
Invitation – 4 & 5 April 2019

Palazzo Grandi Stazioni - Cannaregio 23, 30121 Venice (Location tbc)

The European Network of Social Authorities (ENSA), the Youth Care Platform and the Veneto Region are pleased to invite you to a joint seminar of 2 European Projects “A Way Home” and “We Hear You” the **4th of April**, followed by a meeting of the ENSA Working Groups Child, Youth and Family the **5th of April**.

Your participation & registration

Participation to this event is free but your registration is obligatory via [this link](#). Places are limited, so we ask you to register quickly. The language of the event is English.

4th of April

Joint seminar of 2 European projects on enhancing the strengths of young people “A Way Home” and “We Hear You”

We Hear You - WHY: The low level of youth participation in democratic processes, as well as the distrust young people show towards the democratic institutions and values may result in exclusion and social marginalization. The WHY project aims to provide a basis for an improved culture amongst youth professionals, as well as structures that will support democratic dialogue and youth involvement in order to promote civic participation, create participatory mechanisms, thus preventing marginalization and its negative effects on individuals and society.
www.whywehearyou.eu

A Way Home - AWH - From youth care to interdependent living: tools, strategies and community building: Authorities, service providers and youngsters in youth care all over Europe are struggling with aftercare strategies. Too many youngsters who have left care, face exclusion from sustainable housing, work, education and leisure activities. A more efficient preparation of life after the care is needed, and a better understanding of the specific needs of the youngsters by the social institutions and public services, once they have left care. The A Way Home project tackles these 2 issues.
www.awayhome.eu

The 2 project teams will present the intermediary results in different workshops.



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Agenda 4th of April

8.45 Registration and Coffee

9.15 Welcome speech

9.25 Key note on Youth Participation
tbc

9.50 Introduction to “We Hear You” and “A Way Home”
Ulrika Wennerholm, City of Västerås & An Rommel, Flemish Agency for Youth Welfare

10.20 – 15.30 Workshop session ** More information on the Workshops below**

	10.20	10.35 11.25	11.40 12.30	12.30	13.35 14.25	14.40 15.30
1. Young Care Leavers and their experiences with Care	Intro			Lunch		
2. The preparation of youth care leaving: what can youth care workers do?						
3. How to launch A Way Home local coalition in your city?						
4. Helping practitioners to enhance young people’s democratic participation						
5. Promoting Democratic Dialogue and civic participation						

15.45 Exchange tables: enhancing the learning from each other

16.30 End

More information on the Workshops the 4th of April

1. Young people and their experience with care (10.35 - 11.40)

A Way Home project – Sarah Debaets & 2 youngsters – Cachet vzw

In this workshop the focus will be placed on the experiences of careleavers. How did they experience leaving care? What is it like to juggle between school/ work and the stress of leaving care? How did their youth care facility prepare them for leaving care and the life after care? What difficulties did they encounter? What was their experience with the Public Centre for Social Welfare?

2. The preparation of youth care leaving: what can youth care workers do (10.35 - 13.25)

A Way Home project – Britt Dehertogh, Wim Van Tongel, Gwendy Moentjens - AP University College

The workshop aims at sharing experiences and knowledge on: What do youngsters need? How can transition support tools smoothen the care leaving? What are the experiences of participating youth care facilities and foster care in creating a policy and practice?

Three outcomes of the A Way Home project are presented. Firstly, a strengths-based framework for care facilities offers recommendations for a policy on care leaving at the level of the care



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facility. Secondly, a database of methods to prepare youngsters for leaving care can be used to choose or create an own method for care leaving in the facility. Thirdly, a training program supports care facilities by sharing knowledge and experiences on care leaving.

3. How to launch A Way Home local coalition in your city (10.35 – 11.40)

A Way Home project – Stéphane Leclercq - Feantsa

Based on the Canadian A Way Home (AWH) movement and the experience of European pilot cities, the AWH Hub provides resources for European cities to launch and/or support local coalitions in order to reach a collective impact by generating and implementing a plan on preventing, reducing and ending youth homelessness. An introduction to the A Way home model and online resources will be presented followed by a discussion panel of A Way Home projects representatives who will share their experiences on how their local coalition started, who are their stakeholders, how do they work together and what are their priorities for the first years.

4. Reflections on helping practitioners develop skills and behaviours for young people's democratic participation (11.40 – 14.40)

We hear you project – Brian De Lord – Double Helix

A workshop on the development of self-awareness, attitude and skill formation as well as the eventual cultivation of professional reflective practice. It will support practitioners to engage with young people in trusting ways to examine and understand their legacies of experience, so that their aspirations can be not only envisaged but achieved.

5. Promoting Democratic Dialogue and Civic Participation (13.25 – 14.40)

We hear you project – Eef Cornelissen & Arzu Yentür – Erasmus Hogeschool

A workshop on the development of professional skills in applying a selected number of innovative good practices that promote democratic dialogue and civic participation. The methods and/or tools that will be used have been developed, tested and revised by the partners. The practices were selected with special attention to the general applicability of methods/tools on different youth groups, socio-economic conditions, as well as sociocultural settings, and are aiming to include young people in participatory democratic processes.



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5th of April

ENSA Working Groups Child, Youth and Family

8.45 Registration and Coffee

9.15 ENSA Youth and Child Working Groups

ENSA Child: Participation of small children (0-12y) as basic principle

Participation of young children contributes to a more democratic society with social cohesion and equality. We need a society where possibilities for participation are abundant with sufficient, accessible, diverse and qualitative service providers, with possibilities for encounter with other children and adults, and with public spaces that facilitates participation. Participation should be a basic principle and an essential condition for developing and implementing policy and services. In a society there are several and sometimes conflicting interests, values and definitions of well-being. We need to search together how we wish to live together and how we can do this, by trial and error. During the ENSA Child & Family Working Group we want to learn from good practices on how we can implement participation of young children in our policy and services and how it can become the basic principle for everything we do.

- How can we understand what children really want/need?
- How can we create (public) space that is based on and strengthens participation?
- Participation in a superdiverse society - too many children are excluded because they are 'different', they live in poverty, or because of their religious background
- ...

If you want to present a practice or project proposal, please contact Rudy De Cock, rudy.decock@kindengezin.be.

ENSA Youth: Family networks, Focus- Participation of vulnerable families and children to the community - With the expertise of ULSS 2 (Local Social and Health Unit Treviso area - dott. Borsellino)

In recent years numerous changes have affected our society but the value of welcoming and support remains a cornerstone of families. The emergence of this aspect was the engine that pushed the professionals to reflect and plan interventions that involve the families of the territory and hence the birth of the "Network Families" project. This project is aimed to give support to situations of marginality that are not finding answers through other territorial services, through the involvement of the whole community in which the fragile family unit lives. It is being carried out and promoted by ULSS 2 and integrated into the local Veneto plans of actions for 2011-2015 to deal with the needs of "vulnerable families", minors and teens. The project Family networks has the objectives to recognize the social centrality of the family as a place of relationships, affections and care and to recognize the importance of the functions it carries out in order to promote its own well-being and that of the whole community.



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The project promotes and creates networks of solidarity between families, that can work on their own consolidation, in synergy with public services and, at the same time, promotes the diffusion of a culture of acceptance, solidarity and relations with the entire community.

The project puts in contact, after one specific training path, families that occupy a central role in the community with others with a peripheral role and support both in a path of exchanges and relationships aimed at overcoming difficulties. These forms of solidarity aim to prevent all those cases and processes of exclusion, self-exclusion and family isolation. The welcoming family "Teaches" the family who is welcomed how to generate social capital. Between both there is a mutual exchange of energy. In each municipality a network of solidary families is set up. (concretely, welcoming, listening, hearing a child during the week, holidays, in case of professional problems of the parents or other difficulties like divorce...)

Outputs

- 104 networks of families have already been established;
- More than 8250 people in Veneto have been sensitized to the network and around 2000 participated in the training;
- 550 families are antennas in the territory, as well as promoters of well-being for themselves and for families who are experiencing a difficult time;
- 147 fragile families are in this moment supported and empowered.

During the ENSA Youth & Family Working Group we would like to learn from similar practices and networks on how we can include, stimulate and empower marginalized vulnerable families and children in society. If you want to present a practice or project proposal, please contact Elena Curtopassi, elena.curtopassi@regione.veneto.it

12.15 Networking Lunch (participants own cost)

14.00 End



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More information on the ENSA network and the Youth Care platform

ENSA

ENSA is a network of cities and European Regions coming from 13 member countries that has the aim to promote international cooperation in the social field. ENSA was established by the Veneto Region in 1999. Since then the network has developed and supported solid partnerships between a wide range of European Regions and has carried out seminars, conferences, study visit programmes and exchanges of operators. The co-operation between partners has brought about the opportunity to carry out several projects financed by the European Commission. ENSA represents an excellent opportunity for local and Regional Authorities to participate actively in European policy making and programmes.

The network organizes its work in five subject areas of intervention. Each has its own “thematic network”: elderly, youth, child issues, disability and social inclusion. Social inclusion is a transversal issue of all groups. In the thematic working groups members plan and undertake study visits, exchange programmes, joint and shared projects. Once a year a general Assembly is held: it is a platform gathering all working groups where the EU institutions are involved and open to the public where Local, Regional, European and international Stakeholders including the third sector, voluntary sector and private sector participate.

www.ensa-network.eu

Youth Care Platform

Youth care, juvenile justice and social policies in general are not Europe’s legal competences. But the impact of the EU is fast growing and broadening, extending also to the social and welfare policies. This causes threads and opportunities for actors in the youth care sector and it urges them to act also at this EU-level.

Therefore care providers and social authorities active in the Youth Care sector in EU-member states are calling for a permanent European working group of actors in the youth care sector. The Youth Care Platform has been set up by the Flemish Ministry for Youth Welfare. This association gathers care providers and their umbrella organizations with those national, regional and local authorities with legal responsibilities for the youth care sector in EU Member States. Christine Gaschler-Andreasch, Head of Youth Welfare in Carinthia is chairing the platform since 2018.

The aim is to develop a permanent platform that leads to

- regular cooperation and exchange between the working group members (through a yearly meeting and European funded projects?)
- a long term strategy that aims to a permanent (and professional) representation at EU-level. A part of this strategy is to explore strategic alliances with existing EU-networks.

www.youthcare.eu



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Contact

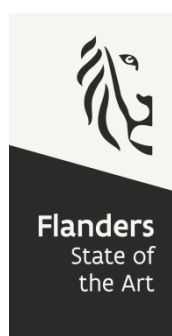
ENSA Youth – Veneto Region - Lorenzo Rampazzo, Elena Curtopassi
(elena.curtopassi@regione.veneto.it)

ENSA Child – Kind & Gezin - Rudy De Cock (rudy.decock@kindengezin.be)

Youth Care Platform – Jos Sterckx (jos.sterckx@kcse.eu)

We Hear You project – Ulrika Wennerholm (ulrika.wennerholm@vasteras.se)

A Way Home project - An Rommel (an.rommel@jongerenwelzijn.be)



Agentschap
Jongerenwelzijn

Diakonie de La Tour
RESPEKTVOOL. MITEINANDER.

LAND KÄRNTEN
Abt. 4 - Soziales
und Gesellschaft



Double
Helix
Resources

Gemeente Rotterdam



TOPunt vzw



erasmus
HOGESCHOOL BRUSSEL



MIND THE GAP
A WAY HOME ANTWERP



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