



# LEAVING CARE

Issue 2  
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**Hi! We are happy to share this second project newsletter with you. In this issue, you can read about the training of trainers, the scoping exercise, as well as the implementation of the digital platform: YouthLinks. Happy reading!**

## TRAINING OF TRAINERS (ToT)

Between 11-13 September and 16-18 October, 13 Master Trainers met in Budapest to attend the Training of Trainers (right picture below). It was a successful event that brought together training experts from all six partner countries.

During the second part of the ToT in October, Master Trainers worked in country teams and delivered sessions to the other teams based on assigned sections of the Training Manual. Young people with alternative care experience also took part in the second part of the ToT (left picture below) in order to prepare themselves to co-deliver the training at national level.



The ToT went very well and the Master Trainers and young people especially appreciated the interactive training methodology. Master Trainers and co-trainers (young people with alternative care experience) are now working together to prepare their national trainings as well as decide on which sessions the young people want to co-deliver.

**Participation involves action. It is not something that is done to the young person. As a practitioner, this means you have to find processes that are realistic, legal and which ensure that both you and other adults listen.**

*Prepare for Leaving Care Practice Guidance*

## TRAINING MATERIAL

The training material include the *Prepare for Leaving Care Practice Guidance* and *Training Manual*, which were developed together with CELCIS and initially implemented in Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy and Croatia. They have now been adapted to include the new project countries and will soon be available in German, Bulgarian, Estonian, Hungarian, Romanian and Russian.

### Co-funder



This project is co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union. Responsibility for this content lies solely with SOS Children's Villages International. The European Commission is not responsible for any information contained here.

### About the project:

*Leaving Care – An Integrated Approach to capacity building of Professionals and Young People* aims to embed a child rights based culture into child protection systems which improves outcomes for children and young people in particular in the preparation for leaving care. Project partners include FICE Austria, SOS Bulgaria, SOS Estonia, SOS Hungary, SOS Italy, SOS Romania and FONPC.



**Stay in touch!**

[train4childrights@sos-kd.org](mailto:train4childrights@sos-kd.org)

If you are curious to read about how the first round of training implementation went, we invite you to look at the "[final publication](#)" of the first project, which also includes a set of policy recommendations on how to improve the leaving care experience and outcomes for young people.

## SCOPING FINDINGS

The scoping exercise was conducted with the aim of increasing understanding of the leaving care process in terms of how it is being experienced in practice by young people and what are its current framework conditions in Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary and Romania. The findings of the research were primarily analysed in order to ensure the content of the training materials were fully appropriate for this set of countries. The scoping exercise included a mapping of the national leaving care process, a qualitative questionnaire as well as peer-to-peer interviews that were conducted by and with care leavers.

The analysis of the scoping exercise was made by CELCIS and the main findings show that **"for care leavers it is the manner in which they are supported that is most crucial to them and therefore, the attitude and personal skills of the key worker that make a difference. They want to know that professionals who are supporting them through their care experience and, whilst leaving care, respect them."** If you are interested in reading the full Scoping Report please contact us!

## YOUTHLINKS

The Leaving Care project partners are using **YouthLinks** to build a supporting network for care leavers to improve their access to social rights. Based on Facebook Workplace, **YouthLinks digitally connects young people aged 16 - 25 with mentors coming from the corporate world**, various institutions, and other partners in order to maximise and scale the impact of mentorship programmes. The digital connection offers flexibility in terms of time, breaks down geographical barriers and allows one mentor to support a number of young people. YouthLinks also works as a content repository where young people can find materials and tools that help them in preparing to leave care, transitioning from care and in after care. Project partners in Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary and Romania have already set up their digital platforms and are now working together with care experienced young people to decide on, and if needed develop, the content that they want available on their national YouthLinks platforms. Through this platform, young people can also connect to peers, to alumni, as well as to care professionals.

## WHAT'S COMING UP

The **national trainings** will commence in January 2019 and continue until the middle of the fall 2019. The international project team, together with SOS Romania and FONPC Romania have started work in preparation for the **European Leaving Care Conference in Bucharest**, which will take place from 12-13 June. In addition, during the majority of next year the National Steering Groups and the Young Expert Groups will work on the development of national policy recommendations to raise awareness and push for the development and realization of a comprehensive Leaving Care Framework.

## Quotes from the peer to peer interviews (included in the scoping):

'You leave the (name of facility removed) and don't know what will happen with your life, where you will go. You have to cope on your own. You have never coped on your own before.'

'We feel really lonely.'

'I was not accompanied. I would have liked us to have started this process together, that we would have talked about it in the form of not having to jump into the cold water without any kind of support.'

'In a normal home your parents will show you what you do when you have problems, they will show you how to do it, like when you have to go to court, how to find a lawyer and other things, such as insurance and and and.... Parents usually set an example, but you don't learn that for example in care'

**Wishing you all a successful last month of 2018!**

**#Train4ChildRights**