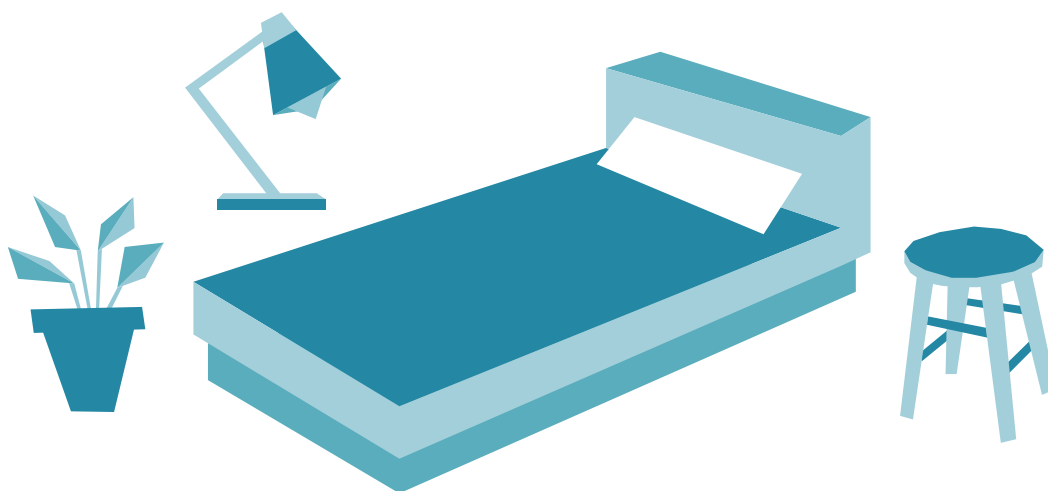# H4Y FUTURO(H4Y)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FINAL REPORT OF THE PILOT PROJECT

Executive Summary

This report presents the final evaluation of the **H4Y FUTURO** pilot project, initiated by the **HOGAR SÍ-Provivienda Alliance** and implemented between January 2022 and December 2024. The project aimed to introduce innovative solutions to youth homelessness by adapting the Housing First for Youth model, showcasing the effectiveness of an approach based on autonomy and empowerment for young people.

The 2022 INE Homelessness Survey highlights that 21% of people experiencing homelessness in Spain are between 18 and 29 years old, with only a small fraction having access to stable income. Most rely on homelessness support systems (shelters and soup kitchens) or irregular, poorly paid jobs, significantly limiting their ability to achieve economic stability. Furthermore, migrant youth are overrepresented in this population due to challenges in regularizing their administrative status, restricting access to employment and other basic social integration resources.

H4Y FUTURO was created to address the urgent and complex needs of young people experiencing homelessness, who face significant barriers to stable housing and personalized support to foster their social and professional integration. Traditional responses to this issue have focused on temporary or emergency solutions. These approaches, often adult-centric, fail to provide sustainable and comprehensive strategies that facilitate young people's transition to adulthood and independence, enabling them to fully exercise their citizenship.

The project aimed to provide housing and create a framework for community living, autonomy, and sustainable exits from youth homelessness.
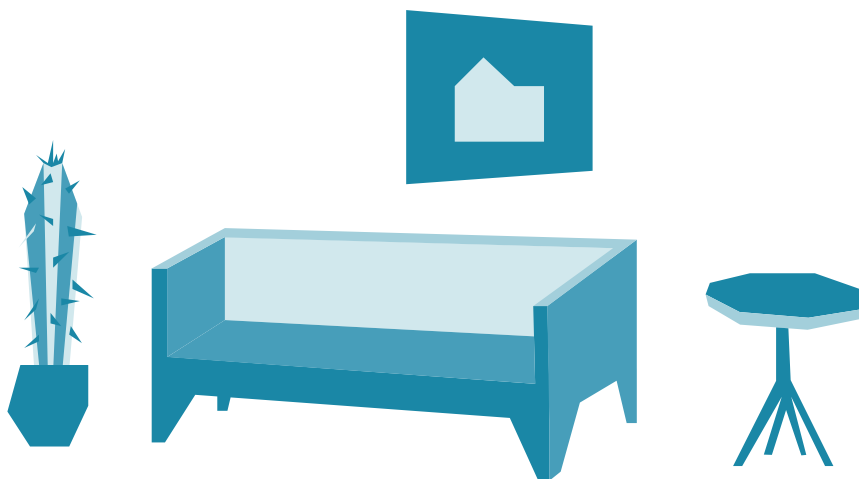
Implementation

Funded by the Next Generation EU funds, the project was carried out in Madrid and Mallorca, regions facing high housing market pressure. Over this period, 105 young people experiencing homelessness were supported, gaining access to community housing and personalized accompaniment focused on autonomy. In Madrid, the project targeted particularly vulnerable profiles, addressing factors such as ETHOS situations, gender, sexual orientation, support networks, and physical or mental health issues. Notably, 52% of foreign participants came from the child protection system, highlighting a systemic weakness.

Methodology

The external evaluation, conducted by Fresno, the Right Link, employed the Theory of Change (ToC) framework alongside a multidimensional evaluation focusing on processes, outcomes for individuals, institutional and professional results, and associated costs. This approach explicitly linked project actions to observed changes in participants and the youth homelessness care system. Data collection included quantitative and qualitative methods through surveys, interviews, and focus groups with professionals, institutions, and clients.

Key Findings

Access to the Project
H4Y FUTURO achieved participation from 105 young people, with a project retention rate of 97.2%, reflecting a high housing retention rate during implementation.

Transition to Community Housing

Participants were offered the choice of program housing, including individual, shared, and cohabitation group options, or rented private market rooms, promoting choice and control from the outset.

• A total of 46 housing units were mobilized, 9 of which were individual units.

• Participants reported significant improvements in housing satisfaction and community life compared to baseline measures.

Personalized Support

The person-centered approach allowed participants to lead their processes. A trauma-informed approach provided empathetic and effective support tailored to young people's emotional and psychological needs, fostering resilience and autonomy.

Flexible support systems adapted to personal needs and preferences, moving beyond standard service packages. Key areas included active job and housing searches, direct financial transfers to foster autonomy, and legal support for specific cases involving irregular status. High uptake of these services demonstrated their effectiveness in facilitating independent exits.

Independent Exits from Homelessness

The project achieved a 55.2% rate of independent exits, with 58 of the 105 participants achieving independence within 17 months. Women showed higher success rates (81%) compared to men (50%).

Main Conclusions

Positive Impact on Young People
The success of autonomy-focused interventions and rapid responses confirms that personalized support is more effective in preventing the chronicity of youth homelessness. Younger participants with shorter durations of homelessness achieved independence more quickly.

Transformation in Public Administration

The project prompted changes in social policies, including diversifying housing solutions. The Madrid City Council and Mallorca's Consell began integrating preventive and deinstitutionalization approaches to better address youth-specific needs, reflecting growing institutional willingness to adopt personalized, autonomy-centered policies.

Results for Professional Teams

Professionals underwent a transformation in their work approach, moving away from assistentialist practices and developing competencies such as respecting young people's decisions and managing uncertainty. This shift improved professional-client relationships, fostering trust and active participation in personal processes.

Economic Analysis of the H4Y FUTURO Model

The total cost per person per day was €63.96, equating to €1,918.80 per month. These costs reflect an experimental project and are expected to adjust over time. Housing accounted for approximately half of the total cost, with support services representing slightly over a third.

Key Recommendations

For Public Administrations:

- Adopt Preventive and Deinstitutionalization Approaches: Integrate these methods into youth homelessness services and expand early intervention programs while relaxing access criteria for homeless youth.

- Promote Housing Diversification: Increase public and affordable housing options, incorporating community-based solutions like shared accommodations or private rentals supported by the project.

- Streamline Homelessness Care Systems: Rationalize resources to eradicate youth homelessness and ensure long-term support through other social protection services.
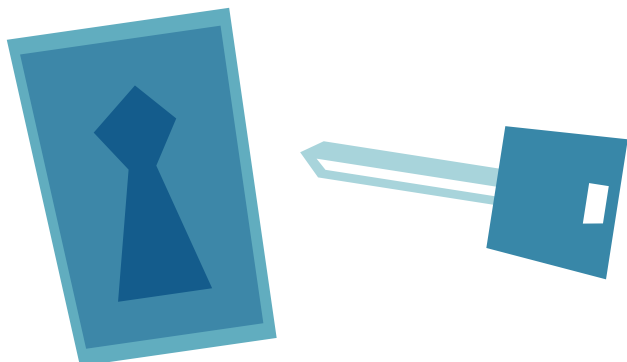
- Strengthen Social Capital and Community Connections: Offer territory-based resources to address young people's needs and foster community bonds, especially for those with weak or non-existent primary support networks.

- Enhance Institutional Responses and Interinstitutional Coordination: Improve collaboration among social services, housing agencies, and youth support entities to form specialized teams connecting primary and specific services.

- Optimize Economic Resources: Continue direct financial transfers for rent and essential expenses to support stability and autonomy.

- Expand Housing First for Youth Coverage: Enhance personalization of support services and ensure young people lead their recovery processes.

- Flexible Access to Primary Services: Implement more flexible access criteria for non-registered young people.

- Center Autonomy in Youth Support Services: Redesign processes to prioritize independence as a core goal.

For Accompanionship Teams:

- Encourage Continuous Training: Provide regular training on person-centered, trauma-informed, and strength-based approaches to promote autonomy.

- Adapt Support Methods to Individual Needs: Continue flexible, personalized approaches, enabling young people to lead their life projects and community connections.

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HAY FUTURO
Housing First for youth