







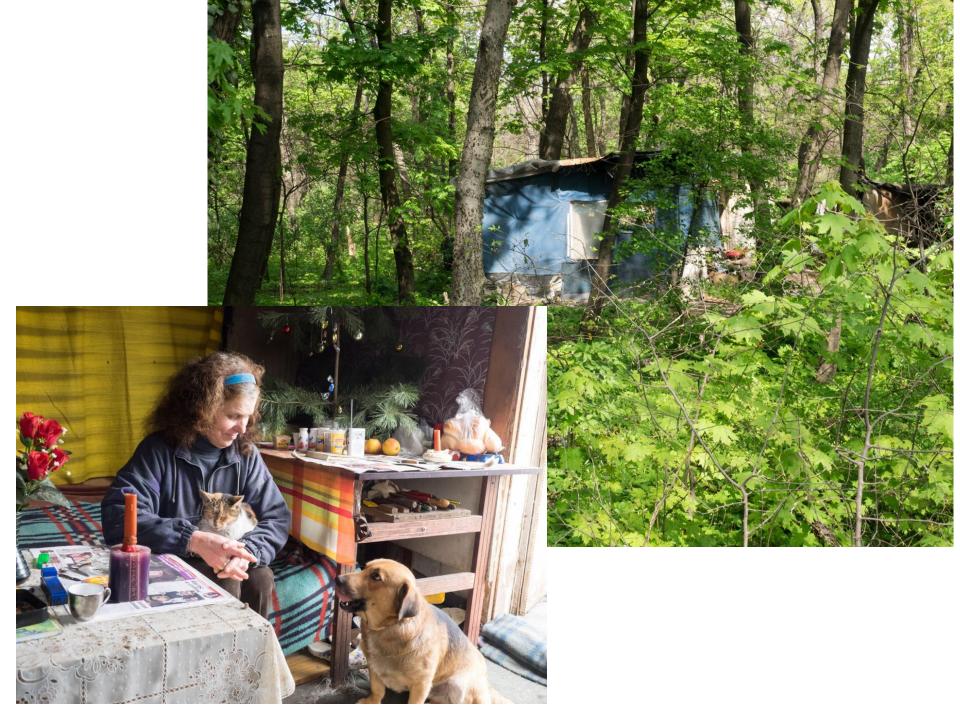
# From Streets to Homes Association Budapest

Dublin, 2023 09.20.

## **From Streets to Homes Association**

Overview:	https://	utcaroll	lakas	ba.hu/
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From Huts to Homes	Based on Housing First approach		
Housing Now!	Social Housing Agency and SZÁD		
Give Work and community social work	Weekly support groups for various target groups incl. women, refugees and jobseekers		
Solidarity Accommodation	Helping ukrainian refugees to find short term accommodation		
Advocacy, and communication	Changing the way how society and decision makers see and act on housing poverty		





#### Some background

#### We

- are an NGO
  - do not receive any government funding as service provider
  - are 11 years old started by 4 people around a kitchen table, serving
    450 clients today
- are 25 staff + 2 "full time" volunteer + trainees + volunteers
- 450+ clients in 3 housing programs
- strong roots in housing activism





### **Housing policies in Hungary**

- poorly designed, politically excluded
- 11 000 homeless, and more other shelter places
- 100 000 social Flats with no directive to prioritize homeless people
- most Hungarian families live in own homes, small and expensive rental market
- no official ways out from homeless and family shelters
- no central housing benefits/ allowances available based on financial needs
- buying and rental prices both skyrocketing
- Housing crisis is not only affecting the poorest households, but more and more
  - people
  - -> https://lakhatasiminimum.hu/







#### Impact and difference: From Huts to Homes program

- Our oldest program, based on Housing First approach
- 100+ volunteers each year (except for the covid times)
- Mostly elderly clients
- Partnership with 3 district municipalities in Budapest
- We renovate the flats, with the help of the tenants and volunteers.
- We provide social work for the clients
  - We cannot provide other social services, or healthcare services.
  - We need to cooperative with others.





# Principles in action

Housing is a Human Right

Choice and control for clients

treatment

we recognize it and advocate for it

we implement it with referrals to outer services

we implement it as the referred services are not a condition

we recognize it yet poor services and discrimination in

service provision makes implementation challenged

We are trying to strengthen it

Recovery orientation

Harm reduction

Separation of Housing and services/

Active engagement without coercion

Person-centered planning

we implement it as we use community social work as a key tool to strengthen individual engagement without coercion we implement it with each client having individual case manager social worker with individual plan for care

goals

to tenancy

#### Cooperation with other organizations and services

- Accomodation:
  - District Municipalities Tenant acceptance, local benefits
  - District Municipality Trustees managing the flats
- Social and health services:
  - Street social workers (outreach) in this case: Hungarian Red Cross
  - District Municipality Social Services social catering, home care work
  - Other Foundations addiction, mental health
  - Clients local (or choosen) general health practitioner
  - Hospitals healthcare and hospital social work
- Aid and volunteering
  - Budapest Municipality/Shelter Foundation Casual financial aid
  - Volunteers helping with renovation
  - Volunteer mental health advocate
  - Streetlawyer Association







#### **Lessons learned: Housing First, but what is next?**

- Advocacy is a must, especially in less developed service environment, and hostile political environment
  - strict ban on street homelessness
  - no local funding for HF or social innovations
- Learning by doing
  - Introducing a new service is a constant experimenting process
  - we strongly build on the colleagues opinions and ideas, and try to improve our ability to build on clients' feedbacks as well
- Independence and female leadership
- Building a strong community





#### **Discussion**

How are you using your Housing First/field experiences to advocate for housing policies' improvement? Tibor

lessons learn

How do you do evaluation and iteration in your work? How do you build on lessons learned during your work? Melinda

Participation and leadership

How do you/ or can you build on the opinions and feedback of colleagues and service users? Annamária and Rubina

Do you have a special focus on female leadership, and weather yes, or now what impact on your work it should have? Vera







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