

Prepare for Leaving Care

A Child Protection System that works for Professionals and Young People

INTRODUCTION

Prepare for Leaving Care – a Child Protection System that works for Professionals and Young People seeks to contribute to the capacity building of a range of Care Professionals (CPs) working with children or young people leaving care or with responsibility for the well-being of young people. The project builds on the experience of project partners to develop and deliver trainings for CPs to learn how to integrate a child right approach into their work and best prepare children and young people for leaving care. A train the trainer methodology will be used to ensure broad application of the developed tools and training. The **specific objective** is to **build the capacity of professionals to integrate a child rights based approach into their work in preparation for leaving care.**

PROJECT STRUCTURE

Project partners were selected based on their commitment, experience and work to promote the rights of children in care. At international level, SOS Children's Villages International and Eurochild share a common view that European policies and projects should be rooted in local needs and supported by evidence and expertise of strong national coalitions. National partners are SOS Children's Villages associations in Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy and Croatia. CELCIS, the Centre of Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland, are academic experts in the area of children's rights, child protection and leaving care.

National Steering Groups and National Youth Groups are organised in each of the five implementing project countries. Two young people from each National Young Expert Group are also members of the International Young Expert Group. In total 130 young people participate in project activities.

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.

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#Train4ChildRights



Check out our project webpage!



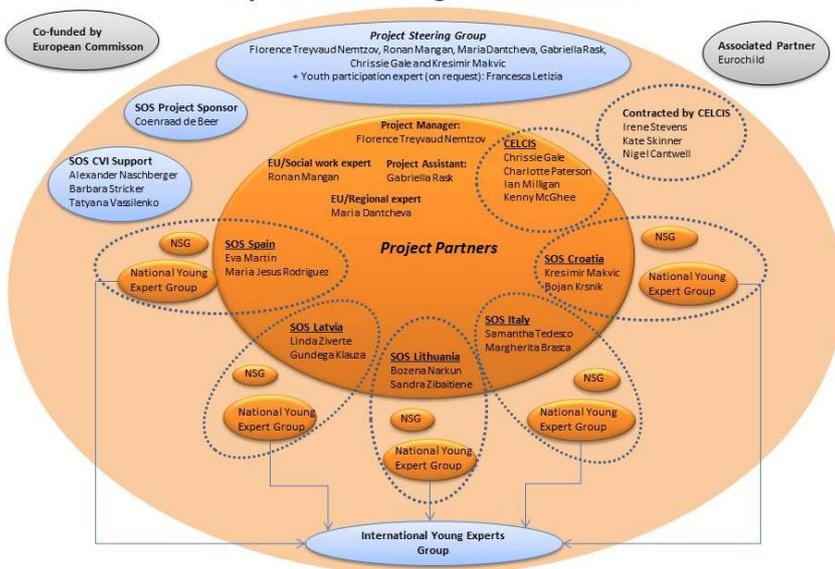
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Prepare for Leaving Care: Structure



KICK-OFF

The project kick-off took place in Vienna from the 30th of January till the 2nd of February 2017. The international project management team (project manager, project assistant, EU/Social work expert and EU/regional expert) and national coordinators, national project assistants from the six co-beneficiaries Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy, Croatia and CELCIS participated in the meeting. The objectives were to achieve a common understanding of the projects context and activities and to agree on responsibilities.



Project partners agreed on the following project activities and timeline:

- Development of a Leaving Care Toolkit, a Training Methodology and Manual based on evidence collected from the 5 EU countries (July – October 2017)
- Training of 11 Master Trainers (September– November 2017)
- Delivery of national trainings to 400 care professionals in the 5 EU countries (January 2018 – June 2018)
- Development of National Policy Guidelines and comprehensive Leaving Care frameworks (January – September 2018)
- Final roundtable in Brussels to share project results and to outline the strategy for follow-up (October/November 2018)

WHAT'S COMING UP

The scoping exercise, to help develop the 'Leaving Care Toolkit' and the curriculum for the 'Training of Master Trainers,' is currently ongoing. Together with national stakeholders project countries are identifying the principal challenges, gaps and concerns in the journey of care leavers whilst preparing to leave care, the transition from care to independent living and, after they have left care. They are also giving their recommendations for change. In parallel, the young people are conducting peer to peer interviews to collect first-hand information about the process of leaving care. You will receive more detailed information in the next newsletter coming up in June.

"Youth participation in this project is important because we were in the same situation and we know what it feels like and we understand them. And we really want to share ideas to make a better future for other generations."

Patricija, Lithuania

"I think that youth participation is important because the care system concerns young people so if something concerns me I have to give my opinion, to give my point of view."

Matteo, Italy

"Care workers need to find the best way to help young people when they are no longer in alternative care."

Anamarija, Croatia

Read more about what some of the young experts say about 'Prepare for Leaving Care' [here](#).

Wishing you an exciting and successful spring!