



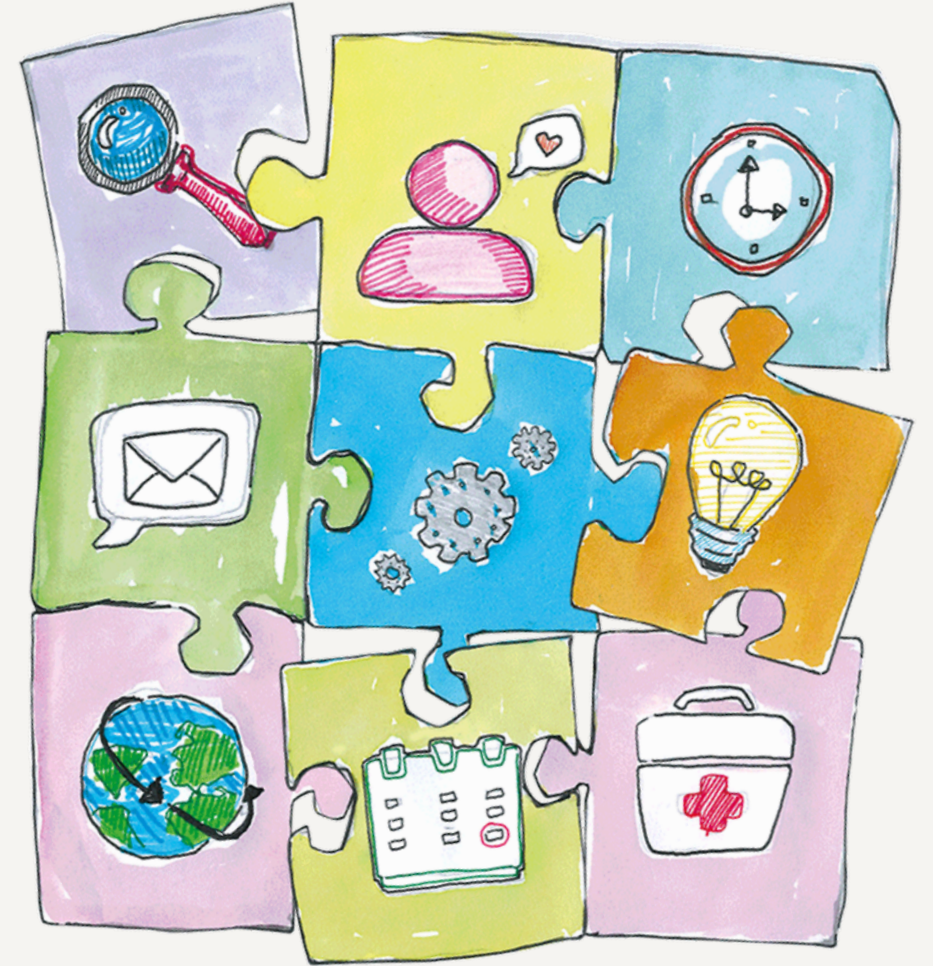
SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES

**Better
Care
Network**

LEAVING CARE

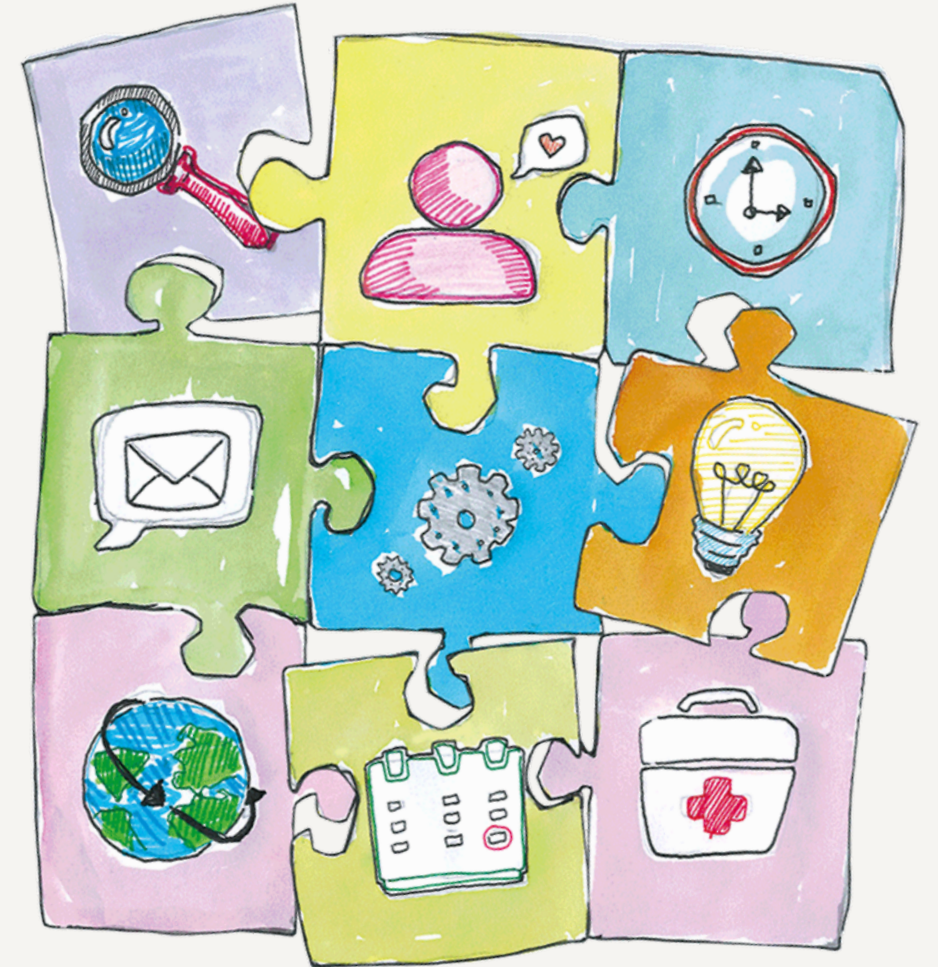
*An integrated approach to capacity building
of professionals and young people*

23 July 2020



HOUSEKEEPING

- This webinar is being recorded and the recording will be made available publicly.
- Please feel free to introduce yourself in the chat. And please let us know a bit about yourself (where you're from, your role) when you ask a question in the Q&A.
- You can type your questions in the Q&A box at any time
- You can upvote and comment on the questions of other attendees.
- We will be using polls at several times during the webinar.
- Those accessing the webinar from their internet browser will not be able to see polls but are encouraged to respond in the chat.



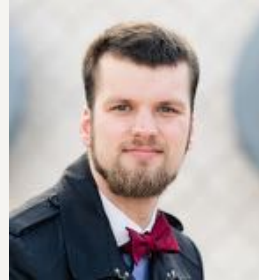
PRESENTERS



Szilvi Gyurkó
Children's rights activist,
Trainer, Hungary



Nikolay Zlatev
Social Work Department
Manager, Trainer,
Bulgaria



Valle Morel
Care experienced,
co-trainer, co-
trainer, Estonia



Fabienne Landerer
Care experienced,
Founder of the Austrian
Care Leaver Association,
Austria



Maximilian Ullrich
Project Coordinator,
FICE Austria



Nicoleta Moldovanu
National Programme
Development Director,
SOS Children's Villages
Romania



Florence Treyvaud Nemptov
International Project Manager
SOS Children's Villages
International



Gabriella Rask
International Project Coordinator
SOS Children's Villages
International

MODERATOR

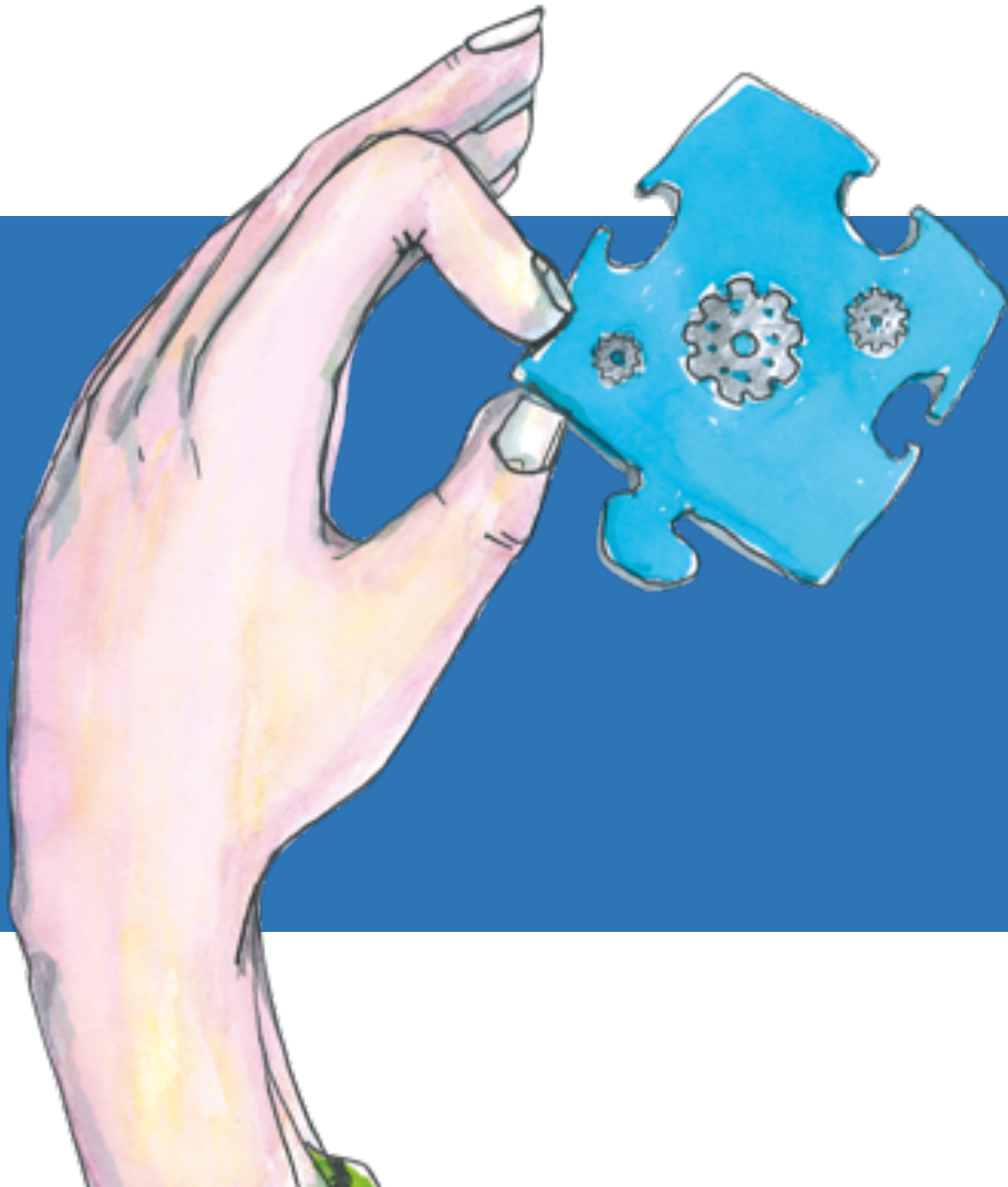


Kelley Bunkers
Senior Associate
Maestral International

AGENDA

- ❑ Introduction to the project
- ❑ Capacity building
- ❑ Building a supportive network for care leavers
- ❑ Q&A
- ❑ Local ownership, sustainability and policy recommendations
- ❑ Call to Action
- ❑ Q&A





1

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

PROJECT SET-UP

Project coordinator

SOS Children's Villages International

Implementing partners

- International Federation of Educative Communities (FICE) Austria
- SOS Children's Villages Bulgaria
- SOS Children's Villages Estonia
- SOS Children's Villages Hungary
- SOS Children's Villages Italy
- SOS Children's Villages Romania
- Romanian NGO Federation for Children (FONPC)



Time Frame

April 2018 – May 2020 (26 months)

Funding

The project is co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union and SOS Children's Villages.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Embed a child rights based culture into child protection systems which improves outcomes for children and young people in particular in the preparation for leaving care.

How we achieve this

**Capacity
Building**

**Build a
supportive
network for
care leavers**

**Awareness
raising &
advocacy**

POLL #1

Did you feel ready or prepared when it came time for you to leave the place where you lived during your childhood/adolescence (family home, alternative care placement, etc.)?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- Not at all

As we wait for everyone to enter their answers, we ask you to think about what it was that made you feel ready (or not) for independent living.



an inter-sectoral approach

participation

individuality

age of leaving care

a transition period

an enabling environment

trust

**Leaving
Care**

independent living

being cared for

consistency of the leaving care process

promoting positive change

capacity building

preparation & support for transition
and after care

maintaining relationship

PRACTICE GUIDANCE AND TRAINING MANUAL



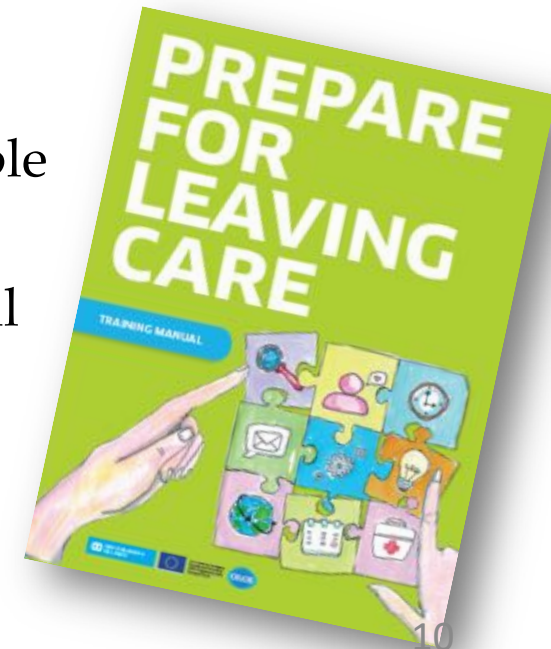
The *Practice Guidance* seeks to:

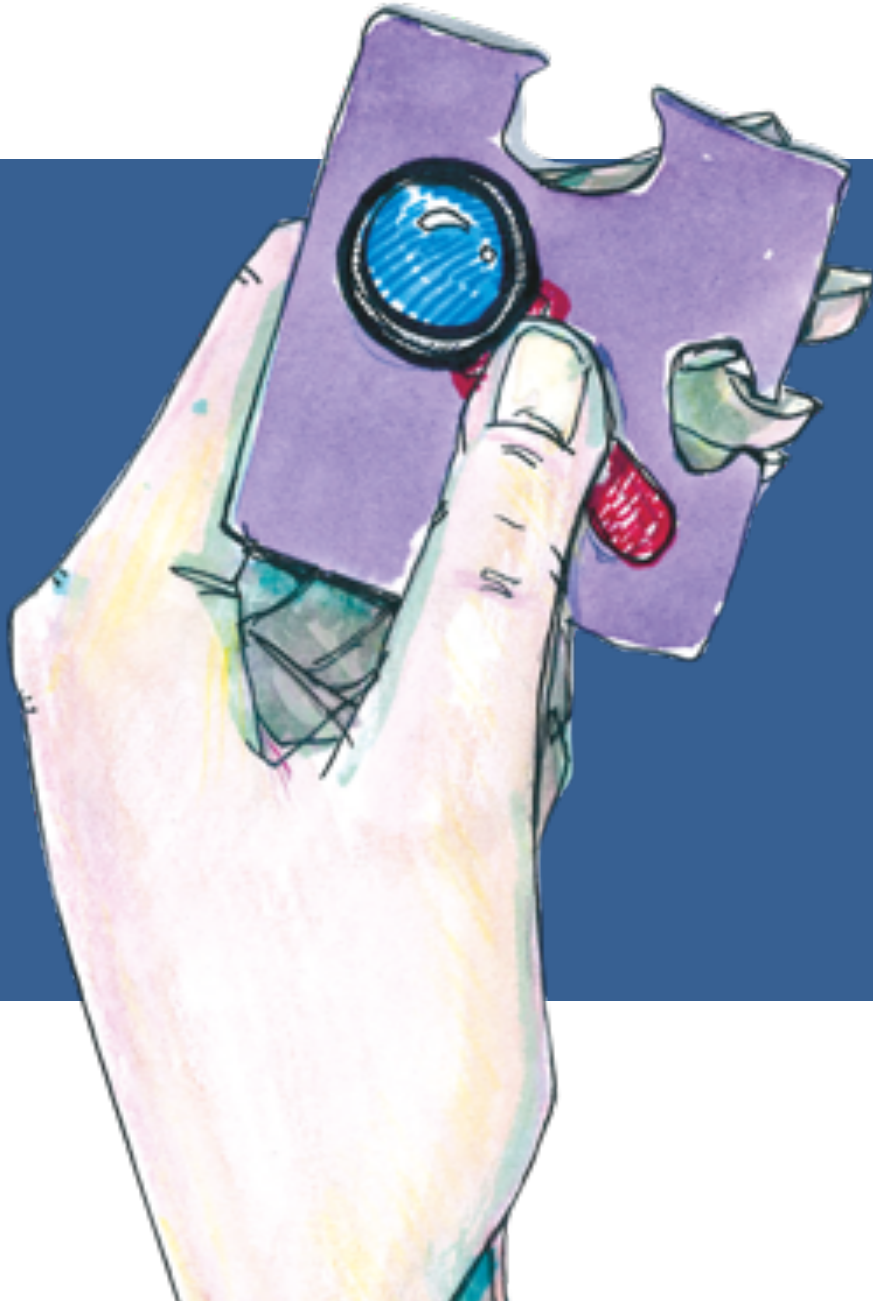
- Promote improvements in practice
- Stimulate reflection
- Provide material

Available for
download!

The *training* seeks to:

- Build knowledge and skills to support young people through the process of leaving care
- Improve understanding of the tools that are helpful in the leaving care process
- Raise awareness of the content of the Practice Guidance





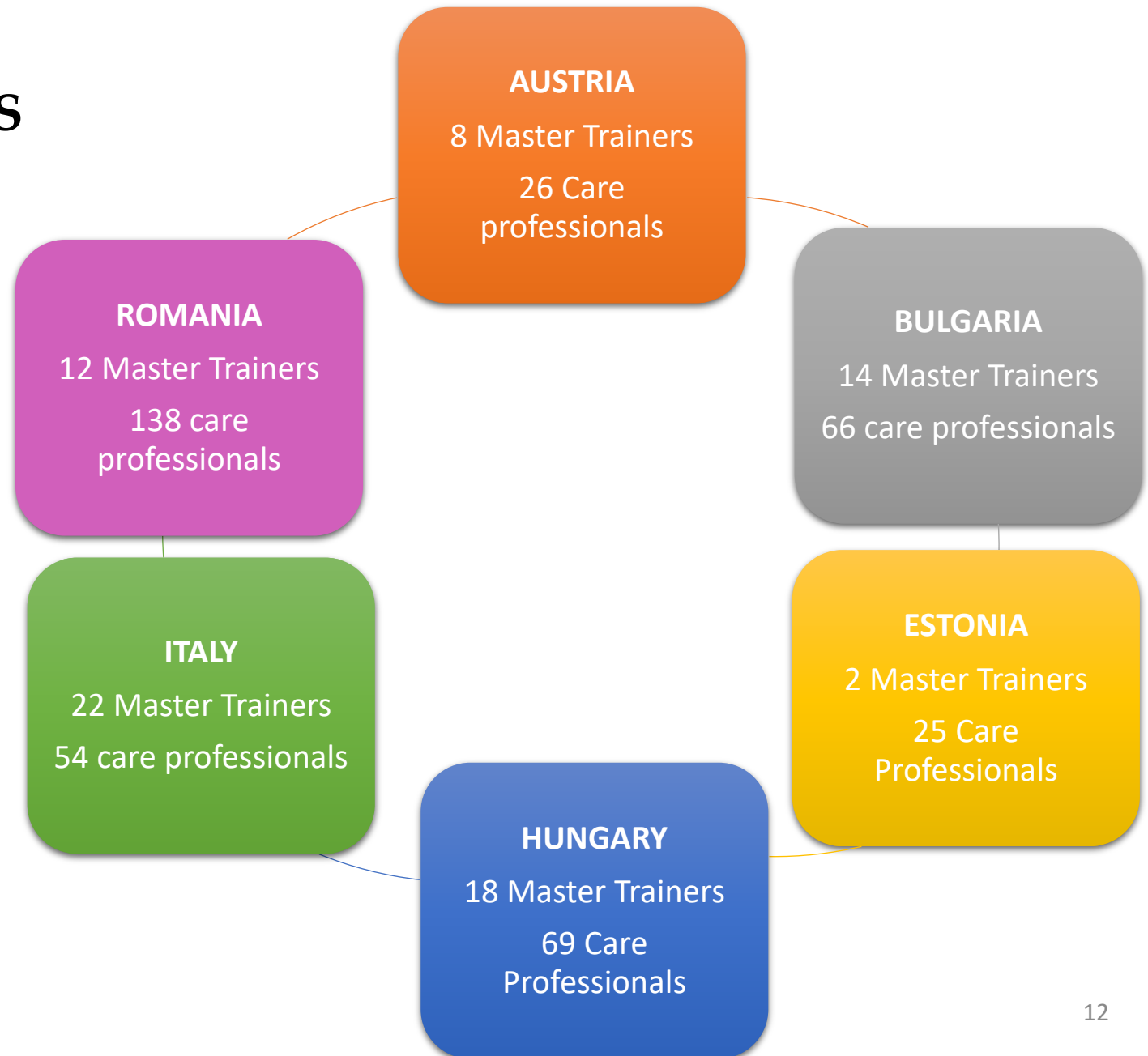
2

CAPACITY BUILDING



THE NATIONAL TRAININGS

**98% of
trainees
evaluated the
training as
good or very
good**



THE TRAINING STRUCTURE

PART 1

Day 1:

Orientation of the course, legislation and
children's rights

Day 2:

Understanding Pathway Planning

Day 3:

Tools for Developing the Pathway Plan

PART 2

Day 4:

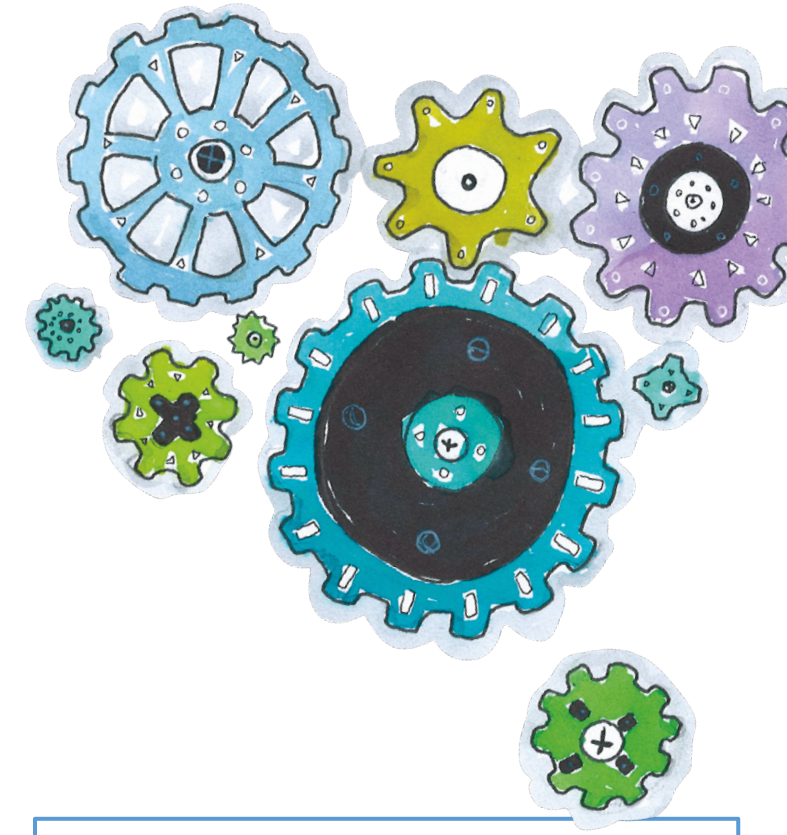
Practical Work In Pathway Planning

Day 5:

Working With Difficult Young People

Day 6:

The Importance Of Inter-sectoral Working
And Advocacy



THE METHODOLOGY

- Adult learning principles
- Participation

EXPERIENCE AS A CO-TRAINER

ESTONIA

- Participated in the Training of Trainers in Budapest
- Prepared input together with Master Trainers before national training
- Participated in 3 of 5 training days of each training
- Very positive feedback from participants
- Reflection and debrief with Master Trainers after every day



EXPERIENCE AS A MASTER TRAINER

BULGARIA

- Very important to invest in **preparing together with the co-trainers**
- The training includes **impactful tools and methods** for effectively including young persons in the planning process
- Space for **reflection** and **feedback**

HUNGARY

- The **pathway method** was highly appreciated by trainees
- Importance of **relationship-building skills** like assertiveness, advocacy and communication
- Better understanding for the challenges facing young people leaving care

POLL # 2

Did you have a person you trusted, who was there for you after moving from home?

Which three aspects do you think care leavers feel were the most important aspects of their relationships with support workers?

- Financial, housing and emotional support;
- Trust, respect and feeling genuinely cared for;
- Good sense of humour, ability to talk to them and assistance with getting employment



Q & A

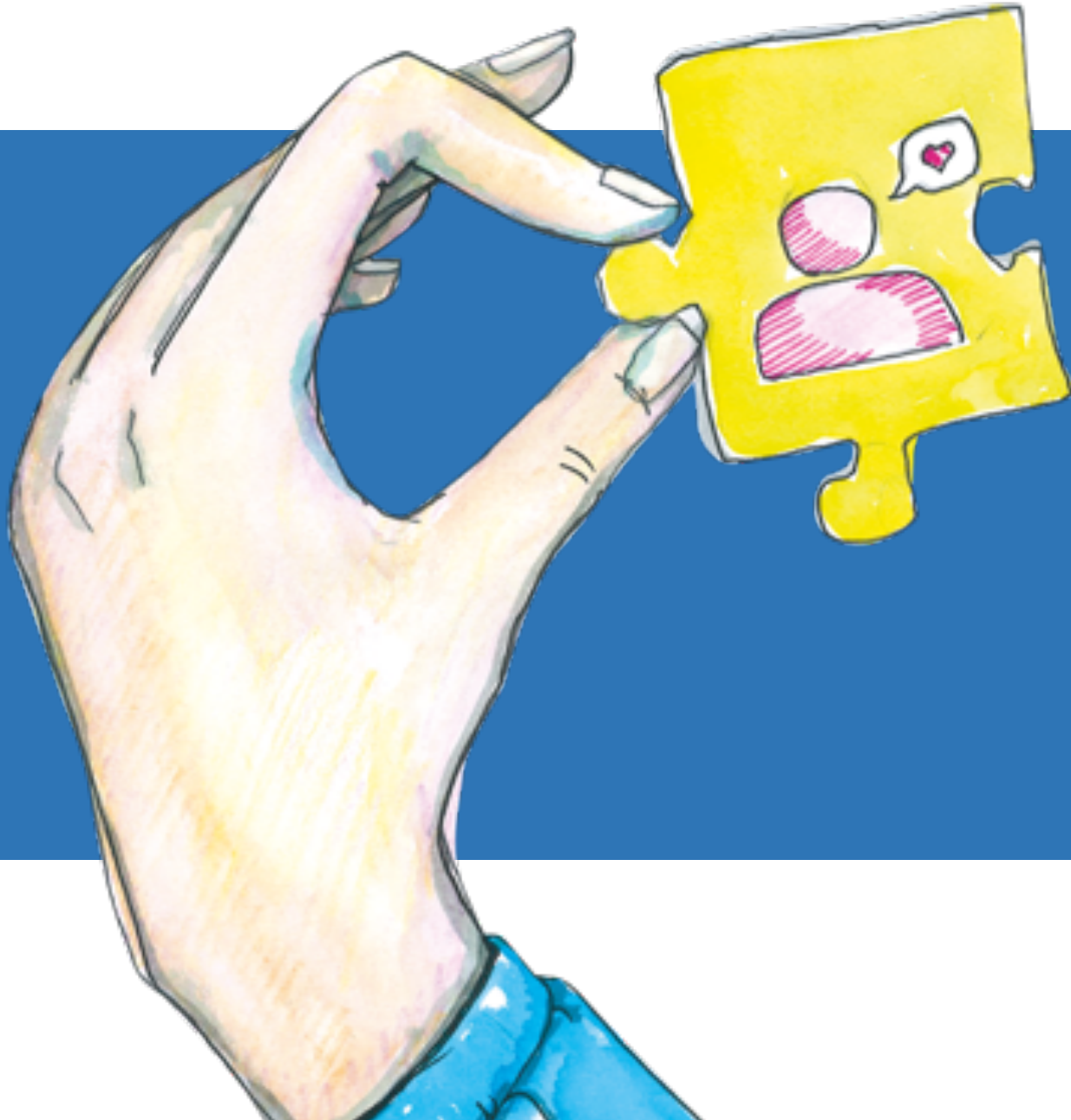


QUESTION:

Was the training adapted to different contexts / cultures in the different European countries? If so, how? How could it be adapted for use in countries beyond Europe?



OTHER QUESTIONS?



3

BUILDING A SUPPORTIVE NETWORK FOR CARE LEAVERS

AUSTRIAN CARE LEAVERS ASSOCIATION

BACKGROUND

- At the end of 2019, the association Care Leaver Austria was founded, the first self-advocacy association for Care Leavers in Austria. The association was created on the model of the German Care Leaver Association and is a contact point for young people who live in or have already moved out of accommodation. (A website is under construction.)

MEMBERS

- Now: All Austrian Care Leavers from the project and some Care Leavers from specific Austrian projects
- Future: (All?) Austrian Care Leavers and soon to be Care Leavers from ± 16 to ± 33 Years.



- Careleaver.oesterreich@gmail.com
- www.facebook.com/careleaver.oesterreich
- www.instagram.com/careleaver.oesterreich

AUSTRIAN CARE LEAVERS ASSOCIATION

OBJECTIVES

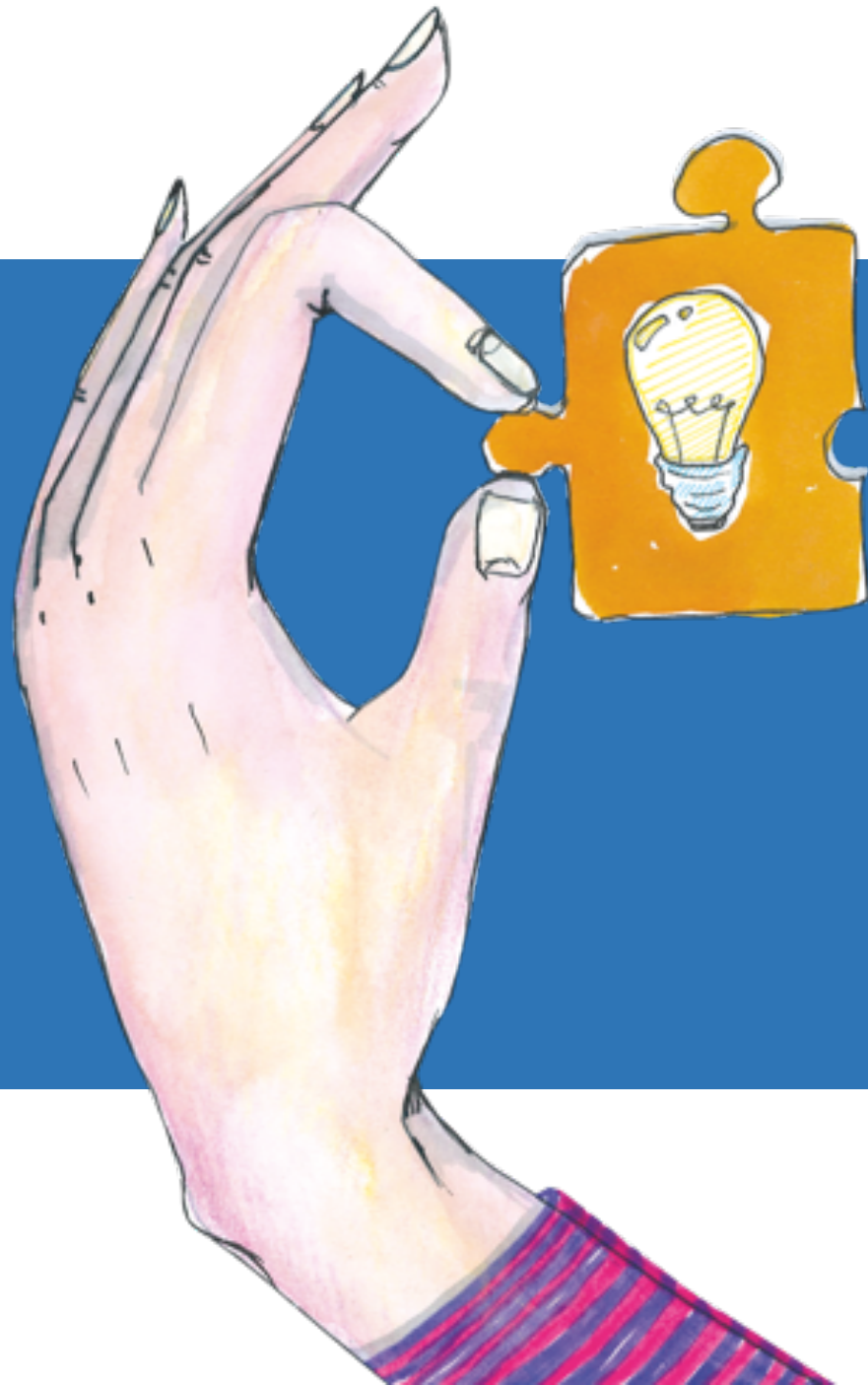
- To build a stable network of Care Leavers in Austria so they are all connected
- To help and support new Care Leavers by older ones
- To take an advocacy role for Care Leavers still in Care to improve their rights = rising awareness and advocacy work with politicians
- Being able to offer a full time job within the association like the German CLA.

PARTNERSHIPS OR/AND SUPPORT NEEDED

- Sponsoring from institutions, public and private people, enterprises so that we can pay for meetings and support of the Care Leavers in the whole country



- Careleaver.oesterreich@gmail.com
- www.facebook.com/careleaver.oesterreich
- www.instagram.com/careleaver.oesterreich



4

LOCAL OWNERSHIP, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY

LOCAL OWNERSHIP, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY

AUSTRIA

- Use of existing synergies and strong networks at local level
- Development of policy recommendations together with young people with care experience
- Strong collaboration between 16 organisations to realise the final event

ROMANIA

- Strong representation of key decision-makers and young people in NSG
- New legislation – approved by the government, but not yet brought into force
- New project building on key findings and recommendations

POLL # 3

What factors should be taken into consideration when determining the time for leaving care?

- Age is the only factor that should be considered;
- Maturity, ability, circumstances and wishes;
- Relationship with biological family and opinion of the key worker



5

CALL TO ACTION

CALL TO ACTION: LEAVE NO CARE LEAVER BEHIND

Action 1: Realize Care Leavers' rights in the Law – secure a “care leavers’ guarantee” at EU, national, regional and local levels

Action 2: Realize Care Leavers' rights in Practice

Action 3: Allocate adequate Funds for realizing Care Leavers' rights (in legislation and in practice – at EU, national, regional and local levels)





Q & A



QUESTION:

To the careleavers, what expert advice that you have learned from this project would you like to share with other care leavers not involved in this project?



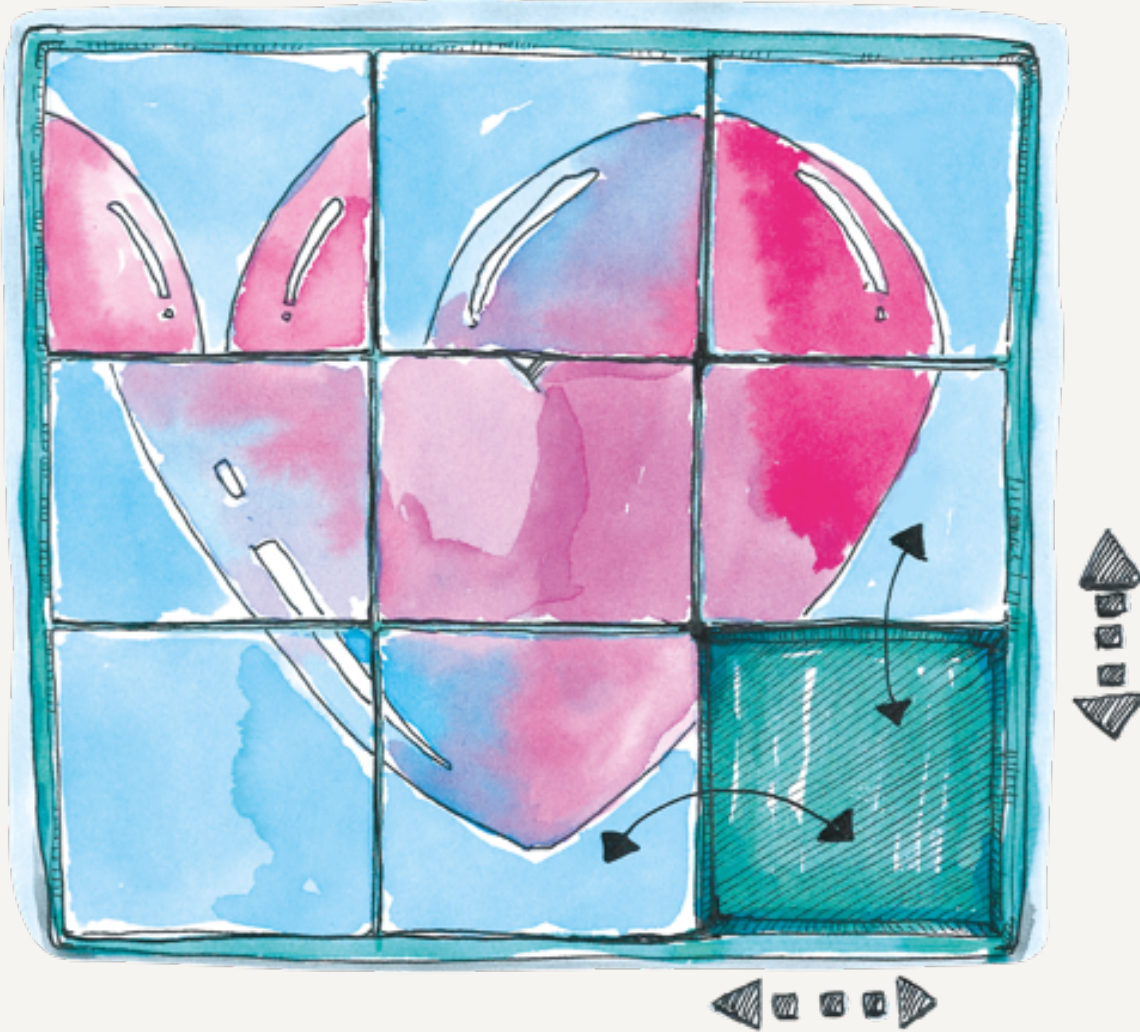
QUESTION:

To the careleavers, do you have any advice or recommendation for professionals who are working with children and young people in care?



OTHER QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!!



Contact details

- Austrian Careleaver Association:
Careleaver.oesterreich@gmail.com
- Leaving Care Project Coordinator:
Gabriella.rask@sos-kd.org
- Better Care Network:
contact@bettercarenetwork.org



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