



PREPARE FOR LEAVING CARE

Issue 5
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Hi everyone! We are happy to share this year's first project newsletter with you. A lot has happened during these first three months and we extend a huge THANK YOU to our partners who are doing a fantastic job implementing the project.

NATIONAL TRAININGS

The *Prepare for Leaving Care* trainings are now taking place in all five partner countries. **Young people with care experience are co-delivering the training** together with highly qualified Master Trainers. Project Partners are reporting back that trainees are very happy with the training and that they are glad to have the opportunity to focus on the topic of leaving care together with other professionals. See some pictures from the trainings below.



The young people who are co-delivering the training are also feeding back their **positive experiences**. Patricija, from Lithuania, is happy with her first experience as a co-trainer: "Cooperating with Dalia and Rimvydas (Master Trainers), especially as it was my first experience as trainer, was absolutely pleasing. It was as if we felt one another, and I think that was the thing why the whole training went so smoothly. Of course, the whole group made this wonderful atmosphere and it was really **nice to work and learn together.**"

In Croatia, care professionals expressed their appreciation for the input of the two young co-trainers Kruno and Martina: "I see young people as my partners. I don't see it as 'us and them,'" says Daniela Vukelja, who heads a youth community living centre in Pula, Croatia. "We build something new together and the insights from Kruno and Martina were very valid." Read more about the training in Croatia here: [Young experts help train care professionals.](#)"

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 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.

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NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY ROADMAPS

During this spring, the National Steering Groups and Young Expert Groups will be engaged in developing national recommendations and sustainability roadmaps. These will be based upon the findings from the scoping and information collected in focus group discussions as well as from the questionnaires completed by all the trainees before, and after, each training.

The ultimate goal is that care professionals in each participating country are trained on how to embed a child rights-based approach to their work to improve outcomes for children and young people when they leave care.

More specifically, the **national recommendations** should help decision-makers and influential key-stakeholders in the national child protection systems to identify the measures to be taken to ensure that all professionals involved in the direct care of children are trained in leaving care and are able to implement the learnings in their places of work. The objectives in the national recommendations will form the basis for developing the **sustainability roadmaps**. These will identify the steps to be taken to ensure continued training of care professionals and awareness-raising on the rights of the children in care at national level after the project ends.

WHAT'S COMING UP

National trainings will continue until the beginning of June 2018 followed by a thorough evaluation of the trainings including pre- and post-training questionnaires, focus group discussions and an impact training assessment.

During this year project partners will also take part in a number of national and international events to promote the learnings and outputs from the project. From the 28th - 30th May, the International Project Manager together with the Spanish Project Manager, a Master Trainer and a young person with care experience will host a workshop at the **European Social Service Conference** in Seville. Workshop participants will take away a good example of full and meaningful youth participation as they will themselves get to experience how powerful training sessions involving care-experienced young people as co-trainers are.

Finally, we are happy to inform you about a new grant for the project *Leaving Care*, which will roll-out the above mentioned trainings in five new countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary and Romania) as well as new regions in Italy. We sincerely thank the European Commission for their support in co-financing initiatives aiming at improving outcomes for care leavers.

Wishing you all lovely spring!

Quotes from young people with care experience (taken from the Practice Guidance):

It was a shock, because you were used to having almost everything done for you, they made your food, washed your clothes, cleaned your floor...and today those are things I have to do in my house, and they should have prepared us a lot more for that.

There are children who will always have parents to go to for advice. In here, we don't have it. We have to become independent on our own.

It doesn't depend on me, it depends on them. Everything depends on the management and carers.