Professionals' Awareness of Young Carers & Young Adult Carers in Switzerland

2nd International Young Carers Conference in Malmö, Sweden 29-31 May 2017

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Dr. phil. Corinna Jung
Outline

1. Careum Research & Programme “Young Carers”

2. First Findings SNSF-Project “Young Carers and Young Adult Carers in Switzerland”
   Focus on Professionals' Awareness on YC & YAC

3. Questions & Discussion
Careum Research
Research Orientation along the Lifespan
Careum Research
Team Young Carers
Research Programme “Young Carers“
Strategic Approach

What is the significance for Switzerland?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children and young adults up to 24 years</th>
<th>YC &amp; YAC 2%</th>
<th>YC &amp; YAC 4%</th>
<th>YC &amp; YAC 5%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2′171′551</td>
<td>43′431</td>
<td>86′862</td>
<td>108′578</td>
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(Figures of the Federal Statistical Office Switzerland, 2015)
### Research Programme “Young Carers”

Ongoing Subprojects (SP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Programme Young Carers in Switzerland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EBNET Foundation</strong></td>
<td><strong>SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Young Carers &amp; Young Adult Carers in Switzerland</strong></td>
<td><strong>SP 3 (2016)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness of professionals from health care, education and social services</td>
<td>Awareness of professionals from health care, social services and education</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 cantons</td>
<td>Pupils (aged 9 to 16) in schools, representative sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 interviews</td>
<td>Young Carers &amp; Young Adult Carers and affected family member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qualitative</td>
<td>quantitative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>online survey</td>
<td>online survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 interviews</td>
<td>qualitative</td>
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</table>
Sub-project 3: Quantitative online survey among professionals (education, health care, social services)

Aim
• to examine the awareness of young carers amongst Swiss professional populations
• responses from approximately

Method
• Swiss-wide online-survey in three languages

Achieved: 4,731 Responses
Young Carers & Young Adult Carers in Switzerland – First Results

Swiss German 63.3%
French 22.7%
Italian 8.1%
Romansh 0.5%
Other languages 6.8%
BfS2016
Professionals’ Awareness of Young Carers & Young Adult Carers in Switzerland

The Participants of the Survey
Languages Spoken by Survey Participants

- German: 84.70%
- French: 11.32%
- Italian: 3.81%
Participants by Gender & Age

Average age: 31.46 years
Participants by Professional Sector

- Healthcare: 52.9%
- Education: 21.2%
- Social Services: 17.3%
- Foundations
- (Clinical) Research
- Church
- Retired
- Other non-Profit Areas
Participants by Work Experience

- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- 21-25 years
- 26-30 years
- 31 years and more

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The Participants –
Professional Awareness of Young Carers
Familiarity with the Terms „Young Carer“ & „Young Adult Carer“ – All Participants

- Yes: Young Carers 1251, Young Adult Carers 754
- No: Young Carers 2628, Young Adult Carers 2166
- Not Sure: Young Carers 285, Young Adult Carers 320
Familiarity with the Term „Young Carer“ by Professional Sector
Relation between Familiarity of the Term Young Carers and Encounters in Professional Context

Heard of YC Yes: 51.3%
Heard of YC No: 35.3%
Not sure: 37.7%
Ability to Support Young Carers within Professional Context

„Are you able to support YC due to your professional context?“

If yes, how:
- Consulting (finances, insurances,...)
- Giving care instructions
- Creating a supporting network
- Finding other support organisations
- Listening
- ...

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Health Care</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Social Affairs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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In case YC and YAC need support from outside the family, who should bear the responsibility in your point of view?
Would you consider yourself a Young Carer?

- Yes: 17.1%
- No: 56.3%
- I am not sure: 5.1%
- Other: 1.9%

Other:
- Partly
- At the moment
- Only a short period
- Only emotionally
- Should have been but “escaped”
- Lots of illustrations/stories of caring
- …
Own YC-Experience & Familiarity with Term „Young Carer“
Summary

• Professionals from the health care, education and social sector are not yet very familiar with the phenomenon of Young Carers.

• Professionals with knowledge about the term „Young Carer“ can often provide better help.

• Awareness is crucial to enable professionals to identify young carers faster and provide better support structures.
Questions & Discussion

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Complete publication list: http://www.careum.ch/yc/publikationen.
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Thank you!