



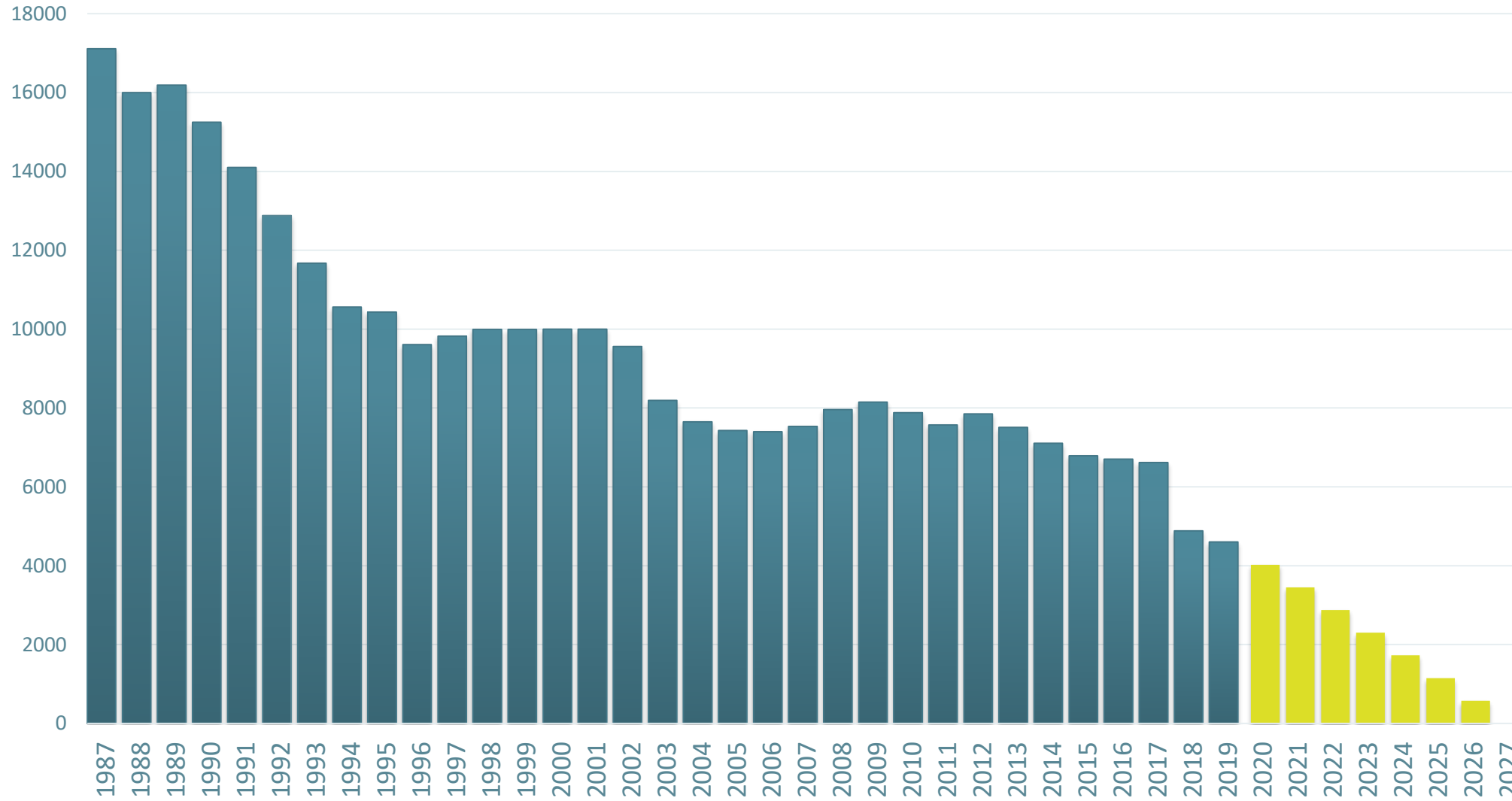
Y-FOUNDATION

Ending Homelessness in Finland with Housing First

CEO Juha Kaakinen

8.6.2021

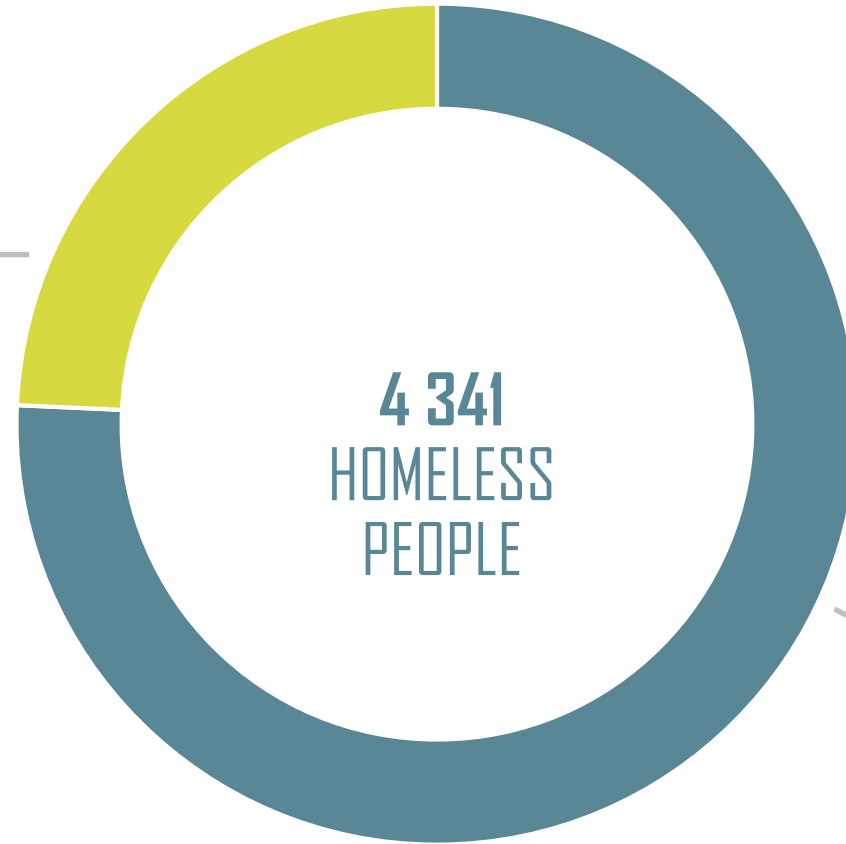
Homelessness in Finland 1987 - 2027



Homelessness in Finland 2020

LONG-TERM HOMELESS

1054



4 341
HOMELESS
PEOPLE

SHORT-TERM HOMELESS

3 287

Includes people living temporarily with friends and relatives, sofa surfers, 64%

Shelter renovation: Why we wanted to get rid of shelters and hostels – and what made it possible?

- Living in a hostel or shelter is always a temporary solution
- A person living in a hostel is still homeless
- No privacy and very limited professional help in your problems
- Hostels sustain a culture of irresponsibility, a “prison-like” subculture
- Renovation of hostels has increased public safety
- **Carrot:** State grants for renovation 50%
- **Stick:** Obligation to work according to Housing First principles in the future
- Systematic training for personnel (also new personnel hired)

VÄINÖLÄ HOUSING UNIT
ESPOO



- Completed in 2014
- 33 rental flats
- The Salvation Army as service provider.

Housing First in Finland

HOUSING AS
A **BASIC HUMAN
AND SOCIAL RIGHT**

**FIRST HOUSING,
SOLVING OTHER PROBLEMS
SECOND**



PROVIDING **SUPPORT
IF NEEDED**

HOUSING **IN NORMAL
SURROUNDINGS AND
PERMANENT HOMES**

Housing First in Finland

OWN
RENTAL CONTRACT
(NORMALLY FOR UNLIMITED
TIME)

**AUTONOMY AND
UNCONDITIONALITY**



**OWN INDEPENDENT
RENTAL
APARTMENT IN
SCATTERED
HOUSING OR IN A
SUPPORTED
HOUSING UNIT**

NORMALITY

PRINCIPLES OF HOUSING FIRST EUROPE GUIDE

What has worked?

PERMANENT HOMES FOR
OVER 5000 PEOPLE

SYSTEMIC CHANGE FROM SHELTERS
AND HOSTELS INTO A **HOUSING FIRST** BASED
PERMANENT HOUSING

SMALL (MAX. 33 FLATS)
SUPPORTED HOUSING UNITS



CULTURE OF **COLLABORATION &**
DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

PREVENTION: HOUSING ADVISORS
PREVENTING **EVICCTIONS**

INCREASING **SOCIAL HOUSING**
SUPPLY

EXPERTS BY **EXPERIENCE** INVOLVED IN
PLANNING

What has not worked so well: Challenges and Failures

ATTITUDES: COMPLACENCY

LACK OF INTEGRATION OF BASIC SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES:

LACK OF SMALL AFFORDABLE FLATS

MORE PEOPLE NEED MORE SUPPORT

ICM HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN INTENSIVE ENOUGH

NIMBY

UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT OF HF THINKING AND PRACTICE



New National programme 2020-2023

1. Aim to halve the existing homelessness (and end it by 2027) with Housing First
2. 11 biggest "homelessness" cities, city specific plans
3. Social housing share to be increased from 25% to 30% in new housing areas
4. Housing advisory services will be statutory
5. Developing new low threshold services and forms of support in scattered housing



Critical elements of ending homelessness

Housing First as the mainstream policy

Alternative housing solutions and tailor-made support

Method of **implementation**:

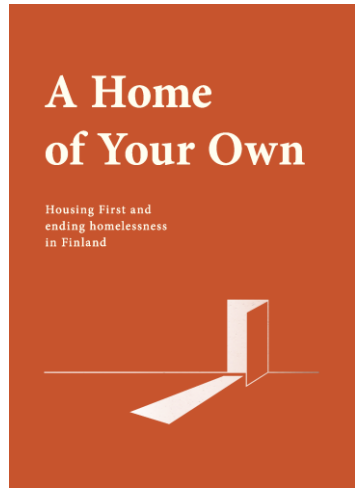
- Wide partnership
- Concrete measurable quantitative goals
- Short timespan from decision to execution

Permanent housing solutions

Affordable social housing (structural prevention)

General housing **benefit**

Our publications



*A Home of Your Own –
Housing First and
ending homelessness in
Finland*

Download for free:
ysaatio.fi/the-book



*Homelessness in
2030 – Essays on
possible futures*
Download for free:
[ysaatio.fi/homelessnessin
2030](https://ysaatio.fi/homelessnessin2030)

- The International Public Policy Observatory blog 2/2021:
<https://covidandsociety.com/beyond-the-covid-crisis-can-emergency-measures-be-turned-into-systemic-change-to-address-and-end-homelessness>