



# LC-LL LeaveCare-LiveLife project

*Building the European Care Leavers Network  
for youngsters leaving foster and residential care and actively  
living and participating in life*

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Final Event  
European Parliament, Brussels, Be, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020





# “Empowering care leavers in Europe” Conference and exposition

**Bruxelles - 20th February 2020**  
**European Parliament**

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## In memory of Shane

*«Tap me on the shoulder,  
I'm here if you  
want to speak,  
Just a few words  
I've thrown together,  
knowing the power  
of talking together.  
Reach out speak out  
and live your life».*

*(Shane Griffin)*



# Why LC–LL for EU priorities

Defining the **general needs**:

- Europe needs to improve **social inclusion processes**
- European Youth need **empowerment**
- Europe asks for the development of **civic and intercultural competences**
- Care leavers need **to overcome a legislation “blank”**, both through self-activation and impact on the EU, National and local authorities





## ... then LeaveCare-LiveLife project!

LC-LL has fostered the development of civic and intercultural competences through the creation of a **EU network** of care leavers, **peer-to-peer learning** and exchange, enhancing their capacity of building relations, expressing their necessities and wishes

LC-LL has improved their EU and **active citizenship** as they are given space to become **change-makers** whose opinion and voice are heard; virtual interaction also improves their **digital skills**

**Cooperation** among care leavers, social workers, care providers and institutions ensures a **better access to rights**, autonomy and participation of young CLs at a local, national and EU level, promoting diversity and inclusiveness, increasing their **capacity to influence processes and decisions** that directly affect their lives

# Keywords

Advocacy

Rights  
(art.12 CRC)

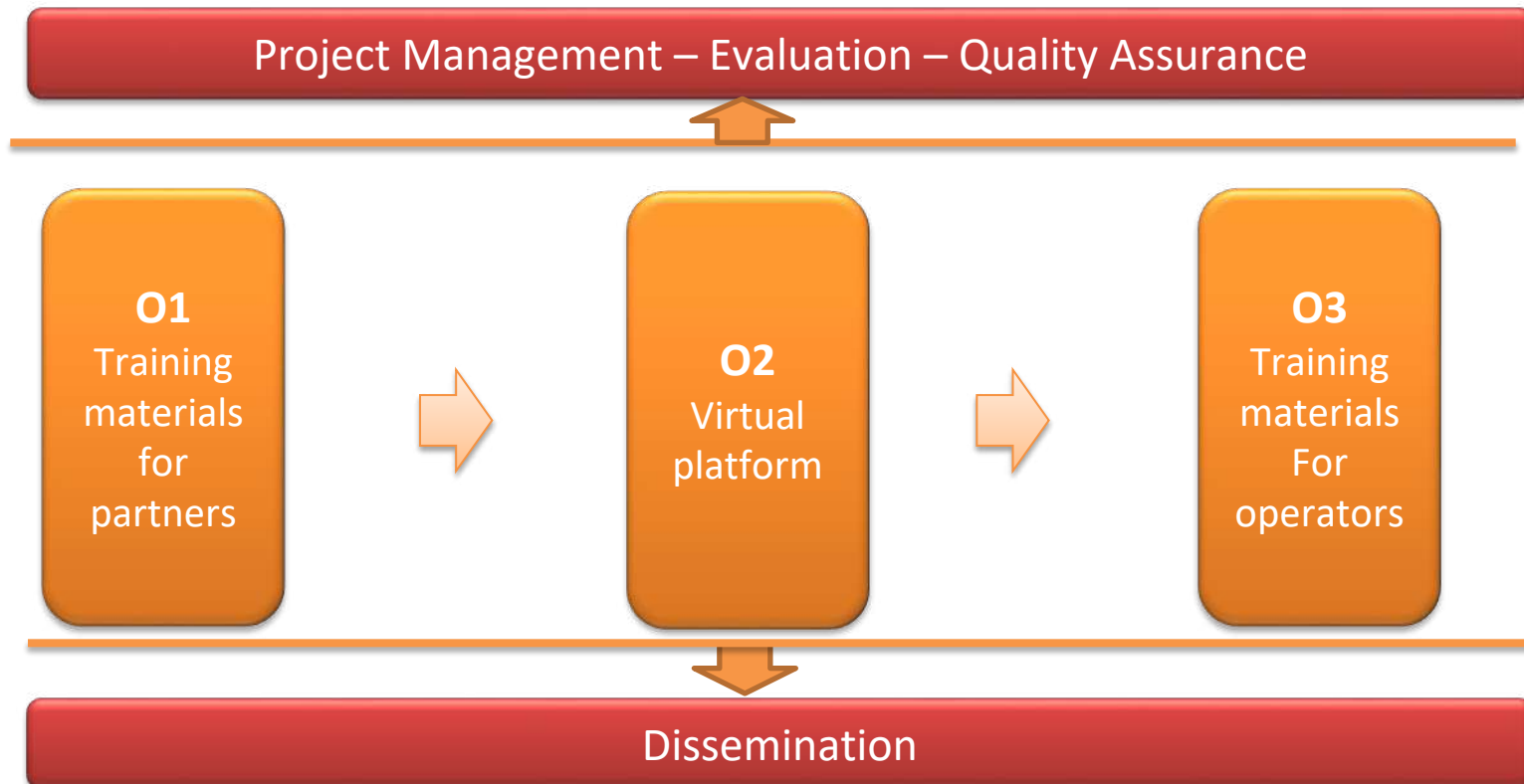
Active citizenship

Participation

Meetings between CLS

# What is LC-LL

2 years, 5 partners, 3 main results plus transversal activities:



# The process

March 2020

Transnational CLs' exchange and confrontation with peer for discussing life in and outside foster care, expectations, wishes, difficulties, proposing and discussing common Recommendations to be addressed to EU



Design and development of learning materials for the professionals concerning the participation of CLs during the transition out of foster and residential care

Creation of a ECLN platform addressed to the young CLs and organizations supporting young adults in the transition out of foster and residential care



Design and development of the training materials for partners to adopt a common approach and methodology in the management of the ECLN and CPLGs

Dec 2017

Final event, European Parliament, Brussels, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020





# The results



Materials: CLPG Handbook, Training materials for staff, for professionals, for CLs

Platform: forum, Stories, Resources, MUSEUM!!!!



Trained people: 15 staff, 30 professionals, 35 care leavers and domino effect....

Awareness raising: regional, national and EU events, several articles, social networking, F2F meetings



Impact: Recommendations addressed to Authorities taken into account for policies, birth of ECLN as association of associations



# National impact - Croatia



- 28 young people
- 35 professionals



Final event, European Parliament, Brussels, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020

# National impact - Croatia

- Raised awareness about importance of the active participation among professionals and care leavers
- new projects and cooperations are started on national and international level



## RECOMMENDATIONS OF CROATIAN CLPG PARTICIPANTS WITHIN THE PROJECT „LeaveCare-LiveLife“

Ensure accommodation for care leavers who have no other option for at least a year after leaving care with symbolic participation

Provide savings for each child in care (during their stay in care) to have some financial security when leaving

Provide conditions and opportunities for care leavers exchanges (to ensure possibilities for exchange of experience and information between care leavers)

Provide life-skills education (financial literacy, cooking, etc.) before leaving the care.

Provide a personal mentor for a period of at least one year before leaving and two years after leaving care.

Provide continuous education, support and help for foster parents and all professionals working with children and young people in the care system.

Inform the public in order to break up the prejudices of young people in alternative care

Provide a person with whom a young person in the system of care or care leaver can talk at least once a week.

Ensure equal regional representation of social services so young people do not have to leave their community for the purpose of their use





March 2020

# The italian process

Participation of 9 italian professionals to the training for professionals in Bucharest

Participation of 6 italian care leavers to the youth exchange in Zagreb

National conference of care leavers, at the Parliament



Consolidation of 6 regional groups of care leavers and implementation of "care leaver participation groups". Organization of 6 regional conferences with local stakeholders to which the recommendations of the care leavers were presented



Dec 2017

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# Italian results



## CULTURAL LEVEL

- Improvement of the **awareness** on the topic of leaving care and on the **stigma** that affect children in care.
- Diffusion of the **culture of participation** through the direct voice and action of care leavers.

## POLITICAL LEVEL

- The **advocacy process**, in collaboration with many organizations, such as SOS Villages, CNCA, the Italian Guarantee of the Rights of the Children, and the support of some politicians, led to the implementation of an **experimental fund for care leaver**, first aftercare policy in Italy.
- At the moment, a **further fund** is discussed at the Parliament, with the aim of extending the support for care leavers till 25 years, in line with other European countries.
- Care leavers are involved in the **monitoring** and evaluation of the policy.

# National impact – Romania

- More than 40 young people – from different social communities: rural, urban, prison, residential centers.
- 20 professionals – many of them Careleavers
- echo at the Political level – new ideas of changing laws
- A good Support from mass media





# National impact - Romania

Care Leavers Network  
EUROPE  
LeaveCare-LiveLife

ASOCIATIA  
**T.I.B.E.R.I.U.S.**

Erasmus+

Ai părăsit centrul de plasament și trebuie să te descurci Singur? Crezi că poți schimba ceva pentru cei care sunt în aceeași situație? Poate vrei doar să petreci câteva ore alături de cei care înfruntă aceleași probleme post-protecție. Ideile tale ne pot fi de folos în încercarea noastră de a schimba legislația în România. Împreună putem visa spre un viitor mai bun!

Vino la întâlnirile noastre dedicate tinerilor post-protecție!

Vino să discutăm despre

## Primul Pas

- Careleavers are seen now as part of the society With specific Issues
- Many organisations working with careleavers Unite the efforts to improve current situation
- professionals Change their view in working with children in care

# National impact – United Kingdom

**18 young people direct impact and 150 young people indirect impact**



## UK Recommendations by Care Leavers

1. Care Leaver based training - Care experienced people carrying out training for other care experienced people and professionals
2. Ring fenced funding for social care
3. Leaving care service to 25 and additional support post 25 if required.
4. Have support available for care experienced children and young people 24/7 -Issues happen after hours and at weekends.
5. Communication handover for all those involved in the child's life - Better communication than current level.
6. Training (for staff and care experienced young people) and jobs for care experienced people that are ring fenced and in all areas (we don't just want admin or building jobs)
7. Free and priority health care (including mental health) for care experienced young people and care leavers
8. No council tax/EU equivalent for care leavers
9. Compulsory training on trauma/attachment/mental health for professionals and care experienced young people
10. Legal and financial support for asylum seeking children and young people in the care system
11. To not send asylum seeking children in care back to their birth country once they are 18
12. Minimum one year for a social worker/Personal advisor to work with a young person- preferred same throughout time in care
13. For all politicians to have knowledge of the issues affecting people in care and care leavers and to speak to them, even if it's not their 'area'; as all areas have an effect on those in care - They are ALL corporate parents!



# National impact – United Kingdom

## 90 professionals across two events

National Training for Professionals,  
Conference 29th October 2019.  
Keynote Speaker; Leaving Care Expert,  
Professor Mike Stein



Also, Carrie spoke with a Care Leaver at  
the House of Lords in 7th February  
2020 to 50 professionals about how to  
work with young people using  
participation

