Homelessness Policy, System Change and Collective Transformative Agencies

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Prague 20.11.2017

SYSTEM CHANGE (I): From downshift of night-shelters to modern housing led policy with supported service provision (end of 70's – beginning of 1990's)

- New diagnosis: Understanding that housing and housing-led policy has to have the main responsability in solving homelessness
- New policy: Decisions that housing & social- and health care policies were integrated at all levels: national, regional and local policies – new obligations in housing legislation, first government programme with a target to abolish homelessness (1987-1991)
- New shelter policy: Decisions to stop building new shelters, part of existing shelters were renovated and worst night-shelters were demolished
- New housing supply: New support homes (10-15 tenants), supported flats and independent flats started to replace mass accomodation
- New housing finance: State loans, subsidies for own capital and special grants for new production and renovation of rental housing and byuing existing owner-occupied flats and renting them to homeless persons
- New service provision: Comprehensive reform of social welfare legislation and state aid system – first definition of support and service housing, state aid covering 37-65 % of investment and operational costs, integrating subsistence income support under same legislation
- New agencies: State and cities take the lead, innovative services from third sector organisations like Helsinki Diakonissa Institute, establishing Y-foundation (1985) and No Fixed Abode (1986) (representing homeless people)

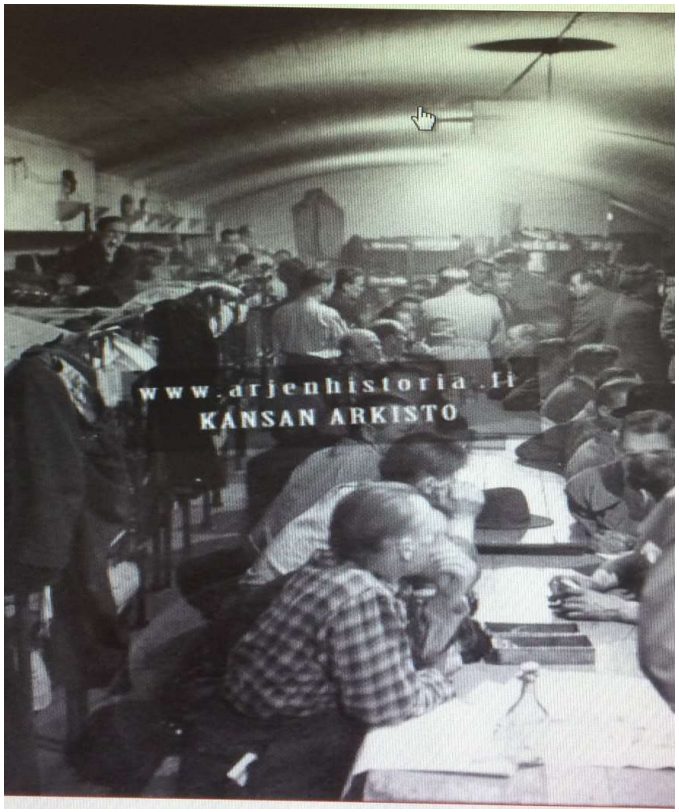
SYSTEM CHANGE (II) : Piloting and mainstreaming Housing First with integrated intensive support for long-term homeless people (2008 - 2015)

- New paradigm-comprehensive strategy: Housing first, prevention and affordable housing supply
- Ambitious goal and long-term commitment: halving long-term homelessness in 2011, ending it 2015.
- Strong state input: 100 % funding for investements, 50 % grant for new personal
- Contract with biggest cities: earmarked, cost-effective focus on new housing units, conversion of shelters to supported housing, recruiting social workers
- Mainstreaming: all city-based and outside service provision for long-term homeless population have to rely on housing first (own flats, tenacy agreement, harm reduction, separation of housing and treatment)

NEXT CHANGE: Mainstreaming preventive practices ?
Action programme 2016 - 2019

- Early intervention services: expanding housing counselling, avoiding evictions and rent arrears, low threshold service centres for social integration
- Reducing overdebtness: mainstreaming preventative debt counselling
- Sharing home insurance risks between tenants, landlords, insurance companies and state
- Piloting local homelessness prevention strategies in 6 bigger cities
- More responsive client work: professional mobil teams etc
- More diversified and targeted affordable housing: letter of intents with 10 cities

From afterwar housing crisis to visible homelessness (middle of 50's-middle of 70's)



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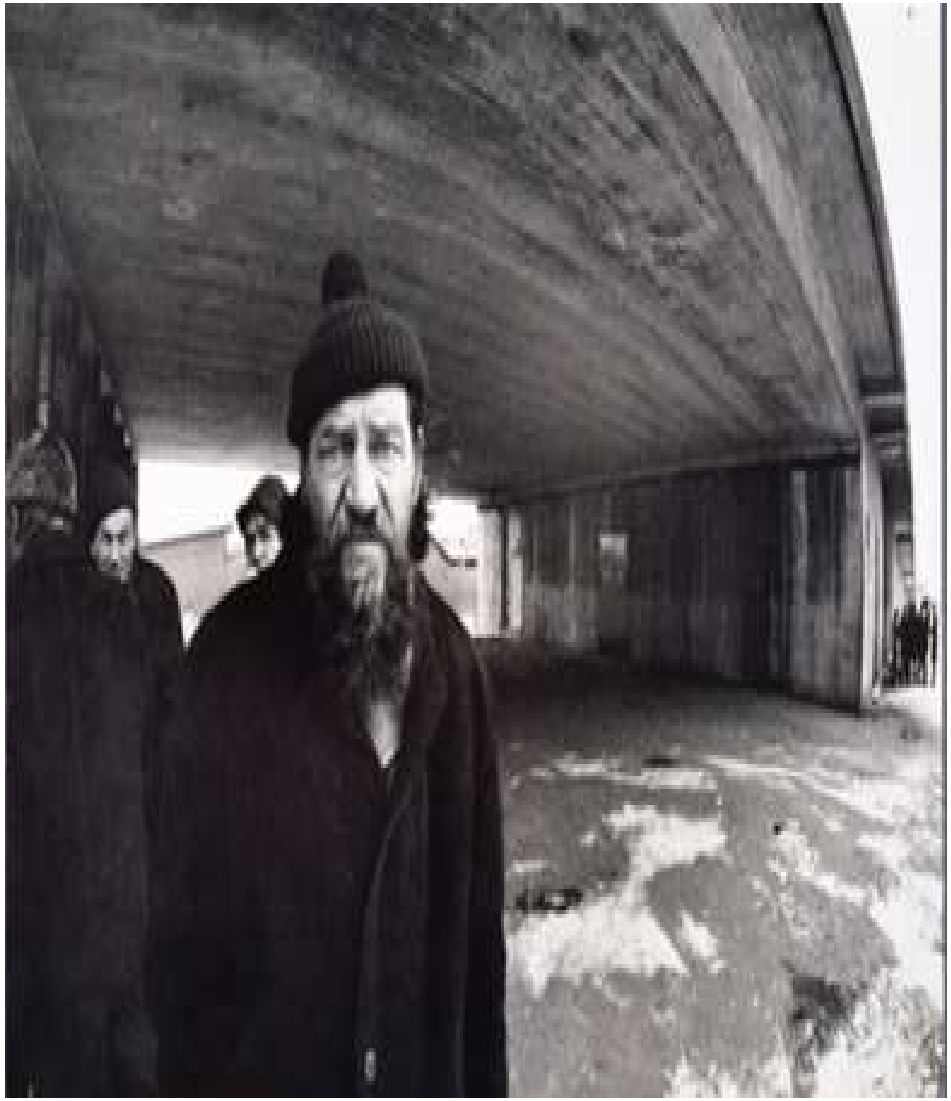

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From downshift of night-shelters to modern housing led policy with supported service provision (end of 70's-beginning of 2000)

- Helsinki Diaconissa Institute – social enterprise with affordable housing for long-term homeless persons, non-profit support services, training institute and for-profit hospital services

Piloting and mainstreaming Housing First with integrated intensive support for long-term homeless people (2008 - 2015)

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Neljän viisaan ryhmä

Description:
LKS 20071017 Lääket. lisensiaatti Ilkka Taipale (vas) piispa Eero Huovinen, toimitusjohtaja Hannu Puttonen ja sosiaalijohtaja Paavo Voutilainen luovuttivat paidan asuntoministeri Jan Vapaavuorelle (kesk) , joka on asettanut työryhmän, jonka tehtävänä on laatia viisaiden ryhmän ehdotusten pohjalta ohjelma pitkäaikaisen asunnottomuuden poistamiseksi.

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