

Helsinki – Finland
17 September 2019

Building Social Europe Social Platform's Flagship Conference

Study visit and workshop on long-term care

EU initiatives in long-term care: competences, limits and opportunities

Irene Bertana
Policy and Advocacy Officer
COFACE Families Europe

Borja Arrue Astrain
Project and Policy Officer
AGE Platform Europe

What EU treaties say...

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

Article 151

*The Union and the Member States (...) shall have as their objectives the promotion of employment, **improved living and working conditions**, so as to make possible their harmonisation while the improvement is being maintained, **proper social protection**, dialogue between management and labour, the development of human resources with a view to lasting high employment and the combating of exclusion.*

Article 153

*(...) the Union shall **support and complement** the activities of the Member States (...) may adopt measures designed to **encourage cooperation** between Member States (...) developing **exchanges of information and best practices** (...) promoting **innovative approaches** and evaluating experiences, **excluding any harmonisation** of the laws and regulations of the Member States (...)*

What EU treaties say...

*So, 'hard' harmonisation **excluded!***

But...



EU's 'soft' tools over the past years

- A shared policy strategy: **Europe 2020 Strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**
- A European Year: **2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations.**
- Pushing a shared policy approach: **Social Investment Package (SIP)** and **Staff Working Document 'Long-term care in ageing societies – Challenges and policy options'**



EU's 'soft' tools over the past years

Research and policy reports:

- **Joint Report on Adequate social protection for long-term care needs in ageing society, 2014**
- **Challenges in long-term care in Europe. A study of national policies**
- **Projects on cost-effectiveness, social protection, workforce and human rights in long-term care (2014-ongoing)**

**Adequate social protection
for long-term care needs
in an ageing society**

Report jointly prepared by the
Social Protection Committee
and the European Commission



**Challenges in long-term care in
Europe**

A study of national policies
2018

EU's current 'soft' tools

- **European Pillar of Social Rights**

PRINCIPLE 18

“Everyone has the right to affordable long-term care services of good quality, in particular home-care and community-based services.”

PRINCIPLE 9

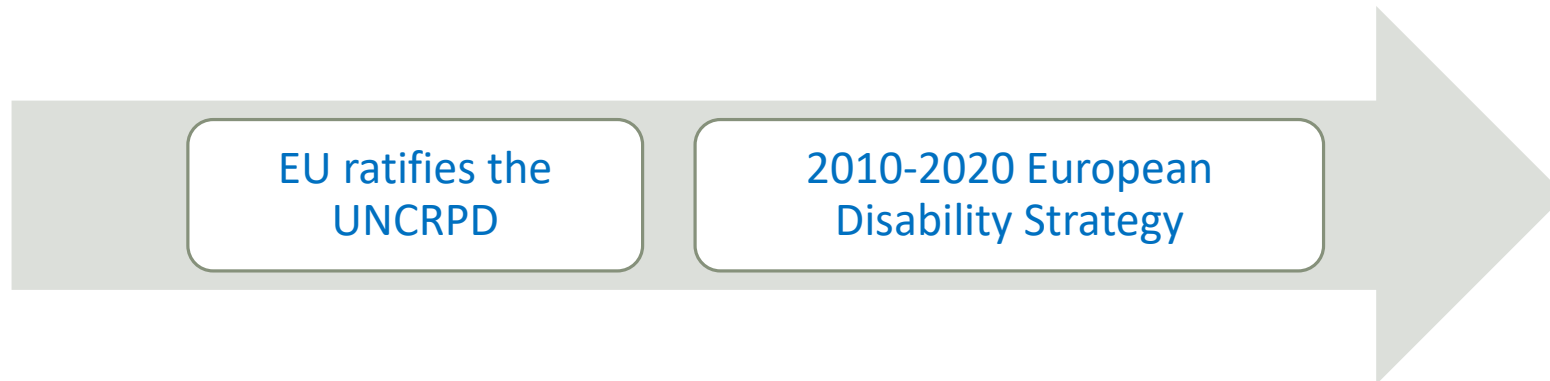
“Parents and people with caring responsibilities have the right to suitable leave, flexible working arrangements and access to care services. Women and men shall have equal access to special leaves of absence in order to fulfil their caring responsibilities and be encouraged to use them in a balanced way.”

EU's current 'soft' tools

- European Social Fund+
 - European Semester
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EU's international commitments...

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force in 2010 in the EU, which issued the **European Disability Strategy** to guide its implementation throughout the European legislation



EU's international commitments...

Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs)

These goals touch a number of issues relevant for LTC:

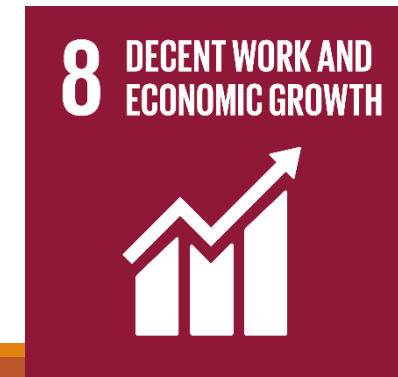
GOAL 1 ending poverty: **nationally appropriate social protection systems** and measures for all;

GOAL 3 promotion of healthy lives and well-being at all ages: promotion of **mental health and well-being for all**;

GOAL 5 gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls: **informal carers**

GOAL 8 economic growth and employment

target 8.8 “protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including **migrant workers, in particular women migrants**, and those in precarious employment”



Taking these limits and opportunities into account...

Tell us!

- Where do you see EU's added value in LTC?
- Is the EU, or could it be, an ally in your work?
- What actions should the EU put in place in the area of LTC?