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Brussels, 2 maart 2016

**INVITATION - YOUTH CARE PLATFORM  
ACCELERATE TO INDEPENDENCE: 'AFTER CARE GUARANTEE' IN  
YOUTH CARE**

14<sup>th</sup> of March 2016, 9.30 – 16.30

Venue: Ellips Building, Koning Albert II-laan 35, 1030 Brussels

**REGISTRATION**

Please register yourself via this [link](#). (before 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2016)

*Mr Stefaan Van Mulders, head of the Flemish Agency for Youth Welfare, is pleased to invite you to the next meeting of the Youth Care Platform. This meeting will focus on the outcomes of the After Care Guarantee Project.*

**CONTEXT**

The main goal of this high level transnational conference is to share and spread evidence on after care mechanisms in the youth care. Youngsters in youth care need effective guidance during the transition from youth care to young adulthood. This is often not or insufficiently the case.

Young people from residential care facilities often lack a strong family or social network to fall back on. Studies show a considerable number of homeless people have spent time in a youth care institution. They remain faced with 'structural homelessness' and unemployment. More often than not the roots to these lifelong challenges lie in ineffective guidance in the transition from youth care to young adulthood. For many vulnerable youngsters the gap after youth care is just too big.

The EU is introducing mechanisms to support member states in sharing experiences in the field of supporting vulnerable young people and introducing new approaches and schemes to tackle youth unemployment such as the Youth Guarantee. Partners of the After Care Guarantee project welcome these initiatives but also testify to the necessity of extra actions for young people. They risk falling out of all supportive models once they turn 18. Quite often they lack the necessary skills to enter the labour market and make use of the youth guarantee services. There is a strong need for **after care mechanisms**.

During the conference, we will present an after care guarantee model and policy recommendations in order to involve and increase awareness at all levels (from policy to youth work and young people themselves). These recommendations will be activated by hearing the youngsters and their accompanying staff. Regional ministers and administrations will reflect on future after care strategies and policies and a representative of the European Commission will share the perspective of the Commission on social protection and after care. To

conclude the day, we will discuss the importance of prevention and an integrated collaboration of different sectors in after care mechanisms, based on the experiences of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and the Homeless Hub.

#### **PROGRAMME**

**Chair:** *Stefaan Van Mulders, CEO Flemish Agency for Youth Welfare*

9.30 Registration and coffee

**10.00** Opening and introductory remarks

**Stefaan Van Mulders**, CEO Flemish Agency for Youth Welfare

**10.10** *Investing in youth: “Modernising social protection systems”*

Video Message by Commissioner **Marianne Thyssen** Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

**10.20** *Aspects of youth welfare - a regional perspective*

**Csaba Borboly**, Committee of the Regions, Rapporteur of the Opinion on EU cooperation in the framework of youth

**10.30** *Accelerate to independence: ‘After Care Guarantee’ in Youth Care via Personal Budget” Understanding the After Care concept, project aims and recommendations*

**Maria José Aldanas**, Feantsa

**10.50** Panel 1 *Designing and experimenting after care mechanisms, hearing the voices of youth and youth workers*

Moderator: **Kris Clijsters**, Cachet, the Voice of Youngsters in Youth Care

**11.20** Panel 2 *Failing of the supportive models: developing opportunities for vulnerable people at regional and EU level: strategies, policies and mechanisms*

**Julius Op De Beke**, European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
National and Regional authorities of Flanders, The Netherlands, Klagenfurt (Au) and Lombardia (It),

Moderator: **Freek Spinnewijn**, Feantsa

**12.15** Q&A

**12.30** Concluding remarks

**Flemish Minister Jo Vandeurzen** Welfare, Health and Family

12.45 Buffet Lunch

**14.00** *Experimentation: A Way Home – A model of prevention and collaboration to end youth homelessness*

**Stephen Gaetz**, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and the Homeless Hub and  
**Melanie Redman**, A Way Home Canada

**15.00** *Discussion and debate: The Canadian model in a European context?*

Moderator: **Feantsa**

**16.00** *Independent living what works, the future of after care models: building up collaboration at international level: Recommendations and Conclusions*

**Jos Sterckx**, Knowledge Center Social Europe

16.30 End

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION: MEETING WORKING GROUPS ENSA YOUTH AND CHILD: 15<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2016 - AFTERNOON**

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2015 (afternoon) the ENSA thematic working groups 'Childhood' and 'Youth' will take place in Brussels as well. All participants in the Youth Care Platform are invited to take part in these networks.

**ENSA CHILD**

Coordinator: Rudy De Cock - Child & Family (Flanders)

At the ENSA working group Child last September we launched the idea of a European network of family centers. During the coming Child working group session on the 15th of March we would like to discuss any progress made and tackle some actual topics such as the care for refugee children. If there is any suggestion for additional topics, please send them to [rudy.decock@kindengezin.be](mailto:rudy.decock@kindengezin.be).

**ENSA YOUTH**

Coordinator: George Luis del Re - Youth and Family Department Veneto Region

At the youth and family session of the ENSA General Assembly of September 18th 2015 working group we addressed social exclusion of vulnerable youth, we would like to follow up progress made with new initiatives and project proposals in the specific topics of:

- training and orientations paths, developing skills and fighting school drop off,
- fight against poverty, radicalization, facilitating social/health integration and employment;
- active citizenship and EU youth participation in democratic process
- work life balance, gender stereotypes and family as social capital

For best practices, suggestions and project proposals please write to: [elena.curtopassi@regione.veneto.it](mailto:elena.curtopassi@regione.veneto.it)

**CONTACT**

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<http://www.youthcare.eu/>

<https://sites.google.com/site/aftercareguarantee/>

*The After Care Guarantee project is an initiative of the [Youth Care Platform](#), led by the Flemish Agency for Youth Welfare and managed by Knowledge Center Social Europe. The project is financed by Erasmus+ Youth in Action.*

*The partners are the European networks Feantsa and ENSA and the Regional government of Carinthia (Au), Azienda Speciale Consortile Ovest (It) and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports (Nl).*

