

## **Inclusion of care-leavers in foreign programmes Outcomes of the evaluation of the project “Careleaver Weltweit”**

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### **Abstract**

Young people who have spent part of their lives in residential youth care (careleavers) are still an underrepresented group in programs abroad. The “Careleaver Weltweit” project is committed to breaking down access barriers to programs abroad for careleavers and to paving the way for interested careleavers to participate in such programs.

The project evaluation confirms that there are numerous barriers, from the lack of knowledge that programs abroad are also open to careleavers, to the lack of financial resources and emotional support, to the precarious housing and care situation in which young adults find themselves when they take the step to join a program abroad.

“Careleaver Weltweit” addresses these and other barriers by advertising programs abroad for careleavers, by providing orientation and support for an application through individual counseling, preparatory seminars and workshops, by supporting careleavers financially and by providing them with a mentor who follows them closely and offers support according to their needs.

The data collected during the evaluation demonstrates that the project’s approach effectively contributes to increasing access to programs abroad for careleavers. This makes it possible for the effects of these programs to occur (e. g., development of new competencies, broadening of perspectives, strengthening of self-efficacy and self-confidence, promotion of voluntary commitments, career orientation). In this manner, the project “Careleaver Weltweit” makes an important contribution towards equal opportunities for careleavers.