



## WG2 Case study profile (updated April 2014)

WG2 Thematic Group	WG2.4. Housing and neighbourhood
Name(s) of proposer	Marcus Knutagård
Institution	The School of Social Work, Lund University
Title of case study (and priority ranking)	The Moral Geography of Homelessness
Country/region/place investigated	Sweden/Skåne/Helsingborg
Social service sector(s) investigated <i>(Erase non relevant ones)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing and neighbourhood</li> </ul>	Housing has been a core element of the welfare state in Sweden. The dismantling of the Swedish housing system began in the 1990s. The Swedish housing policy can now be seen as one of the most deregulated housing markets in the western world. The neoliberal reforms that have taken place have created a growing social geographic polarization with the result of rapid gentrification and filtering in the major cities (Hedin et al., 2012; Lees, 2008).
Category of case study ('what' is investigated) <i>(Erase non relevant ones)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subsector/policy/programme (meso-level)</li> <li>Project/initiative/experience (micro-level)</li> <li>Place (s)</li> </ul>	The case is the emergence of Housing First in Sweden. Housing First has been introduced in many municipalities as a possible solution to end homelessness. More private actors are engaged in the housing field and there is strong governance towards increased competition. The ideology behind the increased competition is the idea that it will make services more efficient, with better quality, more available and less bureaucratic (Hartman 2011, p. 13).
Time frame considered <i>(from when to when)</i>	Fokus on the time period between 2009-2014 with a historical perspective from the change in the Swedish Housing Policy from the 1990s.
Five 'perspectives' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost efficiency/quality/user satisfaction</li> <li>Governance</li> <li>Social and/or territorial cohesion</li> </ul>	<p>The case of Housing First elucidates changes in governance. The growing interest for Housing First as a response to ending long-term homelessness is seen not only in the US and Canada, but also in Europe. One major reason for this is the bulk of evidence showing high housing retention rates in Housing First services compared with traditional services. Evidence from the US has also showed that Housing First is cost-effective. The themes of effectiveness and consumer choice, inherent to Housing First services, have been of great interest to policy makers in the United States, making the model the key housing policy within the homelessness field (Stanhope and Dunn, 2011). Thus, the increased popularity of Housing First services can be connected respectively to neoliberalism, marketisation of housing policies and the emergence of an evidence based practice movement (Stanhope and Dunn, 2011; Willse, 2010).</p> <p>Social and territorial cohesion is also of interest since the model builds on a few key principles such as community integration and housing as a human right.</p>
Three processes in restructuring + crisis	The Housing policy in Sweden has gone through a devolution

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuts/rationalization/management reforms (NPM, others)</li> <li>• <i>Vertical</i> subsidiarity (administrative re-arrangements between <i>government</i> levels)</li> <li>• <i>Horizontal</i> subsidiarity (involvement of/outsourcing to other suppliers)</li> </ul>	<p>process from a national housing policy to housing policies on the local municipal level. New actors have entered the scene, but also old actors with new roles. There has been an increase in social enterprises and NGOs working with the homeless. Housing First could be seen as a Social innovation (Knutagård and Kristiansen 2013).</p>
<p><b>Specific questions/focus</b></p>	<p>How can the emergence and diffusion of Housing First in Sweden be explained from the background of the financial crisis in 2008? There is a specific focus on the moral geography of housing and the marketization of homelessness.</p>
<p><b>Local Stakeholder Network (LSN)</b></p>	<p><i>Do you intend to set up a LSN:</i>      NO</p>