

Progetto TwinNet



Title: TwinNet: Creating a bridge between French and Italian Care Leavers

Description

The **early autonomy that Care Leavers** are forced to face their ability to think of themselves as adults, and bends the construction of the self to choices of necessity or convenience rather than to the discovery and cultivation of their own inclinations or desires, as they do not have enough means at their disposal to achieve them. There is, therefore, a high risk to which these boys and girls are exposed at the most delicate moment of their transition to adulthood, encountering **marginalisation, social discomfort, isolation and extreme difficulty in placing themselves within the social fabric** in the absence of a reference safety net.

Through the **TwinNet project** we envisage the **creation of a bridge between Italy and France for the creation of a network of Care Leavers** in the French region of Brittany on the model of the Care Leavers Network Italy, an informal network composed of Care Leavers between 16 and 26 promoted by the Agevolando Association and involved in a path **of participation and active citizenship to raise awareness of the existence and situation of Care Leavers** and to give impetus to the **redefinition of policies on the reception and accompaniment to autonomy of young people coming out of protection paths**.

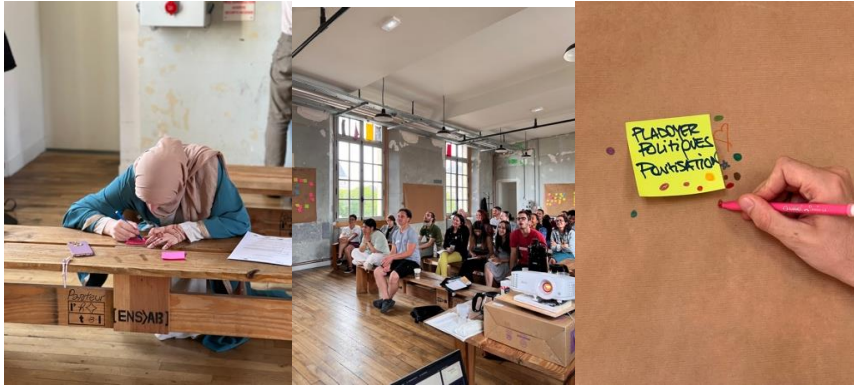
By **focussing on young adults who have emerged from protection programmes as an alternative to their families of origin**, with this project we aim to promote their inclusion within a network, combating the risk of marginalisation and deviance that may affect them due to their experiences and fragilities.

Our intervention

The activity aims to **consolidate the network in Brittany** as in the first year **and to launch** the network created in Brittany **in other territories of France, through institutional contacts and meetings organised by the Care Leavers themselves**. The Italian Care Leavers will take part in the process of expanding the network by guiding and supporting their French companions in the organisation and strategies to be adopted.

- Mobilities

Mobility in Rennes: We carried out 1 mobility of 10 Italian Care Leavers in Brittany to Rennes for a direct supervision of the Network creation process in Brittany lasting 4 days with activities and meetings with both French young people and professionals. The mobility of Italian Care Leavers in Brittany was carried out for a direct supervision of the process of creation of the Network in Brittany and the strengthening of the advocacy strategy to be carried out by the French network.



- **Mobility in Bologna:** Mobility in Bologna: We carried out 1 mobility of the newly created group of French Care Leavers (10) and professionals in Emilia-Romagna to Bologna lasting 4 days, holding meetings with the regional Care Leavers group. **The first mobility of the newly-established group of French Care Leavers to Emilia-Romagna**, where CLN Italy was born, took place with the intention of meeting the regional Care Leavers group and **exchanging experiences and good practices** that will favour the start-up of the Network and the structuring of advocacy activities. The mobility to Italy served to show the French Care Leavers which model their network would follow, helping them to exchange experiences, advice and good practices with the Italian Care Leavers from Emilia-Romagna, the first to have started the Care Leavers Network Italy experiment.

The main topic discussed was about the issues of youth autonomy, and **this mobility itself**, where and how to take a plane, moving to a place where one does not speak the same language, taking care of one's travel documents, is a **paradigm of how one becomes an adult**. Autonomy is not about having an adult care leaver but it is about empowerment. **This trip was an exercise in access to autonomy** and in this exercise we have brought together young people and professionals with the aim of not having to wait for a project to be discussed together; the aim is to **give an example of how to create a space, a space that must be created by the young people themselves**.



- **Formation of the CLN Brittany:**

The construction of the first group of Care Leavers in Brittany is taking place through contact with **local reception authorities and those responsible for accompanying Care Leavers**. **In-person meetings and focus groups moderated by the Italian Care Leavers themselves will be held**. During the construction phase of the network in France, it will be essential to involve all the territorial actors operating in the field of reception and accompaniment of minors in the process of being discharged from the protection systems or new adults in order to approach and form an initial nucleus of boys and girls interested in setting up the Care Leavers Network in Brittany. The mobility towards France will allow the Italian Care Leavers to **accompany their French care leavers in continuing the process of building and consolidating the informal network and begin to plan together an advocacy strategy on a local scale to involve the authorities in the process of promoting their rights**.

Building the institutional and political support network in Brittany

Construction of the network will take place with the services and political-institutional actors in Brittany and constant maintenance of contacts between Agevolando and CREAI Brittany during the process. Fundamental phase to **increase the visibility and raise the awareness of local authorities and decision-makers about the situation of care leavers in the territory, their needs and demands** by involving at least 20 political-institutional actors from the territory of Brittany. The involvement of other French regions will serve for the creation of other regional networks by making contact with entities in charge of welcoming and accompanying Care Leavers in other territories of France for the extension of the French Care Leavers Network to other regions.

A further **6 visits** will be carried out by a **delegation of about 3 Italian Care Leavers** for each mobility to **accompany the process of enlarging the Breton network and holding the first meetings with other Care Leavers from other regions**. The mobilities organised during the second year will be important to ensure a **process of sharing experiences and knowledge that the Italian Care Leavers** will be able to make available to the French Care Leavers when organising the first meetings for the extension of the French network to other regions.

- **Realisation of a final event and dissemination:**

A **project closing event** will be realised and a **document on good practices in the formation of transnational partnerships for the formation of networks composed only of Care Leavers** will be presented. The project closing activity will be the occasion to present the results of the partnership and of the two-year project, with speeches by Italian and French Care Leavers on their respective experiences and the common work carried out together.

The event will be important to **bring together all the souls of the project in a place to present the results achieved during the two-year project cycle, summarising successes, criticalities, challenging moments, bringing out the direct account of the Care Leavers involved in the pathway** and closing it with the **publication of a compendium of good practices** for the creation of Care Leavers network through transnational partnerships in order to raise awareness and stimulate similar experiences in other contexts, European and non-European.

Project data

Area: YOUTH: Promotion of active citizenship, young people's sense of initiative and youth entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship

Priorities and objectives: Common values, civic engagement and participation.

Inclusive democracy and democratic participation;

- Youth policy development;
- Inclusion of marginalised young people.

Countries: Italy, France

Donor: European Union Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 2: Partnerships for cooperation

Partners: Associazione Agevolando ODV; CREAI: Centre Régional d'Etudes d'Actions et d'informations en faveur des personnes en situation de vulnérabilité. <https://www.creai-bretagne.org>

Duration: 24 months, (01 January 2023 - 01 January 2025)

Logos to be placed on the site:



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