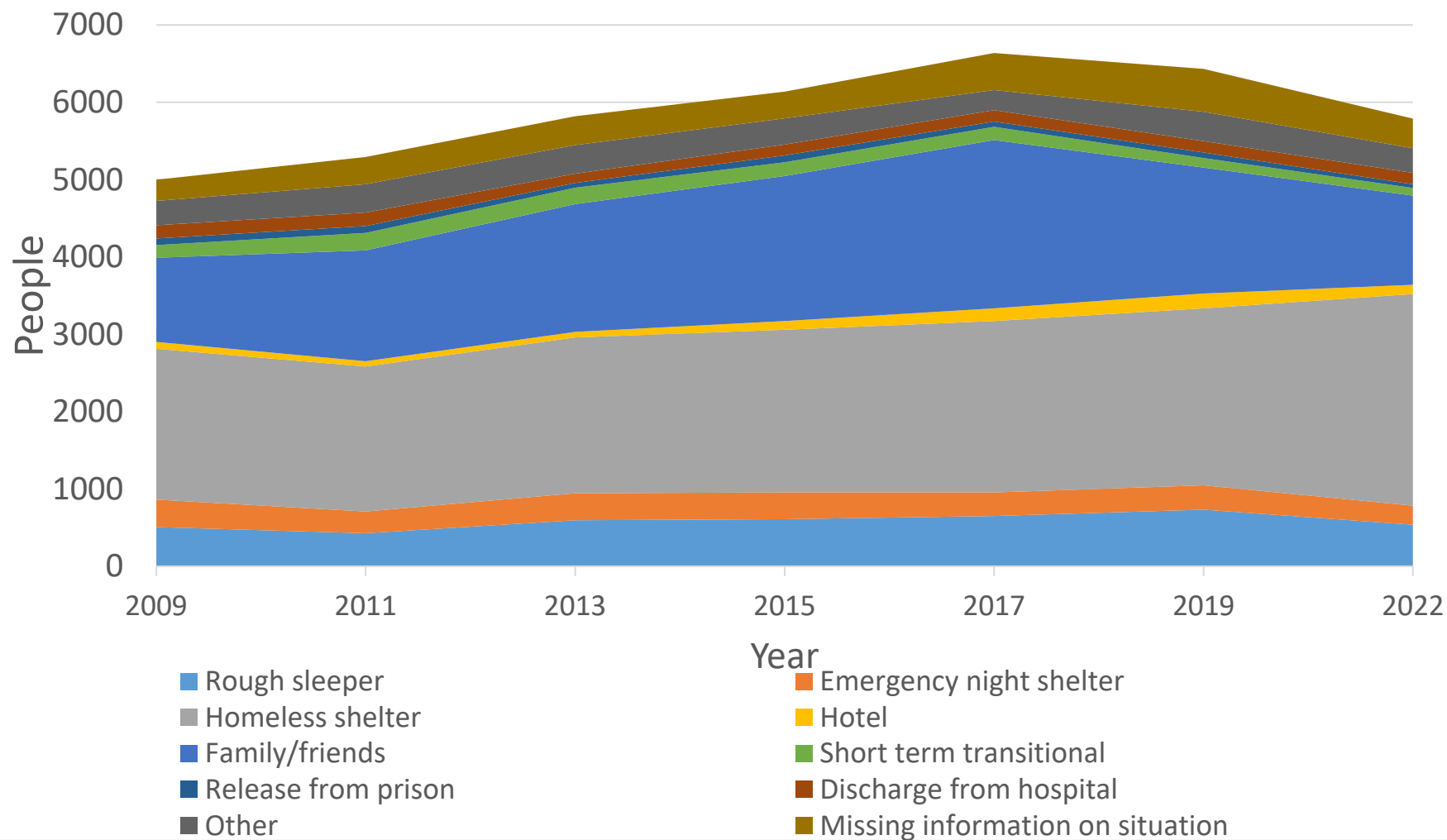




Transitioning from a shelter-based model to scale up Housing First – 29th of November 2023

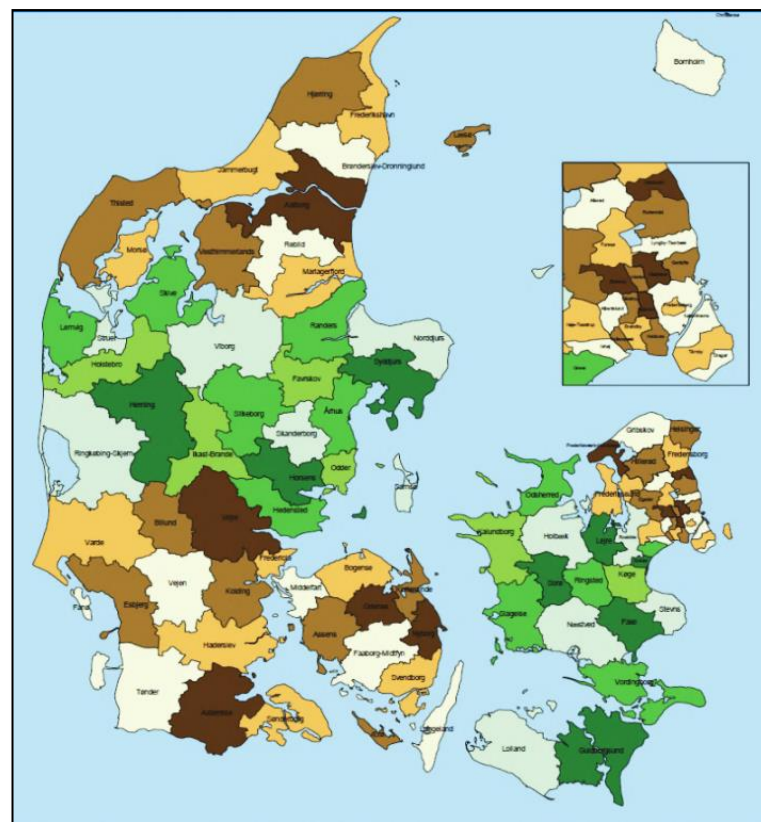
The Danish Strategy on Combatting Homelessness

Homelessness in Denmark (point-in-time count)



The Social System in Denmark

- Equal access to services
- Social System that is tax financed
- A regulative Framework Act on Social Services
- 98 municipalities that play a key role in delivering the social service



National strategies in Denmark



Level: 1 2009-2013

- The national homelessness strategy
- 17 municipalities
- Method testing and development in a Danish context

Level 2: 2014-2016

- 25 municipalities
- Implementation of Housing First and supported housing
- A youth project

Level 3: 2016-2019

- ≥25 municipalities
- Dissemination and implementation of Housing First in even more municipalities
- Testing of transitional housing for young people

Level 4: 2018-2021

- ≥25 municipalities
- A national plan to combat homelessness
- Social Investment Initiatives
- Housing First for youth

Level 5: 2021-

- New political strategy
- In May 2023 Danish parliament passed a bill on rearrangement of efforts against homelessness.

The challenges in Denmark

- Average length of stay in shelters has increased.
- Only 8 pct. of the target group is met by an Housing First-method.

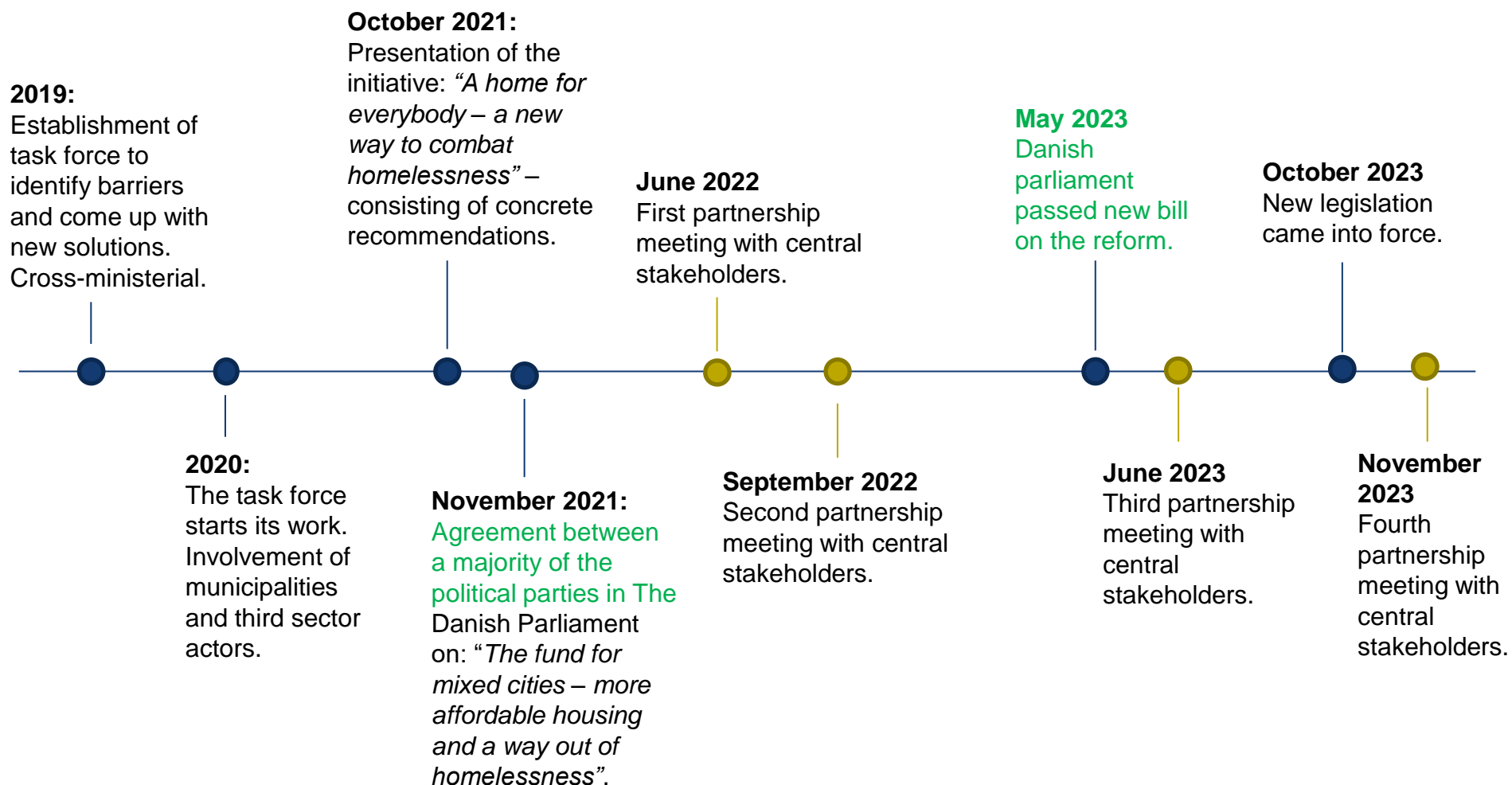


Learning points and barriers

In 2020 the National Board of Social Service carried out a research about the barriers of full implementation of Housing First.

- Some of the barriers for full implementation of Housing First are:
 - Relevant housing available to homeless citizens.
 - Cooperation across relevant subject areas internally in the municipalities and across sectors.
 - Knowledge of the Housing First approach as an effective approach.
 - The political and managerial prioritization of the Housing First approach in the municipalities and at national level.
 - Financial incentive for the use of the Housing First approach.

Development of a new strategy and reform



The new political agreement 2021 → New bill 2023

New political agreement on combatting homelessness with increased focus on the Housing First-method and the ambition:

- 1) To reduce the number of homeless citizens significantly.
- 2) To end long-term homelessness.



In addition to this the goal is to canalize the funds spent on shelters into a Housing First-oriented approach.

Key elements in the new legislation

- Providing more affordable housing
- Rearrangement of the economic incentive structure for the municipalities, from support of shelterstay to support the full implementation of Housing First in Denmark
- Establishment of a national partnership of central stakeholders
- Investment in the role of civil society under a strengthened implementation of Housing First

