



LEAVING CARE

Hi! We are happy to share this sixth project newsletter with you. In this issue, you can read about our training winning the European Social Services Award in the category "Innovation". Happy reading!

EUROPEAN SOCIAL SERVICES INNOVATION AWARD

Thanks to your great support with voting, the 'Prepare for Leaving Care' training won the European Social Services Award 2019 in the category innovation at the ceremony held in Brussels on 6 December. Eva Martin Balseiro, Spanish Project Coordinator, and Eva Hidalgo Alava, Spanish Co-trainer, represented the [Prepare for Leaving Care project](#) and the [Leaving Care project](#) at the award ceremony. Read more [here](#).



From left: Eva Hidalgo Alava, Spanish Co-trainer and Eva Martin Balseiro, Spanish Project Coordinator

"This training is innovative because young people with care experience have been involved in the development as well as co-delivering the training," said Florence Treyvaud Nemtsov, International Project Manager at SOS Children's Villages International. "This participatory approach gives care professionals the opportunity to hear first-hand how young people are experiencing the leaving care process and to reflect together on how to improve these experiences for future generations of care leavers."

The direct involvement of young people also has a positive impact on young people with experience in alternative care who act as co-trainers. "Being a co-trainer has given me the opportunity to meet great professionals in the sector, committed to their work and eager to help us," said Eva Hidalgo Alava. "What I liked the most was getting to know young people from other countries who had an experience similar to mine and who wanted to raise their voices to show that, in the process of emancipation, we are important and we must be taken into account," she added.

Following the end of the Prepare for Leaving Care project in December 2019, SOS Spain has received grants from the Spanish Government to continue rolling out the project. "Being in charge of this project for the last 3 years has been an incredible experience that has given me the opportunity to meet extraordinary young people who have actively engaged in all the activities of the project, especially as co-trainers. The fact that their participation has been really significant and relevant, has given credibility and strength to this project. Definitely, without them, the project would not have worked out the same!" said Eva Martin Balseiro.

Now, thanks to the Leaving Care project, the training has reached even more care professionals in Europe. To date, over 1000 participants (social workers, psychologists, foster parents, SOS parents, teachers etc.) have completed the six-day training in ten European countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy, Spain and Romania).

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.



Stay in touch!
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Happy holidays!