Promoting the needs of informal carers across the EU

Informal care as an essential part of care

Flagship Conference
Workshop Long term care
Helsinki, 17 September 2019
The Eurocarers Network

European network of carers' organisations and relevant research & development organisations

68 member and partner organisations from 26 countries

Who are the (informal) carers?

Eurocarers defines a carer as any person who provides care - usually unpaid - to someone with a chronic illness, disability or other long lasting health or care need, outside a professional or formal framework.
EU Pillar of Social Rights

Chapter 1: Equal opportunities & access to the labour market
1. Education, training and lifelong learning
2. Gender equality
3. Equal opportunities
4. Active support to employment

Chapter 2: Fair working conditions
5. Secure & adaptable employment
6. Wages
7. Information about employment conditions & protection in case of dismissal
5. Social dialogue & involvement of workers
6. Work-life balance
7. Healthy, safe & well-adapted work environment & data protection

Chapter 3: Social protection and inclusion
11. Childcare and support to children
12. Social protection
13. Unemployment benefits
14. Minimum income
15. Old age income and pensions
16. Health care
17. Inclusion of people with disabilities
18. Long-term care
19. Housing and assistance for the homeless
20. Access to essential services
Achievements to date

2014 - EC push for LTC coordination / Formal LTC as primary focus

2017 - Agreement on increased collaboration in social matters between EU MS (LTC and more)

2018 - Formal vs. informal care + Launch of Eurocarers proposal for an EU strategy on carers

2019 - Formal and informal LTC workers
Across Europe, unpaid family carers and friends are the largest providers of health and social care support.

As demographic change increases demand, the ‘balance of care’ increasingly shifts to informal care.

Women are disproportionately affected and are more likely to give up employment to care.
Informal carers as a % of total population (EQLS 2016)

EQLS 2016, figure adapted from EQLS Overview report (see Eurofound, 2018 forthcoming)
Proportion of men and women in different age groups providing care (at least once a week)

Proportion of workers providing care at least once a week – EQLS 2016
The “economic” value of informal care

Estimates on the economic value of unpaid informal care in EU Member States range from 50 to 90 percent of the overall costs of “formal” long-term care provision.

Budgetary impact of shift from informal to formal care by 2070 would mean an increase of GDP share devoted to Long-Term Care by 130% on average for the EU.

→ No universal Long-Term care without informal carers!
"Money talks!" Alternative costs to family care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Annual cost to a municipality €/client</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carers allowance app. 440 €/month + 3 leave per month (service 115 €/care recipient/day)</td>
<td>9420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home care 2 times a day/ 42 €/visit</td>
<td>30 660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential care, service home 115 €/day</td>
<td>41 975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly care home 154 €/day</td>
<td>56 210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered home for person with disability 69 €/day</td>
<td>25 185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service home for person with severe disability 125 €/day</td>
<td>45 625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care center 191 €/day</td>
<td>69 715</td>
</tr>
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Carers Finland
Advocating in the National Parliament Election, spring 2019
Clear correlation between caring and:

- Work-life/care balance and employment
- Social exclusion and poverty
- Health and well-being

“As a carer, you have no social life whatsoever. I have been an unpaid carer for 20 years. I do not feel part of society at all. I feel a complete outsider”
What do carers want?

Financial support: income based on a minimum wage

Employment: flexible working, paid and/or unpaid leave

Pension credits for care time

Regular breaks from caring

Training
The rationale for an EU-wide Strategy on Carers
STEP 1: Define and acknowledge Carers

STEP 2: Identify your Carers

STEP 3: Assess the needs of your Carers

STEP 4: Support multisectoral care partnerships for integrated and community-based care services

STEP 5: Facilitate carers’ access to information and advice about care, caring and care-life balance

STEP 6: Pay attention to carers’ health and prevent negative health outcomes

STEP 7: Give Carers a break

STEP 8: Provide Carers with access to training and recognise their skills

STEP 9: Prevent Carers’ poverty and allow them to maintain an active professional/educational life

STEP 10: Adopt the Carers’ perspective in all relevant policies
Thank you