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Children for children wellbeing:  
strengthening National Child Care System to guarantee equal rights for all children  
European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)  
Agreement number: 785676 – REC-RCHI-PROF-AG-2017  
Capacity-building in the area of rights of the child<sup>1</sup>

## The Questionnaire of Analysis and monitoring Good Practices in Sheltered Communities 3rd Area General Principles and Listening

### 3rd Area General Principles and Listening

The third area focuses on listening to the child, both with reference to the needs related to his/her growth and to the moment of "release".

The term "release" has been adopted in the document prepared by the Guarantor of Childhood and Adolescence of the Municipality of Palermo. This term identifies that moment, but also the transitional phase, during which the care leaver leaves the community and "unhooks" from that management process and approaches an autonomous life.

In particular, the questions concerning listening frame it as a moment of encounter and knowledge between the minor and the community structure. On the other hand, the questions referring to release refer to all those activities linked to facilitating the transition from life in the community to life outside the community and the management of care leavers even after the period in the community.

Different from other areas, that of general principles and of listening, allow a greater intersection with respect to the application of good practices useful to guarantee a better path to autonomy for care leavers.

In particular, we focused on the reasons that lead care leavers to leave the community and whether these reasons are linked, in a precise way, to the completion of the pathway to autonomy or to the achievement of limits and/or the arrival of bureaucratic constraints.

Another crucial aspect is to observe what happens when the care leaver leaves the community. In fact, it seems appropriate to examine whether the community has the attitude to monitor, at least in the short term, the phase of release, and whether this activity leads to the elaboration of a document - the project for autonomy - which may allow care leavers to follow useful indications to guide their actions outside the community.

Within this flow of actions, it is also important to understand whether, in addition to monitoring the action or providing care leavers with a document that can guide them, there are moments of confrontation between care leavers and the community. Moments of confrontation and also verification of the life project also take into consideration the actions and planning put in place during the time in the community.

This aspect is not important as an action in itself, but as a prologue to the activities and the process already carried out in the community. From this point of view, this activity also has the purpose of not letting the work already done go to waste.

A further element of this phase is represented by the possibility for care leavers to be followed by the community. The presence of a reference figure who, as it happens within the community, can have a privileged point of observation on the care leavers' path to autonomy and can follow both their daily and more planned choices. Finally, the area of material support. It is important to understand, even within a mechanism of best practices, whether support is provided, such as the payment of rent for a house,



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## First evidences

In relation to the data that emerged and the responses provided by the Housing Communities involved in the screening process for the emergence of good practices in relation to the third area, that of listening and release, this is the information that emerges from an initial analysis:

1. On the basis of the experience of the communities interviewed, in 55% of cases care leavers leave due to age limits. In the remaining 45%, and in equal measure, care leavers leave due to indications from other parties, often the juvenile court, or due to the achievement of IEP objectives;
2. 55% of respondents stated that no monitoring of the exit phase is done. In 45% of cases, monitoring is carried out only because the communities feel the need to follow the minor for specific reasons. Basically, this practice is activated only because there are subjective reasons for the community to closely follow the minor during the phase of release. It is also necessary to specify that if the release takes place for age reasons, communities cannot legally carry out any kind of activity.
3. In spite of the difficulty in carefully following the release phase, 65% of the interviewed communities declare that they develop a project for the minor leaving the community, in order to achieve autonomy. On the contrary, 35% of the communities do not produce any document;
4. After the release phase, 90% of the communities state that they do not provide for an assessment of the care leavers' life phase. Only 10% foresee, in some cases, an assessment of the minor's life project;
5. For 55% of the communities interviewed, the care leaver is entrusted with a professional figure to support him/her in his/her journey out of the home. This value is divided between almost 35% who always entrust care leavers and 20% who do so only for specific cases. 45% state that they never do so. However, it should be pointed out that the educator, who was in charge of the minor in the community, often continues to be available. During the interview, the communities have often underlined the fact that, both administratively and legally, they do not have any tool to deal with minors who have left the community, and even more so if the minor has reached 21 years of age.
6. 90% of the communities surveyed reported that they do not provide support in paying a portion of rent. Only 10% do so in part.



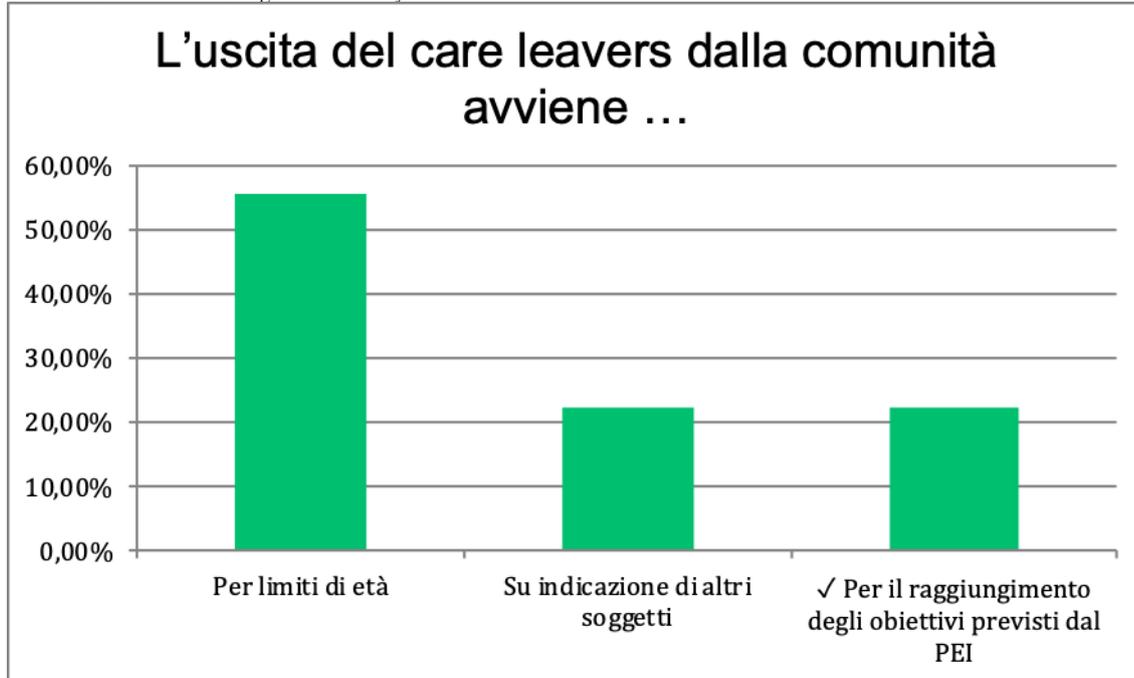
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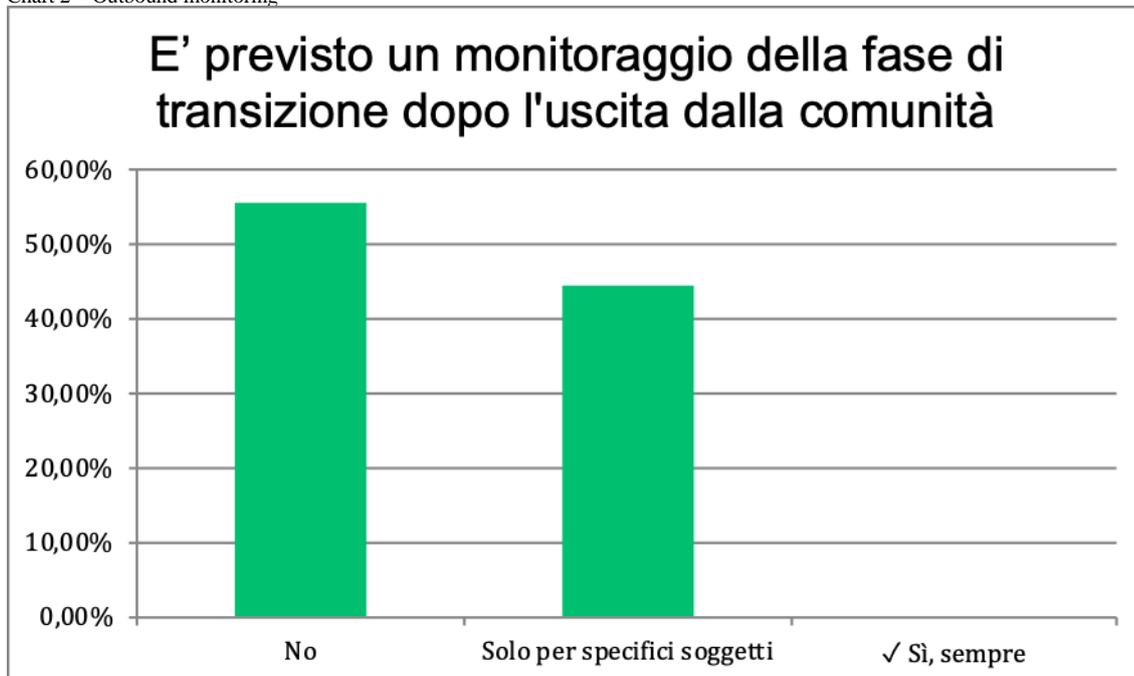
Chart 1 – Care leavers' leaving the community



Q: When does the exit of care leavers occur?

Source: Elaboration on data from the questionnaire on good practices

Chart 2 – Outbound monitoring



Q: Is there a transition phase after care leavers leave the community?

Source: Elaboration on data from the questionnaire on good practices



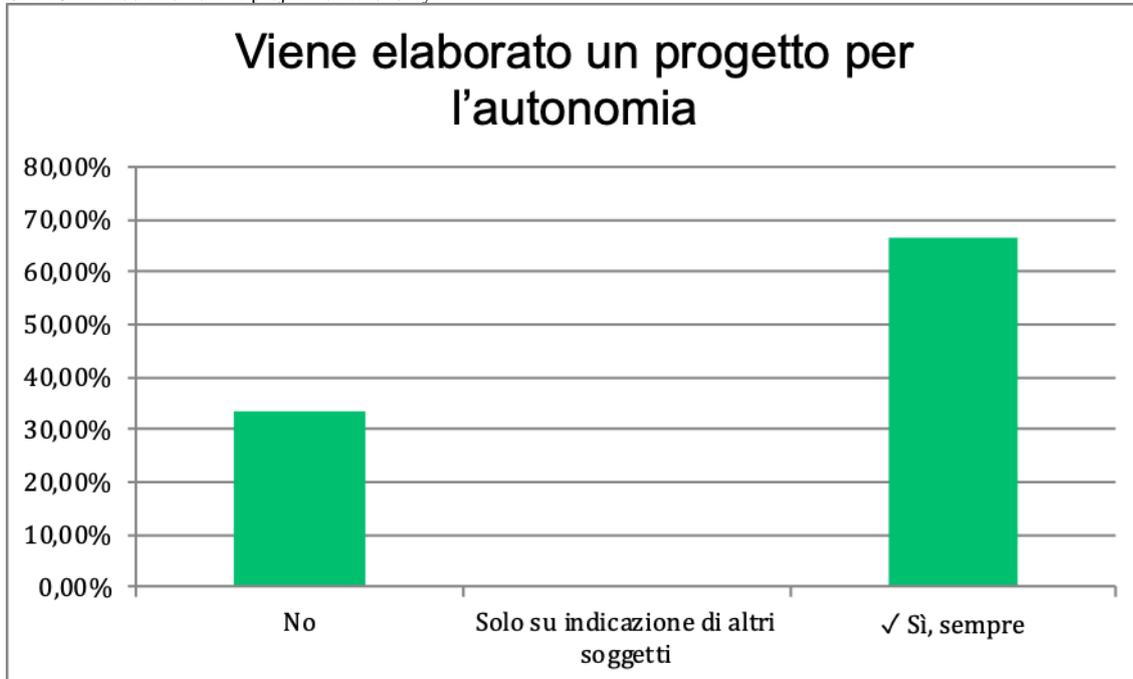
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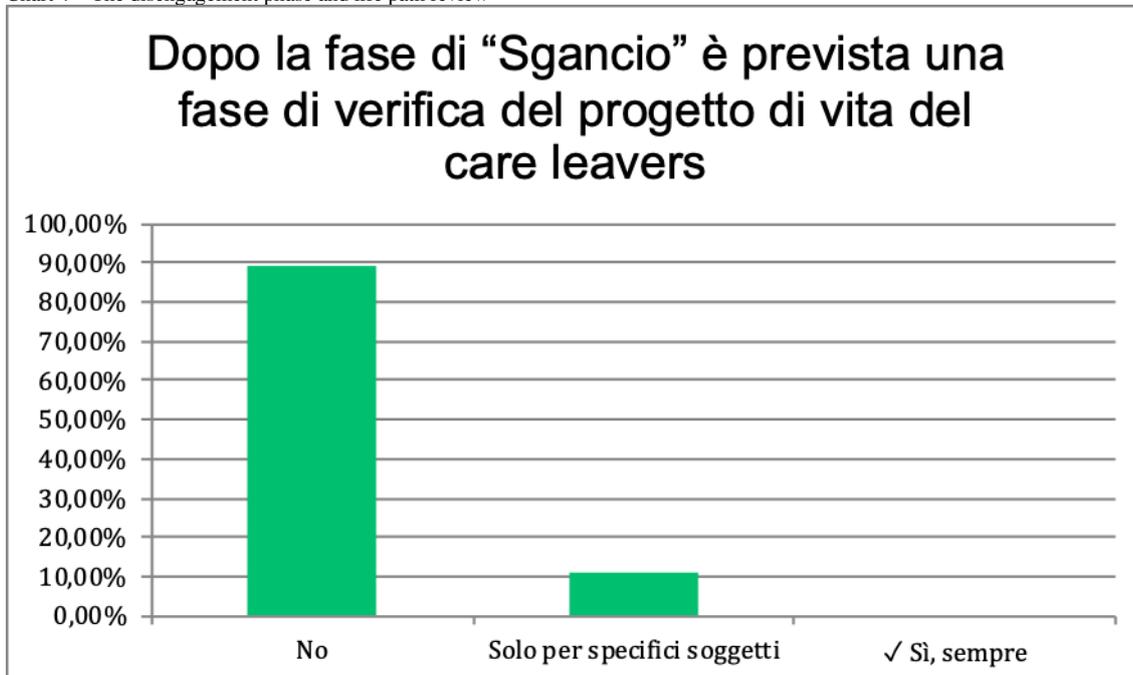
Chart 3 – Elaboration of the project for autonomy



Q: Is a plan for autonomy being developed?

Source: Elaboration on data from the questionnaire on good practices

Chart 4 – The disengagement phase and life path review



Q: Is there a review phase of the care leavers' life plan?

Source: Elaboration on data from the questionnaire on good practices



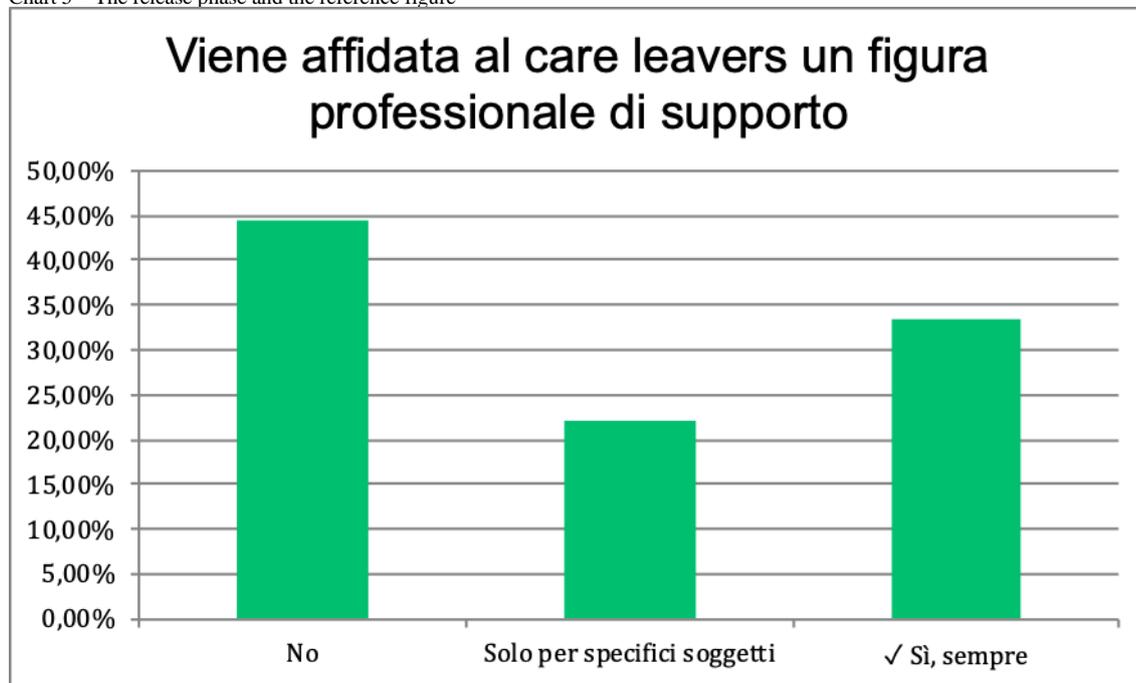
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Chart 5 – The release phase and the reference figure



Q: Is a support figure assigned to care leavers?

Source: Elaboration on data from the questionnaire on good practices

Chart 6 –Material aids to the release



Q: Is there a rent payment in the first few months?

Source: Elaboration on data from the questionnaire on good practices



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