

# Empowering Residential Child Care through Interprofessional Training - a 5-Country Project to Strengthen the Competencies and Skills of Residential Child Care

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## INTRODUCING ERCCI LTT KASSEL – DAY 1

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# Residential Care- What's in a word?





# Residential Care Terminology in a Global Context

- Residential care
- Residential treatment centers
- Residential group care
- Group homes
- Group care
- Residential youth care
- Children's homes
- Therapeutic residential care
- Residential education
- Congregate care
- Institutions
- Orphanages

# Different Functions of RCC



***Residential care:*** Care and supported accommodation only – no in-house education or treatment services



***Residential education:*** Care, accommodation and in-house education



***Residential treatment:*** Care, accommodation and in-house treatment services

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(Ainsworth & Hansen, 2009)

# RCC has an Image Problem

institutional,  
hierarchical,  
restrictive

potential for abuse  
and exploitation

un-/undertrained  
staff

high staff turnover

unintended  
negative effects

mixed outcomes

high cost

removed from  
family and  
community

lack of aftercare  
and integration  
with other services

# Yet, quality RCC still fulfills an important function

- ✓ a necessary element in the continuum of services for children and youth
  - ✓ indicated for the needs of some children
  - ✓ not enough alternative services (e.g., insufficient number of foster families)
  - ✓ foster families can be problematic as well
  - ✓ not every child can be referred to a foster family
  - ✓ placement disruptions frequently lead to eventual stays in RCC anyway
  - ✓ RCC – are led by professional and trained staff
  - ✓ RCC – has pedagogical potential that needs to be utilized
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# ERCCI - a 5-Country Project



The ERCCI -project brings together the collective expertise of experts at

- Turku University of Applied Sciences (TUAS, Finland) (coordinator)
- University of Kassel (UNIKASSEL, Germany)
- University of Mykolas Romeris (MRU, Lithuania)
- University Milano-Bicocca (UNIMIB, Italy)
- University of Oviedo (UNIOVI, Spain)

# Kick-Off Meeting in Turku, Finland



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October 21-22, 2018



# Objectives of ERCCI

1. To conduct background research to better understand RCC as a program, setting and/or intervention in different child welfare systems and country contexts
  2. To strengthen the educational foundation and professionalism in RCC via the co-creation of Learning Teaching and Training weeks (LTT) and Multiplier Events
  3. To design an open access MOOC study course for RCC staff in Europe and beyond and disseminate it
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# <https://ercci.turkuamk.fi/>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://ercci.turkuamk.fi/en/>. The website header features the ERCCI logo (a stylized speech bubble with red, green, and blue segments) and the text "ERCCI Empowering Residential Child Care through Interprofessional Training". To the right is the Erasmus+ logo, consisting of the European Union flag and the text "Erasmus+". A navigation menu below the header includes links for Home, Materials, Co-Creation workshops (with a dropdown arrow), RCC MOOC, Consortium (with a dropdown arrow), and Blog. A search icon is located in the top right corner of the page content.

ERCCI addresses the higher education institution's (HEI) role in promoting inclusion and reducing inequality among the most vulnerable children and young people living in institutions. These young people require the expert support to uphold their rights and stable guidance on their pathway to find their future in society. The first results of mapping of basic stats and facts regarding RCC systems and RCC training across Europe offers a comparisons that have not seen in this way in the literature.

The beneficiaries of this totally new competence based RCC training are youths living in RCC, RCC practitioners to elevate their professional work performance with field specific training, RCC employers having uniform foundation training for their staff, HEIs having training module which is missing in today's HE education, HEI students having specific targeted option for career plan and policy makers having minimum standards for RCC competencies. ERCCI module is scalable to all HEIs with training in social- health and education branch interested in developing high quality RCC. In the best scenario, ERCCI project's sustainability is assured when the ERCCI study module is exploited as an accredited foundation studies for the RCC staff with limited training in Europe and worldwide.



The circular image depicts a person from behind, carrying a young child on their back. They are standing in a grassy field with trees in the background, and the scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

[ Progress so far...

# LLT #1 - Vilnius, Lithuania

**Topic: Understanding RCC across  
countries and context**

March 4-8, 2019

Mykolas Romeris University,  
Vilnius, Lithuania





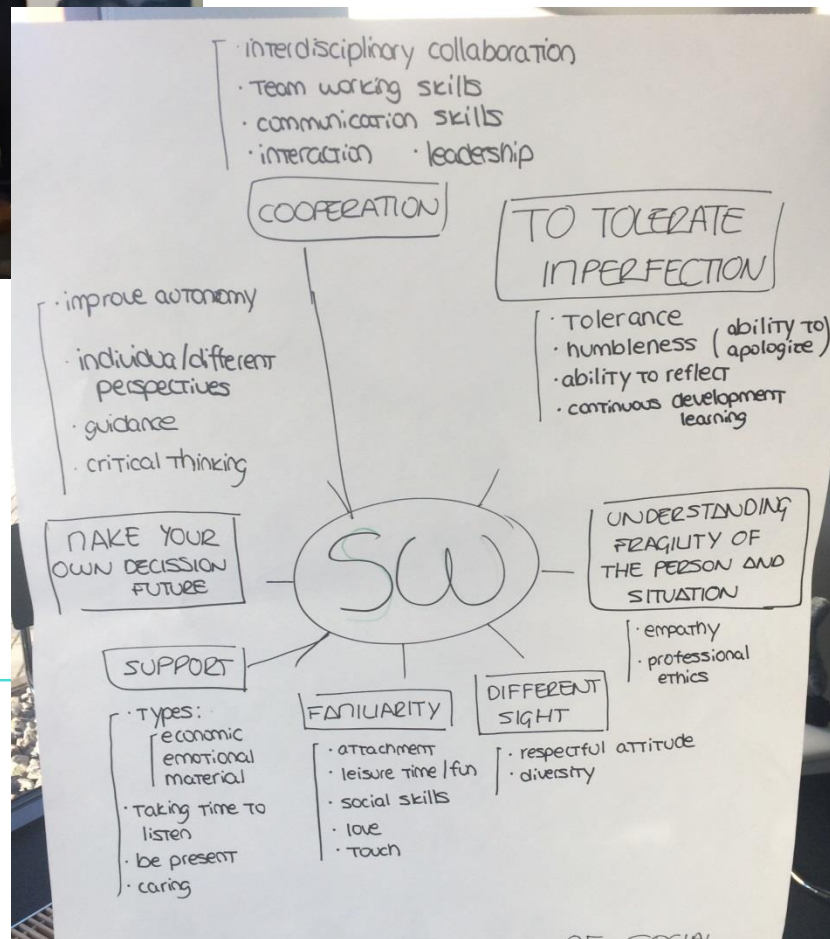
# International perspectives on RCC and the training of RCC workers

Teams presented info on RCC in their respective countries, provided context and described training and competency requirements for each country (“mapping RCC”)



Students and teachers worked together in a first attempt to identify key content areas and competencies for the planned ERCCI study module.

- management skills
  - good leadership
  - team management
  - human resources
- sensitive approach
  - trust, care, safe, active listening
- education + experience  
= AWARENESS
- CONFIDENT



- ## COMPETENCES AND SKILLS
- EMPATHY. FOR RECOGNIZE AND UNDERSTAND FEELINGS, BUILD RELATIONSHIPS (WITH CHILD, WITH OTHER WORKERS)
  - RESPECT.
    - BEEN ABLE TO WORK IN A TEAM.
  - NETWORKING.
  - BE OPEN-MINDED NOT TO JUDGE, JUST HELP AND
  - BE REFLEXIVE. OBSERVE, REFLECT, ACT
  - CURIOSITY. TO SEARCH NEW KNOWLEDGE, ACADEMIC TRAINING  
↳ TO KNOW DEEPER THE CHILD, AUTHENTICITY, INDIVIDUAL APPROACH
  - FLEXIBILITY.
  - SYSTEMICAL APPROACH.
  - MENTAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE. TO DEAL WITH TRAUMA, PHARMACOLOGY / PSYCHIATRY, ...
  - TRAINING IN LEGAL GUIDELINES CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, ...
  - ACTIVE LISTENING TO OTHERS AND WITH OURSELVES



# Multiplier Event #1

- Stakeholders (RCC staff, managers, policymakers, researchers, students, etc.) are a crucial part of the dissemination strategy of ERCCI. In order to engage them in our project two multiplier events (will) take place. ME#1 was held in the spring of 2019 in each respective partner country.
- Groups of up to 30 stakeholders were attending a 1-day session of presentations and debates about RCC training and staff needs.



# Core Competencies for MOOC Course

1. Creating an educative and therapeutic relationship



2. Participation in education and care



3. Involving the family of origin



4. Transforming crisis and conflict in opportunities



5. Evaluating quality and outcomes in RCC



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6. Developing reflexivity and calibration



# Format for Each Learning Unit

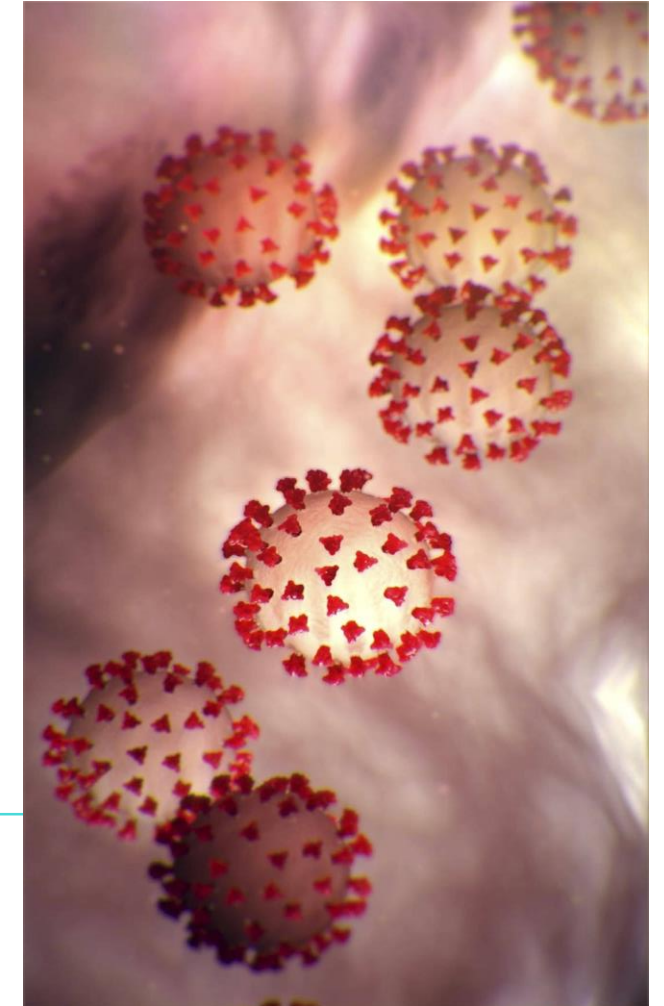
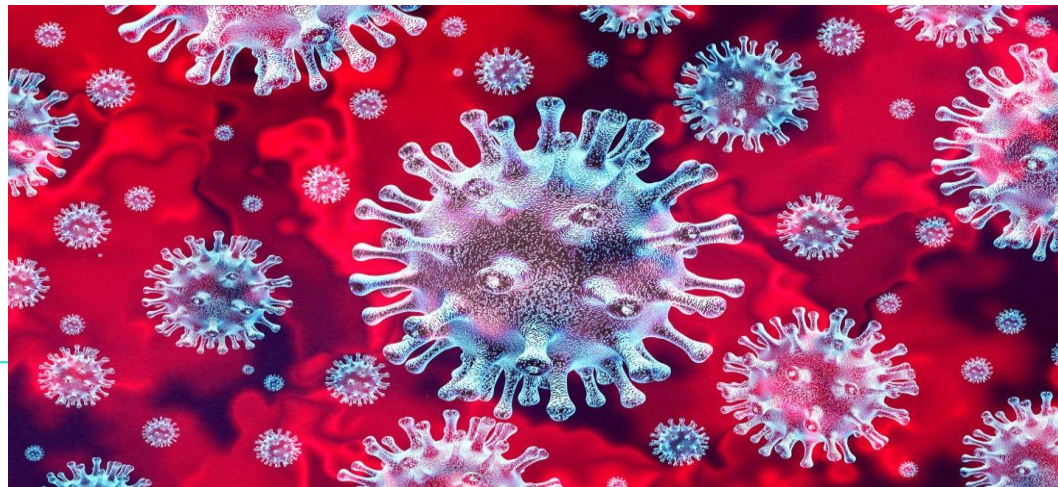
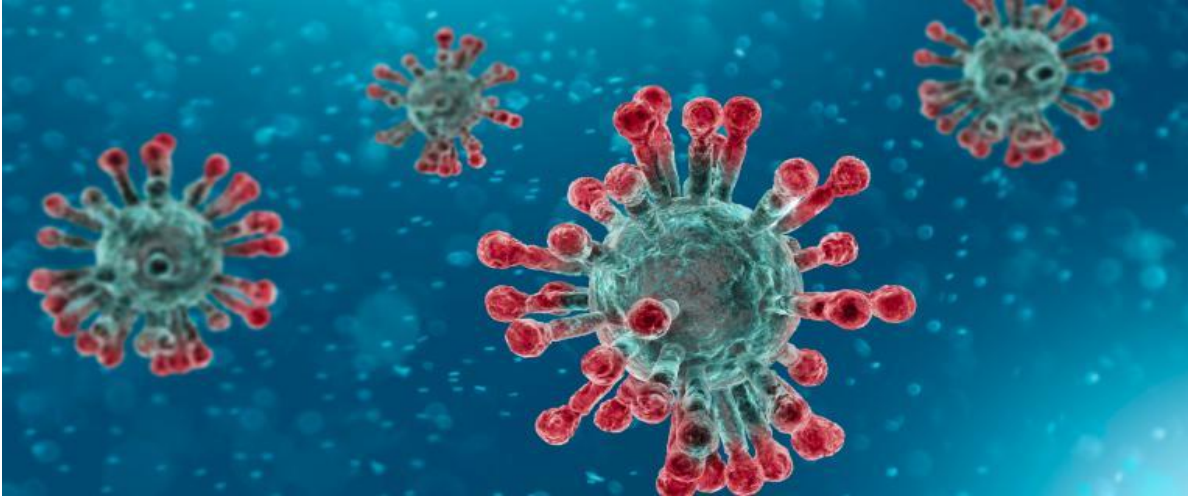
- TURKU ITS learning platform <https://turkuamk.itslearning.com/>
- Each of the 6 learning units will be 27hrs long
- Conceptual/didactic structure:
  - Activation
  - Documentation
  - Application
  - Reflection

# LLT #2 - Milano, Italy

- Jan 20-24, 2020
- University Milano-Bicocca
- **Aim:** to show and discuss the structure of our individual learning units for the MOOC course



# And then came ...



# LTT #3 - Kassel

## Divided into 3 parts:

1. Day 1 – 01/13/21
2. Day 2 & 3 - ?
3. Day 4 & 5 - ?

## Aim of LTT#3:

- To learn/test the platform
- To finalize and upload all parts of our individual learning units
- To show & tell
- To get feedback and modify



# Agenda - LTT Kassel - Day 1 (1/13/21)



10:30 – 11:30

*(9.30 -10.30  
Germany, Italy,  
Spain)*

Introduction and introductions – introducing new students, quick overview of ERCCI, objectives of 3<sup>rd</sup> LTT, objectives for the day, - Sigrid and Juri

11.00-12.30

‘Hints and Tips for Attractive and Exciting learning in ITS platform” – Sanna Simola, ITS coach, TUA , discussion

12:30 – 13.15

LUNCH

13:15 – 18:30

*(12.15 –17.30)  
Germany, Italy,  
Spain*

Teams introduce one learning unit – 30 minutes of highlighting per team, perhaps asking other teams to complete a task, etc. + 15 min feedback – Sigrid leading

Team Finland  
Team Germany  
Team Italy  
Break  
Team Lithuania  
Team Spain  
Discuss next steps, closure

# Beyond LTTs and MEs

- A brand-new MA program on RCC at University Milano-Bicocca
- Multiple MA theses
- An (almost) submitted scientific article
- International conference presentations (FICE 2019, ACRC 2020, etc.)
- Scientific and professional presentations at national or regional levels
- Involvement of doctoral, master and bachelor students
- etc.



# WELCOME TO LTT #3

## WILLKOMMEN IN KASSEL

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