



Y-FOUNDATION

# Housing First in Finland

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**HOUSING FOR  
SPECIAL GROUPS**



**AFFORDABLE  
RENTAL HOUSING**

**FINLAND'S FOURTH  
LARGEST LANDLORD**

**Home for all.**

**SPECIALIST IN  
HOMELESSNESS  
WORK**

**ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL WELL-BEING**



**ADVOCACY**

# Strategic objectives 2020-2030



The economic and social well-being of our tenants



A fair transition towards carbon neutral living



Eradicating homelessness in Finland and reducing it internationally



# The impacts of the strategy

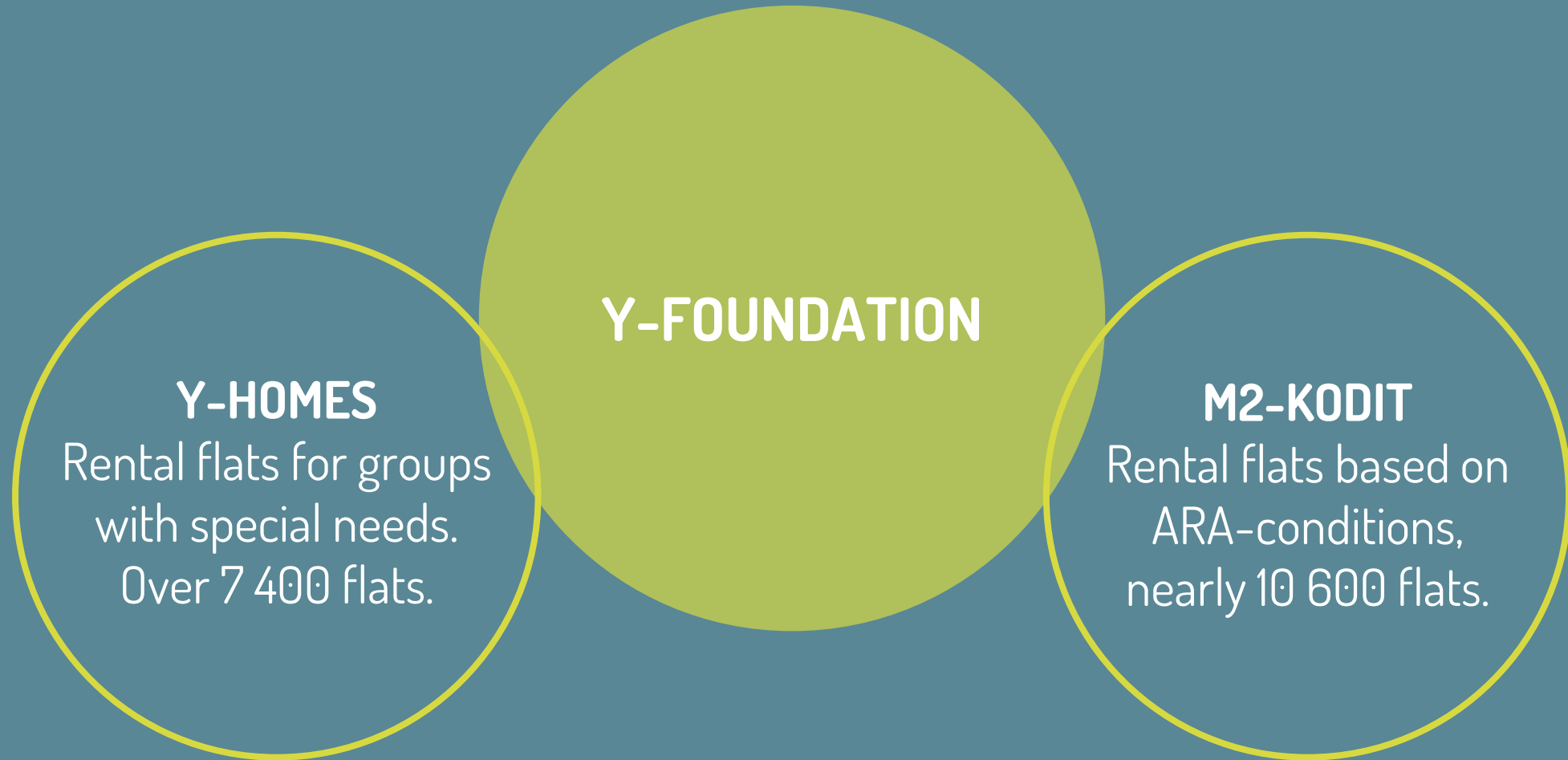
**Homelessness will be eradicated**  
in Finland by 2027.

**The Housing First model contributes**  
to the eradication of homelessness in  
Finland and internationally.

Tenants feel that **their well-being is**  
**cared for.**

The Y-Foundation and M2-Kodit have  
reduced their emissions and are on the  
path **towards carbon neutrality in**  
**2035.**

# Home for all – Y-Foundation's rental flats



Targeted for impoverished & low income individuals with urgent housing needs

# Financing

**FUNDING CENTRE FOR  
SOCIAL WELFARE AND  
HEALTH ORGANISATIONS  
(STEA)**

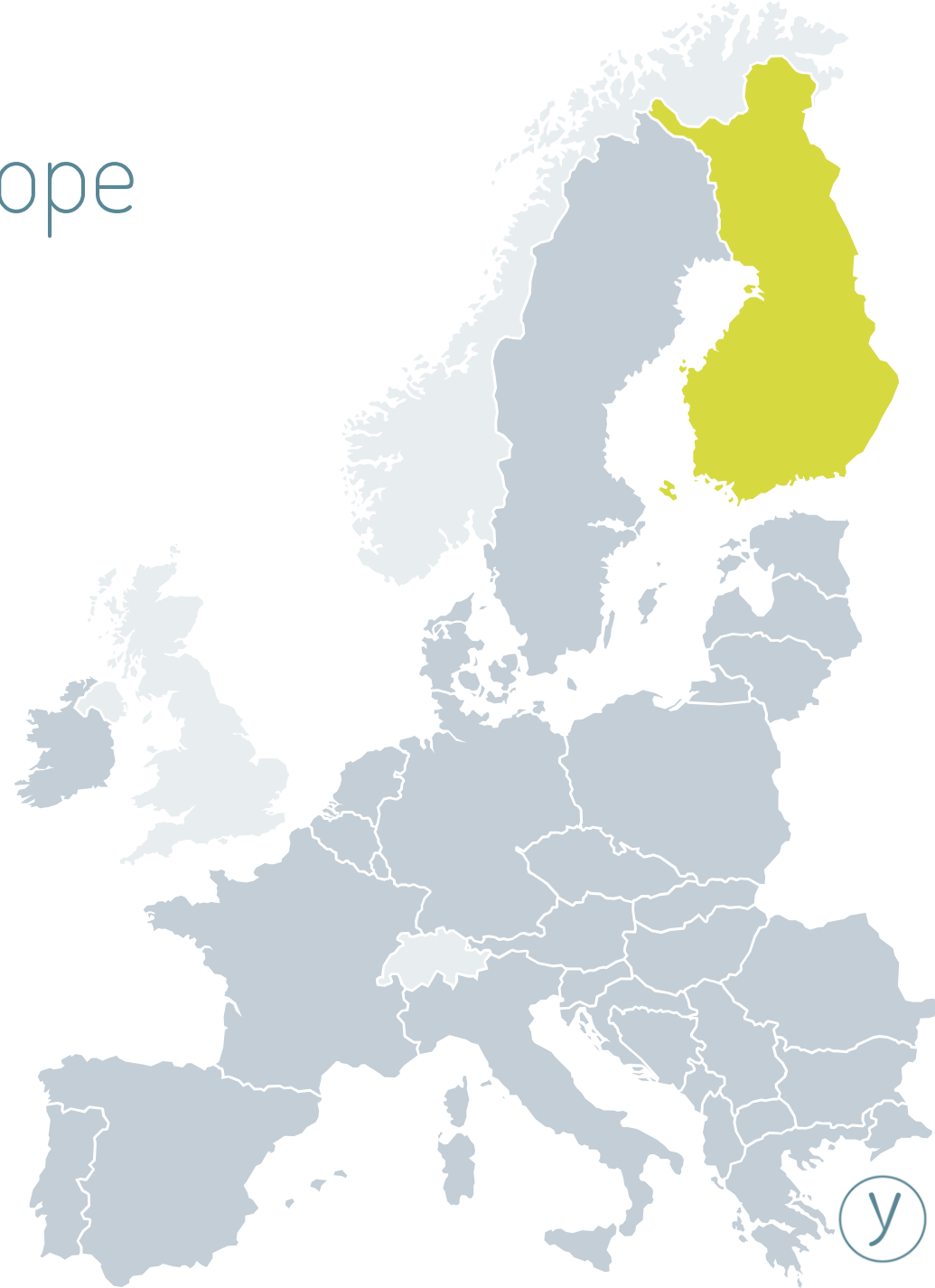


**HOUSING FINANCE AND  
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
(ARA)**

Loans from banks and other financial institutions.

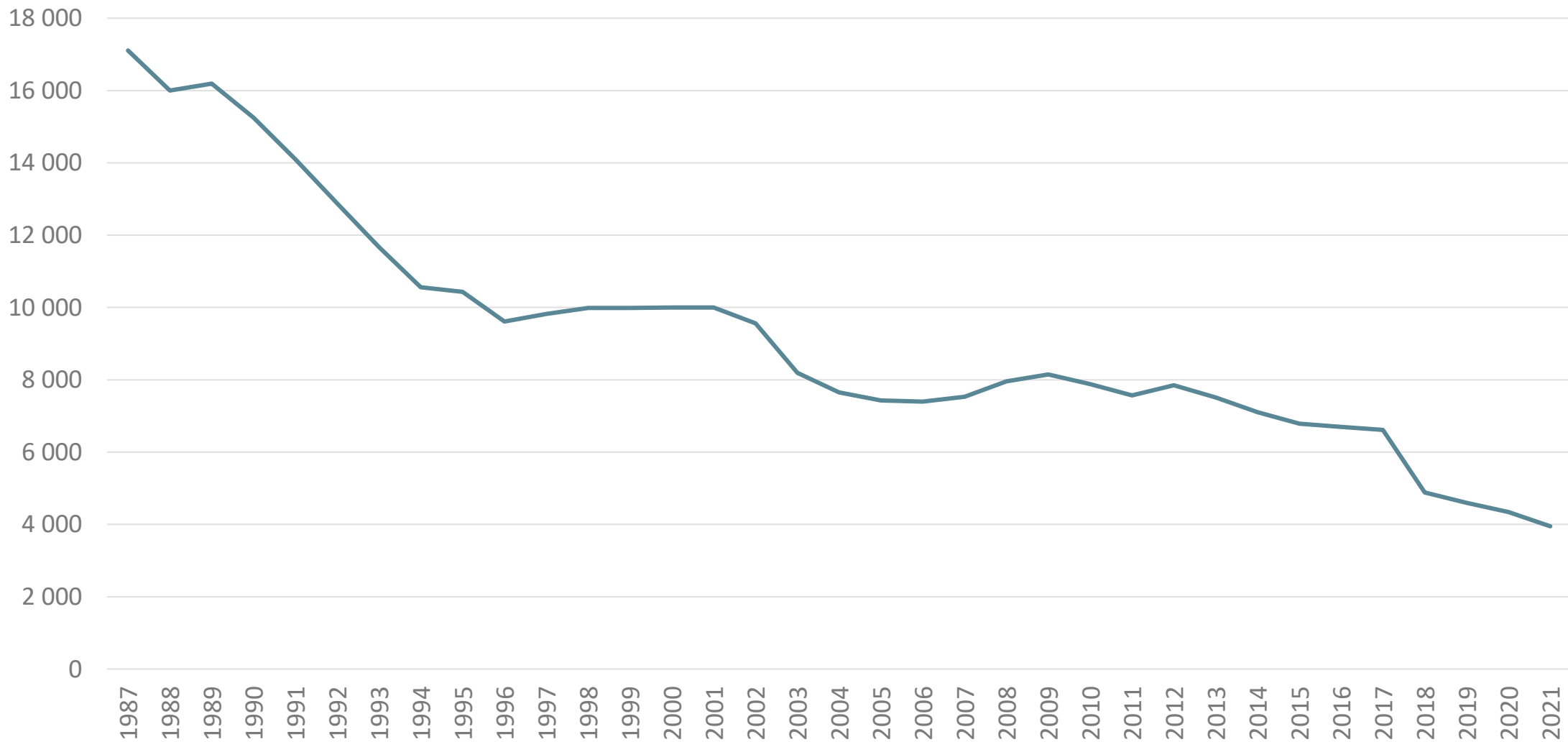
# Homelessness in Europe

FINLAND IS THE **ONLY EU COUNTRY** WHERE THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE IS **ON THE DECLINE.**



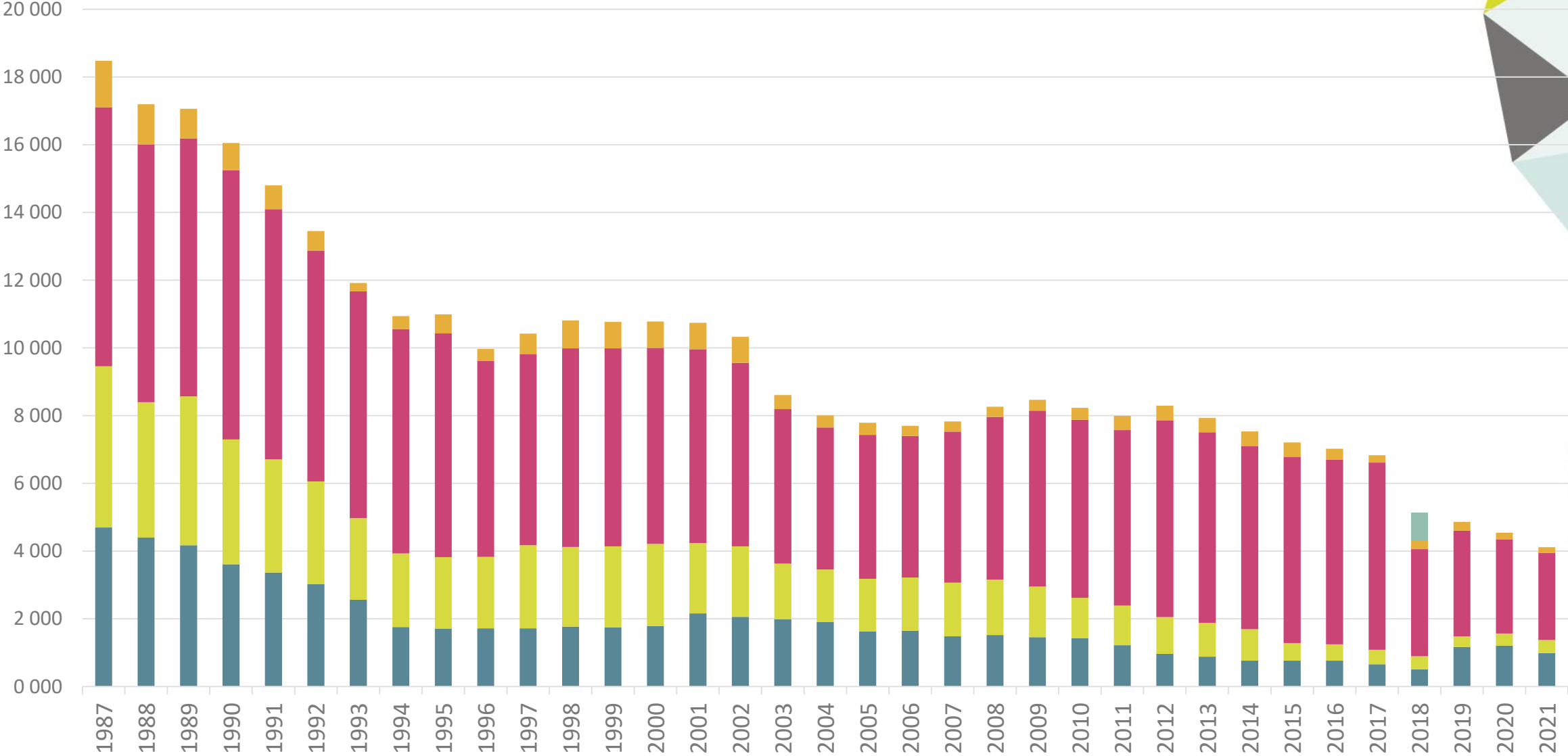
# Homelessness in Finland 1987-2021

(homeless people living alone, families excluded from statistics)

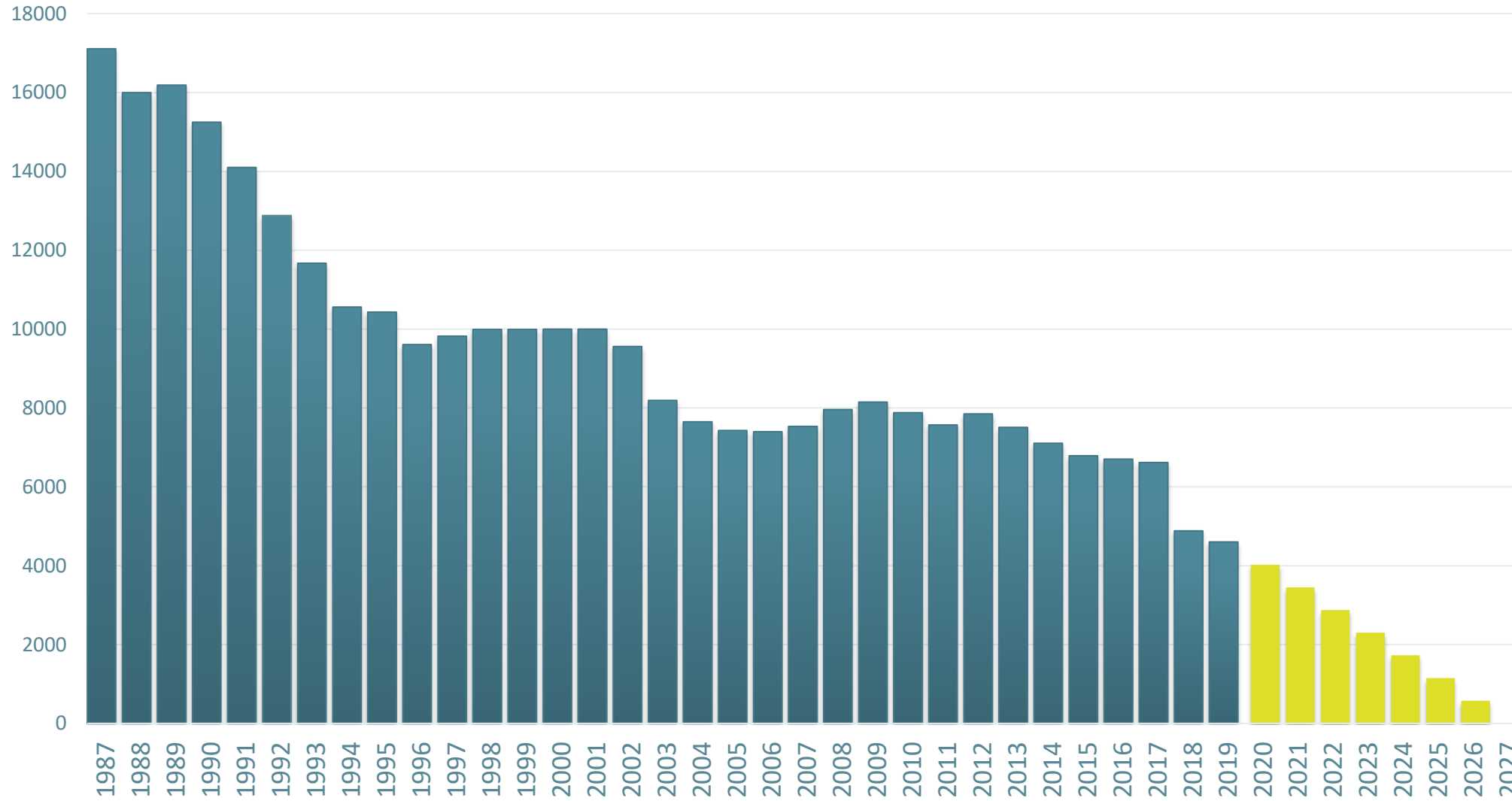




# Homelessness in Finland 1987-2021



# Homelessness in Finland 1987 - 2027



# Homelessness has decreased in Finland

**1985: 20 000** homeless



**2021: 3 948** homeless



**-80%**

# Homelessness in Finland 2021

LONG-TERM  
HOMELESS

**1 318**



**3 948**  
HOMELESS  
PEOPLE

SHORT-TERM  
HOMELESS

**2 630**

# Number of men and women

MEN  
**77%**  
(3 057)

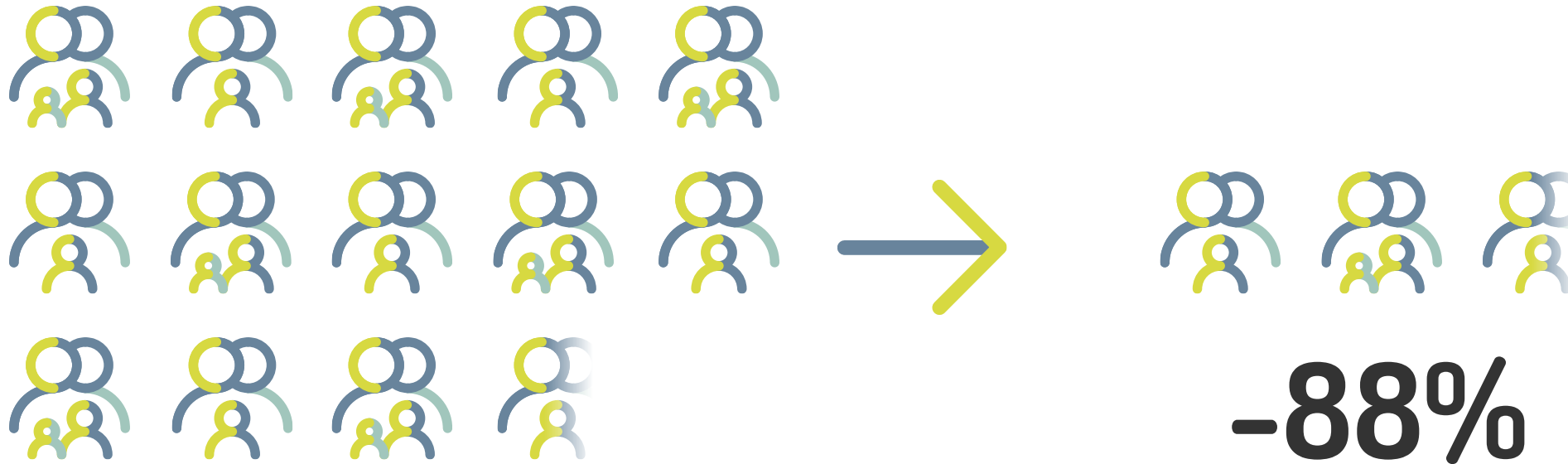


WOMEN  
**23%**  
(891)

# Number of families experiencing homelessness

**1987:** 1 370 families

**2021:** 165 families



# Ending homelessness is beneficial for the society

-15 000 €

**CASE HÄRMÄLÄ:** Study showed the savings in emergency healthcare, social services and the justice system totalled as much as €15,000 a year for every homeless person in properly supported housing.

-34 %

**HOUSING FIRST UNIT:** The overall costs decreased significantly especially among people recovering from mental health problems. The total cost of residents' use of health, social and police services decreased by 34%. Total cost savings were €10 300 per person per year.

# Housing First in Finland

- Housing as a **basic human and social right**
- Housing in normal surroundings/**permanent homes**
- Own **independent** rental apartment either in scattered housing or in a supported housing unit
- Own **rental contract** (normally for unlimited time)
- Adequate **support** if needed and wanted
- Autonomy/ **unconditionality**
- Normality
- Principles of Housing First Europe Guide



# National Homelessness Programmes

**2008-2011**  
PAAVO 1

**2012-2015**  
PAAVO 2

**2016-2019**  
AUNE

**2020-2023**  
PROGRAMME

Housing First – principle was introduced: no shelters, but homes with own rental agreements. 2 143 new flats in total.

3 523 flats for people experiencing homelessness. Professionals and experts by experience were hired.

Programme concentrated on preventing homelessness and special groups. Expertise by experience has become established as a part of homelessness work.

The Cooperation programme aims to halve homelessness by the end of 2023. The programme emphasizes the responsibility of the municipalities.

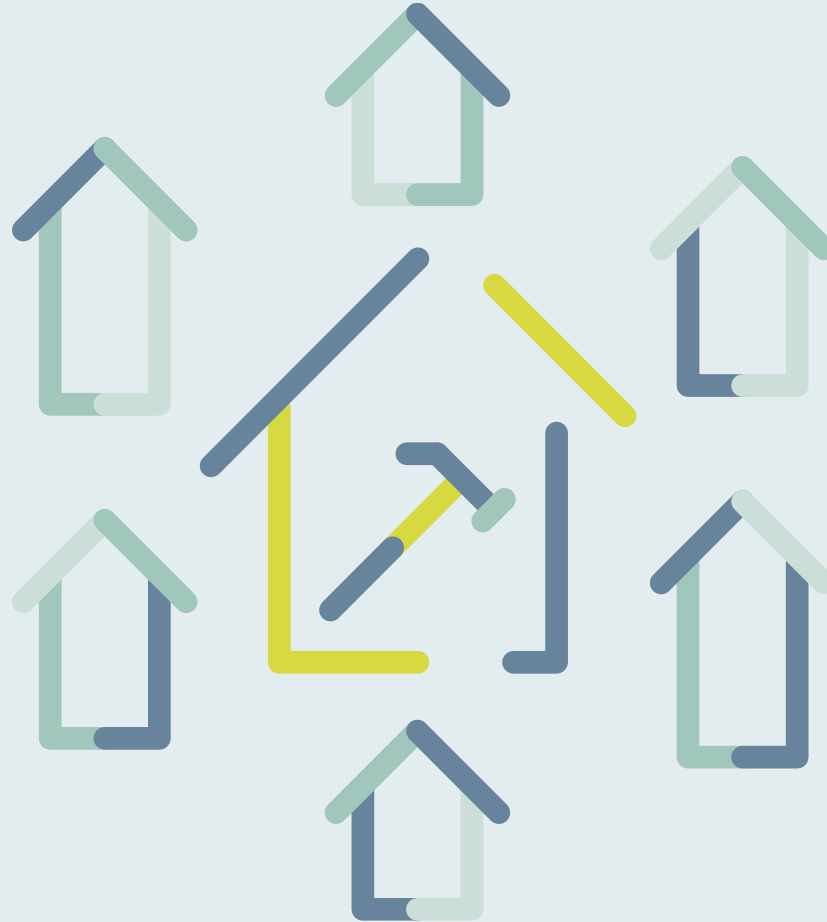
# Homelessness Action Plans 2008–2019: Public investments and expenditure (estimate)

<u>Programme</u>	PAAVO 1 2008–2011	PAAVO 2 2012–2015	AUNE 2016–2019 <sup>12</sup>	<u>Together</u>
<u>Total financing</u>	170 M€	100 M€	78 M€	348 M€
<u>Annual cost</u>	42,5 M€	25 M€	19,5 M€	
Investment Grants for dwellings ( <u>% of renovation and acquisition</u> )	80 M€ (47 %)	69 M€ (69 %)	54 M€ (69 %)	203 M€ (58 %)
<u>Direct impacts</u>	2145 dwellings, 200 new housing support jobs	3156 dwellings, over 300 housing support jobs	1836 <u>dwellings</u> , 90 <u>housing councillors</u>	7137 <u>dwellings</u>
Number of Homeless persons (single)	2008: 7955 2011: 7606 - 349	2011: 7606 2015: 6785 - 821	2015: 6785 2018: 4882 - 1903	2008: 7955 2018: 4882 = - 3073
<u>Estimate annual savings</u>		12,3 M€	19,5 M€	PAAVO 2 & AUNE: 31,8 M €

# The Government is committed to ending homelessness

HOMELESSNESS COMPLETELY  
ERADICATED  
**BY 2027**

**CONTRACTS**  
BETWEEN THE  
GOVERNMENT AND THE  
CITIES (MAL)



**SOCIAL HOUSING  
QUOTA INCREASES**  
20 % -> 35 %

**HOUSING COUNSELLING  
BECOMES STATUTORY**

# Housing options

**FLATS IN SCATTERED HOUSING**



**FLATS IN SUPPORTED HOUSING UNITS**

'HYBRID'



# Sahaajankatu (City of Helsinki)

80 bed places, closed down in 2009.



©Heidi Piironen HS



©Suojapirtti

# Väinölä (SLFY)



# Väinölä

- Supported housing
- 33 apartments (35 tenants)
- Opened 2014
- Built by Y-Foundation
- Leased to City of Espoo
- Support provided by Salvation Army (11 co-workers)





# HOUSING FIRST

From shelters to homes



HOUSING FIRST  
From shelters to homes



• © Leif Rosas

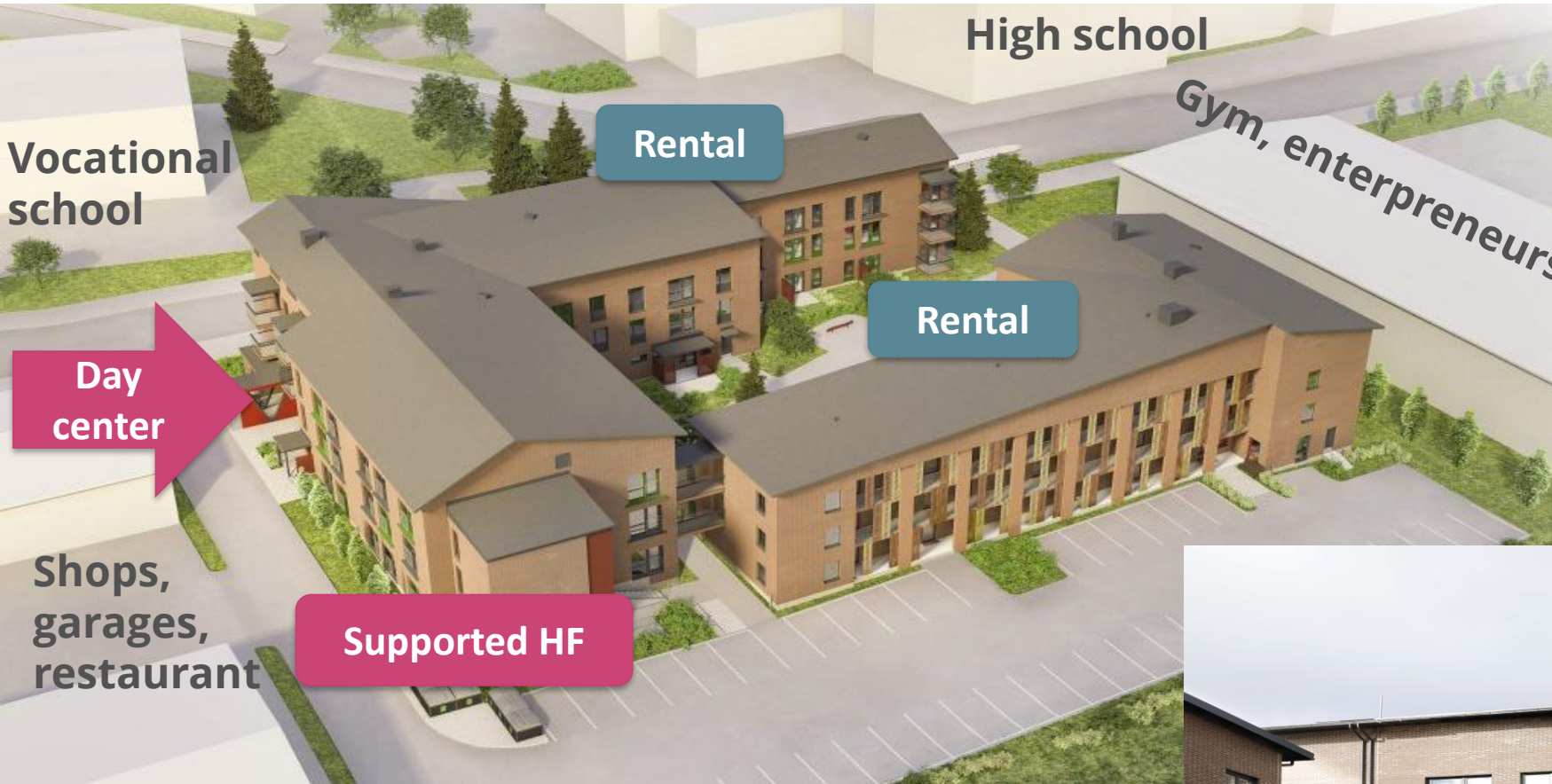
# Alppikatu 25

- Opened in 1936:
  - As a shelter with 250 bed places
- Since 2012:
  - Supported housing
  - 81 independent rental apartments
  - 88 residents
  - Apartment size 19–36 m<sup>2</sup>
  - On site personnel by Salvation Army
  - 22 employees





# HF unit Wäylä + daycenter + scattered housing



Scattered housing



# 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)

# What has worked:



- Permanent homes for over 5000 homeless people
- Systemic change from shelters and hostels into a Housing First based permanent housing
- Small (max. 33 flats) supported housing units

# What has worked:

- Prevention: Housing advisors preventing evictions
- Increasing social housing supply
- Experts by experience involved in planning
- Culture of collaboration
- Development network





# Challenges and Dark Clouds

- Attitudes: Complacency
- More people need more support
- ICM has not always been intensive enough
- Lack of integration of basic social and health services
- Insufficient availability of rehabilitation for drug users
- Nimby
- Uneven development of HF thinking and practice
- Lack of small affordable flats
- Health and Social Reform



# Critical elements of ending homelessness

**Housing First** as the mainstream policy

**Permanent** housing solutions

**Alternative** housing solutions and tailor-made support

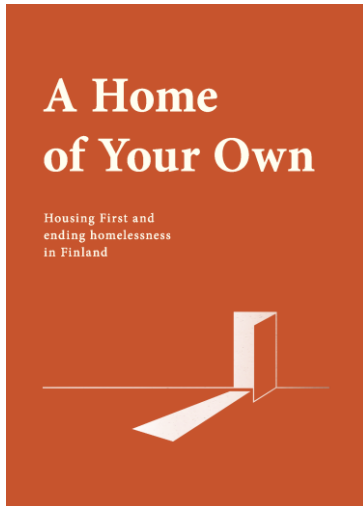
**Affordable** social housing (structural prevention)

Method of **implementation**:

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

General housing **benefit**

# Our publications



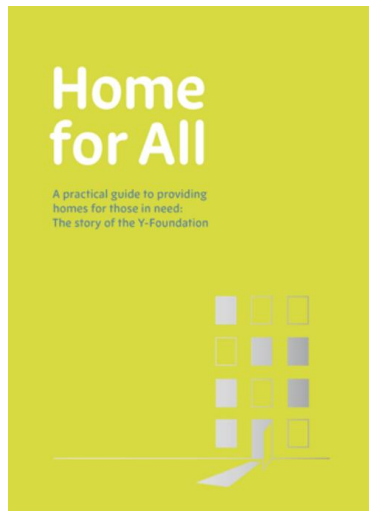
*A Home of Your Own –  
Housing First and ending  
homelessness in Finland*

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*Homelessness in 2030 –  
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*Home for All - A practical  
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