

<i>- 'THE "MENTOR" PROGRAMME – SOCIAL AND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN PUBLIC CARE' -</i>	
<u>Organisation / Country:</u>	Regional Ministry of Social Policy, Autonomous Community of Galicia
<u>Website:</u>	Here
<u>Contact this email for further information:</u>	policy@esn-eu.org
<u>Summary:</u>	<p>Target group: The specific target group is young people in the age range of 16 to 21 years, in some cases up to 25 years. Participants in the programme may live in sheltered housing or with a family. Participation in the programme is voluntary. Some of the young people may have previously been exposed to the juvenile justice system or child protection services.</p> <p>Individual support: Through group workshops and training, the programme provides multiple forms of support to prepare young people for their transition into independent life and to improve their inclusion in the labour market. Examples may include referrals to standardised training providing the young people with social support, and also workshops on how to look for jobs, write an application, or manage interviews.</p> <p>Role of professionals: Different professionals are involved in the programme (community social services, specialists from child protection teams, and social service providers from the third sector).</p> <p>User involvement: The programme provides individual support to each young person regarding his/her needs, skills, and aspirations. Former users of the programme are involved as 'Mentors' to use their 'lived experience' to act as guardians for the young people in the programme. Additionally, volunteers from the community and from local companies get engaged with the programme (e.g., employees of local companies act as job coaches).</p>

<u>Issues:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people in the care system face an over-proportionate prevalence of disabilities and mental
	<p>health problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people often face risks regarding their social inclusion at various levels, and they require integrated support from different professionals.
<u>Resources:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme offers 62 places in sheltered housing. Out of these 62 places, seven apartments are in sheltered housing with a total of 54 seats. Another eight places are in units for two assisted living (8 places) that cater for the needs of older care leavers with fewer support needs. • 47 persons are involved in the programme as volunteers. • The annual budget is 1.621.616,20 EUR per year (1.297.292,96 EUR coming out of ESF funds).
<u>Objectives:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing young people for independent living by developing their skills and attitudes; • Improving the transition of care leavers into the labour market; • Promote the social inclusion of young people with a public care background.
<u>Outcomes:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved rates of employment integration in the target population between 16.6 – 21.3 per cent; • Enhanced long-term development of the ‘Mentor’ programme through European funding; • Strengthened participation of young care leavers from early on in the programme.
<u>Evaluation:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the major conclusions is that much-paid attention needs to be paid to preventing young people from having to return to the care system. • To evaluate the programmes, the indicators measure the number of training/education activities provided, the number of volunteers engaged, the number of concluded work contracts, the number of housing capacities, and the gender distribution in the target population.
<u>Resources:</u>	<p>Presentation given at ESN’s Youth Workshop 2015 (available upon request)</p>