



Legislation, policy and service frameworks supporting adolescent young carers

European Parliament Informal Carers Interest Group

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Programme

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1. Welcome



2. Work package 2 - Main goal

Main goal: To analyse the development and implementation of legislation and policy addressing AYC's in six countries: Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, UK and Switzerland.

Specific aims: To examine what legal provisions and policy exist that provide protection for young carers;
To explore how such provisions are enacted in the 'real' world



3. Methodology

The methodology included:

1. Preliminary examination: different legislation / policy responses supporting AYC's (Internet search)
2. 25 interviews with experts
3. Case study analysis
4. Feedback and input from AYC's

4. Key legislative and policy findings

Main legislative findings: Comparison of different country responses

- Only UK:

- Legislation **specifically** recognising children's caring roles
- **Specific definition**



- Sweden - between the specific/non-specific divide



- Recognition of AYC's reliant upon '**non-specific legislation**' such as:

- **Education, health and social care** legislation.



- Policy & Service frameworks **specifically** targeting (adolescent) young carers reported in Switzerland, Italy, and in the UK.



4. Key legislative and policy findings

How does legislation and policy translate into practice?

- Translation into practice found to be **variable**
- **Translation into practice relates to:**
 - Existence of implementation guidelines and regulations
 - Collaboration between services
 - Culture of local authorities
 - Type of support offered by legislation
 - Sufficient financial support
- AYC's falling through the gaps

4. Key legislative and policy findings

How were changes in legislation and policy achieved?

- **Stakeholder involvement:**

- Ministries
- Family associations
- Private and state organisations
- Young people and carers

- **Key drivers:**

- Academics conducting research and partnerships with voluntary sector
- Key champions in Government
- Consultation with young people
- EU promotion of young people as target group (EU Youth Strategy)
- High workload of Social Workers / Analysis of other European legislation/policy

- The changes in legislation: associated with **changes in paradigms.**

4. Key legislative and policy findings

Involvement of (Adolescent) Young Carers

Enactment of legal provisions and policy frameworks:

- ✘** Some laws **not working well** in practice
- ✘** AYCs **not offered any kind of support / roles not considered** by health professionals
- ✘** **Lack of information** about their rights / support opportunities
- ✘** The **school** environment should be more supportive

4. Key legislative and policy findings

Involvement of (Adolescent) Young Carers

Future goals and hopes:

- Support for role of parents
- Participation of AYC/families in decision-making processes
- Importance of awareness raising
- National legislation or strategy **or** adapt existing legislation
- Definition of young carers needed
- Need for increased support, especially in schools
- Emotional support should be included

5. Future steps to progress

ACTION: AYC's recognised as important target group for policy makers

ACTION: Further data and awareness and recognition of AYC's is needed

ACTION: Definition of AYC's needed

ACTION: **Extend existing legislation and policy – to include AYC's**

ACTION: Prevention and early interventions is important

ACTION: More participation/inclusion of AYC's

ACTION: Different stakeholders should be involved

ACTION: "Spread the word"

6. Questions and discussion



Thank you very much
for your attention.

Stay in contact!

Further information

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