

INCREASE

Interdisciplinary competence development
for youth workers in residential youth care
and crisis intervention centre

European Policy Recommendations

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Background

- Young people living in residential youth care homes have complex needs
- First line staff and volunteers dealing with these issues on a daily basis risk becoming overburdened emotionally or to face difficult situations they do not know how to overcome



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What is missing?

- Necessity to be trained with: crisis intervention skills, (empathy, problem solving and open communication...)
- Create additional lifelong learning options accessible for youth workers and volunteers



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EU

- The EU has no direct competences (No directives to determine minimum standards of care and training for staff)
- Indirectly the EU legislation plays a role in the provision of care in residential settings that host refugees.
- The EU supports the de-institutionalisation of care



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International framework

The modernisation process is facilitated by the adaptation of international conventions and guidelines such as:

- UN Convention on the rights of the child (1989)
- the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (2006)
- UN guidelines on Alternative Care for Children (2009)
- the European Social Charter



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Findings

- Great differences among countries
- Current needs are very context dependent
- Common lack of specific training to become residential youth care workers



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Recommendations: Residential youth care (1)

- Ensure that all residential youth care providers operate under a **uniform national or regional legislative framework**
- Allow young persons to live in a care placement that **mimics the family setting**
- Care facilities must provide **care for all without discrimination**



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Recommendations: Residential youth care (2)

- Set up local **interdisciplinary cooperation and communication frameworks**
- Set up a **European framework for the transfer of information** between countries
- Ensure the **continuation of care** and support of young people with complex needs reaching adulthood



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Recommendations: Lifelong learning (1)

- Ensure that a genuine **lifelong learning strategy** is set-up in residential youth care facilities
- Provide funding for the **(trans)national exchange of good practices**
- Provide **fully remunerated traineeships and apprenticeships**



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Recommendations: Lifelong learning (2)

- Provide residential youth care workers with a **competitive salary**
- Provide **psychological support** for staff to address challenging situations that can have an impact on their well-being



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Thank you!



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