



Strategies to end homelessness:

**”Elements of conflict and cooperation at local level”**

6 June 2008 Brussels

## Targets to end homelessness in Finland

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# Facts

1985: 20 000 homeless

In 20 years the number of homeless people has declined considerably

2000: 10 000 homeless single people

800 homeless families

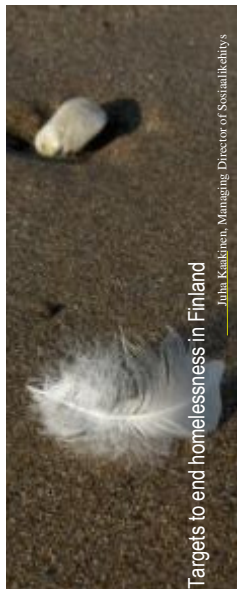
2007: 7 300 homeless single people

300 homeless families

In recent years the number of homeless people has declined, but slowly

Over 50% of all homeless people live in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area

Over 2/3 of all homeless people live in 10 cities



National action plan to combat homelessness, 2001 – 2005  
Post-evaluation report, 2006

Conclusions and recommendations:

The action plan managed to stop the growth of homelessness

Several examples of good local co-operation

Preventive actions have been insufficient

Measures have been inadequate for the "hard-core" of homelessness:

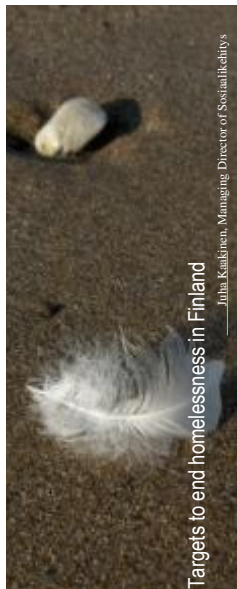
Long-term homeless people with several serious health and social  
Problems

Recommendation:

A national action plan to abolish long-term homelessness 2007 – 2011

In 10 major cities

2000 new flats in service and supported housing



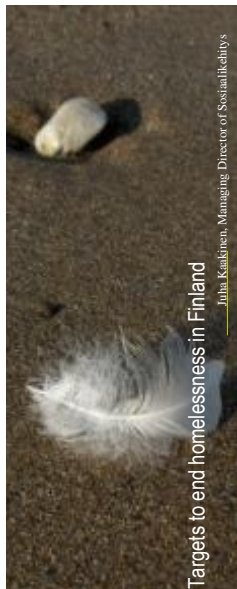
## **The new national programme for the reduction of long-term homelessness 2008 – 2011**

The Finnish Government decided to implement a new programme  
In February 2008

The programme was prepared by two working groups appointed by  
the Ministry of the Environment in the autumn of 2007

Group 1 : "Four Wise Men" Mr. Paavo Voutilainen, Director of the  
Social Welfare Department of Helsinki, Bishop Eero Huovinen, Director  
Hannu Puttonen and Doctor of Medicine Ilkka Taipale  
Formulated the new ideology and basic principles

Group 2: Chairwoman, Ms Paula Kokkonen, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki  
Members included representatives from several Ministries and  
other national organizations, NGO's and local authorities  
Prepared the detailed Programme



## Targets in the new Programme

Long-term homelessness should be halved by 2011 and eliminated altogether by 2015

2000 flats in independent dwelling, supported housing and service housing units based on individual needs for care and services

Estimated costs: 335 M€ for investments and 79 M€ for personnel providing support and services

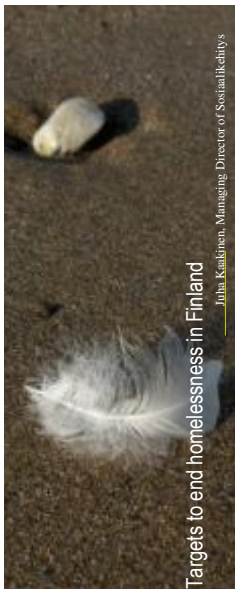
The State grants 50% of all costs

10 cities and NGO's working in these cities are eligible for grants

Definition of long-term homelessness:

no strict time-limit

people with several serious health and social problems who need individually tailored service and support arrangements



## What is important and different in the new Programme?

”housing first”- principle

Clear targets and focus:

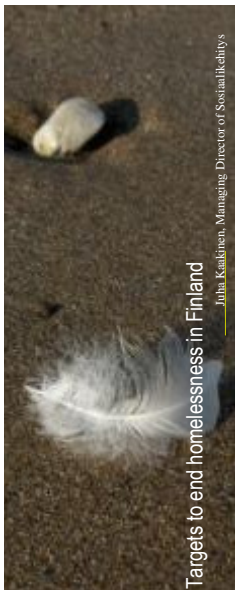
The most vulnerable groups of homeless people

Cities where most of the homeless people live

Options: Normal rental housing with varying degrees of support or service housing with permanent staff

Shelter housing facilities will be converted into adequate housing through physical renovations and changes in their function

Shelter housing is mainly run by NGO’s and the Finnish Slot-Machine Association is financially aiding the renovations

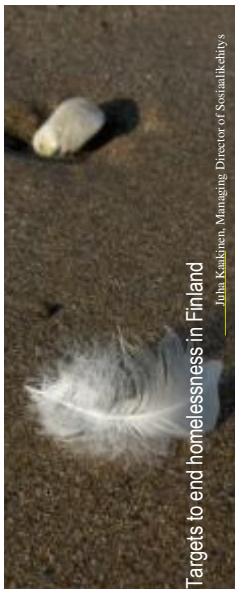


## New elements in the Programme implementation

During the spring 2008 the 10 cities have made their own action plans  
Based on these action plans the State represented by the Ministry of the Environment conclude an agreement with every city  
These agreements determine mutual responsibilities including all projects and investments and their financing for the whole programme period

For the first time State funding is also guaranteed for the support personnel

Financing is divided 50/50 between State and Cities  
NGO's can get financing from the Slot-Machine Association and also from The Ministry of the Environment  
Financing is provided both for investments and personnel costs



## New Elements in the Programme

New measures for preventive action

New measures for housing young people with social and health problems

Targeted measures for homeless ex-convicts

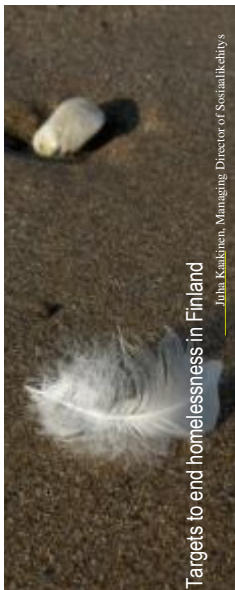
Concept competition for creating new physical and functional service-models

Cities have the responsibility to coordinate actions at the local level

NGO's have a significant role in all 10 cities

The new Programme brings added value with clearly focused actions

The state-subsidised social housing, rental housing stock owned by the municipalities and purchasing housing by the Y-Foundation still Comprise the "backbone" in the fight against homelessness



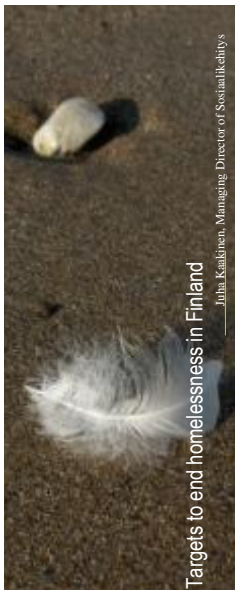
Some dark clouds gathering ...

There are many reasons for reasonable optimism

Still:

Housing production and especially social housing production is lacking far behind the goals in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area

Many plans to build or purchase new housing units for the homeless have met hard resistance from the neighbourhood





Thank You !

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