



PREPARE FOR LEAVING CARE

Hi! We are excited to share this project newsletter with you. This past month has been a busy time for our project partners with the organisation of an international as well as several national final project roundtables. In this newsletter you can read more about the international event as well as find links to the main project publications. We hope you enjoy the reading!

THE INTERNATIONAL FINAL PROJECT ROUNDTABLE

On 15 November 2018 in Brussels, more than 60 people from ministries, NGOs, youth welfare services and universities gathered in Brussels for the *Prepare for Leaving Care* final project roundtable organized by SOS Children's Villages and CELCIS and co-hosted by the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights.

Young people with care experience, who participated in the project, took the lead during this roundtable and brought forth their recommendations on how to improve the child protection systems to better support young people preparing to leave care, transitioning from care and in after care. **"We are here, we have the answers and we can help care professionals to help us"**, said Zuleima, a young person from Spain.

Recommendations from young people

- They want to build a meaningful relationship with a key worker
- They ask for **guidance** and **advice** to feel **empowered** and **prepared** for leaving care.
- They want to participate in the individualized planning of leaving care and be the owners of their 'pathway plans'.
- They appeal to different agencies, responsible for housing, welfare, health and education, to **be involved in the planning** and ongoing support to young care leavers.
- They require living and housing arrangements and feel the need for aftercare support and for measures to **counter stigma** and discrimination of young people who have been in care.

At the end of the roundtable, Ms Davidson summarized her experiences during the project and noted **"how rich and meaningful this project has been in equalizing the power of young people, care professionals and the care system.** This is not just a training programme but a genuine role modelling of a new way to do things. There was willingness to share power, to trust, and people were so generous with their time." The last word was spoken by Kruno, a young person from Croatia. He made an appeal for improving and changing the system so that care leavers find better conditions. Or, as Kruno put it: **"Go home and be that change."**

Co-funder



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Associate Partner:



About the project:

Prepare for Leaving Care – a Child Protection System that Works for 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. A Prepare for Leaving Care Practice Guidance and Training Manual has been developed by CELCIS and used to deliver the training to care professionals in the five project countries: Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy and Croatia.

Stay in touch!



[www](http://www.soschildrensvillages.org)

FINAL PROJECT PUBLICATION

The final project publication can be found on our international project webpage (link [here](#)). We strongly encourage you to read it and we would like to share with you with a small quote from the powerful foreword written by two of the young people with care experience who were involved in all project activities as well as the international young expert group and project steering group:

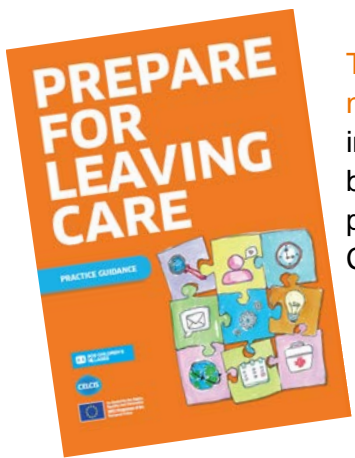


“Prepare for Leaving Care is a project that has put strengths at the front, giving youngsters the opportunity to be the owners of their lives and break all this acquired stigma that being in alternative care automatically implies. For that reason, the participation of the young experts from the five countries has been the main theme in this project because there always has been this need for improvement of the care system, but no one ever thought before that we are the ones who live it, the ones who know what parts may be failing and what may be working in our process.”

Zule and Kruno

On behalf of the 169 young people with care experience involved in the project

TRAINING MATERIAL



The Prepare for Leaving Care Practice Guidance is now also available for download on the international project webpage (link [here](#)). It has been developed as a resource material for participants taking part in the Prepare for Leaving Care training.

81% of participants who took part in the Prepare for Leaving Care training evaluated it as very good.



The Training Manual seeks to raise awareness of the content of the Practice Guidance, build knowledge and skills to support young people through the process of leaving care and help trainees to understand and develop some of the tools that are helpful in the leaving care process.

Please contact us if you are interested in receiving a copy of the Training Manual.

***Wishing you all a successful last month of the year –
Be the Change!***

Pictures from the final project roundtable in Brussels:

