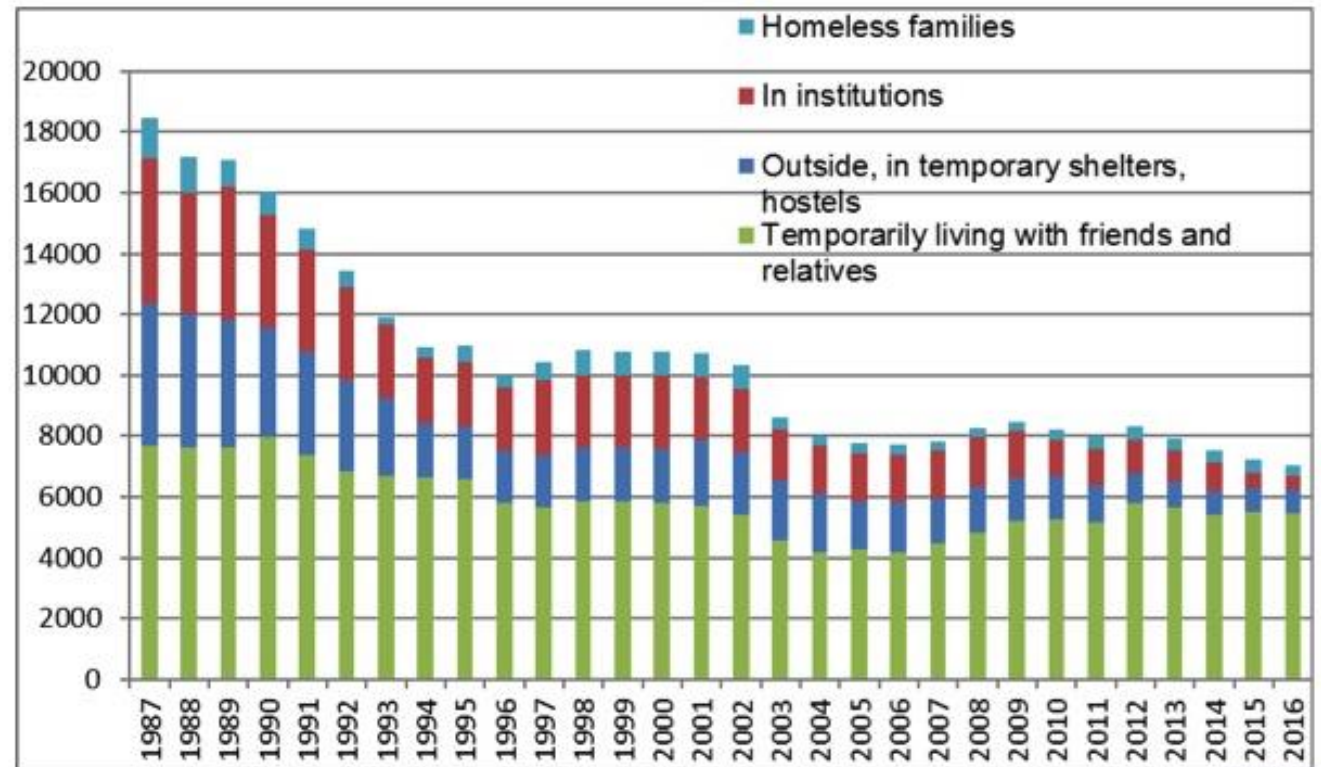
- In recent years Finland has been the only European country where homelessness has decreased (2000 over 10 000 /2016: 6650 single homeless persons)
- Wide definition of homelessness 80 % living temporarily with friends and relatives
- From 2008 to 2015 long-term homelessness has decreased with 1345 persons (35%)
- Housing retention rate 82% (only 18 % returned back homelessness)
- In Finland affordable social housing 15% of the housing stock (free market rental 15%)



STATISTICS

ara

Number of homeless 1987-2016 in Finland



4/8/2017

The housing market survey 2016 prepared by ARA – The Housing Finance and Development Centre on Finland

Leveraging from
the EU
2014–2020



BACKGROUND

- Homeless people wanted to get rid of shelters already in 1986
- Original idea from New York
"Pathways to housing" transformed
"Housing First Finland"
- Housing minister *Jan Vapaavuori* of Prime minister *Matti Vanhanen* `s government set up a group of four wise men who created bases for the program called "PAAVO" *Finnish governments program to reduce and eliminate long-term homelessness.*



Housing First Finland

- Housing as a basic social right
- Housing in normal surroundings
- Own independent rental apartment either in scattered housing or in a supported housing unit
- Own rental contract (unlimited time)
- Separation of housing and services
- Adequate support:
- Intensive support 5 support workers/10 inhabitants in service housing
- Support in scattered housing 1/10



HOUSING FIRST FINLAND -ETHICAL AND ECONOMICAL ARGUMENTS



Housing first treats formerly homeless people as normal citizens rather than as clients or patients

- Housing is a basic human and social right
- A civilized state takes care of its most vulnerable inhabitants
- A study conducted by the Technical University of Tampere shows that housing with intensified support halves the use of social and health services compared to service-use during homelessness
- This equates to 14 000 euros of saving per person /year





PAAVO -programs 2008-2015



PAAVO Programs 2008-2015

- A government program coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Criminal Sanction Agency, The Housing Finance and Development Centre for Finland, Slot Machine Association (STEA), **11** cities with highest numbers of Homeless people, the Church, NGOs and private companies
- Program was implemented by letters of intent concluded between state authorities and **11** largest cities in Finland

TARGETS

- To halve long-term homelessness 2008-2011 and end it by 2015- a quantitative target set for creating 2500 new dwellings, supported housing or "care places" (1500 in capital area Helsinki) in 11 cities
- Conversion of all shelters and dormitory-type hostels into supported housing units
- Reinforcing Housing First-approach as a mainstream organizing principle for housing and support services for homeless people
- More effective measures to prevent homelessness



Long- term homeless people were defined:

"A group of homeless people whose homelessness is classed as prolonged or cronical, or threatens to be that way becauce conventional housing solutions fail with this group+ inadequate supply of solutions which meet individual needs"

TARGET GROUP



- Definition of long-term homelessness: person who has been homeless for over 1 year or recurrently homeless within two years and has serious health and social problems
- The program foresees that shelters and residential homes for long term housing of homeless people will be gradually abandoned in favour of residential units which allow for independent, subsidized and supervised living

TARGET GROUP



Shelter renovation- why?

- 2008: **600** bed places on hostels and shelters
- 2016 : Service centre with 52 bed places for emergency use
- Living in a hostel is always a temporary solution
- No privacy and very limited professional help in your problems
- Hostels sustain a culture of irresponsibly
- Renovation of hostels has increased public safety



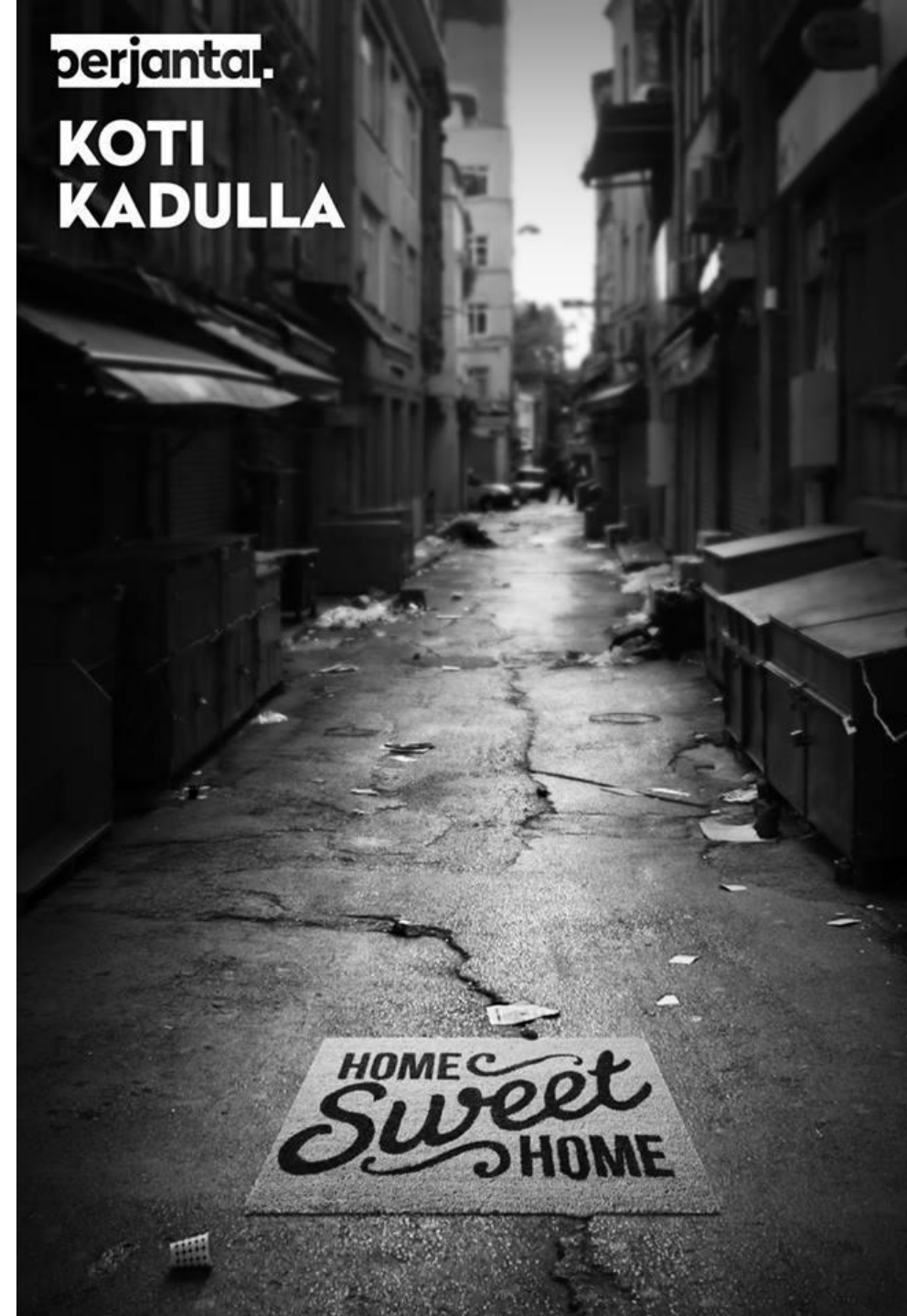
Partners

- Letters of intent , formal contracts Ministries/Cities
- Committed partners and multidisciplinary work over administrative and professional boundaries
- Sub-projects for preventing youth homelessness and homelessness of ex-prisoners
- A development network
- Research supporting development work



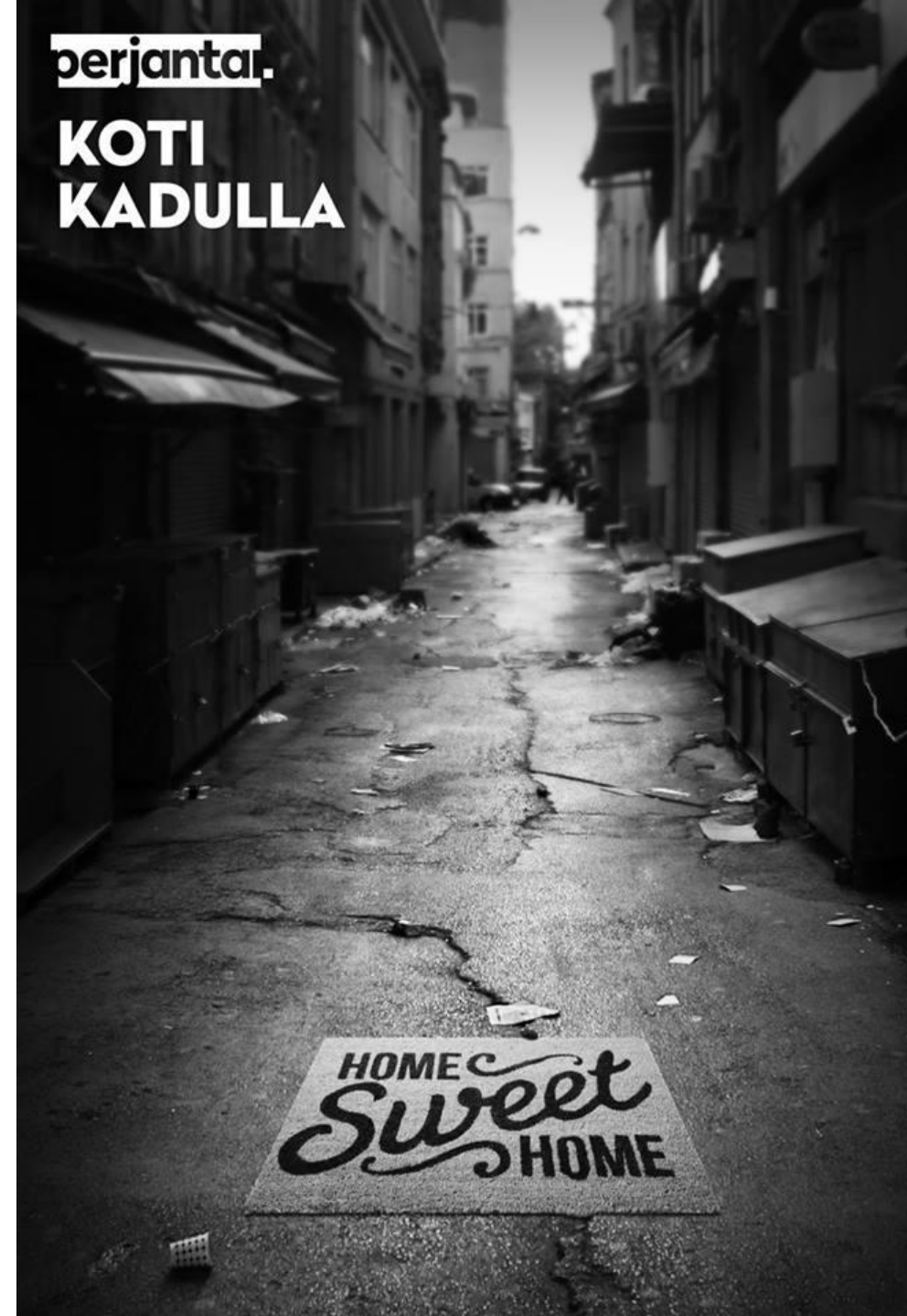
Resources

- 2007 ("Diligents"-group) in Helsinki set by a deputy Mayor (Social and Health sector)
- PAAVO 1 (2008-2011) Total funding appr.170 M€ including financing from state authorities and cities
- PAAVO 2 (2011-2015)
- 22M € investment grants from the Housing Finance and Development fund of Finland (ARA) for construction of new housing units and renovation (max 50 %)



Resources

- 10 M € grants for salary costs of support workers from the Ministry of Social Welfare and health (max 50 %)
- 32,3 M € grants for buying scattered housing from the private market from the Slot Machine Association (RAY now STEA)
- 18,6 M € grants for development projects RAY
- Own funding from the project cities (50 % of personnel costs)
- **Government total budget 201,1 m €**



Participation of homeless people

No Fixed Abode (NGO) - 31 years of participation - ideas and initiatives of the homeless carried into practice

No Fixed Abode has a special focus on promoting participation and empowerment of homeless people

The group of people who had experienced homelessness created **The suggestions of participation**; recommendations for service providers, funding, authorities and staff (e.g. user involvement, support planning processes, staff qualification, client information)



Participation of homeless people

Expert of homelessness in national steering group

Setting up a network of peer support workers who work for No Fixed Abode

Holistic approach to homelessness, centered on users' needs

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

Upper photo: Concept competition 2011

Lower photo: Planning group: men from HF-pilot House of Fellows, homeless man, architect, Y-Foundation, builders etc..



Participation of homeless people

Own Keys -project - experts by experience have gathered the views of homeless people and people with experience in homelessness to be used in all planning concerning homeless services

The project workers and people with experience have been invited as experts to train researchers, as well as professionals in social and health care and in the construction sector

Setting up a national network of homeless people

-> None of the services under development will succeed if they are being developed without service users





“Nothing for us without us”



Success –why?

- All the most important stakeholders were within the program
- Implementation plans were made and they were structured well
- The enthusiasm of municipalities who were responsible of the program
- Homeless people were involved in planning and implementing
- The overall funding and the funding model of the programme was sufficient
- Quantitative targets met and exceeded
- Adequate data available
- Defining long-term homelessness

Success

- The reduction programme changed the structure of services for the homeless
- The "Housing First" principle has been shown to work
- The concreteness of the letter of intent increased the credibility of the programme
- The path to housing for newly released prisoners was made more effective
- The programme has trialled public tendering approaches for new type of services



Success

- The commitment of the parties with power and resources
- The co-operation of two ministries crucial; minister of housing and minister of social and welfare – using the power
- Reasonable mutual understanding of the methods used to achieve results (refers to real people and organisations taking responsibility in the right place at the same time)
- Commitment that lasted past the government term (Finnish programme included in the long-term plan by Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen)- ensuring its annual investments and operating funding



Success..

- The employment of support staff "KASTE" ensured sufficient support
- *First time the state participated in funding support personnel related to national projects among homeless people*
- The effect of the programme shows in the streetscape
- Investment made in environmental work
- Development of housing social work started
- Implementation of the conversation programme for dormitory accomodation confirmed- "mindset change"
- *Investment in prevention*
- ARA grants: **14** new housing advisors employed in the cities
- Eviction prevention insructions had been drawn up in all cities
- A new type of service chain has been produced to prevent homelessness among young people



Success and measures

- **Housing:**
 - Over **3500** new apartment built/purchased for homeless people
 - Independent housing in city rental housing 376/Supported housing units 1014/Supported scattered housing in NGO's 626/ Supported scattered housing in city rental housing 1063/Youth Housing **435**
- **Services:**
 - **300** new professional support workers in housing social work
 - Housing advice services have prevented **200** evictions per year





Arguments

- The target was not totally received – in 2016 still 2050 long-term homeless people according to statistics
- Housing units/scattered housing?
- Housing last/Housing first/Bottle first?
- The House of Fellows first pilot- 20 dead/ 4 people moved scattered housing 2007-2017- way out limited all though approach was needs-based
- Housing units (concrete housing) reminded shelters- staff's time goes to solve the conflicts not for the support
- Finnish strategy to end long-term homelessness is not legislative based. Risk that it depends too much on good will.

Evaluation

- Two international reviews made
- Peer Review; The Finnish National Programme to reduce long-term homelessness (*European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities*)
- The Finnish Homeless Strategy – An International Review (Nicholas Pleace, Dennis Culhane, Riitta Granfelt, Marcus Knutagård)
- *Reports of the ministry of the environment 3en/2015*
- www.asuntoensin.fi





Thank You!

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