



PREPARE FOR LEAVING CARE

Issue 3
October 2017

Hello everyone! During the past couple of months we have made great strides forward in the *Prepare for Leaving Care* project. Here comes the third newsletter for 2017, bringing many exciting updates.

PREPARE FOR LEAVING CARE PRACTICE GUIDANCE AND TRAINING MANUAL

The Practice Guidance is underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and based on the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. It has been developed with the aim of contributing to the knowledge and skills of the professionals, carers and other stakeholders responsible for supporting children and young people leaving care. It builds on four principles: 1) building sustained relationships with the care leaver based on care and respect, 2) high levels of participation, 3) promoting and protection of all human rights of children and young people, and 4) the need for an inter-sectoral approach.

The Practice Guidance and the Training Manual were used during the project's first Training of Trainers in Zagreb, Croatia. Both documents were thoroughly tested and they are now in the final editing phase. The final versions can be expected in all national languages by January 2018.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which applies to everyone under the age of 18, stipulates the obligation to elicit and take due account of children's views on all matters affecting them (Article 12). The CRC also establishes the right of the child to receive "appropriate direction and guidance" in exercising other rights set out in the treaty, taking account of his/her "evolving capacities" (Article 5).

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

The development of the Prepare for Leaving Care Practice Guidance and the Training Manual has been informed by the participation of young people with care experience. One of the requirements of the national training is that at least one care-experienced young person is involved in part of the training delivery.

To give the Master Trainers an understanding for how to work together with a young person with care experience they have been tasked to prepare and present one part of the training together with a young person to the rest of the country groups in Granada.

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.

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 Toolkit and Training Manual will be 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)

TRAINING OF TRAINERS IN ZAGREB



The first part of the project's Training of Trainers took place from 19 to 21 September 2017 in Zagreb, Croatia. It was a successful event that brought together training experts from all five partner countries. The training was led by Irene Stevens and Ian Milligan who were joined by Arturs Poksans.



Irene is a trained social worker who worked in a range of residential child care setting in Scotland between 1984–2001. Between 2001 and 2012 she worked for CELCIS where her main work was training, evaluative research and developing practice guidance literature. When she left CELCIS in 2012, she continued to work as an independent national and international consultant in the field of residential child care and education. **Ian** is a qualified residential social worker who worked in State children's homes in Glasgow for a number of years before moving into adult education, teaching social care and social work. He is currently a senior lecturer at the University of Strathclyde (Scotland) and International Advisor at CELCIS. **Arturs** has been working as a teacher in the Department of Anthropology since 2016, at the University of Latvia. Arturs' experience with children's rights mainly comes from involvement with SOS Children's Villages Latvia on several projects which are connected to transition from childcare systems to adult life, as well as first-hand experience of the State childcare system during childhood.

WHAT'S COMING UP

The second part of the Training of Trainers will take place from 7 to 9 November in Granada. During the same time the Project Partners, the Project Steering Group and the International Young Expert Group have their mid-term meetings in Granada. The focus of the meetings will be on advocacy and sustainability aspects of the project as well as to share knowledge and learnings on the topic of organising national trainings. We are looking forward to enriching and productive meetings!

Wishing you all a colourful fall!

Quotes from the Training of Trainers in Zagreb:

Participation needs to be part of the natural relationship.

Participation happens together with children and young people. It is not something that happens to them.

Participation has to be worth something. The child and young person need to understand the meaning of their participation.

Let me let you be involved in my life.

Do not only see us as people who need help but as people who can help.

#Train4ChildRights