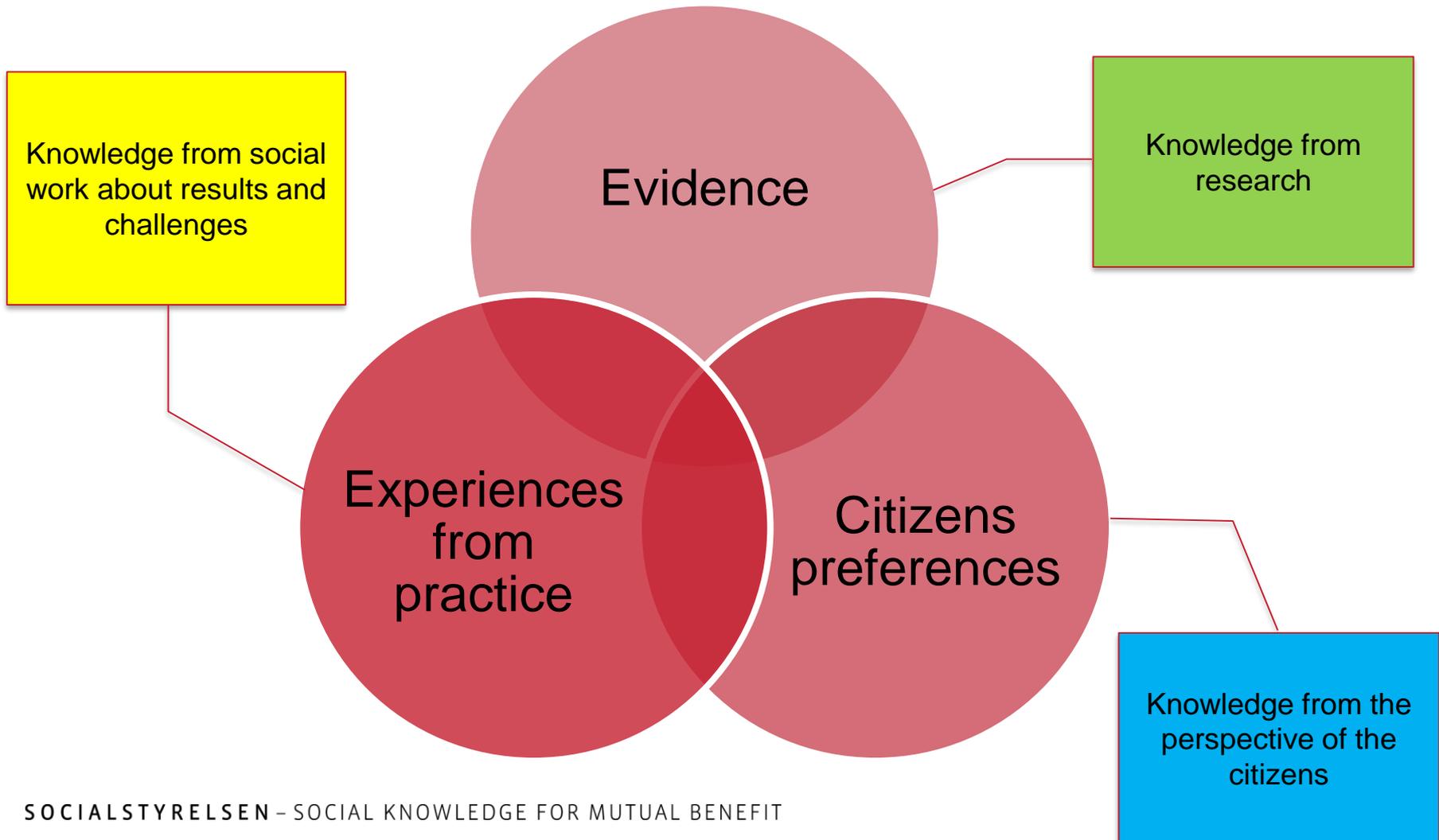


# How to make evidence evident?

*The movement from "why" to "how" in implementing evidence-based methods in social care for homeless people*

# The "road" to social knowledge for mutual benefit



# WHY evidence?



**2007:** The first national census of homelessness in Denmark

**2007:** Homelessness: a new challenge for the municipalities

No systematic and documented knowledge of what works

Political agreement to reduce the number of homeless people in Denmark

# What to do?



Import of evidence-based knowledge about Housing First

Danish National Homelessness Strategy

Partnership between Ministry of Social Affairs and 17 municipalities

Political commitment on national and local level

Housing First provides homeless people with immediate access to ordinary scattered housing and on-going support

The Housing First approach fits long-term trends in social services:

- Deinstitutionalisation and decentralisation of service provision
- Normalisation of living conditions (including housing conditions)
- Individualisation of support
- From place-centred support (supported housing) to person-centred support (support in housing)

Alternative to staircase systems and approaches requiring “treatment first” and making people “housing ready” before they can move to ordinary permanent housing



# Housing First: Philosophy, Values and Practices

- Housing First – based on the principle that housing is a basic human right
- People with mental health problems and/or addiction do not have to prove they are ready for or deserve housing
- Housing First-program reaches out to people with complex needs who are most vulnerable
- Complexity is the expectation not the exception
- Housing First practices and procedures are designed to encourage full participation in decision making by the consumer
- Procedure facilitate speedy admission and provision of all desired service (especially housing), and more
- Separation of housing and support
- Recovery oriented approach



# Housing First in a Danish context

Early permanent housing

No requiring regarding *housing*

Flexible, individual support matching citizens' needs:

***ACT*** (*Assertive Community Treatment Team*)

***ICM*** (*Intensive Case Canagement* )

***CTI*** (*Critical Time Intervention, like ICM  
but time limited*)



# Reflexions – 2 minutes



**Talk to your neighbour:**

**What kind of challenges would the implementation of Housing First cause in your local context?**

***Please write a few notes for use in the following exercise***

# Experiences from the National homelessness strategy in Denmark

Housing First works: 9 out of 10 keep the apartment

For most homeless citizens ordinary, scattered housing is appropriate

A small group needs alternative housing solutions



# Nothing about us – without us. What do the homeless citizens say?

We are happy to get a home and to get intensive support

We could not manage stable housing without the support

Lots of us have been living on the streets for several years

Housing offers an opportunity to distance ourselves from environments with widespread addiction even though many of us still struggle with addiction



# Experiences regarding organization, cooperation and changing one's way of thinking



Changing an organizational culture takes time!

Working with shared goals, shared knowledge and mutual respect across boundaries is necessary

Successful implementation demands communication, cooperation and focus on relationships in order to achieve integration of the task

# Reflexions – 2 minutes



- **Talk to your neighbour:**

**How would you approach a similar process of co-operation across organizational boundaries in your context?**

**What is important?**

***Please write a few notes for use in the following exercise***

# Changing one's way of thinking



The transition to Housing First demands a change in one's way of thinking as well as in one's behaviour – *a mindshift*

Behaviour changes require capability, opportunity and motivation.

# Drivers of implementation



- Management ownership and leadership
- Organizational capacity
- Interventions
- Participants (citizens and employers)
- Environment – context