

NETWORKING FOR DEVELOPMENT (2016-2019)



THE TARGETS OF THE PROJECT ARE

- ✓ To strengthen the role of NGOs in developing services for homeless people
- ✓ To clarify and mainstream the Finnish Housing First – principle in homeless services
- ✓ Coordinate the development work of the AUNE -program

NETWORKING FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (2016-2019)

The networking for development project is part the national Action Plan for Preventing Homelessness in Finland 2016-2019 (AUNE). Networking for Development is a partnership project of five NGOs working with homeless people: **Y-Foundation**, **Helsinki Deaconess Institute (HDL)**, **No Fixed Abode NGO (VVA ry.)**, **Street Mission in Rauma Region** and **The Finnish Blue Ribbon**. Y-Foundation is responsible for running the project and the partner organizations has a special theme which they are responsible for. RAY (Finland´s Slot Machine Association) has granted funds for the project for years 2016-2019.

The partner organizations' areas of expertise:

- Y-Foundation: scattered housing, leasing, project coordination
- No Fixed Abode NGO: participation of service users in planning and providing services
- Street Mission in Rauma Region: support services at home
- Helsinki Deaconess Institute: community work, neighborhood work, low-threshold outreach youth work
- The Finnish Blue Ribbon: services for most excluded homeless people

EXTENSIVE COOPERATION

The project started in 2013 and coordinated the development work of the national program on long-term homelessness PAAVO II (2012-2015). In AUNE -program the project goal is to continue **to support the joint development** of the actions and the projects in homelessness prevention. The project works together with cities and NGOs and it creates a permanent cooperation structure for all the national actors in homelessness services. In addition the project supports widespread deployment of the already developed and existing good practises. In AUNE -program altogether 18 projects are responsible for delivering homelessness services.



Take contact!

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IMPLEMENTATION

➤ A series of **network meetings and training events**

- Themes include: prevention, outreach work, evaluation of support needs, services and community work in supported housing units, neighbourhood work, support at home, leadership in the transformation process, challenges in the new HF-work culture, safety, trauma etc.
- Feedback is collected after every training session in order to focus on themes that are most relevant in support work.
- Every year the project arranges about 20 seminars or training sessions for people who work in support services provided by local authorities or NGOs. These can be national, areal or local events.

➤ All activities are documented and results reported in Finnish on the **asuntoensin.fi** -website (in English **housingfirst.fi**) and they are there available also after the project has ended. The site is established to be the major database for the work on homelessness in Finland.

➤ **Consulting services** are used in developing new service models and the results are available for the cities to use.

➤ **International work:** cooperation with the Housing First Europe Hub and FEANTSA, international study visits, hosting international visitors.

PROJECT ORGANISATION

Two person working full time in the project (see above) in close cooperation with the lead of AUNE. Project partners take part in the **executive group**. The group is administered and coordinated by Y-Foundation.

Two different **teams of specialists** (wide and small team) that represents project partners and cities involved provide help for implementing the project plan. The specialist teams can nominate working groups on various themes and take part in planning and organizing training.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED...?

A few aspects of the project benefits that have risen up in the network meetings and training events:

- Importance of the opportunities to meet peer workers and reflect working methods and learning from each other
- Knowledge of the housing first based living: the change from shelters to individual housing with tenancy agreements caused need for education (e.g. law concerning rental leases and the rights of the inhabitants)
- Professional orientation and attitudes in institutionalized housing social work versus housing first based services