



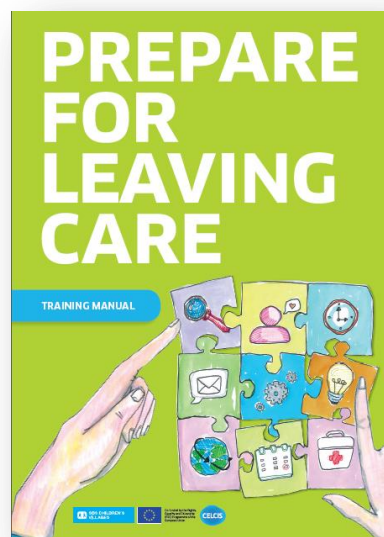
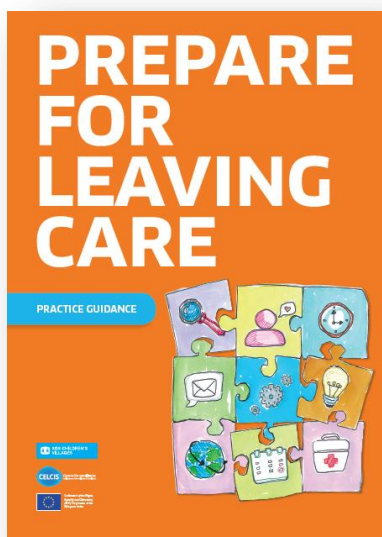
PREPARE FOR LEAVING CARE

Issue 4
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Hello everyone! During the past couple of months we have reached big milestones in the *Prepare for Leaving Care* project. Here comes the fourth newsletter for 2017, sharing our key achievements.

PREPARE FOR LEAVING CARE PRACTICE GUIDANCE AND TRAINING MANUAL

We are very happy to be able to share with you that the Prepare for Leaving Care Practice Guidance and Training Manual have been finalized. Both publications have been developed by CELCIS and emphasize the key findings from the scoping exercise that was done in all five partner countries. The publications will be available in Croatian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Spanish in time for the national trainings, which will take place during the first half of 2018. Below are the beautiful cover pages with illustrations by the talented Romana Glavurđić.



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 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).

Training of Trainers and Project Partners meeting

During the second ToT training in Granada in November 2017, Master Trainers worked in country teams and delivered sessions to the other Master Trainers based on particular assigned sections of the Training Manual. One day of the training was organised together with the young people with care experience in order to prepare them for co-delivering a session.

The mid-term project partners meeting, which was organised in parallel to the ToT, focused on discussing project successes and challenges. Partners also shared knowledge and experience on the topic of organising trainings in order to best prepare them for the upcoming national trainings. It was a fruitful meeting that got everyone excited about the activities to come.

Stay in touch!



International Young Expert meeting

During the International Young Expert Meeting in Granada, 10 young people with care experience from the five partner countries came together to prepare for the national trainings, discuss what full and meaningful participation means to them, and to share knowledge about what is needed to strengthen the leaving care process. They developed a vision that you can read more about in their foreword to the Practice Guidance. Their key points are:

- **Let's stay in touch!**

A successful leaving care process is based on good relationships with caregivers and social workers.

- **Support us in our journey and make us even stronger!**

We all have our strong sides, but in order to develop them and become even stronger we need emotional support, academic and professional orientation and support in areas such as health and social matters.

- **Take our opinion into account!**

Including young people's opinions in the process of care leaving is most important. Sometimes others think they know what is good for us but we want to explain what is working for us.



“We want that the next generation of children and young people in alternative care will have the optimum conditions for growing up, developing themselves and living a happy life.”

WHAT'S COMING UP

The national leaving care trainings will commence in January and continue until the beginning of June. During the majority of next year the National Steering Groups and the Young Expert Groups will work on the development of national policy recommendations to raise awareness and push for the development of a comprehensive Leaving Care Framework. These recommendations will then be brought together in a European report.

Wishing you all Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

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

First of all, gaining independence should be treated as a process where you could see how things are going. And whether that person is ready. And if she or he isn't ready, they should at least have someone on their side, so that they don't just automatically stumble and fall.

Basically, care professionals must put their heart into their work, doing more than 8 working hours, if necessary. For example, if a kid has a problem, they should stay and listen to him, even if their work shift is ended. I know it's a job for them, but they work with our lives.

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