

<i>Tags: Young people; Country: Belgium; Language: English; Year: 2012; Event: ESN Seminar (Rome)</i>	
Programme's name:	Youth leaving care: Pathways into adulthood
<u>Organisation / Country:</u>	OCMW Gent, Psychological Services, Belgium
<u>Website:</u>	Here
<u>Contact:</u>	OCMW Gent Sandra Verhauwert sandra.Verhauwert@ocmw.gent
<u>Summary:</u>	<p>Legal context in Flanders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law on child protection from 1965 sets out the basic regulation on child protection. • The law on special child care as of December 1990 sets out the support for families with multiple problems. The support can be categorised as optional or obligatory help, which is divided into seven categories including forms like for example day care centres, semi-independent living settings or foster care. • A decree on integrated child care sets out the modalities of inter-sectoral cooperation. <p>Situation in Ghent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghent has the status of a local municipality and runs a public centre of social welfare (OCMW), which was regulated for very long-time by a law in place from 1976 to 2002. In 2002, a new law was installed which focuses upon the right of social integration. • OCMW Ghent runs social services including income support, social activation measures, housing offers, legal advice, psychological help et al. • It offers tailor-made services for young adults in the age range 18 to 25. <p>Problems registered by OCMW Ghent The youth project focuses upon the most vulnerable young people who have no family or support. OCMW</p>

	<p>Ghent deals with a variety of problems among youth, which have different prevalence rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • problems with justice: 18 percent • homelessness: 20 percent • addictions: 33 percent • psychological problems: 35 percent • own children in care: 43 percent • indebtedness: 70 percent • early school leavers: 75 percent • unemployment: 90 percent <p>A project example - pathways into adulthood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • objective: Pathways into adulthood seeks to bridge the gap between child care and adult care. • This gap is a shared concern by 4 partners, which are different organisations coming from the following four areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ child care ▪ care for people with disabilities ▪ general health care/welfare ▪ local governance • Funded from the budget of activities around integral child care based on cross-sectoral work. • The different partners share five goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ establishing and using a joint information folder ▪ face-to-face recognition ▪ drafting guidelines for professionals on “friendly transferral” of users between different services ▪ development of outreach care run on the basis of a shared methodology ▪ research on transition into adult care <p>Actions between partners</p> <p>To implement the project, a range of actions have been carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • professionals received opportunities for networking • creation of joint information folder
--	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing good practices amongst the four partners • workshop for professionals on transferrals <p>Conclusions of the project based on the evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • higher knowledge and trust • continuous sharing of best practices • common information folder • early, empathetic, person-centred transferrals
<u>Issues:</u>	<p>Different challenges for social services have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different settings entail different challenges. Many services need frequent (re-)tailoring towards new contexts. • definition of what is the best help for a specific situation can pose a challenge. • result measurement: determining outcomes is difficult. • participation of youth leaving care remains a challenge even with tailored support. • dependence on the young • trust-issue: Building trust between professionals and users takes time and effort.
<u>Resources:</u>	n. a.
<u>Objectives:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering social, emotional, financial, and administrative support to vulnerable people with different needs • Bridging the gap between child care and adult care and smoothing pathways into adulthood
<u>Outcomes:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced inter-sectoral cooperation of different actors in the youth fields • Improved understanding of the young people's social context • Raised awareness on the involvement of local government

<u>Evaluation:</u>	The collaboration was seen as positive by all partners and we continue to convene meetings between different sectors to help our users make a smooth transition towards care once they reach adulthood.
--------------------	---