Long-term care and support in the EU: The perspectives of older people

Social Platform flagship conference Building social Europe

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About AGE Platform Europe

- Created in 2001
- Non-profit organisation
- European network with 106 Member organisations
- Co-financed by a grant of the EU and by its members
AGE’s mission

“The Europe we want is for all ages”

- **Voice** the views and concerns of older people
- **Advocate** for a life course approach to all policies
- **Encourage dialogue** and cooperation (1) between members and (2) with European institutions
- **Connect** with policy makers, other European NGOs, academics & other relevant stakeholders
Long-term care, a multifaceted challenge
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Inadequate access – unmet needs

Lack of funding – gap in investment

Growing demand

Weak social protection – unaffordable care

Uncoordinated services

Difficult working conditions
Long-term care, a multifaceted challenge

The quality challenge:

preventing maltreatment and abuse
[3% of older people in Europe,
25% of older people with high care needs]

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ensuring full rights and equality
Long-term care, a multifaceted challenge

“What I miss is the freedom to choose, to choose when I get up, what to have for lunch, what to wear today”
Long-term care, a multifaceted challenge

“I am afraid my daughters will decide suddenly to send me to a residential care home without talking about it to me beforehand. I like living alone and I would prefer to stay at home if possible”
Long-term care, a multifaceted challenge

“We mix everything together: first dish, main dish and dessert. We all know that **older people lose their taste** when they age, and we don’t have time to spend to help them eat the three dishes one after the other. It is much easier like this”
A shift in care: challenging ageism

**Ageist status quo**

- Protection and safety
- Best interests and lack of self-determination
- Denial of legal capacity and guardianship
- Fragmented services

**Human rights approach**

- Autonomy and independent living
- Full and equal participation in society
- Supported decision-making
- Integrated, person-centred services
A shift in care: challenging ageism

Quality care is...

- Respectful of human rights and dignity
- Person-centred
- Preventative and rehabilitative
- Available
- Accessible
- Comprehensive
- Affordable
- Continuous
- Outcome oriented and evidence based
- Transparent
- Gender and culture sensitive
Towards better and more accessible care

1. **VISION**: A more coherent and rights-based approach to care

2. **INFLUENCE**: Contribution to national, European and international debates

3. **COOPERATION**: between civil society/users – policymakers – service providers
Towards better and more accessible care

1. **VISION**: A more coherent and rights-based approach to care
   - AGE’s Task Force on Dignified Ageing, internal discussions, consultation with members.
   - Human Rights fora

2. **INFLUENCE**: Contribution to national, European and international debates
   - AGE’s participation to EU’s consultations around the European Pillar of Social Rights, support to members at national level, UN OEWG

3. **COOPERATION**: between civil society/users – policymakers – service providers - workers
   - AGE’s cooperation with local authorities for LTC reforms, dialogue with other NGOs, trade unions and providers of services
Towards better and more accessible care

http://publications.age-platform.eu/opcare-toolkit/
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