

# A Way Home: From youth care to interdependent living: tools, strategies and community building

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Youth Care Platform – Advisory Board

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



## Introduction: leaving care

- “Aging out” of youth care: 2 simultaneous transitions:
  - 1) care & supervision => autonomy & responsibility
  - 2) childhood => adulthood
- 18-25 years: “emerging adulthood” (Arnett, 2000)
  - ↑ financial & social support, especially from their parents
  - But youth care leavers cannot rely on such support = accelerated & vulnerable period
- Youth care leavers: vulnerable on different life domains (such as educational attainment, employment, housing, health, criminal justice involvement, etc.)

# Introduction: leaving care Transition challenges and successes

- Interdependence (Furlong, 2003): happy, healthy, successful adults are not independent but have extensive social support  
⇒Preparation (!): practical & administrative support, but also cultivate & maintain support networks
- Remaining in care, after 18th, should be encouraged + continued support after care
- Better-informed youth – voices of young care leavers - self-determination (!)

1. Define and implement a clear after care policy at level of the youth care: legal expectations, tools and skilled professionals in the preparation of young care leavers for interdependent living after care.
2. Try out the Canadian 'A Way Home model' as structural approach to fight youth exclusion (as homelessness) in a local community: Building a common understanding of the challenges faced by young care leavers & formulating better answers by institutions and services (housing, work provision, social security access, budget guidance, public social services, ...)
3. Participation Young Care Leavers: they observe, take part and comment in an independent way during all stages and activities of the project



## General information

- Consortium: Flemish Agency Youth Welfare (Coordinator), Regional Government Carinthia, AP University College, Cachet, Diakonie, Feantsa & ENSA
- Pilot regions = Antwerp & Carinthia
- Timing = April 2018 – March 2020
- DG Justice “Call for proposals on capacity-building in the area of rights of the child - putting in place robust national or regional integrated mechanisms to support children ageing out of/leaving alternative care”
- Youth Care Platform = Advisory board of the project
- 4 Work packages = WP1 Project Management, WP2 Aftercare Protocol and Toolbox, WP3 Local approach – A Way Home, WP 4 Dissemination & Communication

## WP2: Development and implementation of aftercare protocol, toolbox and train the training package

WP coordinator = AP University College

1. Protocol = Quality standards and actions for a better guidance of youth care users in the phase of leaving care, proposed by the regulating youth care authority
2. Toolbox = Creative and innovative methods on aftercare guidance (tools are evidence informed, connecting, participatory, enabling and empowering)  

!Inventory of existing and missing tools at level of YCP members (May/June 2018)
3. Train-The-Training package = For the aftercare worker on a better guidance of young care leavers for interdependent living after care

WP2: development and implementation of aftercare  
protocol, toolbox and train the training package

WP coordinator = AP University College (2)

4. Pilots with the protocol, toolbox & train-the training = in Flanders and Carinthia for a diversity of youth care organisations (care facilities, nonresidential and fostercare).
5. Reporting on follow up/evidence/impact/transferability

!Feedback and advice will be asked twice from the YCP:  
March 2019 & March 2020!

## WP3: Local Approach – A Way Home WP coordinator = FEANTSA

Inspiration: 'A Way Home Canada' - a national movement, bringing together coalition partners dedicated to preventing and ending youth homelessness in Canada

<http://awayhome.ca/>

1. A Way Home model – foundation document and key concepts: A manual on the Canadian 'A Way Home practice': how can it work in Europe? + A model for a community plan outlining strategies, programs and interventions for community engagement, partnerships and collaboration.

!YCP gives feedback on a first proof of this document  
(May/June 2018)!



## WP3: Local Approach – A Way Home WP coordinator = FEANTSA (2)

2. Building local A Way Home Hubs
  - A network of local partners (traditional actors and unusual suspects)
  - Community Planning Institute: katalysator event for community building, harnessing available local and public resources and building local action plans
  - Execution of the local action plans, with the support of a local coordinator and FEANTSA
3. Reporting: Conclusions, lessons learnt and transferability

**!Feedback and Advice will be asked from the YCP on how to roll out the A Way Home model in other local communities and on recommendations for changes in local, regional and national policy (February 2020)!**



Agentschap  
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