

**INFO: BACKGROUND AND TARGETS FOR THE NETWORKING FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

The networking project is part of PAAVO II, the national program to eliminate long-term homelessness. It continues the development work started during the previous program period.

The targets of the project are:

- To strengthen the role of NGOs in developing services for homeless people
- To clarify and mainstream the Finnish Housing First –principle in homeless services

**Networking for Development**

1. **Supports** the target of the national program to eliminate long-term homelessness by the end of 2015.
2. **Improves** the change of paradigm in the service system: housing first.
3. **Establishes** the participation of people who have experienced homelessness in planning and providing services.
4. **Creates** a permanent structure for cooperation in developing homeless services for NGOs and local authorities. This structure model can be applied also in other areas of joint development work.

**Extensive cooperation**

Networking for Development is a partnership project of five NGOs working with homeless people: **Y-Foundation, Helsinki Deaconess Institute, No Fixed Abode NGO (Vailla vakinaista asuntoa ry), Street Mission in Rauma Region and The Finnish Blue Ribbon**. Y-Foundation is responsible for running the project. RAY (Finland's Slot Machine Association) has granted funds for the project for years 2013-2015.

The project is a coordinating body for the development work done in the national programs on long-term homelessness (PAAVO I in 2008-2011 and PAAVO II in 2012-2015). Broadly-based cooperation between various sectors makes it possible to mainstream and spread the housing first -principle and good practices.

The network project is implemented in close cooperation with the cities taking part in PAAVO II program. Each partner organisation has a special theme which they are responsible for:

- **Y-Foundation**: scattered housing, leasing, project coordination
- **No Fixed Abode NGO**: participation of service users in planning and providing services
- **Street Mission in Rauma Region**: support services at home
- **Helsinki Deaconess Institute**: community work, neighbourhood work, low-threshold outreach youth work
- **The Finnish Blue Ribbon**: services for most excluded homeless people
- Cities involved in PAAVO II -program: **Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Tampere, Turku, Lahti, Joensuu, Kuopio, Jyväskylä, Oulu and Pori**: local projects and expertise, cooperation in training, peer groups and sharing good practices.

**Implementation**

- 
- **A series of network meetings and training events** on the themes that have so far emerged in the implementation of the program: prevention, outreach work, evaluation of support needs, services and community work in supported housing units, neighbourhood work, support at home, leadership in the transformation process, challenges in the new HF-work culture etc.
  - Another way of action are **ad hoc -working groups**. The basic idea is that different sectors or service providers in cities taking part in the program can make use of the expertise of project partners in solving local challenges. An ad hoc -group can come and work with local partners to tackle local challenges.
  - All activities are documented and results reported in Finnish on the asuntoensin.fi -website (in English housing first) and they are there available also after the project has ended. The site is established to be the major database for the work on homelessness in Finland.
  - **Consulting services** are used in developing new service models and the results are available for the cities to use.
  - **By supporting the development of services** the project backs up the target of the national program: 1250 new homes for long-term homeless people.
  - Every year the project arranges about 20 seminars or training sessions for people who work in support services provided by local authorities or NGOs. These can be national, areal or local events.

### Project organization

Project partners and the leaders of the national program on homelessness take part in the **executive group**. The project is administered and coordinated by Y-Foundation.

**The follow-up and steering group** is the steering group of the national program gathering about three times a year. Also members of the executive group take part in the meetings.

**A team of specialists** representing project partners and cities involved is helping to implement the project plan. The specialist team can nominate working groups on various themes, invite people to ad hoc -groups and take part in planning and organising training.

### Contact details:

*Project Leader*  
*Sari Timonen*

*Tel +358 97742 5529; gsm +358 40720 9913*  
*sari.timonen(at)ysaatio.fi*

*Project Coordinator*  
*Taina Hytönen*

*Tel +358 97742 5516; gsm +358 40531 3155*  
*taina.hytonen(at)ysaatio.fi*

*Address: Y-Säätiö (Y-Foundation), PL 322, 00531 Helsinki, Finland*