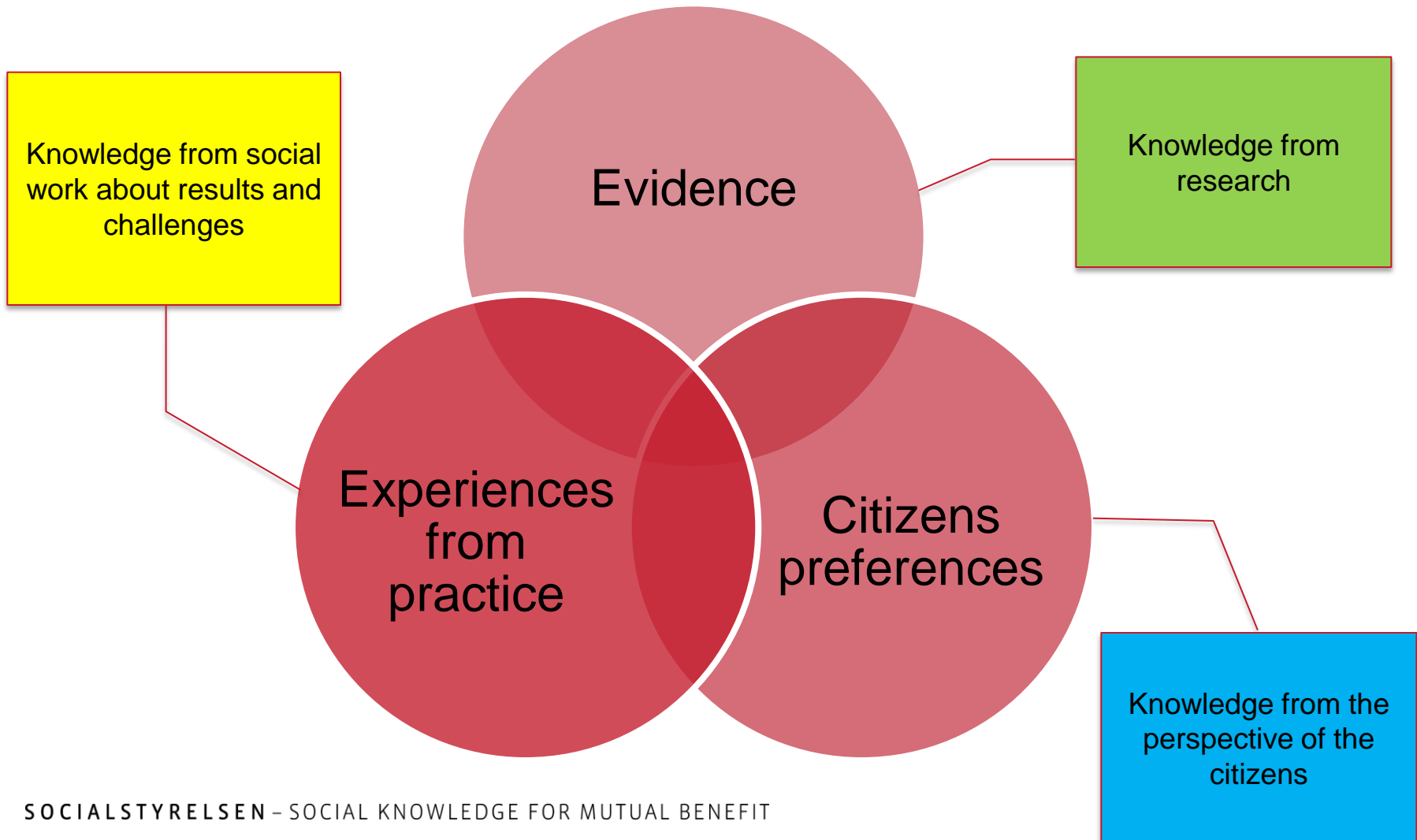


# How to make evidence evident?

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

- National Board of Social Service
- Municipality of Aarhus
- Group discussions on implementation
- Recommendations from the groups
- Thank you and good bye

# The "road" to social knowledge for mutual benefit



# WHY evidence?



**2007:** The first national census of homelessness in Denmark documented the problem: 5.253 persons

No systematic and documented knowledge of what works in solving homelessness

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 2009-2013 – with a partnership between Ministry of Social Affairs and 17 municipalities

Political commitment on national and local level based on common goals

Implementation: 2014 - 2017 in 25 municipalities

# Housing First a new approach

Immediate access to ordinary scattered housing and on-going support

- Deinstitutionalisation and decentralisation of service
- 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 “treatment first” and making people  
“housing ready” before they can move to ordinary  
permanent housing



# Housing First: Philosophy, Values and Practices

Targetgroup: people with complex needs who are most vulnerable - *complexity is the expectation not the exception!*

Housing is a basic human right - no demands of ready-ness

Encourages full participation in decision making by the consumer

Speedy admission and provision of all *desired* services  
(especially housing)

Separation of housing and support

Recovery oriented approach



Flexible, individual support matching citizens' needs:

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

***ICM*** (*Intensive Case Management*)

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





# Results and 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



# 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 difficult but necessary to achieve the success

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

# 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