



# PREPARE FOR LEAVING CARE

**Hi! We are happy to share this final project newsletter with you. We have had two great years together and we are so proud of all the hard work invested by everyone involved in this project.**

## KEY PROJECT RESULTS

The specific objective of the two-year *Prepare for Leaving Care* project has been to **build the capacity of professionals to integrate a child rights based approach to their work especially in preparation for leaving care**. The training evaluation, led by CELCIS, clearly shows that the training has been a success and most appreciated by participants. The impact of the participation of young people with care experience as co-trainers is clear from the training evaluation: **the majority of the trainees stated that they had gained a better understanding of the situation of care leavers and that they now know how to support them better**. The evaluation confirms an increase of knowledge and skills of participants of the national trainings. **81% of the participants** who completed their pre- and post-training evaluation questionnaires (332 completed) **rated the training as very good**.

### Achieved results

A scoping report, gathering information on child protection/child care and welfare systems and services as they relate to leaving care, on workforce development and training need in the five project countries	The development of the Prepare for Leaving Care Practice Guidance, Training Methodology and Training Manual
Training of 12 Master Trainers from the five project countries	19 Young people with care experience involved as co-trainers in the national trainings
Delivery of the Prepare for Leaving Care training to 433 care professionals in the five project countries	169 Young people participated directly in project activities
The development of National Policy Recommendations and Sustainability Roadmaps in all five project countries	One international and five national final project roundtables

### 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 Prepare for 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.

### Stay in touch!



## PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

From the 2-5 September, Rimvydas Augutavicius, Master Trainer from Lithuania; Patricija, Co-trainer and young person with care experience; and Gabriella Rask, Project Coordinator took part in the [XXII Congress of International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect](#). The congress brought together over 700 participants from 85 countries. On the afternoon of the second day, Rimvydas and Patricija held a workshop where they presented the project and invited the participants to try the training session titled "What does it feel like to leave home".

From 29-31 October, Kruno Topolski, Co-trainer and young person with care experience; Bojan Krsnik, Project Assistant and Youth Participation Expert; and Kresimir Makvic, Project Coordinator and Advocacy Advisor took part in the [Eurochild Conference "Building a better Europe with children: All aboard!"](#). One the afternoon of the first day of the conference they hosted a workshop to share results from the project and introduce participants to the training contents and method of co-delivering such trainings with care-experienced young people. The workshop was attended by 45 participants, including children and young people, and the presented activity from the training was appreciated by participants.

## THE WAY FORWARD

The needed changes in the services provided and, most importantly, in the way the support is delivered to each individual will not happen without allocating proper resources and seriously investing money and effort into:

1. [strengthening the capacity of care professionals](#) to support and empower young people transitioning out of care
2. [designing and implementing services that support and empower young people](#) transitioning out of care (such as semi-independent living programmes) with young people's participation
3. [enabling care leavers to easily access services](#) and support in a non-discriminatory, non-labelling and non-bureaucratic way.

Young people with care experience are the experts of their own lives! They need to be given the space to be heard if we are to truly improve policy and practice to achieve better outcomes for children and young people who grew up in alternative care. To read more [recommendations for a comprehensive leaving care framework](#) please check out the *Prepare for Leaving Care* final publication [here](#).

We trust that you will support the sustainability of the *Prepare for Leaving Care* training in Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy and Spain and we invite you to follow the implementation of the *Leaving Care* project (link [here](#)), which will roll-out the training in Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Romania as well as more regions in Italy during the spring of 2019.

**Thank You and Happy Holidays-  
Be the Change!**

## Quotes from care professionals who attended the training:

'I can understand young people better, their needs and support they need. It was exciting training...'

Now I have new tools for working with young people, and I will use them.

Thank you young people for attending, it was interesting to hear your opinion.

It has helped me to put myself in the place of young people and forget the position of "caregiver".

This kind of training has made me reflect out of the bubble.