



Dear readers

I am delighted to present you with this autumn edition of our newsletter. As you will read below, the last 6 weeks have been particularly intense and productive for our network. We have been privileged to co-host a very successful International Carers Conference in Gothenburg and honoured to count Queen Silvia of Sweden among the keynote speakers and strong advocates of the carer community. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate the organisers of this great event – the Swedish Family Care Competence Centre, Carers Sweden and Carers UK.

Our Annual General Assembly (AGM), held on the 3rd September, as part of the conference programme, also revealed extremely fruitful. Our members indeed reaffirmed their commitment and support to our collective work at EU level and - now more than ever - are we in a position to offer them substantially revamped packages of services. These include – among others - funded access to capacity-building activities (e.g. regional conferences, research workshops, exchange visits), access to funded work (i.e. join project consortia and sponsored activities) as well as regular information about relevant policy developments at EU, national and regional level. The General Assembly also endorsed the admission of 6 new Eurocarers members from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and the UK in our network (see the 'News from the network' section for details).

In the light of this fresh approach, we are now actively working on the implementation of our action plan for the last quarter of 2015. Our programme of activities for the period will comprise:

- A regional seminar (12-13 November 2015 - Krakow, Poland) which will allow to exchange information and expertise on the specific challenges facing carers in a selection of countries/regions as well as the good practices developed against that context. The list of countries to be covered by the event has been drafted in the light of the typology of long-term care systems in place in the region and the impact these have on informal carers. We therefore expect participants from Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania;
- At least one small-scale in-country peer review will be held to facilitate the exchange of experience and know-how among our member organisation around a specific topic. 'Young carers in Europe' has been suggested as a possible topic for this activity;
- Direct contributions are continuously fed into the EU political debate through our secretariat and we will pay specific attention to the EC roadmap for a new start to address the challenges of work-life balance faced by working families; which suggests the development of both legislative and non-legislative proposals on carers, including the development carers' leave provisions across the EU.

Last but not least, our Research working group is also actively preparing for the next round of calls for proposals under the Horizon 2020 programme. This will be a perfect opportunity to promote our recently-developed research priorities document, put our network's knowledge into practice and developed new evidence-base in support of carers.

Find more information about these initiatives and more in the present newsletter, on our website and in our future communication. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to hear more or play an active role in the activities mentioned above.

We hope you will find this edition of the newsletter useful and inspiring! The next one will be circulated at the end of November.



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EU Policy Developments

Commission withdraws stalled maternity leave proposal and paves the way for a fresh approach



As foreseen in its 2015 Work Programme, the Commission has reviewed progress on the draft Maternity leave Directive, which has been stuck in the legislative process since 2008. The lack of progress by the co-legislators, despite the Commission's efforts to facilitate an agreement, has led the Commission to withdraw its proposal. This opens the way for a fresh approach to meet the policy objectives of improving the protection of mothers, better reconciling professional and family life and facilitating female participation in the labour market.

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Commission adopts Roadmap for improving work-life balance in working families

The Commission has published a Roadmap setting out policy options to address the challenges of work-life balance faced by working families. This represents a new start after the Commission confirmed last month it would withdraw the 2008 draft Maternity Leave Directive, given the lack of progress by the co-legislators and despite the Commission's continuous and intensive efforts to facilitate an agreement.



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Members of the European Parliament question the European Commission on carers

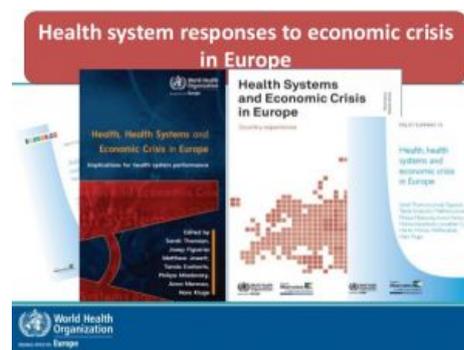


Eurocarers has worked with Members of the European Parliament to table Written Questions to the Commission. Written Questions are one of the tools the MEPs have to raise awareness of topics that matter to them and to explore the Commission's stance on these topics; the Commission is obliged to respond within 6 weeks.

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New evidence: how the economic crisis has affected health systems and health in Europe

Economic shocks pose a threat to health and health system performance by increasing people's requirements for health care and, at the same time, making access to care more difficult. The financial and economic crisis has had a visible but varied impact on many health systems in Europe, eliciting a wide range of responses from governments facing fiscal pressure.



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Active ageing through preventing falls: “Falls prevention is everyone’s business” - Joint Declarations



On the 1st October, the ProFouND team will give another boost to Fall-Awareness campaigning across Europe. The 2015 Stay Strong, Stay Steady Campaign will focus on active healthy ageing through physical activity with an inter-generational theme – falls affect everyone – older and younger people working together to prevent falls! The campaign will send out positive messages of physical activity to promote an independent and active life.

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WHO-Europe - European health report 2015 published

The European health report is a flagship publication, published every three years. The 2012 report set the baseline for monitoring progress towards the six targets of the European policy framework, Health 2020.

The 2015 report presents the progress made since the baseline. An assessment of the available data on all the targets reveals that the European Region is on track, but much potential remains for further health gains and reductions in inequalities.



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2015 Report of the Social Protection Committee on recent social policy reforms – Key messages



The SPC annual review of social protection reforms in the EU Member States, covering the period 2014-2015, shows the amplitude of reform efforts in Member States. The report feeds into the Annual Growth Survey 2016.

The report states that the long-term impact of the crisis in the EU is visible in the high unemployment and long-term unemployment rates, the high levels of poverty and rising inequalities.

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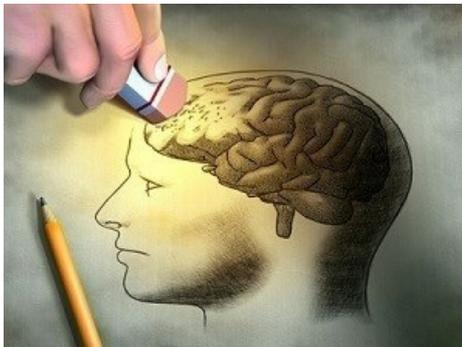
Role of healthcare in the European Semester - Question submitted to the Commission by Mr. Philippe De Backer, Member of the European Parliament (ALDE)

The European Semester covers all aspects affecting public finances, including healthcare. Healthcare expenditure is one of the biggest spending blocks of governments and will likely increase. Healthcare system sustainability therefore needs to be addressed so as to improve fiscal stability without putting public health in jeopardy.



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Informal meeting of Ministers of Health devoted to dementia, the refugee crisis and the cross-border healthcare directive



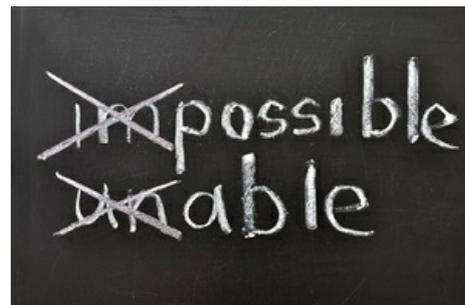
In the frame of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union, an informal meeting of Ministers of Health was held on 24 and 25 September 2015 in Luxembourg.

The Council started with discussions on the subject of dementia – and, more specifically, secondary prevention and post-diagnostic support considered in the light of some examples of good practices. How can care policies and practices be improved in order to help people suffering from dementia?

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Empowering patients - how can technology contribute to improving health literacy?

The European Parliament Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) workshop on 'Health Literacy in Europe' took place on 1 July 2015 in the European Parliament and was chaired by Paul Rübig, MEP and STOA Chair. The event was attended by more than 100 representatives of institutions, companies, patient organisations, professional associations and journalists.



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Workshop on Age-Friendly Homes and Smart Living - Summary report

This workshop held on the 7th July 2015 aimed to explore options to stimulate investments and solutions for age-friendly housing and smart living at European scale. The need for a common framework of reference for age-friendly homes together with innovative investment or fiscal instruments to finance and facilitate access to capital for age-friendly renovation were identified as critical elements of a future strategy.



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The European Commission and WHO-Europe scale up cooperation

The European Commission and the World Health Organisation's Regional Office for Europe (WHO EURO) are renewing their joint commitment to work together towards their shared objective of better health in Europe.

Last week, Health and Food Safety Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, and WHO EURO Director, Zsuzsanna Jakab, outlined the objectives, principles and modalities of their continued cooperation, to further develop synergies and complementary action.



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The silver economy – opportunities from ageing

The 'silver economy' covers a host of different but interlinked strands; together these can improve the quality of life and inclusion in society and involvement in economic activity of the ageing population through developing innovative policies, products and services to meet their needs, bringing more growth and jobs. The concept has been emerging over the years, and recently gathered momentum with the European Commission's first paper on the topic.



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Research in Action

ECHI - European Core Health Indicators

Since some years Eurocarers is represented in the Societal Advisory Board (SOAB) of the EC-funded Joint Program Initiative (JPI) "More Years Better Lives" (MYBL). The Program seeks to enhance coordination and collaboration between European and national research programs related to demographic change.



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eHealth in a caring society



Helping others makes us happier, and we have the research to prove it. But how do we keep it 'light'? How do we share the work as equally as possible? What digital developments are useful and how do they complement each other? This article focuses on everyday tools for the development of digital market places where matches are made between supply and demand in our caring society.

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Events and Calls for proposals

Horizon 2020 - Draft work programmes 2016-2017 and thematic sessions

More than 30 thematic sessions about the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017 are being organised by the European Commission staff to inform ICT 2015 participants about the upcoming calls for proposals related to ICT research and innovation. The thematic sessions will cover the three pillars of Horizon 2020, "Excellent Science", "Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies" and "Societal challenges".



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CALL FOR PAPERS - A Movement for Change: Enabling People-Centred and Integrated Health and Social Care



The 16th International Conference on Integrated Care will take place in Barcelona from 23-25 May 2016.

The conference is co-hosted with PIAISS of the Catalan Government, Hospital Clinic Barcelona (HCB), Forum ITESSS and the Tic Salut Foundation.

The conference will bring together researchers, clinicians and managers from around the world who are engaged in the design and delivery of integrated health and social care.

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International Conference on ICT for Ageing Well and e-Health

The second edition of the International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies for Ageing Well and e-Health will take place in Rome on the 21-22 April 2016. The event, organised by the Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication, aims to be a meeting point for those that study and apply information and communication technologies for improving the quality of life of the elderly and for helping people stay healthy, independent and active at work or in their community along their whole life.



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National Carers Day, 6 October 2015, France



Launched on the 6th October 2010 by the French government, the "National Carers Day" (Journée Nationale des Aidants) aims to make society and media aware of the vital role played by informal carers. This day involves a full mobilization of all stakeholders, in order to implement actions, at local and national level.

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Seminar "Treating Psychosis with Dignity", Athens, 13th October

The theme of World Mental Health Day (10th October) this year is Dignity in Mental Health. In honour of this very important issue, KINAPSI is organizing a seminar entitled "Treating Psychosis with Dignity", to be held in the City of Athens Cultural Centre, 50 Akadimias St, on Tuesday 13th October at 17:00.



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Call for proposals for social policy innovations supporting reforms in social services

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion has published a new [call for proposals](#) as part of the programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI).

The call concerns social policy innovations supporting reforms in social services and its purpose is to “foster policy innovation in the organisation and delivery of social services aiming at the integration of service users in the labour market.”

The [reference document](#) states that reforms in the field of long-term care should aim to address the inequities and fragmentation of long-term care provision by developing community-based and home-based services and unifying health and social care services.

More specific changes would include:

- A single-entry point for patients;
- A uniform expert procedure for LTC needs assessment;
- A process for preparing individual care plans; and
- **Training for informal carers.**

The opportunities offered by this call for proposals will be evaluated and discussed by the Eurocarers Research Working Group. If you are interested in this call, please contact [Elizabeth Hanson](#), Vice-President for Research or [Stecy Yghemonos](#), Executive Director.



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News from the network

Patient representatives roundtable - Incontinence and the provision of better continence care



On 1 July 2015, representatives of pan-European patient and civil society groups came together to discuss the issue of incontinence and the provision of better continence care in Europe at home and in the community. The roundtable was hosted by AGE Platform Europe, Eurocarers and SCA.

The event saw a lively discussion between all participants on the burden of incontinence in people's daily lives and the barriers and solutions to better continence care that will enable people with incontinence and carers to live active, independent and dignified lives at home and in the community.

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New Eurocarers Full Member: Carers Denmark

Carers Denmark is pleased to have joined Eurocarers at the 2015 AGM. We are a new organisation, established in May 2014, currently with some 600 members. A Danish carer association already existed in the psychiatric field, but Carers Denmark is the first association focused on carers for those with somatic illness (and we include dementia under that bracket).



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New Eurocarers Full Member: Association Française des Aidants



The mission of l'Association Française des aidants is to listen to and speak on behalf of carers. The attention paid to Carers' situation is still insufficient, if not non-existent, and can sometimes be patronising. The association advocates for carers' best interest, in their own role and place.

There are currently more than 8.3 million carers in France, i.e. 12.5% of the population. There is no standard carer profile but as many profiles as there are contexts.

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New Eurocarers Full Member: La compagnie des Aidants

La compagnie des Aidants is a platform of web services aiming to establish links between carers, care recipients and approved service providers. This secure platform also allows mutual assistance and exchange among carers, irrespective of their age or the particular health needs or age of the person for whom they are caring.



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New Eurocarers Associate Member: Aidants proches



Founded in 2006, at the initiative of the King Baudouin Foundation, the association Aidants Proches aims to listen, support and defend the rights of people who, every day, accompany people with an autonomy deficit. Stemming from a long collaboration between policy-makers, our association Aidants Proches and partners of the health community, a law on the recognition of caregivers helping someone in dependency needs was passed the 14th May 2014.

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New Eurocarers Associate Member: Stiftung Pflege Zukunft gestalten GmbH

The defined goal of the “StiftungPflegeZukunftgestalten” is to involve young people into the arrangement of terms of our – and their! – future. How do they see their future in the scenario above? What do they expect for themselves? How can today’s young people unfold ideas of how to live together tomorrow? How to prepare oneself for shouldering the overwhelming responsibility ahead?



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New Eurocarers Observer Member: Verina Waights



Dr. Verina Waights is a Senior Lecturer in Professional HealthCare Education and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She has over 25 years experience in education and research and is the OU lead for the EU funded project DISCOVER, which aims to develop digital skills of carers’ and the older people they care for to enhance their wellbeing and social inclusion and a co-investigator on the ESRC-funded seminar series: ‘Older People and Technological Inclusion, exploring technological inclusion in relation to older people’s experiences of everyday life.

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The Brussels based association Aidants Proches holds the First study day dedicated to Young Carers: Support those who support!

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at Dupréel room
(Campus ULB – Bâtiment S, 1st floor, avenue Jeanne, 44, 1050 Brussels - Belgium)

Under the age of 18, these young people give regular assistance to a family member, a parent, a brother, a sister who is “dependent” as a result of an accident, an illness, a disability. These young people may be embarrassed to have a family like no other, with problems, with someone different that is not going well ... However, they should be proud of what they do.



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The European Care Foundation needs help to meet its objectives



The European Care Foundation, a Polish organisation with its headquarters in Lublin, has been helping the elderly and their carers for 9 years. Currently, answering the needs of the local community we have launched our activity in The Senior Support Centre. This initiative is quite widespread and its basis is the home of day care, providing a daily support for elderly people who are unable to exist on their own.

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Database of digital services for carers of the elderly launched

With an ageing population, the number of people in need of long-term care is increasing. As constant caring for someone is challenging, different services are developed to assist carers in fulfilling their activities. In this context, the JRC partnered with EUROCARERS to launch a new online database of digital services for carers of older people.



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Eurocarers launches InformCare - The EU information Hub on Informal Care

InformCare

Eurocarers is proud to announce the launch of the European web-platform for informal carers – InformCare - developed in the framework of the EU-funded Innovage project. InformCare provides informal carers from 27 EU member states with key information on their rights and entitlements as well as advice on how to best deliver and cope with their caregiving activities. Care professionals and employers from a selection of countries, are also able to access information on how to best support carers and meet their needs.

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Call for Papers - 20 Years of Family Carer Research in Ireland



Care Alliance Ireland was established in 1995 to act as an umbrella organisation for organisations who support family carers directly. In the course of those 20 years, there have been significant policy developments for Family Carers, most notably and recently with the publication of the National Carers Strategy in 2012. Primary research in this area is currently being undertaken in Ireland across a range of disciplines and third level Institutions.

The time is right to bring together all this research and share with a wide audience of interested parties. A review of historical research is also timely.

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