



NEWSLETTER N°2

A WAY HOME

The future of social Europe?

“A WAY HOME”

**Young people between vulnerability and independence
call for After Care Policies at European level**

In this issue:

1. Introduction: Antwerp and Villach as ambassador cities for A Way Home, interviews with Julie Degrieck, CAW Antwerp & An Rommel, Youth Welfare Agency p. 2;
2. A Way Home model: an inspiration from Canada, by Stéphane Leclercq, Feantsa p. 4;
3. Experiences of young people with the transition to an independent life after the youth care p. 6;
4. Invitation to international consortium meeting and joint “A Way Home” and “We Hear You” EU project meetings, Venice and Padua April 2019 (4,5 April 2019) p. 7;
5. Partners news p. 8;
6. EU related news p. 11.

ENJOY THE READ!

ANTWERP AND VILLACH AS AMBASSADOR CITIES FOR A WAY HOME, INTERVIEWS WITH JULIE DEGRIECK, CAW ANTWERP & AN ROMMEL, YOUTH WELFARE AGENCY.



The “A Way Home” model was presented during the months of September and October 2018 in Antwerp and Villach. What inspiration did it bring to you?

In Antwerp the Mind the Gap group takes the lead in implementing the A Way Home model. This group with organizations from very different sectors, exists since March 2017 and has as goal to set up concrete actions for vulnerable young adults with a past in care or who - for the first time - are knocking on the door for help.

These youngsters have a huge risk of becoming homeless, and that is why we are eager to be part of the international A Way Home movement. We organized our two days Community Planning Institute in September. On the first day, local organizations from youth and adult care, housing and employment services, client representatives had a full immersion into the Canadian A Way Home methodology. We were very lucky that we could welcome four international A Way Home experts: Melanie Redman & Stephen Gaetz from Canada, David McKenzie from Australia and Hugh Russell from Wales. Their enthusiasm was contagious to all the 80 participants.

They gave us concrete information on local coalition building and convinced us of the effect of collective impact: working together in Antwerp with a group of relevant actors from different sectors towards a common goal can really help us to eradicate youth homelessness in our city. Above all, they shared with us concrete tools and methods on "housing first for youth", family mediation and on prevention and early intervention in collaboration with schools and youth services.

During this first day, we really felt that we could strengthen the already existing collaboration in the Mind the Gap group with the support of A Way Home. The day after we continued working in a smaller group: we started to build a local action plan to further enhance the cooperation between the Antwerp organizations, so that all young adults can set up a network of service providers who understands their needs and provides answers that strengthen them.

How do you think you can implement it concretely? How would you create "A Way Home" hubs? What kind of actions would be needed?

Within Mind the Gap, a big group of motivated people from organizations coming from different action oriented sectors is already gathered. It comes as a very good basis for the concrete implementation of overcoming gaps. The partnership with A Way Home is a chance to make this collaboration more effective and to convince organizations that are not yet involved, to engage themselves for the targets and actions described in the action plan. In Antwerp we will organize the hubs and plan them in five action groups: Living, Networking, Continuity of Care, Prevention and Youth Participation. We will carry out some actions in the short term, others will achieve results in the long term.

Learning from the A Way Home experts: the founders of A Way Home, Melanie Redman and Stephen Gaetz, came to Antwerp on 17th and 18th of September 2018. They introduced us the key concepts of this innovative approach to end and prevent youth homelessness: collective impact, prevention, coalition building, data collection.

You can watch the presentation in 3 films:

Film 1: on how to reach collective impact

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJff8xcpLSU&t=14s>

Film 2: on how to make the shift to prevention and on a strategy for change

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H54SLfnDwcg&t=12s>

Film 3: on data collection, programs (eg housing first for youth), duty to assist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqN10M3gHJg>

A WAY HOME MODEL: AN INSPIRATION FROM CANADA, BY STÉPHANE LECLERCQ, FEANTSA



Based on the Canadian “A Way Home (AWH) ” movement and the experience of European pilot cities, the AWH Hub will provide 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. Research has consistently shown that the causes and impacts of youth homelessness are distinct from adult homelessness, thus the plans and interventions to be implemented must be correspondingly distinct and tailored to youth.

Youth experiencing homelessness are often less visible and precariously housed (couch surfing) but also staying in youth and adult shelters or sleeping rough. In addition to experiencing economic deprivation and a lack of secure housing, many young people who are homeless lack the personal experience of living independently and at the same time may be in the throes of significant developmental (social, physical, emotional and cognitive) changes. As a result, they may not have the resources, resilience, education, social supports or life skills necessary to foster a safe and nurturing transition to adulthood and independence. These challenges are often complicated by the fact that they are simultaneously dealing with life-altering events such as recent trauma and/or violence.

In some communities, LGBT, immigrant and visible minority youth are overrepresented. A high percentage of homeless youth were also previously under the care of child protection services, making system responses a priority in any efforts to end youth homelessness.

It's important to highlight that the main shift advanced by a plan to end youth homelessness refocuses our efforts on prevention and strategies that move people quickly out of homelessness into housing with supports, as opposed to emergency supports. This may challenge the prevailing norms in a community.

Rather than 'managing' homelessness through emergency services, a strong prevention approach mandate action from mainstream systems and departments of government in cooperation with the homeless-serving sector. The transformation of public systems, including child welfare, education, mental health, income supports and criminal justice and their enhanced integration, which can facilitate broad systems of care, is essential.

The various local coalitions achieve this through community planning, programs, public engagement, government relations, research, partnership & collaboration, actions and by consulting both with front-line service providers and youth with lived experience. This project aims at facilitating the emergence of AWH coalitions in Europe focusing on the mobilization of local stakeholders at city level.

The A WAY HOME movement offers you support and tools* to:

- create/enhance a local coalition;
- organize a catalyst event and launch the local process;
- develop a common plan;
- Implement the plan.

*In 2019, the www.awayhome.eu website will be updated with specific resources for European cities. Numerous resources and tools such as the A Way Home Community Planning Toolkit by Alina Turner are already available on www.awayhome.ca.

EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THE TRANSITION TO AN INDEPENDENT LIFE AFTER THE YOUTH CARE

At the end of August, 15 young people from Austria and Belgium met in Brussels to share their experiences with youth care with the project partners of A Way Home.

In a workshop, the youngsters reflected on what is important in preparing the leave of youth care: What helped or impeded them? What do they dream of for an ideal leave of youth care?



Some important points that came out of this workshop:

- Many of the youngsters mention the relationship with the care worker as a precondition for successful care leaving. This implies a permanent guidance, a trusting, warm and respectful relationship, available when needed and easy to reach, being able to keep in touch after leaving youth care;
- The professional attitude that youngsters expect from care workers is positive, flexible and participatory: Guidance should be adjusted to the needs of the individual, letting the youngster co-decide, listen to their wishes and being open and transparent about decisions, importance of a positive and strength-based point of view;
- Youngsters need guidance in legal and administrative literacy, creating and upholding sustainable mental/emotional resilience, using leisure activities and holidays as a boost for self-worth and confidence, finding out who they are, getting lifestyle related tips and tricks, creating and managing a trusting network, preparing the step to adult care if needed and life coaching and connecting to future activities (work, study, ...).

The outcomes of this workshop are fully integrated in the training and peer learning that after care workers are following in the frame of the A Way Home project.

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM MEETING AND JOINT “A WAY HOME” AND “WE HEAR YOU” EU PROJECT MEETINGS,

Venice and Padua April 2019 (4th and 5th April 2019)



On the **4th and 5th April 2019**, the partners of the **“A Way Home”** and **“We Hear You”** projects, in cooperation with the **Youth Care Platform** and the **ENSA Working group for Youth, Child and Family**, will meet in Venice and Padua for a joint seminar on the two European projects.

During the meeting the Veneto Region’s ongoing project initiatives will be discussed and a study visit will take place.

On the **4th of April** “We Hear You” and “A Way Home” will focus both on the participation of concerned youth groups. During the workshops the participants will be able to discover the intermediary results of both projects and hear from young people their experiences in care. There will be enough room for exchange and learning from each other;

On the **5th of April** the ENSA Working Groups Youth, Child & Family and the “We Hear You” project will provide a basis for an improved culture amongst professionals as well as structures that will support democratic dialogue and youth involvement. This will be possible thanks to the participation of Rudy De Cock, Policy officer for Integrated family policy and Lorenzo Rampazzo, Director of Family, Child and Youth Unit in the Veneto Region’s Social Services Department.

The invitation with all the practical information you can find via this:

<https://www.awayhome.eu/news/dissemination-seminar-way-home-we-hear-you-4th-april-2019-venice>

PARTNERS NEWS

From Carinthia:

Meeting in Villach 26th and 27th September 2018: Community Planning Institute

As part of the European "A Way Home" project, the first step has been dedicated to the creation of a network, based on the Canadian model. During this process, the interested partners were involved in an event that took place in Villach (Austria) on 26th and 27th September 2018, in order to jointly improve the awareness of the Care Leavers' situation. From the analysis of their conditions in Carinthia, suggestions were developed for the "A Way Home" project together with their next challenges to reintroduce marginalized youth in the labor market.

The Villach Deputy Mayor, the JUNO Associations, the Local Chief of the Austrian Public Employment Service and the Director of the Social Welfare State were involved in the final session where the meetings' conclusions have been presented.

From the Cognition and Inclusion:

"Tampere Meeting 20th and 21st November 2018"



The "Cognition & Inclusion" Erasmus funded project addresses the adaptive and transversal skills necessary to **become a successful participant in our society**. Adults with a learning disability are often missing these skills as they are not part of the curriculum or training. The Cognition & Inclusion-project celebrates the first anniversary by sharing with you the first of its four intellectual outputs. It is an exhaustive report with an overview of cognitive approaches, including a coherent analysis and reflection on methodologies.

Link to download the Intellectual output 1:

http://www.ensa-network.eu/cognitionandinclusion/Documents/CognitionInclusion_IO1_report.pdf

From the ENSA network:

“Eu Pillar on Social Rights: delivering at local level” , Vänersborg, Sweden

5/6/7 December - ENSA General Assembly 2018: the “A Way Home” project high on the agenda.



With a joint collaboration between ENSA, the Veneto Region, the European Youth Care Platform and the Vänersborg Municipality, the objective of the ENSA general Assembly 2018 has been to focus on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights at local level. The areas addressed have been elderly, disability, youth family and child issues. Policies, projects and practices were collected with the purpose to include them in the civic dialogue between the European Institutions and both public and private stakeholders. The following principles were enhanced: active support to employment; Education, Training and life-long learning; Equal opportunities; Childcare and support to children; Inclusion of people with disabilities; Long-term care.

The topic of after-care and youth participation was high on the agenda with a discussion of the “A Way Home” project in the plenary session, in the thematic working groups and in the speed dating session, with contributions from An Rommel (Flemish Ministry for Youth Welfare). The Representative of the EU Commission in Sweden Mr. Magnus Astberg actively contributed to the debate with a presentation of the Pillar.

To be downloaded presentation of Mr. Magnus Astberg and the brochure of the selected projects for the implementation of the Pillar: <http://www.ensa-network.eu/news.htm>

From the ENSA network:

Meeting in Brussels 24th January 2019: “European Youth: policies, practices and people”.



The Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen – South Tyrol, the Veneto Region, the Lombardy Region, the ENSA (European Network of Social Authorities) and the European Youth Care Platform organized a high level event “European Youth: policies, practices and people” that took place in the Representation of the European Region Tyrol – South Tyrol – Trentino in Brussels on 24th January 2019. The European Commission actively contributed with two general Directorates: Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion and Education, Youth, Sport and Culture with the intervention of Maria Baroni and Fabienne Metayer.

After one year since the adoption of the 20 principles contained in the European Pillar of Social Rights, in light of the Resolution recently adopted by the Council on The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and in the midst of the debate on the next programming period 2021-2027, there is an increasing need for dialogue between institutions, local and regional authorities, associations, citizens and experts active in the field of social policies.

Following the ENSA General Assembly 2018 about the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights at local level held in Sweden- 5th, 6th and 7th December 2018, this event offered the opportunity to address specifically some of the aspects related to youth policies, such as early school leaving, addiction, bullying, NEET, prevention of youth exclusion.

The meeting focused on the analysis of good practices and examples that address these challenges with integrated approaches and collaborative tools, through projects that have a high potential for transferability. In addition, an interactive poster session allowed promoters of (current, completed or future) projects to illustrate what has been done or planned in different fields of youth policies.

The A Way Home approach and the after-care policies at Flemish level were on the debate during the first panel and the poster session.

EU NEWS

The Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth will take place on Monday, 20th May 2019.
This year's topic is **"Inclusive Growth post 2020: looking at the future of Social Europe"**.

EU Council Approves EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, Regulation on European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027, Conclusions on youth work, migration and refugees
https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/news/-/asset_publisher/NmeOXB8TxUmH/YpNews/id/11359778

Youth inclusion & involvement: top priorities for Europe
<https://www.youthforum.org/EU-youth-strategy-adopted>

European Youth to EU leaders: Invest in our present AND our future!
https://www.youthforum.org/Invest_in_our_present_AND_our_future

To safeguard democracy, the EU must improve the lives of young people
<https://www.euronews.com/2019/01/03/to-safeguard-democracy-the-eu-must-create-better-living-standards-for-young-people-view>

NEET Generation. Without perspectives but with the desire to obtain higher levels of qualification
<https://youthforeurope.eu/neet-generation-without-perspectives-but-with-the-desire-to-obtain-higher-levels-of-qualification/>

The priorities of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the fields of sports and youth
<https://www.romania2019.eu/2019/01/22/phe-priorities-of-the-romanian-presidency-of-the-council-of-the-european-union-in-the-fields-of-sports-and-youth/>

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union: the priorities in the fields of education and training, presented by Romanian Minister of National Education, Ecaterina Andronescu
<https://www.romania2019.eu/2019/01/22/romanian-presidencys-priorities-in-the-fields-of-education-and-training-presented-by-minister-ecaterina-andronescu/>

EU budget 2019 approved: focus on the young, innovation and migration
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20181205IPR20938/eu-budget-2019-approved-focus-on-the-young-innovation-and-migration>

MEPs want to EU to invest more in young people
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190109IPR23021/meps-want-to-eu-to-invest-more-in-young-people>

Get ready: European Youth Week 2019 is coming soon with the topic 'Democracy and me'
<https://eurodesk.eu/2019/01/16/get-ready-the-next-european-youth-week-is-coming-soon/>

GREETINGS FROM THE A WAY HOME PARTNERSHIP!

For further information: <http://www.awayhome.eu/>



We updated our product for GDPR compliance effective May 25th, 2018:

Right to Control Your Data – You can withdraw consent to our data processing at any time.

Right to Access Your Data – You can request a copy of the personal information we have about you

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