



LEAVING CARE

Issue 3
April 2019

Hi! We are happy to share this third project newsletter with you. In this issue, you can read about how the Master Trainers are supporting their co-trainers to ensure meaningful participation as well as the upcoming conference in Bucharest in June. Happy reading!

PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE AS CO-TRAINERS

The trainings have now started in the project countries and trainees are feedbacking that they are happy with the content as well as the skilled trainers. The involvement of **young people with care experience as co-trainers is having particular impact as trainees get the opportunity to hear directly about the challenges of care leavers**. The participation of young people with care experience is made possible because of the support and encouragement from the Master Trainers and project partners. They work together to prepare their national trainings and in particular to establish meaningful work relationships built on trust. To support their work, one of the Lead Trainers, who is also care-experienced, has provided **five helpful hints**, which are further described in the Training Manual. Excerpt below:

1. Build the relationship with the care experienced person both inside and outside of work

As with any other working relationship, the quality of your work with the care-experienced person will largely depend on the personal relationship between the persons involved. Take time to get to know the care experienced person you are going to be working with.

2. Include the ideas of the care experienced person

It is paramount to let the care-experienced person know that their opinion is important and to truly consider the improvements and suggestions they might bring to the table.

3. Trust

It is also important to remember to not only include the ideas of the care-experienced person but also to trust them to carry them out. Of course, this does entail certain risks but the point we wish to stress is that this trust is crucial for the success of the training.

4. Honesty and constructive criticism

As the care-experienced person needs to be perceived and treated as another trainer, any special treatment of their ideas would renew doubts about their actual role in the process. Therefore, the ideas of the care-experienced person should always be critically reviewed to ensure that the ideas of the care-experienced person actually enrich and improve the training process.

5. Recognition of strengths and weaknesses of the care experienced person

Remember that the term 'care experienced persons' describes a diverse group of people with different interests, experiences and capabilities. This means that the actual person that you will be working with will be bringing their own tools that they can use to improve the training process.

Co-funder



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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.



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BE THE CHANGE! CONFERENCE

The “BE THE CHANGE!” conference is taking place in **Bucharest, 12-13 June 2019**, and organised under the patronage of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It will bring together a range of stakeholders from the child care and protection area including representatives from the European Commission, Council of Europe, national Ministries, child ombudspersons, NGOs, universities, corporates as well as care professionals and young people themselves.

The conference is meant as a platform for discussing and recommending what key changes are needed at policy and practice level in order to improve the leaving care framework with the aim to ensure that the preparation for leaving care, the transition out of care and the aftercare services provide the individualised support each young person needs on the pathway to adulthood. One key aspect in terms of ensuring quality of the leaving care process is to invest into the capacity of care professionals working directly or indirectly with care leavers to better respect, protect, fulfil and promote their rights.

More specifically the goals of the conference are to:

- ✓ **Listen to young people with experience in alternative care** and their messages on the preparation, transition and after care support that should be available in order for them to safely and successfully transition from alternative care to independent life.
- ✓ **Listen to care professionals** and their messages on how to improve the leaving care framework as well as their working conditions in order for them to be able to better fulfil their tasks and responsibilities while accompanying care leavers on their transition out of care.
- ✓ **Promote exchange between Romanian and other European stakeholders on good practices at programme and policy levels** relating to improving outcomes for care leavers and in particular the realisation of their rights.
- ✓ **Present the Leaving Care Training** and highlight how young people with alternative care experience are successfully involved in co-delivering some of its sessions.
- ✓ **Release a “Call to Action” on Leaving Care** aiming at improving policy and practice for better outcomes for care leavers.

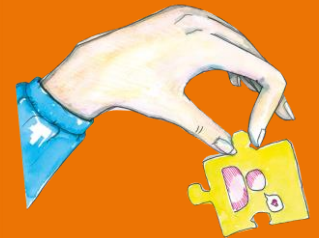
WHAT'S COMING UP

The national trainings are continuing in the partner countries until the fall 2019. If you are from one of the partner countries and interested in the training, please get in touch with us so that we can send you the contact information.

The national YouthLinks digital platforms, aimed at improving care leavers access to social rights, have been established and corporate representatives are now being invited to join the platforms and become mentors. These platforms exist in Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, and Romania so **if you are interested in mentoring a young person with care experience please contact us for more information!**

EXCITING NEWS:

The multi-talented illustrator, Romana Glavudrić, who is behind the illustrations in the **Prepare for Leaving Care Practice Guidance** will be live sketching during the conference in Bucharest! See some of her great work below 😊



#BetheChange
#Train4ChildRights

Wishing you all a lovely spring!