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Empowering public authorities and professionals towards trauma-informed leaving care support

The European CarePath Policy Conference

WP5 / A5.3 / D5.3.3

Co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)

Project information

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D5.3.3: The European CarePath Policy Conference

Introduction and overview of the CarePath Conference

The European CarePath Policy Conference of the *CarePath project* sit within Work Package 5 (WP5), 'Dissemination and Sustainability', which is focused on the implementation of the project's dissemination and sustainability strategy.

The overall communication goal of the *CarePath project* will be to create added value of project results as well as to spread and to successfully exploit the CarePath deliverables. With regard to specific objectives, the Communication and Sustainability Plan identifies them as follows:

1. **In terms of communication:** To ensure high visibility of the project and to create and raise awareness towards relevant stakeholders at local, national and European levels
2. **In terms of dissemination:** To ensure effective dissemination of project deliverables and results to key targets and broader audiences in public, academic and non-governmental sectors at local, national and European levels
3. **In terms of sustainability:** To ensure that stakeholders are aware of availability of a free mechanism for integrated aftercare support and are enabled to use project results in their own work
4. **In terms of EU added value:** To promote the EU added value by demonstrating how EU funding contributes to tackling societal challenges and promoting the rights of the child.

Specifically, Work Package 5 entailed the preparation of dissemination materials and the organisation of dissemination activities and events, that are intended to 'build the case' for the *CarePath project* in line with the overall vision and goals of the project. The CarePath conference represented the flagship event of the project's dissemination activities.

The conference, titled **Aftercare for Care Leavers: Learning lessons from across Europe**, aimed to achieve the following:

- Raise the crucial need for the reform of national and local child protection systems across the EU so that all children and young people receive aftercare upon leaving care, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.6
- Engage participants through exchange of existing practices, identifying gaps in provision, and investigate the role that the EU could play as a driver for change.
- Provide an opportunity for young care leavers to give guidance to EU decision makers on inclusive participation practices of children and young people who are ageing out of care.
- Disseminate resources and policy guidance developed under the *CarePath project*.

- Engage attendees to show their support for mainstreaming trauma-informed care in European child protection systems by endorsing the "D5.4.1 Memorandum of Understanding".

Format of the CarePath Policy Conference

The CarePath Policy Conference marked the conclusion of a 2-year awareness raising and communications campaign to promote the key messages and results developed under the *CarePath project*. The Conference was envisioned to take place in Brussels with at least 200 participants. The conference was to be implemented in English, given this language's central role in European policymaking and as the most transferable EU language to project partners and participants. Participants were to be drawn mainly from public authorities from the EU27 (plus the UK), as well as stakeholders, NGOs, associations and bodies responsible for children in alternative care, care leavers and disadvantaged groups of children.

The conference was originally planned for April 2020 for an in-person standard conference format. However, due to the exceptional circumstances of COVID19, international travel was neither advised nor encouraged. Therefore, the CarePath partnership took the decision to postpone the conference, and with it the project closure of the *CarePath project*, to later in the year to October 2020. The CarePath partnership and Eurochild, as coordinators for this deliverable, highly appreciate the flexibility of the European Commission and attached desk officer who supported this decision.

This disruption to initial planning unsurprisingly presented a huge challenge to the CarePath partnership, and coordinating partner Eurochild, in terms of time lost to planning, logistics & communications. However, thanks to the support and dedication of internal team members, partnership colleagues & flexibility from our funder, the CarePath Policy Conference was successfully adapted to an online format. With 620 registrants to attend the conference on the day, and a total of approximate 6,000 views of the livestream recordings that continue to be freely available for watch-back, the CarePath partnership was able to reach a wider audience than previously envisioned.

The conference was hosted on Zoom Webinar with a limit on attendance to 500. To enhance the conference experience, the CarePath partnership, led by coordinator Eurochild, utilised the Whova Conference Management System application to create a digital conference space for attendees to watch the proceedings, to pose questions & to network with one another.

Additionally, the conference was livestreamed via Facebook Live on Eurochild's Facebook page, the largest and most active of the Partnership's social media accounts. This was chosen over the project's Facebook page due to the considerable difference in followers – 185 for CarePath vs 7,600 for Eurochild.

Having summarised the conference, the remainder of this report provides information on the gathered materials that accompany this report, namely:

- The conference agenda & programme
- The registrations
- Info on how the conference was disseminated
- Documentation of the conference proceedings
- Available presentations for conference speakers & written responses to the conference Q&A; and
- Pictures, social media coverage of the conference.

The conference agenda & programme

To set the scene for the conference, the agenda & programme succinctly outlined the purpose of the conference, as well as offering practical information such as speakers & the event agenda. In doing so, it established the link between the goal of the project – more trauma-informed aftercare in four countries – with wider EU and international initiatives around reforming child protection and alternative care systems. The explicit linking between the work of the *CarePath project*, a short-term project-based programme, within the wider frame of EU policy & funding served to demonstrate the 'added value' of EU investment into social affairs across Member States.

The conference programme and agenda was therefore a key dissemination tool for promoting the conference. It was sent to all relevant organisational and individual stakeholders & via online / social media outreach, as discussed below.

Registrations

Registrations were collected by coordinating partner Eurochild, using the Wufoo form & report management programme. The total registrations for the Conference can be found in the accompanying zip folder. Registrations are available on excel and in word format. Additionally, an image of the registration form is also provided – where viewers can see how this was formatted to ensure that registrants were aware of their rights under GDPR as prepared by partner organisation Eurochild.

Distinction has been made in the files available for the first 500 registrants to the conference and the 120 who registered afterwards. For those later registrants, they were directed to watch only via the livestream. The partnership did not anticipate to supersede the 500 attendee limit, having originally planned the conference with a 200 attendee goal. However, thanks to the use of ICT and livestreaming linked functionality with Zoom, we were successfully able to manage this adaption.

The CarePath Conference Dissemination

Central dissemination for the Conference

The CarePath Conference were supported with project communication materials and the project's web resources, developed under 'Deliverable 5.2.2 Communication Materials'. CarePath communication materials included were prepared in each partners' languages, and included:

- Consistent use of project logos and branding
- Project brochures
- Project flyers (both general and for the massively open online course (MOOC))
- Project banners

Additionally, the Conference Agenda and Programme proved a very useful tool for sharing the conference and engaging with potential speakers, to share useful background on the project, its key messages and its added value to the conversation around the conference theme of 'aftercare' in a EU context.

The project's social media channels (Twitter, Linkedin and Facebook) and the website & newsletters were all utilised well to promote and supported the CarePath Conference dissemination to help reach higher audience participation and communicate the key messages to additional audiences - leading up to, during and following the conference day.

Contact was made with key organisations and bodies working internationally and nationally within the sphere of child protection, and also more specifically aftercare. These organisations include:

Barnados, Ireland
Better Care Network
CELCIS, Scotland
Centre for Effective Services, Ireland
Child Protection Hub for South Eastern Europe
Children of Prisoners Europe
The Child Rights Action Group – EU civil society alliance for children's rights
The Child Rights Intergroup of the European Parliament
The European Economic and Social Committee civil society newsletter
Euractive
Eurochild's Children in Alternative Care Working Group
The Foundation for Social Welfare Services, Malta
The Initiative for Children in Migration
The International Foster Care Organisation
The International Care Leaver Convention
Lumos
Missing Children Europe
PICUM
The NHS Education for Scotland
Rädda Barnen (Save the Children), Sweden
Rights, Equality and Citizenship funded projects for the same action as CarePath
Refugee Rights Europe
Save the Children EU
Social Platform
SOS Children's Villages International

Terres des Hommes International Federation EU
Together Scotland
Tusla, the Irish Child and Family Agency
European Youth Forum

Cooperation amongst the partners for dissemination

Local dissemination was instrumental in achieving the goals for the CarePath Conference. Project partners disseminated the promotion for the event, the registration form and regular updates prompting their networks to join. In Belgium/Europe, Eurochild shared the conference registrations, press releases and related materials frequently in their bi-monthly members Infoflash to their almost 200 members, as well as in their monthly e-News Bulletin to an audience of 6,000+. In Greece, colleagues in e-trikala, Ergo and ReadLab all shared the conference with their networks in Greek & English. In Hungary, Cordelia shared info in Hungarian & English with their professional networks. Partners in Italy – UNITO and IACP – shared with their significant networks – both student-based and professionals. These efforts, along with the central dissemination of the WP coordinator, were demonstrably impactful. An examination of the accompanying registrations in the zip folder will testify to this. Additionally, sample evidence of dissemination across each country of the partnership is also available in the zip folder.

Proof of the event

In the accompanying zip folder, you can find various demonstrations of the event, namely:

- Documentation of the conference proceedings
- Available presentations for conference speakers & written responses to the conference Q&A
- Pictures, social media coverage of the conference

Documentation is available in the form of gathered key messages and notes from the 21 speakers who intervened during the proceedings. Presentations, where available, written responses by speakers to the Q&A from the conference; and follow-up Letters of Thanks are all provided as well, as is the conference evaluation form. Finally, social media Tweets of the day's highlights, as well as the livestream recording links, are also made available. All of these materials are provided in the zip folder accompanying this report. In the annexes of this conference report, you can also find the event programme, as well as examples of dissemination and the registrants list.

Conclusion

Our project conference, Aftercare for Care Leavers, was an empowering event to symbolise the close of the *CarePath project*. This empowering impact is demonstrable from the following, albeit this is a non-exhaustive list:

- Many highly stimulating speaker interventions – Professor Mike Stein's calls for the EU to help 'level up' European child protection systems for more and better aftercare resonated with policymakers and attendees alike.
- Positive feedback from partners and speakers – the evaluation carried out after the conference offers some insight into this; Letters of Thanks were sent

to all speakers calling for them to continue commitment to CarePath and its key messages on aftercare (both in the zip folder)

- Connections made and fostered through the course of organising and implementing the conference – for example the coordinating partner Eurochild was asked to advise on the International Care Leaver Convention that followed the CarePath Conference in November 2020.

The Conference is a great example of how our partnership has come to work together towards a greater purpose over the course of these two years, adapting to the titanic changes around us while still delivering on our commitments as per the project proposal. In the case of the Conference, we achieved more than 3 times our expected participant list, which is a strong testament to the success of this deliverable, and the partnership behind it.

Annex 1: The CarePath Conference concept note and programme

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#CarePathConference #aftercare
#leavingcare #traumainformedcare

Aftercare for Care Leavers: Learning lessons from across Europe

Conference concept note & programme

Date and Time: 13 October 2020, 10h00-12h30 & 14h00-15h30. Online – hosted by Eurochild

Setting the scene for the conference

The transition out of public care is a challenging period for every young person concerned, particularly as they are likely to have experienced significant trauma in childhood. The process of 'ageing out' of care is supported very differently between and within countries across the European Union (EU). Some national child protection systems provide support for young people preparing to leave care and provide psychosocial aftercare support, while others offer little to no preparation for an independent life after their time in care. Given that children and young people with care experiences are a highly vulnerable group, not receiving support during their transition from care risks failing to prevent life lasting costs for both the individual and wider society.[1] The COVID-19 pandemic has only served to exacerbate these risks, as the pandemic heightens risks of isolation and separation from peers, lacking access to education and livelihood opportunities, including financial support, housing, and other forms of support for their daily needs.[2]

With this reality in mind, Eurochild, together with our international partners, is convening a final online conference for the *CarePath project*. The partnership involves 7 organisations working across four EU countries (Belgium: Eurochild; Greece: E-trikala, ERGO and ReadLab; Hungary: the Cordelia Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims; and Italy: the Institute for the Person-Centred Approach and the University of Torino's Departments of Psychology and Law) working together to promote a trauma-informed care approach for children and young people ageing out of care. The conference will comprise of two sessions:

- a morning session (10h-12h30, CET) to exchange lessons on promising EU aftercare practices, identify gaps in national policy, legislation and service provision, and investigate how the EU can drive change; and
- an afternoon session (14h-15h30, CET) that will showcase how trauma-informed care is helping children and young people as they make the transition from care across Europe, especially during COVID19.

Attendees will be engaged from the EU institutions and international organisations, (sub-)national public authorities, NGOs, universities, corporates, as well as care professionals and, most importantly, young people with experiences of care themselves. While the CarePath project is EU-focused, given the online format of this event, participants will also be welcomed from beyond the EU. This conference will take place in an important

[1] Children with experiences of living in alternative care are over-represented in (available) national statistics relating to a host of social outcomes, in terms of physical and mental health costs, labour activity and costs to social, education and criminal justice system. For example see Heckman, J. and Karapakula, G. (2019) The Perry Preschoolers at Late Midlife: A Study in Design-Specific Inference: working paper, National Bureau of Economic Research; and OECD/EU (2018) Health at a Glance: Europe 2018: State of Health in the EU Cycle, which showed the costs of mental ill-health in Europe reaching 4% of GDP in 2018. Further, see OECD (2019) Changing the Odds for Vulnerable Children: Building Opportunities and Resilience; and UNESCO (2019) Policy Paper 38: Education as healing: Addressing the trauma of displacement through social and emotional learning.

[2] Better Care Network, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and UNICEF (2020) Technical note: Protection of Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Children in Alternative Care; Hope and Homes for Children and Lumos (2020) Call to action to protect vulnerable families and children in alternative care across Europe; 1st International Care Leavers Convention (2020): Declaration on Responding to the transnational needs of Care Leavers amidst COVID-19 and beyond.

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crossroad in EU legislature, as the EU prepares to roll out its new Budget for 2021-2027, including the new Child Guarantee initiative within the European Social Fund+ and the EU's Recovery Package to support Member States' economic recovery from the pandemic. These instruments must be focused on enhancing the protection of all vulnerable children and young people, including those who age out of the care system during these times.

Background and context for the conference

By the best available estimates, approximately 1 million children are in alternative care across Europe.[3] When these children reach the age of majority (18 in most European countries), they age out of child protection systems and transition to independent living. This is often a turbulent and exciting time for children from all backgrounds, as they rapidly gain independence through greater financial autonomy, the transition from education to employment, and to a new social environment. However, for children in alternative care this is an especially vulnerable time: the formal support network provided by integrated child protection systems, including foster families and/or other care professionals, may cease to support the care leaver once they have aged out of care. International human rights frameworks identify this period, referred to as aftercare, as an important and necessary area for State support.[4]

Aftercare should involve psychological and social support tailored to each individual, delivered by professionals who are trained to work with children who may have experienced trauma. With appropriate aftercare support, care leavers can transition to adulthood and independent living. Such aftercare needs to be focused on building resilience and self-reliance, as outlined in the UN Guidelines on Alternative Care. This type of psychosocial support is referred to as trauma-informed care approach, which is gaining prominence in a number of European countries.[5]

For over 10 years, Eurochild has continually advocated to end institutional care for all children in Europe. In line with the implementation of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, Eurochild promotes family strengthening and family- and community-based care for children in alternative care. This includes aftercare for care leavers that is integrated into national and local child protection systems, which is not currently available for every care leaver across Europe. Together, the project partners of the CarePath project are advocating to address this European-wide gap of aftercare services.

[3] Eurochild (2010) National Surveys: Children in Alternative Care.
[4] The United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (Article 20) outlines that children deprived of a family environment are entitled to special protection and assistance by the State. The UN Guidelines on Alternative Care (paragraphs 131-136) outline how aftercare should prepare children for self-reliance and full integration into wider society.
[5] Trauma-informed care is increasingly seeing adoption in Europe. In addition to the CarePath project, in Sweden, Save the Children (Rädda Barnen) have been delivering trauma-informed care training to professionals for several years alongside Australian expert Dr Howard Bath. In Scotland, the National Health Service Education for Scotland have been implementing a National Trauma Training Framework across its services. There is also increased professional activity in this field amongst professionals in Ireland and the wider United Kingdom

Conference purpose & aims

- The online conference will raise the crucial need for the reform of national and local child protection systems across the EU so that all children and young people receive aftercare upon leaving care, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.[6]
- Given the potential benefits for care leavers and society at large through quality aftercare, the conference will engage participants through exchange of existing practices, identifying gaps in provision, and investigate the role that the EU could play as a driver for change.
- Importantly, the conference will engage young people with experience of care. Therefore, the conference seeks to provide an opportunity for young care leavers to give guidance to EU decision makers on inclusive participation practices of children and young people who are ageing out of care.
- The conference will also disseminate resources and policy guidance developed under the *CarePath project: Empowering public authorities and professionals towards trauma-informed leaving care support*.
- During and following the conference, the CarePath partnership will engage attendees to show their support for mainstreaming trauma-informed care in European child protection systems by endorsing a Memorandum of Understanding.

[6] The conference builds on the important momentum of other projects advocating for strengthening aftercare for young people leaving care, including the *CarePath project*, SOS Children's Village International's *Leaving Care* project, the European Care Leaver Network and other projects funded under the EU *Rights, Equality and Citizenship Action Grant*

Empowering public authorities and professionals towards trauma-informed leaving care support

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#CarePathConference #aftercare
#leavingcare #traumainformedcare

AFTERCARE FOR CARE LEAVERS: CAREPATH CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

10.00-10.10	**The online conference room opens at 10:00.** At 10.05, as host Eurochild will open the conference with: • Welcome & introductions • Guidelines & *digital* housekeeping for the day
10.10-10.40	**Opening remarks: Shining the spotlight on young people transitioning out of public care in Europe** - **Jana Hainsworth,** Secretary General, Eurochild **(chair)** - **Prof. Laura Scomparin**, Vice-Rector for Institutional Coordination, Department of Law & **Dr Luca Rollè**, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology at the University of Turin & CarePath project coordinator - **Dragoş Pîslaru**, Member of the European Parliament (PLUS, Renew Europe) and Vice-Chair of the Intergroup on Children's Rights, Romania
10.40-11.10	**Key note: 'Supporting young people from care to adulthood: policy and practice in European countries'** **Chair and moderator**: **Jana Hainsworth**, Secretary General, Eurochild - **Professor Mike Stein**, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York and joint founder and coordinator of the International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care (INTRAC) between 2003 and 2018 - Response from **Astrid Podsiadlowski**, Project Manager - Rights of the Child, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Q&A of 5-10 minutes
11.10-11.30: VIRTUAL TEA AND COFFEE BREAK	
11.30-12.30	**'How can Europe better provide for care leavers?'** Roundtable panel linking policy, practice, & lived-experience to demonstrate opportunities for positive system reform and change for care leavers after they have left care. **Chair & moderator**: **Professor Alberto Zucconi**, President of the Institute of Person-Centred Approach **Panellists**: 1. International Civil Society: **Richard Pichler**, Special Representative for External Affairs and Resources, SOS Children's Villages International 2. Lived experience: **Terry Dignan**, CEO of Empowering People in Care Ireland 3. Lived experience: **Ian Thomas**, Practice Development Officer, Martin James Foundation

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	4. European Commission: **Valeria Setti**, Coordinator for the Rights of the Child & Rights Equality and Citizenship funding programme (DG JUST) Q&A of 5-10 minutes Closing remarks by **Katarina Ivanković-Knežević**, Director of Social Affairs, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)
12.30-14.00: END OF MORNING SESSION / LUNCH BREAK	
14.00-14.30	**The afternoon session examines how national practices are working to best support children and young people leaving care using a trauma-informed approach**
14.00-14.05	Opening session and admitting participants.
14.05-14.30	**Presentation of the CarePath project, partnership, key project outcomes and outputs for more trauma-informed care for care leavers across Europe.** - **Dr Luca Rollè**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Turin & CarePath project coordinator - **Christina Karaberi**, Psychologist, Department of Research and Communication, e-trikala - **Vassiliki Chatzipetrou**, Co-Founder & Director, EU & International Cooperation Department, Research Innovation and Development Lab - ReadLab - **Antonella Ferrero**, Research Fellow - CarePath project, Department of Law, University of Turin - **Andrea Cabiale**, Researcher of Criminal Procedure, Department of Law University of Turin
14.30-15.20	**Roundtable panel: Discussion on how national practices are rising to the challenge to support care leavers during this traumatic period of pandemic across Europe.** **Chair and moderator**: **Dr Luca Rollè,** Associate Professor, Department of Psychology at University of Turin & CarePath project coordinator 1. **Ioanna Georgouli and Panagiotis Sofios**, Ergo – working with refugee care leavers in Greece. 2. **Ágnes De Coll**, Hungarian Baptist Aid – supporting victims of sexual violence and trafficking in Hungary. 3. Care experienced advocates and co-trainers in the SOS Children's Villages International 'Leaving Care' project: • **Fabienne Landerer**, Vice-President of the Austrian Care Leavers Association • **Andreeas Novacovici**, President, and **Napoleon Valentin Alexandru**, Vice-President, of the Institutionalised Youth Council in Romania Q&A of 5-10 minutes Closing remarks by **Dr Luca Rollè**
CONFERENCE CLOSE	

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Annex 2: CarePath Conference: Evidence of dissemination – Press Release

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HOME CAREPATH PROJECT NEWS & EVENTS CONTACT SUBSCRIBE

"Aftercare for Care Leavers: Learning lessons from across Europe" Online conference on how the EU can improve services for care leavers across Europe

Home / News & events

Project News 24/09/2020

"Aftercare for Care Leavers: Learning lessons from across Europe" Online conference on how the EU can improve services for care leavers across Europe

The transition to adulthood and independent living is a challenging time for many young people. Thankfully, most have their families to fall back on when life doesn't go exactly to plan. Young people who have grown up in public care usually don't have that luxury. And too often state support is removed, or cut back when a young person turns 18. The consequences can be devastating not only for the young people involved but for society as a whole.

Categories

Project News (12)

Events (1)

Related articles

The CarePath Conferences shines the light on the need for aftercare for care leavers across Europe

Registrations open for CarePath's final online conference – New date: 13 October 2020

CarePath Integrated Service Provision Mechanism is now live!

The availability of 'aftercare' - state support for young people who have left care - varies between and within European countries in terms of availability and quality. The COVID-19 pandemic and its containment measures have only accentuated the challenges these young people face.

On 13 October, the international CarePath Project is convening an online conference to raise the issue of aftercare for children and young people on the EU agenda.

"This conference puts the spotlight on young people all over Europe who are transitioning out of public care. Many have experienced childhood trauma and are especially vulnerable during this period. The systems of after-care support are very different between and within countries. By bringing together the voices of academics, practitioners and 'care-experienced' young people, the conference will explore what the EU can do to encourage countries to improve their after-care policies and practices." **– Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General, Eurochild.**

The conference aims to raise the crucial need for reform of Europe's child protection systems so the approximate 1 million children growing up in care in Europe (Eurochild, 2010) have access to aftercare. Furthermore, measures need to be put in place to ensure that aftercare, where it is available, is not disrupted by containment measures introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Policy and practice examples from different European countries demonstrate how they can make an important contribution to promoting the resilience of young people from care to adulthood - by achieving stability and continuity in foster, residential care and kinship care; by having a strong legal framework: in involving young people in both individual and policy decisions: and by providing a range of leaving care services to support young people on their pathways to adulthood." **– Mike Stein, Professor Emeritus, University of York**

The voice of care leavers must be central to the development of aftercare policies. Attendees will also hear from care-experienced advocates who will share their lived experiences of growing up in state care to encourage countries to improve their aftercare policies and practices.

"In the child protection system we can see some changes, but they are not sufficient down here at the grassroots level. We face a lot of problems and challenges such as unemployment due to the lack of good quality education, housing and health benefits aftercare. We are not prepared for the independent living and as such we face a lot of uncertainty, we are vulnerable and some of us end up in prostitution or child pornography. This has to STOP, NOW!" **– Andreaas Novacovici, Care-experienced advocate from SOS Children's Villages International and President of the Institutionalised Council of Youth Romania**

This conference takes place at an important crossroad in EU legislature, as the EU prepares to roll out its new Budget for 2021-2027, including the upcoming European Child Guarantee initiative, the European Social Fund+ and the Next Generation EU recovery fund. These instruments must be focused on enhancing the protection of all vulnerable children and young people, including those who age out of the care system during these times.

For more information and to register for the CarePath conference

For more information:

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About the CarePath project

The CarePath project is an international partnership of 7 organisations across Europe working together to promote a trauma-informed care approach for children and young people ageing out of care. The project is funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Commission (2014-2020).

www.carepath-project.eu

Twitter Facebook Print Email More

CarePath project's second newsletter now available!

Annex 3: CarePath Conference – social media screenshots of proceedings

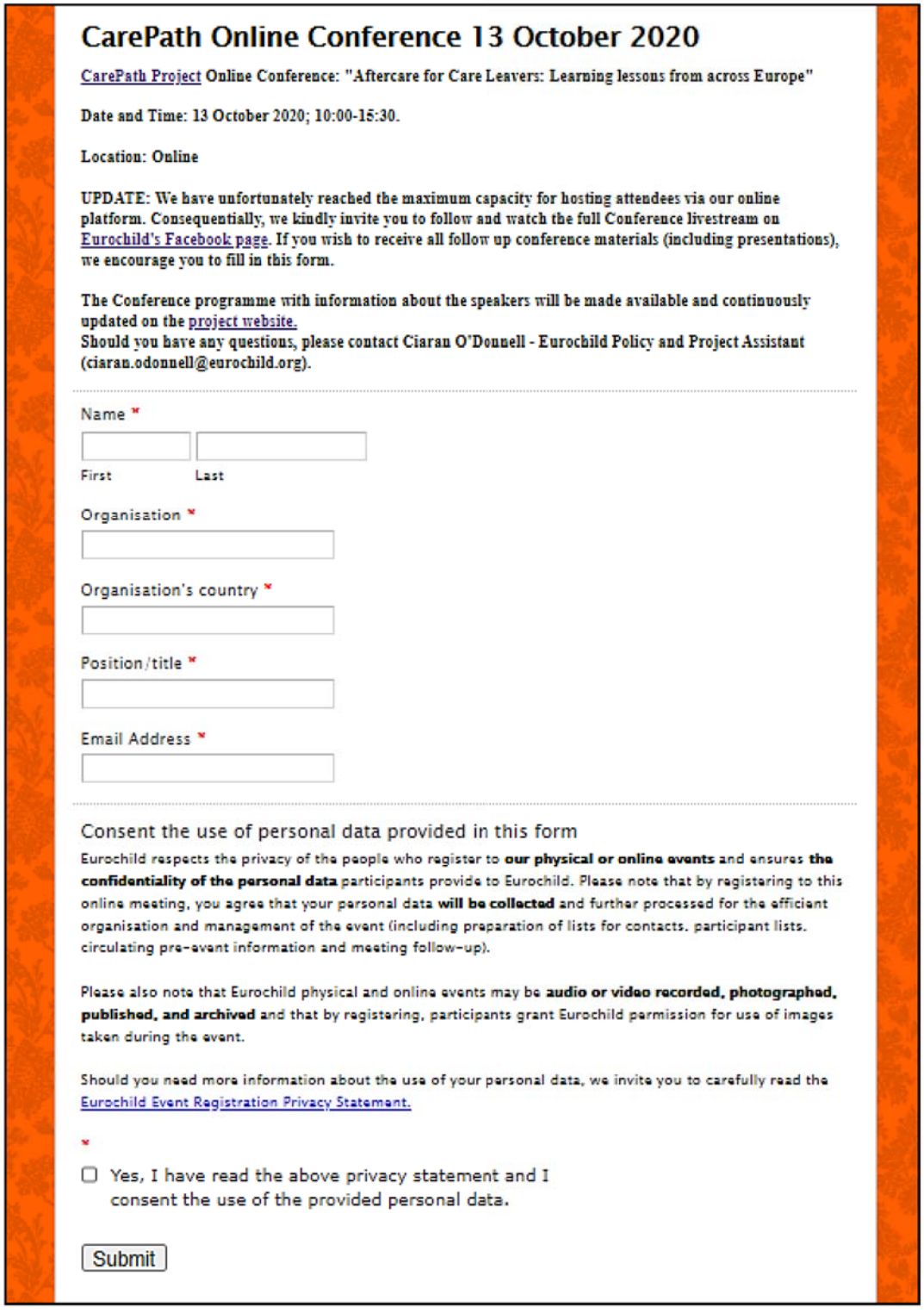
1. Screenshot of the conference morning session livestream from Facebook

2. Screenshot of the conference afternoon session livestream from Facebook

3. Sample tweet from the CarePath Twitter handle during the conference:

Annex 4: CarePath Conference Registration form and final Participants List

1. Registration form



CarePath Online Conference 13 October 2020

CarePath Project Online Conference: "Aftercare for Care Leavers: Learning lessons from across Europe"

Date and Time: 13 October 2020; 10:00-15:30.

Location: Online

UPDATE: We have unfortunately reached the maximum capacity for hosting attendees via our online platform. Consequentially, we kindly invite you to follow and watch the full Conference livestream on Eurochild's Facebook page. If you wish to receive all follow up conference materials (including presentations), we encourage you to fill in this form.

The Conference programme with information about the speakers will be made available and continuously updated on the project website.
Should you have any questions, please contact Ciaran O'Donnell - Eurochild Policy and Project Assistant (ciaran.odonnell@eurochild.org).

Name *

First Last

Organisation *

Organisation's country *

Position/title *

Email Address *

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☐ Yes, I have read the above privacy statement and I consent the use of the provided personal data.

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2. CarePath Conference Participants List

CarePath online Conference 13 October 2020, Brussels (online)

List of participants (Zoom meeting)

Name	Last name	Organisation	Country
A	PERSONAL DATA OMISSIS		/
Ju			Albania
R			Albania
Jo			Albania
B			Albania
Li			Albania
Li			Armenia
E			Austria
M			Austria
R			Austria
N			Austria
Lu			Austria
E			Austria
R			Austria
G			Austria
F			Austria
A			Austria
Fa			Austria
R			Austria
Je			Azerbaijan
A			Azerbaijan

L	PERSONAL DATA OMISSIS	Belarus
K		Belgium
A		Belgium
R		Belgium
D		Belgium
A		Belgium
L		Belgium
F		Belgium
N		Belgium
R		Belgium
R		Belgium
F		Belgium
E		Belgium
F		Belgium
V		Belgium
S		Belgium
K		Belgium
D		Belgium
V		Belgium
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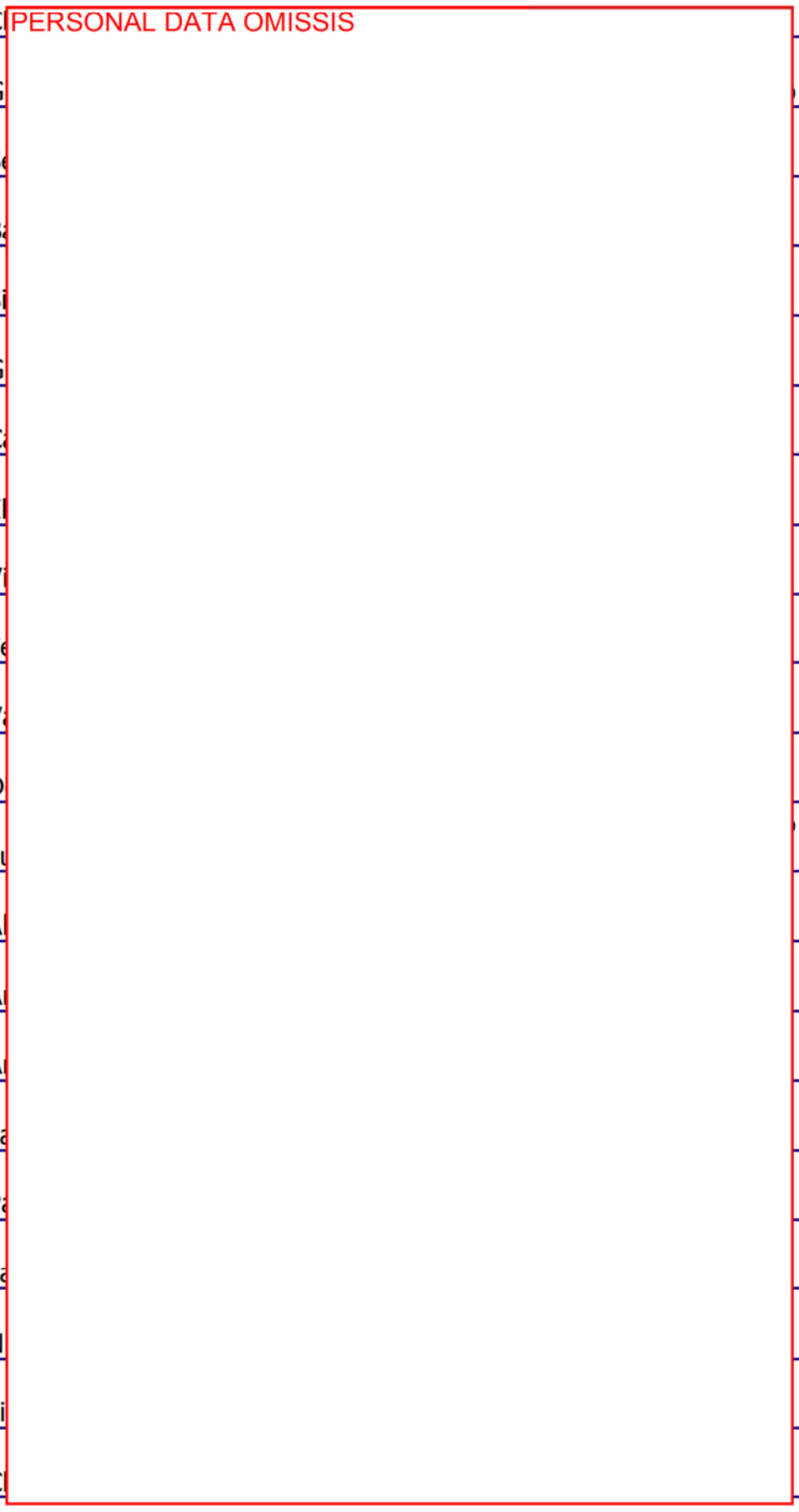

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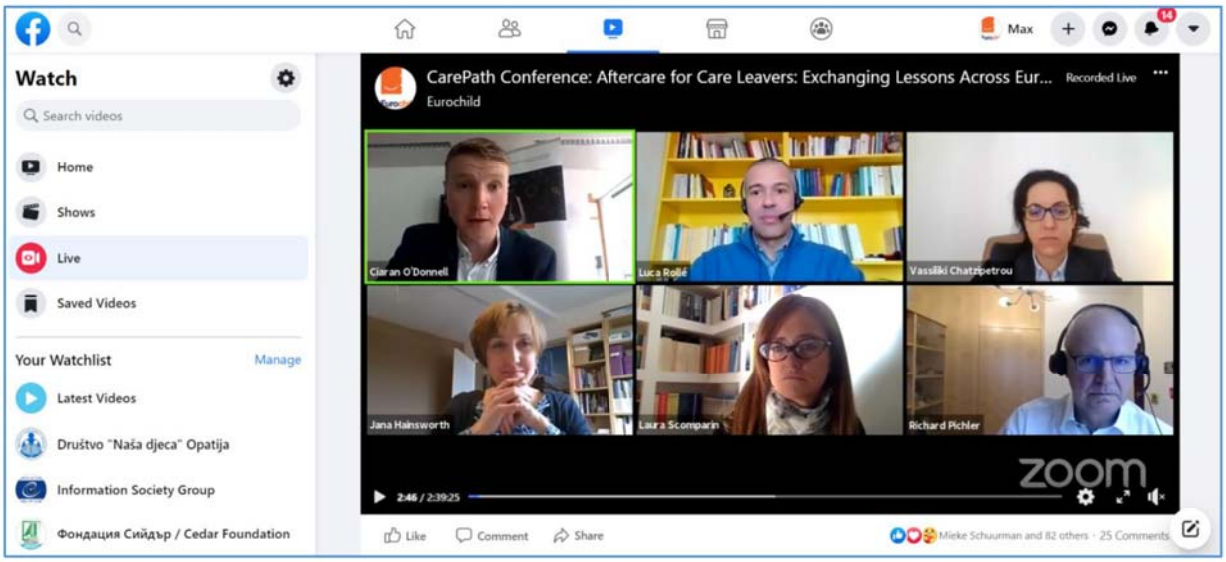
CarePath Policy Conference_13 October 2020_Documentation

Sample social media messages

CarePath Policy Conference_13 October 2020_Documentation

Conference morning session livestream & recording
(https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=392696641896998&ref=watch_permalink)



Conference afternoon session livestream & recording
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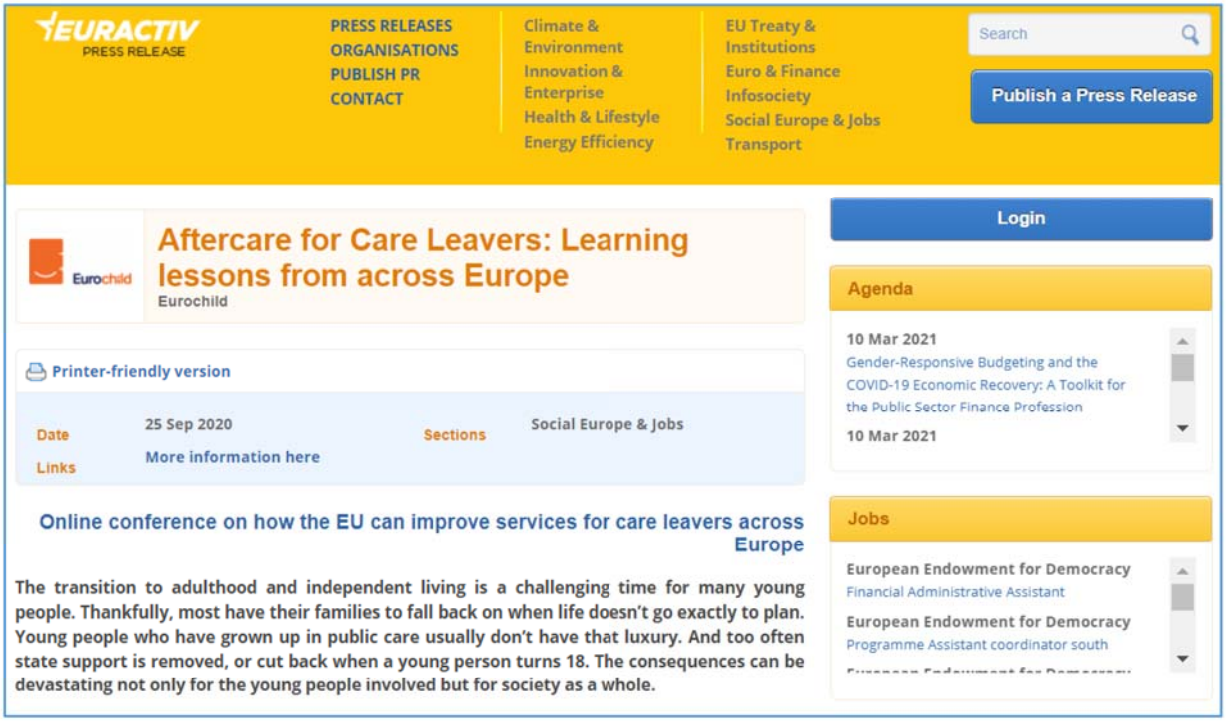
CarePath Policy Conference_13 October 2020_Documentation

Sample of CarePath dissemination – Euractive News



CarePath Policy Conference_13 October 2020_Documentation

Conference Press Release, Sep 24 2020, on CarePath Project Website (https://carepath-project.eu/site/en/news/view.html?id=12)

Project News 24/09/2020

"Aftercare for Care Leavers: Learning lessons from across Europe" Online conference on how the EU can improve services for care leavers across Europe

The transition to adulthood and independent living is a challenging time for many young people. Thankfully, most have their families to fall back on when life doesn't go exactly to plan. Young people who have grown up in public care usually don't have that luxury. And too often state support is removed, or cut back when a young person turns 18. The consequences can be devastating not only for the young people involved but for society as a whole.

The availability of 'aftercare' - state support for young people who have left care - varies between and within European countries in terms of availability and quality. The COVID-19 pandemic and its containment measures have only accentuated the challenges these young people face.

On 13 October, the international CarePath Project is convening an online conference to raise the issue of aftercare for children and young people on the EU agenda.

"This conference puts the spotlight on young people all over Europe who are transitioning out of public care. Many have experienced childhood trauma and are especially vulnerable during this period. The systems of after-care support are very different between and within countries. By bringing together the voices of academics, practitioners and 'care-experienced' young people, the conference will explore what the EU can do to encourage countries to improve their after-care policies and practices." – **Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General, Eurochild.**

Categories

Project News (12)

Events (1)

Related articles

The CarePath Conferences shines the light on the need for aftercare for care leavers across Europe

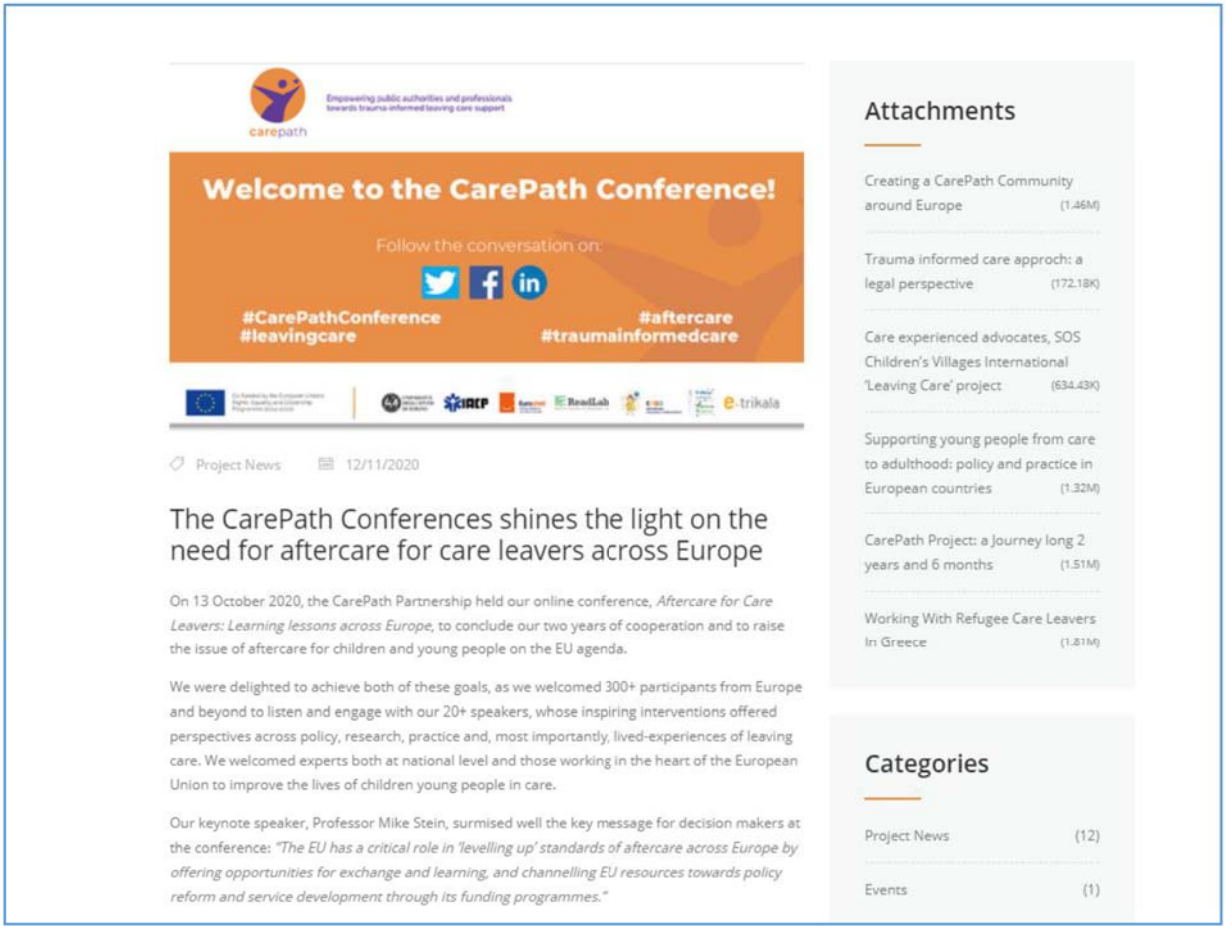
Registrations open for CarePath's final online conference – New date: 13 October 2020

CarePath Integrated Service Provision Mechanism is now live!

CarePath project's second newsletter now available!

CarePath Policy Conference_13 October 2020_Documentation

Conference Key Takeway Messages, Nov 11 2020, on CarePath Project Website (https://carepath-project.eu/site/en/news/view.html?id=13)



Aftercare for Care Leavers: Learning lessons from across Europe

Conference Questions & Answers – written responses

1. Can we talk about the care leavers situation in Romania? Housing, Health services, ID situation, the pandemic and many more?

- **Prof Mike Stein: I have been working closely with a Romanian academic who is an expert on social policy. If you email me (mike.stein@york.ac.uk) I will introduce you.**

- **MEP Dragos Pislaru:** We (Renew Europe and USR PLUS in particular in Romania) propose a new social protection system, based on integrated counter-poverty policies, with the following priorities:
  1. Interventions aimed at the poorest Romanians, at those **who risk being left out of the social system**.
  2. **Activating people in vulnerable situations** by facilitating their **integration into work and social life**, focusing the intervention on their fulfilment potential, not only on the need for survival.
  3. Ensuring a **decent standard of living for all children** in Romania and breaking the vicious circle that perpetuates poverty from one generation to another;
  4. **Radical change** in the approach followed by **public education and social protection systems**, with the prioritization of **prevention** instead of correction and emergency intervention only.

  MEP Dragos Pislaru: To ensure that these priorities are implemented, we need to focus on specific and practical measures:
    - Continue the plan to **close large residential centres**, with a focus on streamlining the process by **developing more child-friendly alternatives in the system**, such as community support services, providing the necessary number of professional foster carers and investing in the construction of nursing homes;
    - In the adoption cases, there is a need to introduce a **centralized, transparent and efficient system for monitoring the performance of duties by case managers**. Although the law provides for certain deadlines, in practice, their observance is not strictly followed, which means that many children are deprived of the presence of a permanent family in their lives for long periods of time, making them difficult to adopt. Sometimes, the children remain non-adopted until the age of majority, without justified reasons;
    - In order to allow investments specifically targeted at children's education and health in the pre-adoption period, **the introduction of specific financial support measures for foster carers and foster families** (e.g. allowances, vouchers) to prevent the accumulation of development/educational gaps and the chronicity of certain health problems of the children in their care;
    - Initiating **training programs for foster carers** to **ensure competent** care of children in the special protection system;

Revision of the contracting and partnership system, as well as of the cost standards for private operators providing social services for children in the special protection system.

Of course, the topic is very broad – how do we make new options available in the pandemic-world?

MEP Dragos Pislaru and his team would be keen to continue this with anyone, and they encourage interested participants to write to us at: dragos.pislaru@ro.plus; dragos.pislaru@europarl.europa.eu

2. Do you think lack of sufficient support for kinship carers indicates public authorities abdicating their responsibilities? The children have the same needs?

   Prof Mike Stein: The evidence from the UK is that local authorities (LA's) vary in both the recruitment and the support they give to kinship carers. A very informative and important evidenced based report on kinship care was published in 2019: see: Special Guardianship: international research on kinship care, Nuffield Foundation (visit: www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk)

3. For Prof Stein: is there any documentation which one go through in relation to the process for children living in small based community homes to keep residing there as future tenants?

   Prof Mike Stein: Since I completed the survey informing my presentation, I found out that there is a very innovative housing project in England which adopts similar principles and has also pioneered care leavers participation in the process. It is called the House Project and has an excellent website containing detailed documentation (see: thehouseproject.org).

4. What do the panellists suggest can be done to increase the power of care experienced children and young people themselves which is more than just consultation?

   Prof Mike Stein: There has to be (1) a strong legal framework rooted within the UNCRC (2) clear, transparent policies spelling out how young people are involved both individually in decisions which shape their lives, and collectively in making policy – drawing on a typology which identifies the levels of participation (3) having a regular review of the policy and practice framework and how it is responding to the needs of different groups of care leavers – involving independent care experienced young people's rights groups (4) mentoring: to empower young people and (5) training for staff and elected representatives responsible and accountable for services. In short, to go beyond consultation requires a cultural and structural shift. Some of these points – but not all – were included in the New Belongings project which was introduced to ensure local authorities involved care leavers in decision making and service planning (visit: coramvoice.org.uk)

5. What are your thoughts on the role the EU can play to drive change here?

   Prof Mike Stein: I think the EU should have an active role in 'levelling-up' leaving care services by collecting and disseminating 'best policy and practice' examples, working in partnership with

Eurochild and other organisation representing and progressing the rights of children and young people

6. What support is available for children and adolescents leaving juvenile justice institutions? This is our biggest challenge?

   Prof Mike Stein: In England there was the 'Laming Review', 'In Care, Out of Trouble' (2016) which explored this important issue. The summary report which contains detailed recommendations is available free download from the Prison Reform Trust (visit: www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk)

7. Hi Professor Stein, nice to hear your presentation and your continuous engagement for young people leaving care. I was wondering whether you could give examples of good practices in terms of housing?

   Prof Mike Stein: In England, the DFE is currently funding a number of evaluations of innovative projects for care leavers – these should be completed and on their website during 2021. One project, operating in different locations, that is being evaluated is the House project - and this has an excellent website containing detailed documentation (see: thehouseproject.org). Also, in 2011, I completed a review of 'good practice' issues and these are outlined in chapters 4-6 of my 2012 book: Young People Leaving Care, Supporting Pathways to Adulthood, JKP.

8. Do you think enough is being done at present, with young people in care, to prepare them for the transition of leaving the care system?

   Prof Mike Stein: The evidence suggests that in the UK some young people are very well prepared and supported by leaving care services – in a holistic way (practical skills, social development and emotional support) but others less so. It is critical that young people wherever they are living, or whatever their needs, are well prepared by having effective central government policies to level-up services.

9. I believe what we need as a care leavers in order to freely be a part of this continuous development besides all the aftercare support you can think, I do think sometimes we find ourselves with overloaded caregiver or supporter who even if they want can't give as much assistance as they would. What do you think need to be done to enlighten the amount of work they have to face in order to really provide a quality aftercare service?

   Prof Mike Stein: Providing a 'quality aftercare service' means involving care experienced young people in the development of leaving care services. In England, the New Belongings project was introduced to ensure local authorities involved care leavers in decision making and service planning (visit: coramvoice.org.uk)

Key takeaway messages from CarePath Conference Oct 13 2020

Jana Hainsworth, Eurochild:

Welcome to online conference – Aftercare support is available to your people leaving care. EU Rights Citizenship Programme. Project lead will be giving some introduction. Scene setting what is the situation of children leaving care, practice, role of the EU. Michael Stein – professor – Astrid FRA – short break. After short-breat Albertto Zucchoni.

After lunch – deep dive into subject matter. Hearing from partners and care leavers themselves. Eurochild what our interest has been. Legacy in terms of practice. Network – aim to influence policies, build capacities. Our work in underpinned by UNCRC. Through Europe hundreds of thousand children live in institutions – that are incapable to provide adequate care for children in care. Where we get the numbers from? – difficult to get the numbers. Teamed up with UNICEF to map child protection around Europe. Speaking of young people transition to independent living – a source of huge anxiety and stress. Kind of support varies enormously. It is much EU can do in the field of aftercare, we hope to contribute to policies. This event was supposed in April in person. We want to amplify the needs and experiences of these young people, make them visible. Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy – mentions fairness – in RRF. European Child Guarantee to invest in children in quality. Youth Guarantee – very important initiatives.

Dr Luca Rolle, UNITO:

Excited, cold hands. It's beautiful. Thank you very much with us. EC has funded our project. CarePath – honoured to meet you all. Thank you Eurochild. My colleagues emphasised months ago when we started realizing this project – care leavers deserve more. Possible tool about trauma informed care and practice. Project delivered: the toolkit, MOOC, legislation approach, service delivery. We look at person holistically and include research and studies. Mooc - training of trainers – gives common language, indicated – case of adverse experience – good care, support by care givers. Adverse child experience – in this condition early intervention is recommended. Launch today Memorandum of Understanding – mainstreaming the results of CarePath project endorsed by local, national authorities – to write to us to sign this memorandum.

MEP Dragoș Pîslaru - Member of the European Parliament (PLUS, Renew Europe) and Vice Chair of the Intergroup on Children's Rights, Romania:

We hear you, we listen to you and we will represent you. Europe must deliver for children and youth and must deliver. Money spent on children always bring positive return. What is happening in the care system nowadays is not a sound investment. 315k- 415 k children in (institutional) care. What happens to the adults that these children will become?

Children in vulnerable position becomes youth in vulnerable position. We need to break the vicious circle and turning it into a virtuous cycle. EU has the resources but we have other tools as well – RRF, the ESF and other programmes should be seen in conjunction with resources we have elsewhere. You will find me at the forefront of this fight, we need to do this together, we will face very conservative thinking. With expert and evidence based ground we will overcome.

Dragos Pislaru – congratulation for your work. Effort – integrated effort – you are represented properly: experts – social workers you are the real heroes. There are 2 main points: Europe must deliver for children and youth and we are not there yet. I'm passionate for me it simply makes an economic sense. What we are investing – brings back good returns. You look at data – costs in the society – care sector if it is not properly funded.

We want make sure that every child has adequate access to food, housing, health-care and education. Both to respect the rights – invest for better future. What's happening is not social investment – more community and family-base approaches. 345.000 children at the end 2019 still lived in institutions. What happens to these children – what is philosophy of these centers – poor financing. What we need to do – break vicious circle – integrated approach to help families, help children. Integration in society at the core of society, scholarship. Not silo policy, we need to do better. I was a minister of Labor in 2016 in Romania – we had programme that would address these issues – piloted these ideas can provide legitimacy. EU clearly expressed will of citizens – solidarity is a way forward. Trans-border EU mandate to tackle them. It's been promised CG, RRF – designing – pillar for youth and children, resources we are not wasting. Avoid policy extremes – right balance.

Questions and Answers

Dragoș Pîslaru - A need to reimagine the way we work together in Europe. We should be part of a same wave, we have opportunities that are unprecedented. We are right now in a very good position to advocate for a legislation that is all encompassing and pushing the priorities of the EU on the right of children and investing resources. For a better future in Europe we need to invest in children today. We need to get MS on board with research, exchange of practices, etc. The other pieces is founding – support from civil society and care sector will be useful in the negotiation phase. It means that the RRP there should be social cohesion, institutional resilience and next generation the Parliament they inserted consultation with civil society and practitioners.

KEY NOTE:
Professor Mike Stein Emeritus Professor in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York and joint founder and coordinator of the International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care (INTRAC) between 2003 and 2018

Example from research of what can make the difference for young people.
Informal fostering arrangements – there wasn't a policy it happens because there was a relationship between young people and foster carers. Formal examples available too.
Examples of continuity and transition in residential care are very important.

Kinship care – increasingly made use for. Gives young people strong family identity. They don't see they are in case at all and they can stay with their kindship until they are ready to leave. Depending of the country it receives different levels of care and support. It is important that young people are supported.

Positive trend from permissive legislation – countries are not required to do something but may to – to more introduction of legal duties to provide specialist leaving care services. Positive developments of reducing inequalities and tackles territorial injustice.

Examples of leaving care from young people to remain and complain. One of the problem is for those young people who suffer from mental health issues.

Involving young people in different stages of leaving care. How can we involve care leavers in policy development and research. Peer research by care leavers, involved in interviewing and carry research activities in partnership with researchers, they can be involved in many stages. It is not a cheap or convenient option. Linking research to accreditation so that they can enhance their own careers.

Strengths and resilience based approach – providing stability in young people life provides the emotional foundation of resilience. Educational success is also connected with resilience – care and schools working together to catch-up. Education is the biggest predictor.

Peer research is a way to re-framing adversity –it is an important form of reciprocity: they are not only identified as people in need, they are able to give.
Every young person has their ordinary magic.

Examples of good practice of INTRAC – peer research, in 4 countries, involving care leavers

Patterns of transition – left care 18 year, between 15-21. Major challenger at younger age. Neurobiological development – brains developed until 25 years of age. Instability in care it can be seen as re-traumatisation.

To improve young people's life: foster care arrangement – was not only a policy, relationship worked out, good example – former carers – offer support – even for them who had difficulties during time they were in foster care. Early patterns – legal arrangement- financially supported – very important. Continuity and transition – attachment has significance. To 21 years they should have opportunity to stay in residential homes by getting flexible support by staff. Young people become tenants, examples of young people – reduces instability – more normative transition. Living in that accommodation – later become a tenant – maintaining continuity.

Kinship care – extended family- increasingly being case, Spain has the highest percentage and UK. Important type of formal care. Children/Young people they do not see themselves in care at all. Most of young people – they experience normative transition. Carers also receive variable financial and support. Grandparents – strong personal and financial support to these families. In

Western European care – foster care pattern has changed to kinship care. The main trend permissive legislation – countries are not required but they do it in law. Local authorities must provide special leaving services – again it is variable, compared to research 12 years ago it has increased. Very positive development – reducing inequalities – it's tackling territorial injustices, positive development that still need to be done.

Example – right to complain – In Germany – legal right until 21 years – they have right to have court, 23 in Norway, in Romania as long as they are in education and training up to 26. In Scotland to 21 years of age. Local authorities – there right directions. Different ways of involving care-leavers as active citizen. Embodied in legislation. Legal and policy framework – making plan, pathway planning process.

Peer research by care leavers – involve them in partnership with professional researchers – they can be involved in commenting and dissemination of research. It is not convenient option, care leavers need to be trained, linking to peer research to be accredited – they get something back from the process. Councils and meetings. Able to vetting the Councils policies. To provide more services to young people. We develop policy and practice within framework – provides an impact on policy and practice of organization. CarePath – trauma informed approaches. Strengthen resilience based approach – providing stability, emotional resilience. Examples to mitigate trauma - remain in foster care longer, support in residential care. Respond to trauma. Consistent finding – difficulty that states have to achieve normative transitions. Educational success – is a sign of resilience. New opportunities in young people lives – double advantage. Looking at different ways at bringing children back to school – positive outcomes. Involving of young people – a way of refraining of adversities. The response of state – many resources – practices and policies.

Positive development – holistic preparation, pathway services, accommodation, health-care and wellbeing, engaging care leavers with different needs. Disabilities, diversity in modern communities,

Mike Stein Emeritus - Leaving care later and extended support – up to 25; more effort into education; providing stability is very important are- very basic one but young people still move around the care system too much, more consistent leaving care support. The role of the EU, **critical role in leveling up** – what is done and sharing the best practices and policies, developing mechanisms.

RESPONSE TO KEY NOTE:
Astrid Podsiadlowski, Project Manager Rights of the Child, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Gradual normative transition is very encouraging – it does show positive effect.
Research from FRA – mapping legislation and policy from EU MS, studies on impact of Covid19, fieldwork research on experiences of young asylum seekers and unaccompanied.

Important of monitoring experiences of care leavers – existing data gap, we cannot give concrete feedback on those experiences. The DataCare project is incredibly important.
Legal framework: minimum age requirement – we need to ensure that children have the space for contributing. Children need to be involved in individual care decision not only when entering but also when leaving. Standards are not developed at the national level.
Young people making use of the right to complain, when the legislation is there young people need to be informed and have access.

Helping young people bounce back – maltreatment, abuse, overcome that trauma and help them to fulfil their ordinary magic.

Astrid Podsiadlowski – FRA – Gradual normative transition – positive effects on young people. Based on research FRA conducted – regarding placement decision, country impact studies, integration of young refuges who are confronted with leaving care. To effectively monitor the needs, we need figures – we have no these data. We welcome this project – DataCare.
Legal framework – need – we have learned – mapping minimum age requirement. Children are not part of decision-making – make sure all children are consulted their worries, experience, concerns. Involved in entering the care and leaving care. Standards are not developed. Loose shape. Legal point. Point – possibility for young people remain in care longer and have access to services. Large gap – knowledge information about the rights of care leavers. Covid situation – losing social support. Unaccompanied minors – discontinuity of future integration. Easy targets for criminal groups, this risks can be encountered. Such legal arrangements need to be monitored closely. Having stronger framework, funding, involving young people, being aware of their rights.
Dragos – support end of month, in November – CG EP position, we will suggest in RRP there should be institutional resilience, social resilience. 3 pillars of resilience – MS will decide, inserted the consultation with people on board, opening these new pillars. ESF plus – regulation and perspective to change for children in Europe.
Mike Stein/ His recommendations: leaving care later and extended support up to 25. Attention should be paid to education and higher education. Leaving care support services – role of the EU – critical role in levelling up – looking what has been done – sharing the best practices and practices and legislation that should to level up.

ROUNDTABLE SESSION 1:

Professor Alberto Zucconi, President IACP:

How EU can better provide for care leavers. We need to promote change. Learning from their experience – better equipped – we can facilitate the whole area – apply trauma – informed care. Person-cantered approach – alliance between victim of trauma and all kind of professionals. Carers trauma, burnout, strategy underlined. Progress to empower every stakeholder.

Richard Pichler – External Representative SOS Children's Villages International:

EU Child Guarantee and CRS = EU a lighthouse for children's rights realization and for not leaving anyone behind. 70 years we have been doing it. The most important dimension – they are self-sufficient and are able to take care of their own children. Why do children go out of parental care? In 20 countries in Europe. Typical child – 8 – 14 years who has had multiple placements why this happens, emotional trauma of children it is hardly possible to give them strength they deserve. In Europe – majority – double socially orphan and often abuse, there is inadequate answer from society. What we need are social policies for parenting. Leaving care – we can hardly repair what has been done before. It has go together. Children have weaker starting point. Normal children growing with their families – at the age 18 – 35 leave their families. Care leavers are expected to leave at the age of 18. My daughter 23 finished her study – rented an apartment, she needed a guarantee – next morning she had a guarantee- otherwise would not get that apartment. It's not only material support but also emotional support. Relationship – right for child for emotional support. You can not prescribe it.

We should guarantee – a sustainable relationship must grow. I heard a care leaver Robin – who said I envy all young people who know where to go for Christmas. These children who have no emotional ties. 5 – 10 years spent in care. 50% have lived on social welfare. Aftercare mind-set – needs to be part from the time they enter alternative care. In every country – what about self-sustainability of care leavers – far too much of it. We have not offered good quality care to those children. Does covid – kicked back by our achievements – increased number children- move out of care. Cost – analyse – child in care setting for 12 years. 50 – 60 years of an adult life in welfare system. I was care leaver. I have young daughter turned 9 years old. Ability to raise own children is a prove a transition to independent living was done well.

Terry Dignan, EPIC Ireland:

6 issues impediments to the work – 800 – 900 children we work with – 70 – 80% are aftercare issues. Use of language – aftercare – we are no longer in care. Mike – 2 issues – complex transition to adulthood and permissive legislation from child – the best interest of child.

6 issues – preparation for leaving care – lack of equity and support given, and non-care leaving home. Cooperation – critical = proper preparation from age of 16 – a plan is made to each – an

individual plan. Social worker prepares leaving plan, does not involve any educational special needs specialists.

Education – 21, 23 if child is in education. Each 26 years of age – allows longer transition in adulthood, develop some life skills, such higher proportion – lack of support – extend the care leaving age it allows better adaptation.

3. issue – 1 year sabbatical – are supposed residential care at the age of 18. Little room to bread to prepare – release a pressure 23

Only children who spent 12 months in care – entitled for after care support – unfair goes against in the best interest of child/young people.

Designated accommodation – place they call home. 40% people homeless come from care background. Mental-health support up to 26.

Longitude of studies – we have no data – 10 years longitudal studies – to inform sufficiently – do not have data. More equitable.

Ian Thomas Martin James Foundation:

Speaking of own experience. I have been really impressed. I work for MJF in the UK. My care experience. That was not walking a park. After I left care I have been incarcerated. 27% of care leavers are incarcerated in the UK – it's big issue. I was in 20 different families. When I left system – I did not know which staff member I had to consult – for social benefit. Like a lot of young people back then – crime, drugs, really important – severely marginalized. Some elements – try to give them agency. I like the rights-based approach – it would help consistency in helping young people. Inconsistencies – contributes to confusions, I did not have anyone who would be consistently supporting me. At the age of 24 I returned from prison where I stayed 3 years. He found help– to address my addiction – in community that was a safe place for reflection. 'I do not feel very alone' now. People have faith in me. I was fortunate to get the opportunity – national role and my job. I had believed system – I'm good enough. Becomes your engine. Programme of personal development – inspired introspection, emotionally resilient – key to my sustainability. Fundamental needs – accommodation, education. Challenges: discrimination. Conclude – 21 lessons – achievable subjective role to objectivity. Each person in individual – rights-based approach should be the jargon.

Valeria Setti, European Commission – Coordinator on the Rights of the Child:

Interesting conference. Congr. Important to have European projects that look how to improve practices at national and European level. Transition to adulthood –

CG - beginning 2021. CRS full consultation process – beginning of December to submit your contribution. Look at situation of children in care and leaving care. How we can we build on the work we have done in other countries.

EC adopted 10 principles for integrated child protection systems in 2015 – the best interest of child. Importance of prevention, good quality care, monitoring and evaluation,

Role of EU in levelling up the policies and practices – how EU is strategically placed to help this sharing. It has to happen through structural dialogues. In context of national child protection system and children in migration. Migration- and social workers do not work together.

Bringing children's voices to the forefront – EU has potential to do more in engaging children in our work.

Organisations – authorities – care leavers, Terry – real participation of young people in decision-making processes. They have responsibility and credibility.

Ian – we had consultations – big organisations who work with children. Role of international agencies to empower young people to speak for themselves

Katerina Ivankovic Knezevic, European Commission – Director of DG EMPL

How to involve young people – young people see through too fast

CarePath project – of children leaving care, access to adequate support putting it high on the agenda. Children in institutions – considering for CG, preparation are ongoing, consultation with stakeholders. Consulting with children. **Council Recommendations for next year** – huge thank you to Eurochild – strong advocate – huge pressure – count on you in future as well. What CG is going to be about – children in needs their guaranteed access to services. Children living in poverty or at the threshold of poverty. Children living in single carers family are at risk.

Covid and attendance of education – children were provided free meals, schools were closed – less meals, every child has access to services nutrition, housing, education, health-care. Also children who will be leaving institutions. The aim of CG is to trigger policy action at MS level. Trialogues for EU funds – council was not favourable for 5% to be allocated to children. There is still space for negotiation. Targeted funding will be secured. There should be 5% plus national funding – trigger national response and local regional level response. Bus and transportation is administered by local levels. It is not sufficient to address child poverty by CG only – anti poverty network will be developed – minimum income, assessing the specific groups and their needs.

Fabienne, **Austrian** Care Leavers Association:

During pandemic no specific help to care-leavers in Austria. Students were supported. Semester was counted. Nothing that was made for care leavers. Many obstacles – worsened in time of corona virus. 10,000 of debts – delays. Mental-health problems have worsened, Housing – returned to their parents. Legislation – psychological support to care leavers – have mental problems. Psychological support – it is not accessible otherwise. Create a network – big family of care leavers. 4000 care leavers every 4 years in AT.

Andreeas Novacovici and Napoleon – Romanian Council of Institutionalised Youth:

Leaving process – several steps – psychological counselling, during pandemic / 75% of salaries was paid by Romanian government to employed. No specific support for care leavers, for tuition. The government is our mother father – we should be part of social protection of the coronavirus response package. Little help – housing, vocational counselling,

More children / evolution/ 3000 youngsters who are leaving care / 10,000 who are entering the care system every year. Preparation for independent living is weak.

75% of all prostitution is coming from Romania to reduce that or stop it. We are care leavers but we are not given support.

CarePath Policy Conference_13 October 2020_Documentation

Conference evaluation

Entry Id	Name	Organisation	Email	Job title	How satisfied were you with the quality of management of the conference?	How satisfied were you with the structure of the conference?	Would you have any comments on the organisation of the conference?	How satisfied were you with the quality of discussions of the conference?	Did you gain relevant knowledge and information?	Will you be able to apply knowledge and information gained from the conference?	Would you have any comments on the content of the conference?	How satisfied were you with the online tools used?	How satisfiec were you with the background documents received in advance of the meeting?	Overall, how satisfied are you with the event?	Anything you would like to tell us about?
PERSONAL DATA OMISSIS					5 (Very satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)		4 (Satisfied)	4 (Some of it)	4 (Some of it)		5 (Very satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)	
					5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)		5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very much)	5 (Very much)		5 (Very satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	
					5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)		5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very much)	5 (Very much)	I appreciated the combinations of international networis starting with EU reprs to acacemics, practitioners and cars leavers. I was inspired by the presentations. Thanks you.	4 (Satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	
					Please choose	Please choose	The Whova platform was too weak and unable to support the number of participants. The web app did not load properly (I tried several times during the day, and on different devices) and I was unable to attend the conference. Please, choose a better platform for your next conference.	Please choose	Please choose	Please choose		Please choose	Please choose	Please choose	
					5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	Thank you very much for perfect organisarion of the conference!	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very much)	4 (Some of it)	The content of the conference was very relevant and interesting	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	Thank you very much for very useful content and perfect organisation of the conference!
					5 (Very satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)	No	5 (Very satisfied)	4 (Some of it)	4 (Some of it)	No	5 (Very satisfied)	3 (Neutral)	4 (Satisfied)	Thank you very much.
					5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	Congratulations! It was great organized!	4 (Satisfied)	4 (Some of it)	4 (Some of it)		5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	
					5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)		5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very much)	5 (Very much)		5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	
					5 (Very satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)		5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very much)	5 (Very much)		4 (Satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)	
					5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	Excellent	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very much)	4 (Some of it)	The final conference of the project excellently combined three fundamental aspects that were: the presentation of the Carepath project, scientific contributions and personal experiences in different states. I am very pleased to have had this opportunity.	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	Thanks
					5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)		5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very much)	5 (Very much)	Impressive high-quality inputs from speakers, complementary points of views (policy, practice, lived-experience, research). Very powerful call to actions from policy makers.	4 (Satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	The added value of what the use of whova brought to the conference and the time spent on learning this new tool and managing it should be assessed for future events.
					5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)		5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very much)	5 (Very much)	Ilt is a shame hat we did not gt the chance to have this Conference in person. It was a very interesting experience	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	
					5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	The Final Care Path conference was very well organized and in particular I apprciated very much Ciaran O'Donnel assistance to every aspect of it; expecially when I was was chairing a session his assistance was invaluable to me. I chair many conferences every year and I found the Work of Eurochild and in particular of Ciaran excellent. Another excellent feature was the prparation of the conference, the work of Luca Rolle' the Care Path project manager has been superb all along and also in this pre-conference meetings.	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very much)	5 (Very much)	I had a very positiv experience and the people that I know and that did participate to the conference where equally very satisfied for similar reasons	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	Keep up the good work!
					4 (Satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)		4 (Satisfied)	5 (Very much)	5 (Very much)		4 (Satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)	
					5 (Very satisfied)	4 (Satisfied)	It must have been a massive effort on coordination but generally well organised. The whova app was easy to use as well	4 (Satisfied)	5 (Very much)	5 (Very much)	It was very relevant to my work and since then I have used it as a good base for improving my knowledge in programming for juvenile justice programs	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	Looking forward to an in person conference where I can share my experiences and applications of what I learned from the conference
					5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	an excellent conference in terms of organization and panctuality.	5 (Very satisfied)	4 (Some of it)	5 (Very much)	interesting topic and speakers	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	
					5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)		5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very much)	5 (Very much)		5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	5 (Very satisfied)	

carepath

Empowering public authorities and professionals towards trauma-informed leaving care support

Welcome to the CarePath Conference!

Follow the conversation on:

#CarePathConference
#leavingcare

#aftercare
#traumainformedcare

Co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)

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Ms Katarina Ivanković-Knežević
Director for Social Affairs
European Commission
Rue Joseph II, Brussels

Brussels, 23 October 2020

Letter of thanks for participating in our conference 'Aftercare for Care Leavers: Exchanging lessons from across Europe' on 13 October 2020

Dear Ms Katarina Ivanković-Knežević,

I wanted to thank you on behalf of Eurochild and the CarePath Project partnership for participating in our conference last week on Aftercare for Care Leavers on 13th October. Your inspiring intervention contributed to both high-quality and complementary discussions across policy, research, practice and lived-experiences for care leavers in Europe. The EU has a critical role in 'levelling up' standards of aftercare across Europe by offering opportunities for exchange and learning, and channelling EU resources towards policy reform and service development through its funding programmes. We are eager to support this in Eurochild.

The conference was a strong conclusion to the work of the CarePath Project partnership over the past two years to implement a trauma-informed approach to aftercare services across Europe. On behalf of the partnership, I welcome you to explore the project's tools and resources that will be available on the CarePath website in the coming weeks.

Moreover, I would like to use this occasion to thank you for supporting Eurochild's work to raise the rights of children in alternative care on the political and policy agenda at EU level. As Europe's largest umbrella network for child rights civil society organisations, we are working to reform child welfare and protection systems across Europe. The CarePath Project formed part of this work, and I welcome you to connect with us to learn about how else we are working towards this goal.

It has been a real pleasure to cooperate in this conference with you and we look forward to our collaborations in the months and years ahead.

With kind regards,

Jana Hainsworth
Secretary General

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Hon Mr Dragoș Pîslaru
European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz, Brussels

Brussels, 23 October 2020

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Ms Valeria Setti
Coordinator for the Rights of the Child
European Commission
Rue Montoyer 59, Brussels

Brussels, 23 October 2020

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Jana Hainsworth
Secretary General

carepath

Empowering public authorities and professionals towards trauma-informed leaving care support

ERGO NGO: Working With Refugee Care Leavers In Greece

Sofios Panagiotis: Psychologist

Georgouli Ioanna: Mental Health Counselor

Co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)

01

About us & Objectives

About us

carepath

ERGO.Academy

ERGO Academy NGO (www.ergo.academy) is a Greek non-profit organization with a focus on strengthening psychosocial skills of children, adolescents and young adults, as well as empowering parents and professionals who work with these groups through a holistic and systemic approach.

Objectives

The **role** of Ergo in Carepath Project has been…

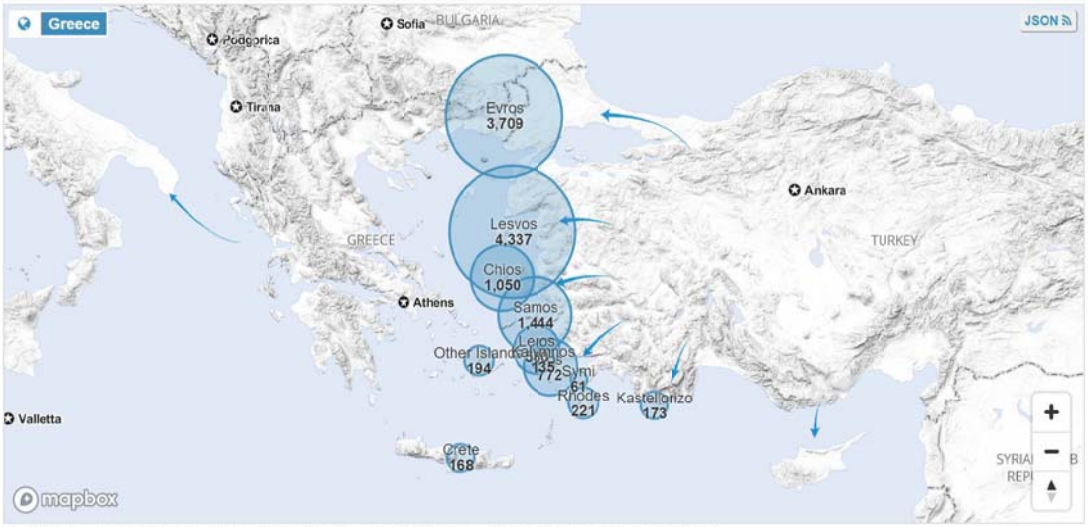
…to develop and promote trauma-informed aftercare support in Greek organizations, as part of an integrated child protection system, by:

- increasing the capacity of professionals, through training to the TIC model, in order to effectively support traumatized children, adolescents and young adults
- directly involving all beneficiaries in determining the most suitable aftercare option for them

OPERATIONAL PORTAL
REFUGEE SITUATIONS

COVID-19 | COUNTRIES | SITUATIONS | PARTNERS / 3W | MAPS | GLOBAL SEARCH | About | Contact | Map portal | IM Toolkit | English

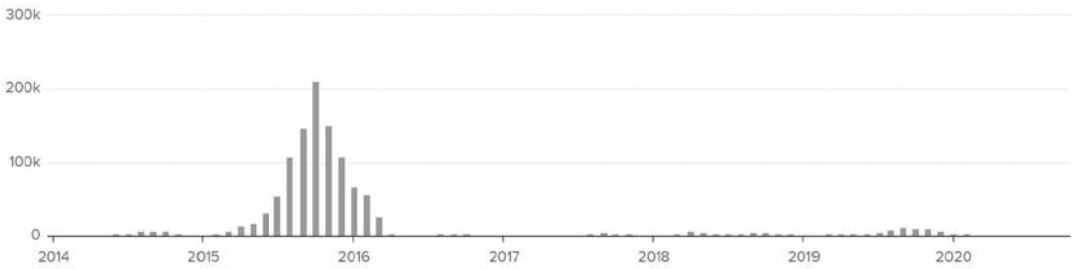
Mediterranean Situation | Greece



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Sea and land arrivals monthly

.CSV | JSON



Total arrivals in 2020

JSON

12,824

Last updated 27 Sep 2020

Sea arrivals in 2020

JSON

9,115

Last updated 27 Sep 2020

Land arrivals in 2020

JSON

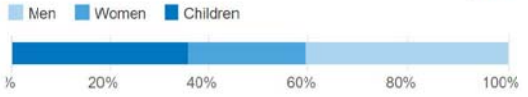
3,709

Last updated 27 Sep 2020

Previous years	Sea arrivals	Land arrivals	Dead and missing
2019	59,726	14,887	70
2018	32,494	18,014	174
2017	29,718	6,592	59
2016	173,450	3,784	441
2015	856,723	4,907	799
2014	41,038	2,280	405

Demographics (based on data from January 2020)

JSON



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Asylum seekers in ESTIA II Accommodation Scheme

Region	#	%
Attica	7,935	52%
Central Greece	151	1%
Central Macedonia	3,259	22%
Crete	739	5%
Epirus	882	6%
North Aegean	1,009	7%
Peloponnese	101	1%
South Aegean	224	1%
Thessaly	719	5%
Total:	**15,019**	

Country of origin	#	%
Afghanistan	5,290	35%
Syria	3,435	23%
Iraq	2,720	18%
DR Congo	898	6%
Iran	454	3%
Other	2,220	15%
Total:	**15,019**	

Gender	#	%
Men	3,970	26%
Women	3,579	24%
Boys	3,887	26%
Girls	3,583	24%
Total:	**15,019**	

Inclusion to national services*	Rate
AMKA[1]	45%
PAAYPA[2]	28%
AFM[3]	49%
OAED[4]	17%
Bank account	4%
School enrolments[5]	64%

Recognized Refugees in ESTIA II Accommodation Scheme

Region	#	%
Attica	3,773	55%
Central Greece	273	4%
Central Macedonia	1,251	19%
Crete	221	3%
Epirus	336	5%
North Aegean	126	2%
Peloponnese	266	4%
South Aegean	30	1%
Thessaly	463	7%
Total:	**6,739**	

Country of origin	#	%
Syria	4,599	67%
Iraq	852	13%
Afghanistan	654	10%
Palestine	128	2%
Somalia	108	2%
Other	398	6%
Total:	**6,739**	

Gender	#	%
Men	1,538	23%
Women	1,572	23%
Boys	1,900	28%
Girls	1,729	26%
Total:	**6,739**	

Inclusion to national services*	Rate
AMKA[1]	78%
AFM[3]	73%
OAED[4]	33%
Bank account	10%
School enrolments[5]	78%

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Source: UNHCR Greece
05 October 2020

Implementation of the TIC model through Train the Trainers seminars to professionals dealing with refugees in:

- Public Schools in Greece (particularly multicultural ones)
- Social Centers
- NGO's with child-centered orientation

The importance of TIC model when working with refugees

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Through the training seminars, the field visits and the round tables organized with professionals working with refugees, the need for support in their work (capacity building) emerged. In particular we noticed that:

- a lack of training in skills and techniques was evident
- an organized work plan for every employee to refer to, was absent
- there weren't procedures aiming to protect the professionals from suffering an invasive trauma by working with refugees
- the population of refugees is vulnerable not only because of their past traumatic experiences, but also due to the fact that living in uncertainty, any moment may lead to a re-traumatic experience.

02

Interventions

Multicultural Schools

School personnel need to cope with:

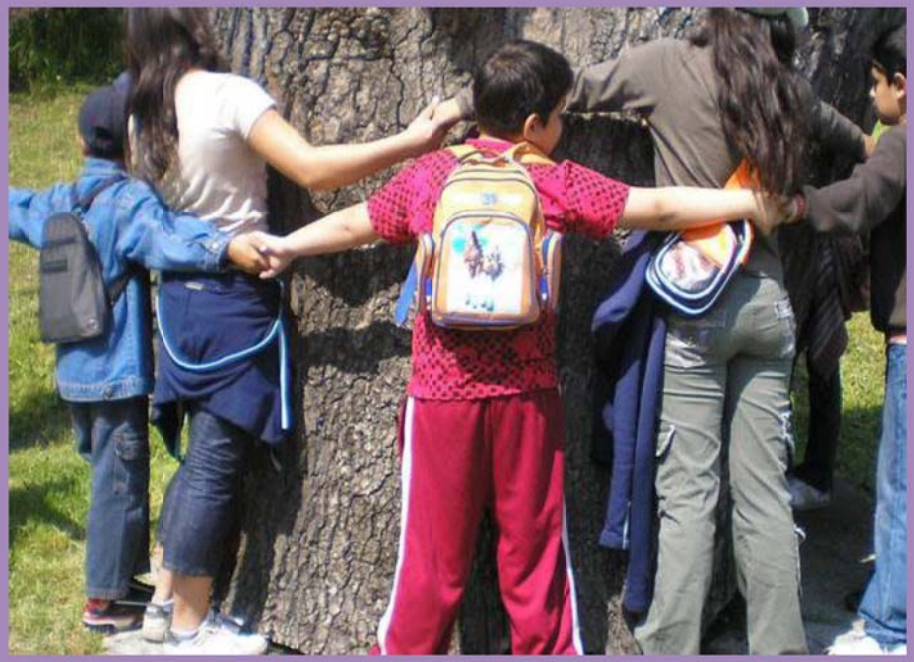
- students and parents from different cultures
- students with previous traumatic experiences
- children who enter the school process in the middle of the year without knowing if and when they would have to interrupt
- children and parents who speak only the language of their homeland
- classes with children coming from different home countries with conflict cultures, customs etc.

Social Centers

Social Centers' personnel need to cope with:

- providing support and care to people through short-termed interventions
- a large alternation of beneficiaries
- a great variety of tasks with just a small number of corresponding professionals
- a lack of sufficient time in order to create a framework of security and trust
- non-common language

NGO's with child-centered orientation



The personnel need to cope with:

- children who suffer from having lost or being separated from their parents
- providing adequate care to traumatized children
- children's expectation to reunification with their family
- the management of beneficiaries coming from different cultures
- the challenge of children's integration in the local society
- the language barrier
- the threat of burn out

03

The implementation of TIC model and its benefits

Professionals' benefits from the TIC model

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External evaluations received from the professionals who were trained on the TIC model, showed:

- a reduction of work stress and burn out
- an increase of job satisfaction
- a reduction of turn over
- a provision of integrated psychosocial support services
- a reduction of invasive trauma
- a productive cooperation between the clinical and the administrative department of the organization
- more individualized interventions for beneficiaries (reducing the inequalities)
- a more effective emotional management among caregivers when confronting with feelings of "loss" and separation anxiety at the final stage of the departure of beneficiaries

Secondary Benefits

The empowerment of caregivers' skills also improved the situation for the beneficiaries in following aspects:

- The possibility of having a new re-traumatic experience was minimized by establishing a genuine relationship with caregivers
- The sense of belonging to a safe place was increased
- The experience of lower anxiety & stress regarding everyday life and their future
- Greater degree of engagement and satisfaction from their involvement in everyday activities and challenges
- Higher self-confidence when it comes to plan for their future
- In general, the beneficiaries enjoyed their right to participate in decision making processes concerning their lives, feeling therefore more integrated and welcome in the host country

Suggested Good Practices

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- Provide a qualitative communication plan
- Create a good and resistant relationship
- Build a supportive group
- Offer an after care service (for refugees & professionals)

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Our vision
is to help Caregivers transform
Refugee's "Road to Hell"
into
the "Road to Hellas"

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Empowering public authorities and professionals towards trauma-informed leaving care support

Creating a CarePath Community around Europe

Christina Karaberi

Psychologist- Msc in Health Management

E-Trikala S.A. Department of Research and Communication

Vassiliki Chatzipetrou

ReadLab, Co-Founder & Director, EU & International Cooperation Department

Co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)

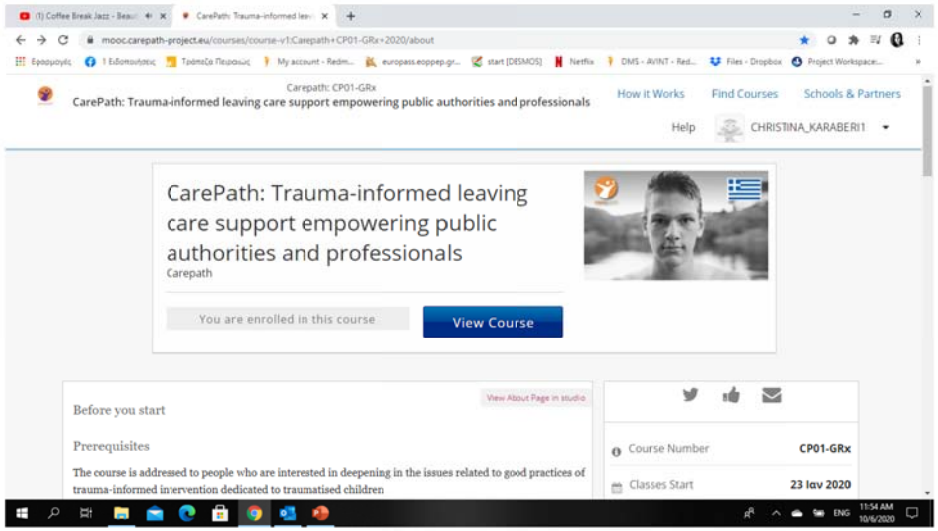
01

Establishing a sustainable and realistic roadmap for the integration of the TIC approach- The CarePath MOOC tool

MOOC (Massive Open On-line Course)

Why the MOOC:

- Allows the registration, open access and remote participation of a large number of participants simultaneously
- It can support a large scale interactive participation combining traditional course materials with audiovisual content and providing user forums that help build a community consisting of students, professors, and teaching assistants
- Promotes microlearning, as it allows the trainee to show progress efficiently in short timeframes
- Supports a learner-centered training model that promotes the creation of this active and stimulating CarePath training community



CarePath MOOC characteristics

- Dedicated to an in-depth analysis of the essential aspects of trauma-informed care (TIC).
- Developed into thematic sections organized in line with a specific and multi-dimensional perspective with a further focus on the political and organisational components involved in the complex TIC model
- MOOC involved the use of active learning techniques including videos, case studies, articles, presentations in Power Point, fora
- Developed in several languages: English, Italian, French, Hungarian and Greek;
- 8-week overall duration: a total of 60 hours of commitment for the participant (8 hours per week)

CarePath MOOC educational modules

Educational modules

1. The first module offered a review of the latest scientific literature on the most effective and efficient ways to support traumatized children. This training section covered fundamental concepts such as empowerment, the risk of re-traumatization
2. The second module focused on research topics in and about TIC. In particular, the key elements of research projects were presented from a methodological perspective,
3. The third module focused on the legal aspects and aimed to provide, through reference to laws and regulations, basic knowledge about the legal framework and principles within which trauma-informed care can be applied.
4. Final assignment: The final module of the training course aimed to enable participants to consolidate and critically use the knowledge learned in the previous sections

CarePath MOOC in numbers

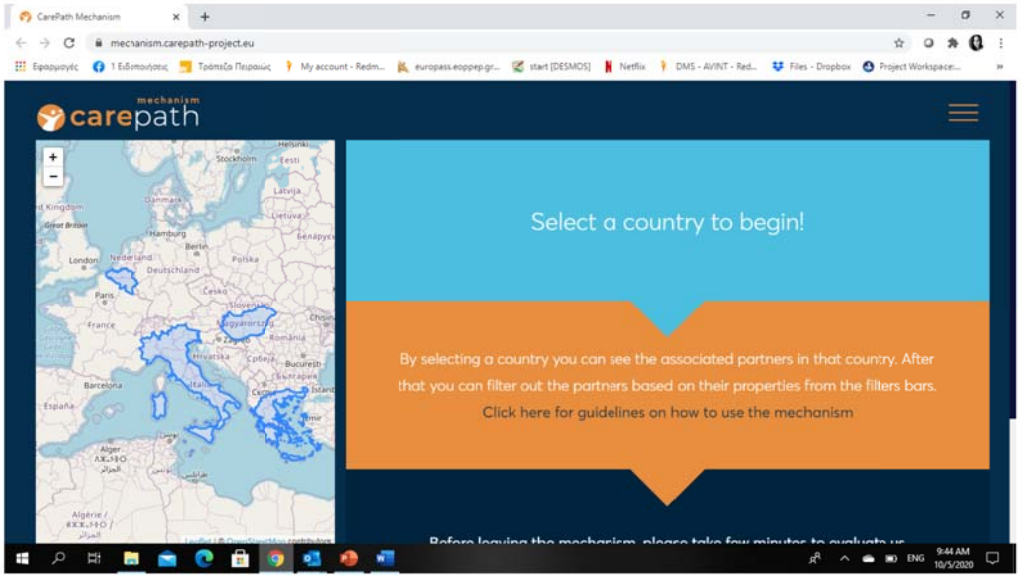
- 767 Italian speaking trainees
- 224 Greek speaking trainees
- 164 English speaking trainees
- 100 Hungarian speaking trainees
- 26 French speaking trainees

02

Continuing supporting and engaging the CarePath Community- the CarePath Provision Mechanism tool

CarePath Provision Mechanism

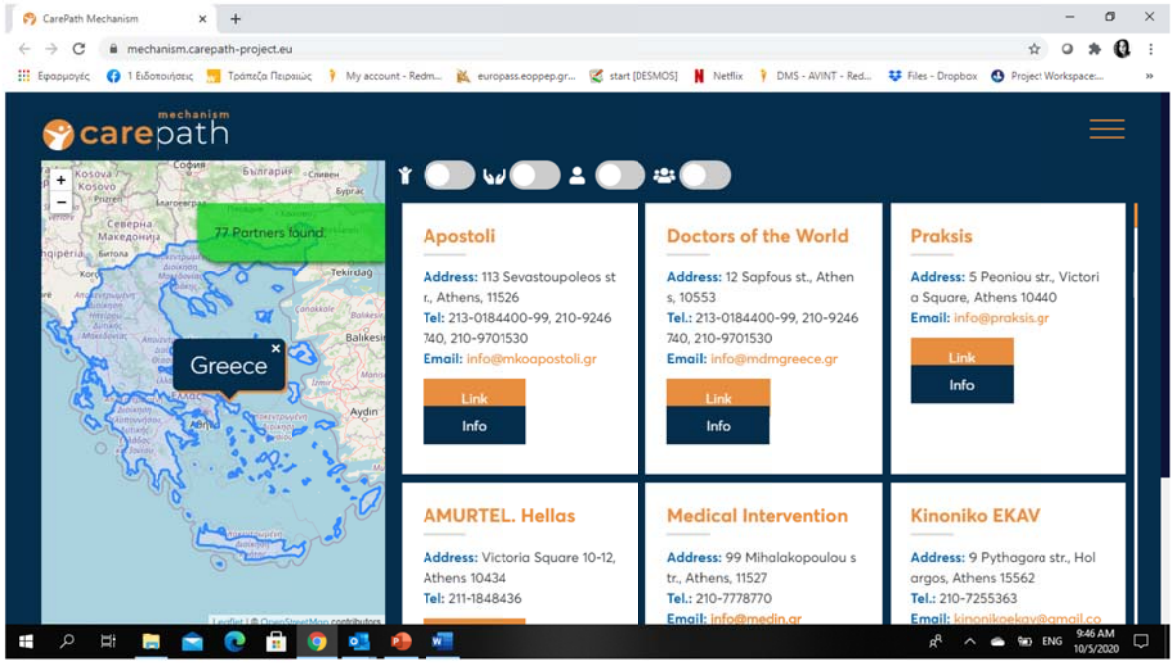
- An on line tool that allows both professionals and care leavers to access a “request for support” service in 4 countries (Greece, Italy, Belgium and Hungary).
- There are 4 different target groups identified in this tool (children, care leavers, adults and families)
- One can find a service/ organisation in his/her country offering one or a combination of the following types of services: accommodation, legal aid, psychosocial support, food and personal hygiene, education, immigration and advocacy.



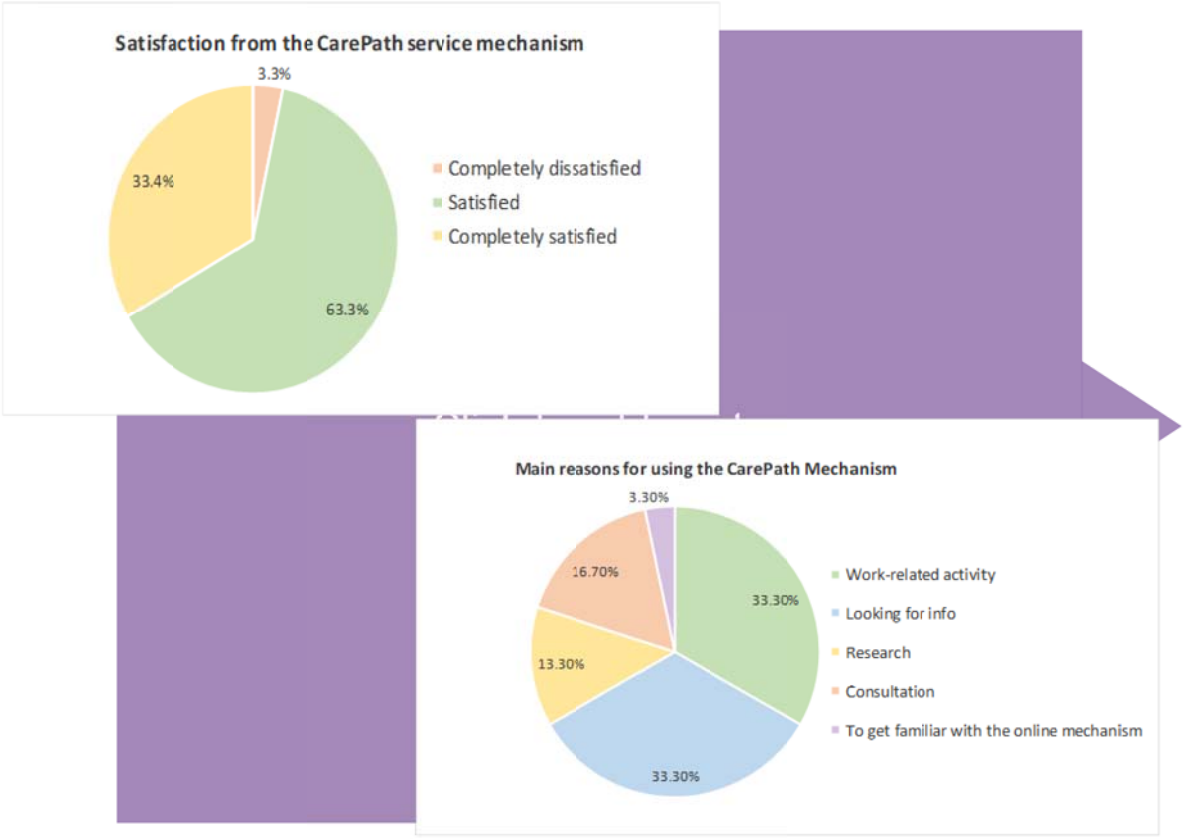
CarePath Provision Mechanism

289 organisations have been identified and registered in the CarePath Service Provision Mechanism

- 77 organisations from Greece
- 112 organisations from Italy
- 29 organisations from Hungary
- 71 organisations from Belgium



CarePath Provision Mechanism evaluation and impact



- *Approximately 200 users*
- *The mechanism was pilot-tested and evaluated by the users in terms of usability, effectiveness etc*
- *Both on line evaluation tool and small face to face interviews.*

CarePath Provision Mechanism sustainability

Face to face interviews answers

Yes. An excellent work has been done and we wish to be able to use this tool in the future. If this is not feasible due to lack of funding, perhaps some public organization should support its continuation.

The mechanism should remain as a useful tool in our effort to support refugee population, families and children

The continuation of the mechanism can only have positive results. It should be endorsed by other organizations as well and presented in dedicated workshops and conferences

Online questionnaire answers

Sustainability suggestions via the on line questionnaire:

- Make the online mechanism available and constantly updated after the finalization of the project
- The mechanism should be linked with all public organizations in the field of mental health and well-being.
- Link the online mechanism with the consortium organizations and enhance the dissemination and promotion of the CarePath online service mechanism.

Click to add text

03

Integration Dependencies

Integration Dependencies

In order to promote changes for the support of traumatised children at policy level we have identified all regional or national public authorities (in all four countries) responsible for child protection systems to mainstream the main project deliverables and promote the TIC approach.

Furthermore, a more extensive network of organisations has been identified throughout this project that do not necessary belong to the four countries.

On an organisational or systemic level, Trauma-Informed Care changes organisational culture to emphasize respecting and appropriately responding to the effects of trauma at all levels.

Changing the approach on professionals and promoting the TIC approach is considered one of the most important impacts of the CarePath project.

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Thank you for your attention
carepath-project.eu

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

FICE AUSTRIA INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF EDUCATIVE COMMUNITIES
AUF JEDES KIND KOMMT ES AN

Co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union

Care experienced advocates, SOS Children's Villages International 'Leaving Care' project – what is being done in Romania and Austria to support young people leaving care

13th October 2020 – online conference
Care Path - Eurochild

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

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Fabienne – the situation of care leavers in Austria:

- No specific help for Care Leavers
- In General: „Short-work“ was established: 80-90% of salary, so that enterprises can keep their employees –
  - But financial aid primarily for freelancers , big and small businesses
- When student:
  - Family grant was once payed double
  - The last semester wasn‘t counted as a full semester, in case one‘s study time takes longer and a loss of the student grant is at risk
- The city of Vienna provided a 50€ voucher to go out for lunch

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SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

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Fabienne – the situation of care leavers in Austria:

Problemes evoked by the coronavirus:

- Unemployment
- Depths
- Extension of education or apprenticeship time
  - Also often due to the lack of digital connection
- Higher drop-out risk
- Mental health went downwards
- Problems with their flat or house
  - Some even moved back to their parents

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SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

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Fabienne – the situation of care leavers in Austria:

Goals:

- Care Leaver advocate in governmental area
  - When new laws are introduced, a Care Leaver representative should inform about and emphasize on the specific situation of Care Leavers – often they don‘t put CL into account when making new laws
- Psychological support for Care Leavers
  - In critical times (especially now during the Coronavirurs) young adults without a stable backup do struggle and are more likely to have mental problems than young people with a stable family situation they can count on

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SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

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Fabienne – the situation of care leavers in Austria:

Goals:

- Creating a stable network of all Care Leavers
  - A lot of young people still doesn‘t even know that they take part of the „big family“ of Care Leavers and that we are all here to support each other
  - All Institutions should work together to grant every young adult access to this network
  - Youthlinks

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SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

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Fabienne – the situation of care leavers in Austria:

Goals:

- An ideal Leaving Care process
  - Quality over quantity
    - Doesn‘t mean that we shouldn‘t support every young person who needs support!
  - When young people leave, they should feel save in their new independent life
    - Even when they face obstacles, their should be a backup to turn to when they face them!
    - Voucher for some hours of Care Leaver support

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SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

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AUF JEDES KIND KOMMT ES AN

Fabienne – the situation of care leavers in Austria:

Goals:

- ± 4000 new Care Leavers every 4 years in Austria
  - Neither only financial support nor only psychological support
    - Both is essential and should be provided if necessary
    - Both is mostly provided in the „emerging adulthood“ in Europe by one‘s one family
    - A small help from the government could change the life of many young people who had the unlucky situation to find themselves in disfunctional families and therefore smaller chances in life

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Empowering public authorities and professionals towards trauma-informed leaving care support

CarePath Project: a Journey long 2 years and 6 months

Luca Rollè on behalf of the partnership

Co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)

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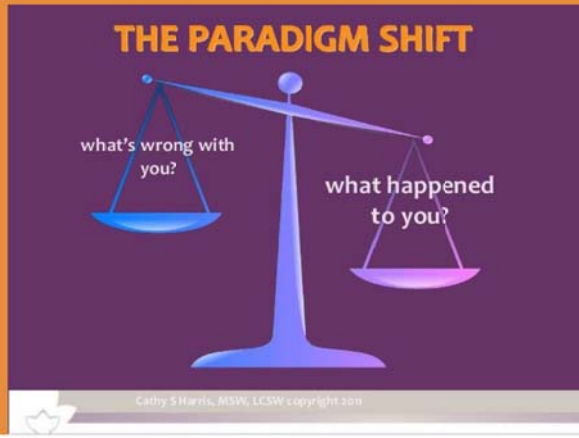
01

MAINSTREAMING

WHO WE ARE
OBJECTIVE



Belgium:	Eurochild
Greece:	Ergo Academy E-Trikala ReadLab
Hungary:	Cordelia
Italy:	University of Turin IACP

CarePath partners share a profound commitment to human rights promotion, respect of children's rights, gender equality principles, and equal employment opportunities

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MAINSTREAMING OF RESPECT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

Our Main Objective was to increase the knowledge on TIC in each partners' Country and promote Trauma Informed Care Practices

THE CAREPATH PROJECT CONTRIBUTION

CarePath provideed **institution, organization, NGOs and professionals** of child protection systems with **interdisciplinary training resources and policy guidance** regarding the protection, rights and development of traumatised children.

1. **Institutions, organization, and NGOS,** benefit from the development of an integrated aftercare support mechanism, which will better support specialised professionals in the handling of traumatised children in care and after care.
2. **Psychotherapists, social workers, psychologists, teachers, students, educators, valounteers and healthcare professionals etc.** in the partners' countries had the opportunity attend programme (MOOC) on trauma-informed approaches that was developed and available in 5 languages (EN, FR, GR, HU, IT).

OBJECTIVES IN DEEP LINKED TO ACTION

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Identify **transferable procedures and trauma-informed working methods** in integrated child protection systems

Increase the **capacity of professionals** in these systems to effectively support traumatised children

Develop a **sustainable mechanism to support organizations, NGOs and professionals** to identify **“good” services** for children in care and leaving care.

ACTIVITIES

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Identification of transferable working methods in integrated trauma-informed child protection systems.

Development of a training programme for professionals working with traumatised children.

Pilot testing of the programme, delivery of train the trainer and training seminars

Establishment of the CarePath integrated service provision mechanism for cases of traumatised children leaving care

DELIVERABLES (OUTPUT)

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Transferable good practices guide

Comparative Analysis Report on Trauma-Informed care and leaving care

Policy recommendations report on trauma informed care and aftercare support

Roadmap for organizations, NGOs to integrate project results in child protection systems

CarePath Toolkit

Training Needs Survey

Open Online Course for professionals (MOOC)

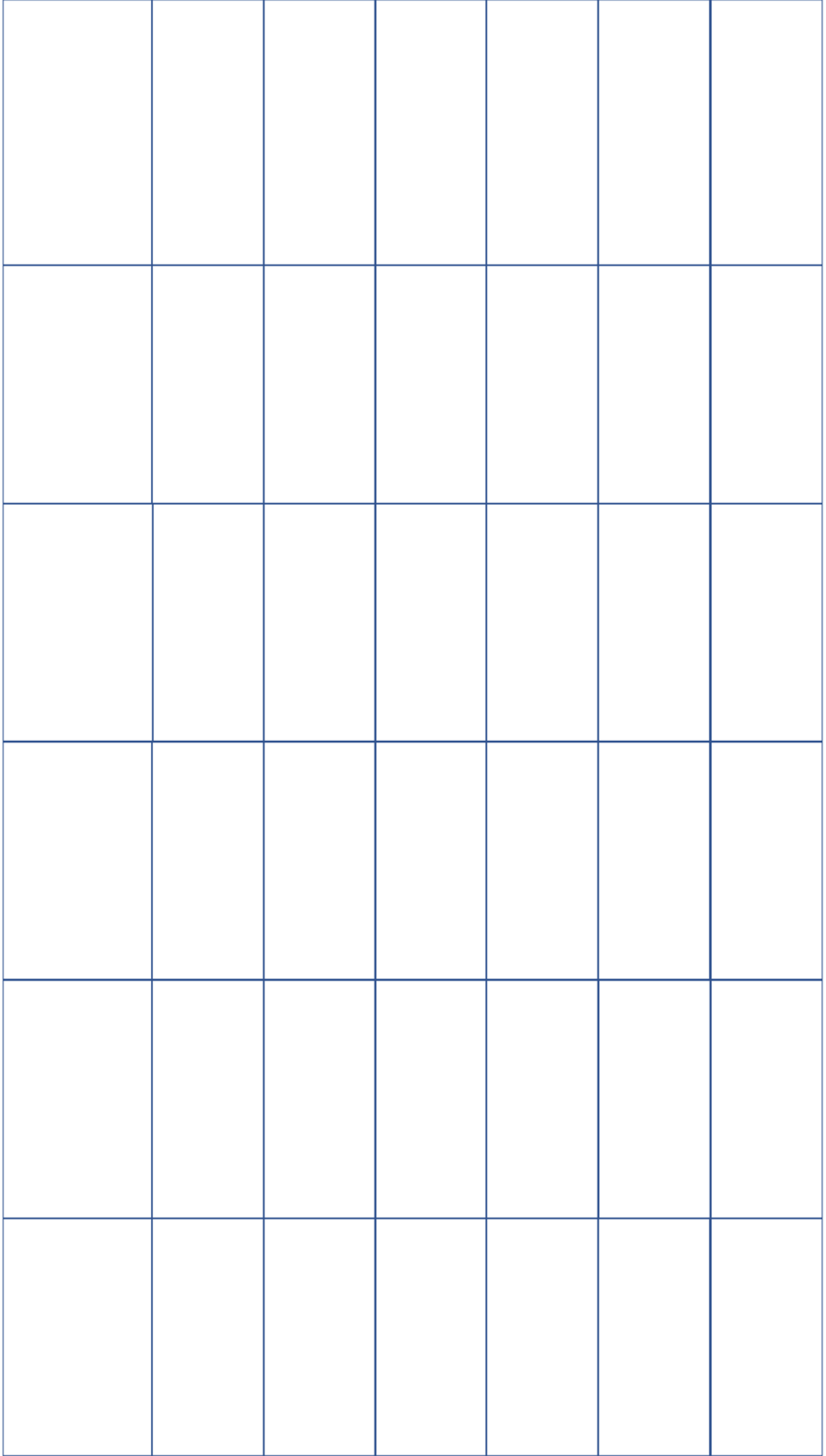
Memorandum of Understanding

CarePath integrated service provision mechanism

LONG-TERM IMPACT THROUGH MULTIPLIER EFFECTS

The partnership expects that CarePath will have multiplier effects after its end.

- The integration of the training programme by key partners;
- The diffusion of the CarePath mechanism and the roadmap;
- The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by authorities, organizations, NGOs;
- Individual learners seeking to improve their skills are expected to share the MOOC with their peers, during face to face or social media interaction,



Supporting young people from care to adulthood: policy and practice in European countries

Mike Stein

Emeritus Professor

UNIVERSITY of York

spru | Social Policy Research Unit

What I will talk about

- Examples of 'good practice' by 11 members of the International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care (INTRAC)
- Peer research - by care experienced young people to find out about the lives of care leavers in 4 countries
- From these countries, the presentation explores examples from:
- Pathways to adulthood in foster care, residential care and kinship care, and;
- Leaving care law and policy; involving care leavers, and; how policy and practice examples may promote resilience

Pathways to adulthood: patterns of transition

''I moved out at 16, I never felt more lonely in my life''

- Most young people left care by 18 years of age, the age range being between 15 to 21 years (11 countries)
- Their transition to adulthood was more accelerated, compressed, linear - than for young people in the general population
- Coping with major changes in lives at younger age
- At odds with normative and neurobiological developments
- Evidence this contributes to mental health problems, when adding to pre-care maltreatment and further instability in care
- Can be seen as a 'retraumatization' process

Pathways to adulthood: examples of stability and attachment in foster care

''She was always there for me, I could talk about my problems, I was listened to, I was loved''

- *Informal fostering arrangements* - young people settled in foster care, became 'part of the family' and remained until adulthood
- '*Informal'* personal and practical support from their former carers after leaving care, even those who had difficult relationships
- *Legal arrangements* for young people to remain in foster care where they were settled until they reached 21
- Foster parents were supported financially and young people continued to be legally entitled to leaving care services

Pathways to adulthood: continuity and transitions in residential care

- Legal rights for 'Staying put' to 21 or 'Staying close'
- Residential homes for up to eight young people - flexible support by staff who visited or stopped overnight, depending on the needs of the young people and then……
- Residential workers arrange 'follow on' accommodation with young people - if it worked out well, they could become tenants
- Young people leaving care could start 'living in' their accommodation, some evenings a week, before moving in and becoming tenants when they felt prepared and ready

Pathways to adulthood: attachment in kinship care

"I didn't see myself as being 'in care' "

- In *'kinship care'* young people live with their extended families - grandparents, uncles and aunts, brothers or sisters, family friends
- In this way, kinship carers are seen as giving young people a strong family identity, young people not seeing themselves as 'in care'
- Most young people remain with their kinship carers until they are ready to leave, experiencing a normative transition to adulthood
- Evidence of variable financial and personal support
- In most 'western' European countries - more young people living in foster or, residential care than kinship care

Leaving care law and policy: from 'permissive' laws to 'duties and rights'

''Tackling territorial injustices to reduce inequalities''

- The main trend in the development of legal and policy frameworks in 'western' European countries has been from…..
- *'permissive'* legislation, part of general child welfare, countries *'may do'* but are not required *'to do' , or to implement…..*
- to a strengthening of the law by the introduction of *'legal duties' or 'rights' ('must do')* to provide specialist leaving care services
- Improving the *rights*, opportunities and life chances of care leavers
- A positive development in reducing the inequalities between different areas within countries

Leaving care law and policy: examples, rights to remain and complain

''When we leave care why should they stop caring''

- In Germany young people have a *legal right* to 'upbringing and education' until 21, in foster care, residential care, 'assisted living units', If refused, *right to go to court* with a 'provincial advocate'
- In Norway local authorities have a duty to provide aftercare services to young people aged between 18 and 23, if refused - *legal right to complain* to the County Governor
- In Romania and some other post-Communist countries young people have *a right to remain in care* as long as they are in education or training, may be up to 26 years of age
- In Scotland, *right to remain* in foster or residential care to 21 years

Involving care leavers: individual decisions

''Give us a chance to find a voice…Gizza Say''

- UNCRC provides a legal framework for promoting the *rights of young people as 'active citizens'* - 'children's rights' legislation
- In England there is a legal and policy framework for involving young people at different stages of the leaving care process
- In the making of care plans; assessment of needs; the pathway planning process, services to meet needs, up to 25 years of age
- Independent Reviewing Officers – to ensure young people views are heard, also 'advocate to act on their behalf

Involving care leavers: policy and research

"I was interviewing care leavers as a care leaver myself, giving them a voice…it gave me confidence to talk to new people"

- Peer research by care leavers - an opportunity to participate in the research process, in partnership with professional researchers
- Young people can contribute to the different stages of the process
- Interviews; research findings; policy and practice; dissemination
- Training, accreditation in new skills can enhance career
- Children in Care Councils – voice on local policies, their impact on leaving care, leading to 'Pledge' to provide services

Evaluating policy and practice: promoting strengths and resilience

''Care its given me great opportunities, my parents didn't care''

- Having a coherent framework, grounded in evidence, negotiated with staff and young people, important
- Providing stability in young people's lives lays the emotional foundation of resilience through attachment and continuity
- Examples of informal foster care, remaining in foster care to 21; transition from residential care and the use of kinship carers
- Opportunities for gradual normative transitions from care
- Educational success associated with resilience – stable placements, carers and schools working together, 'catch-up'
- Leads to careers, new opportunities, leisure, turning points

Evaluating policy and practice: promoting strengths and resilience

- Involving young people in individual decisions and policies which shape their lives is connected to promoting resilience
- Opportunities to plan an be in control, choice and empowerment
- Peer research - re-frame adversities, including through reciprocity, being able to 'give', not just identified as 'a person in need'
- Young people whose transitions from care are successful are not only able to access more services, more *interactive* relationships
- Able to *negotiate* good quality accommodation, *engage* in education and employment and *participate* in community and leisure activities

Evaluating policy and practice: promoting strengths and resilience

''I've learnt to live out of care....with the help of a back-up team''.....resilience is 'ordinary magic'

- Specialist leaving care teams and services
- Holistic preparation - in practical, emotional and social skills
- Pathway services – education, careers, financial support, accommodation, health, mental health and well-being
- Engaging care leavers with different needs – young parents, BAME, seeking asylum, mental health, disabilities, in trouble, LGBTQ
- Strengths and resilience – to help young people 'bounce back', overcome trauma, to fulfil their 'ordinary magic'

Supporting young people from care to adulthood: policy and practice in European countries

This presentation is based on:

Stein, M (2019) Supporting young people from care to adulthood: international practice, *Child and Family Social Work,* pp 400-405, 24,3

This article contains a full list of follow-up references covering the different examples and the resilience framework

Trauma informed care approch: a legal perspective

The presence of adequate legislation with regard to children rights is NOT enough

Within the legal procedures following the violence, an integrated approach is needed

- **culture of respect**
- **specific training**
- **child-friendly approach**
- **help lines easily accessible**

every person's experience is unique and requires an individualised approach

So, the challenge is to apply the TIC approach to the legal context

Key word → Partecipation

Trauma informed care approach requires to take into account the opinion and the voice in the decision-making process

The right of the child to be heard

«States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child»
(Article 12 CRC, par. 1)

Participatory guarantees for the child in civil and criminal proceedings

First keyword → **information**

Only a child with adequate knowledge can profitably **participate** in the decision-making process

About what?

- meaning of the proceedings
- facts in issue
- rigths and protections
- child's role
- possible consequences of his views

Who?

- judicial authority
- lawyer
- representative
- expert

How?

use of a language and of concepts suitable for the age and the understanding

Second keyword → **hearing**

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Criminal proceedings

witness about violence and abuse suffered, in order to ascertain the facts

Civil proceedings

Child's opinion about eventual custody and adoption

High risk of secondary victimization

The weight of the opinion depends on the child's capacity of forming his/her own views

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Staff & Speakers - already in Whova

Staff

PERSONAL DATA OMISSIS

Speakers

PERSONAL DATA OMISSIS

Speakers' Assistants

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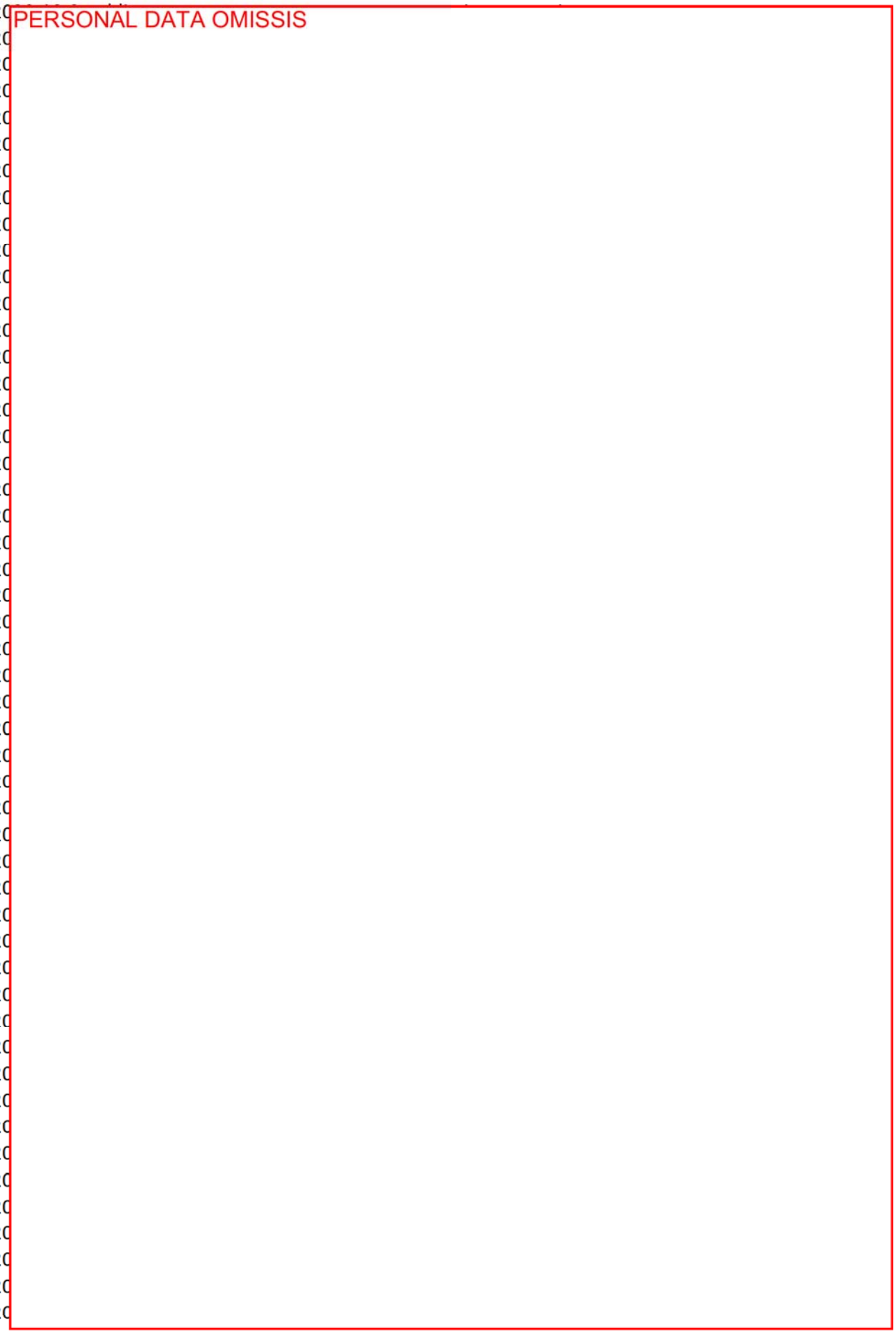
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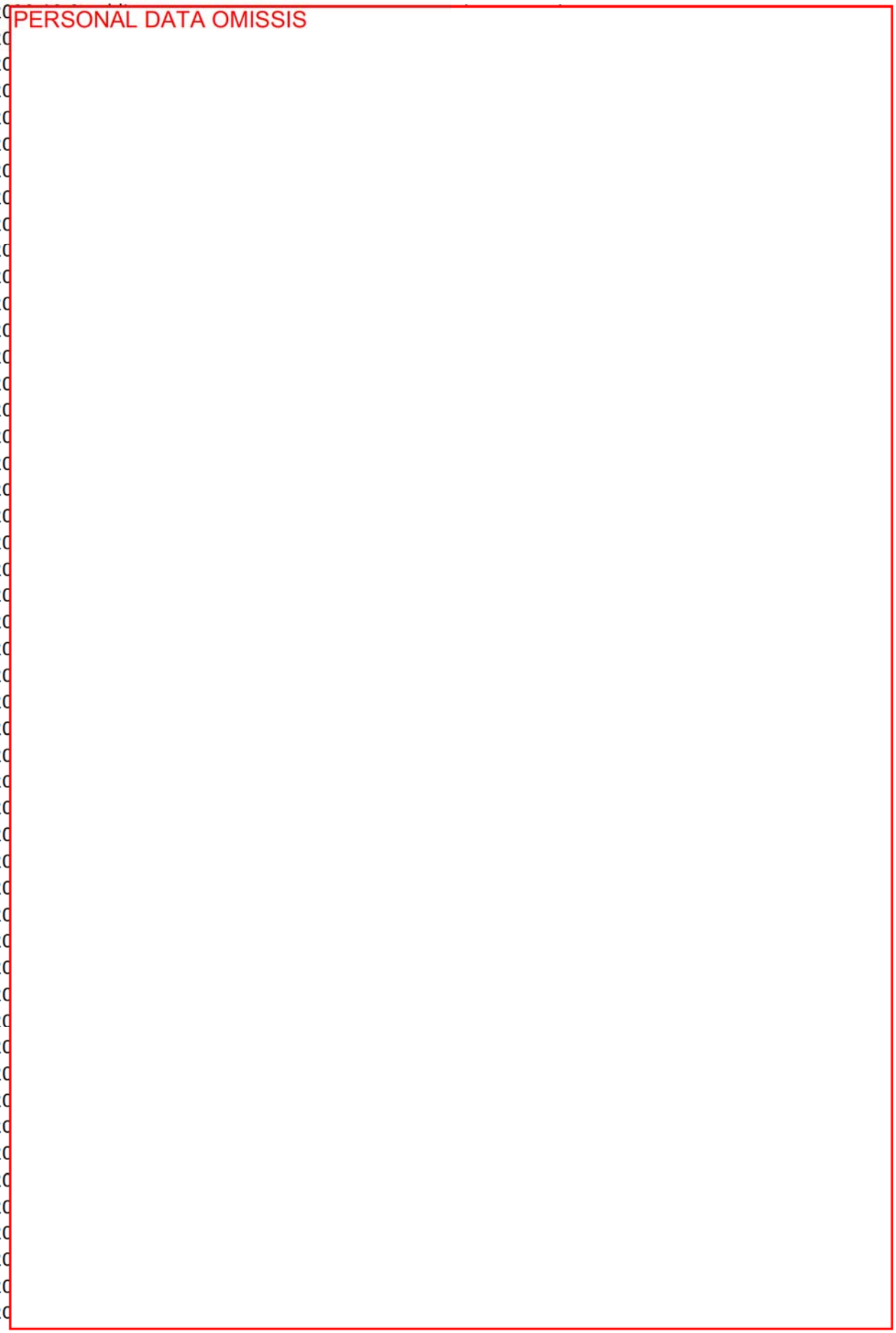
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