



Dear readers,

Last year, the unanimous endorsement of the EU Pillar of Social Rights by all EU member states brought a new - and long overdue - impetus to the idea of a social Europe committed towards better working and living conditions for all. The Pillar includes 20 key principles to deliver new and more effective rights for citizens in light of challenges such as an ageing society, globalisation and digitalisation. It is designed as a compass for a renewed process of convergence among Member States and is structured around three categories: Equal opportunities and access to the labour market, Fair working conditions and Social protection and inclusion. As such, it offers a revitalised environment for our work and the emergence of carer-friendly societies in Europe.

The principles that concern work-life balance for parents and people with caregiving responsibilities and access to affordable and good quality health and long-term care are of particular relevance for our message around a combination of support and emancipating policy measures to address carers' needs. The principles related that access to education, gender equality or equal opportunities – among others – are as important tools to make a difference in the daily life of carers across Europe. Yet, despite this hopeful development, a lot remains to be done at EU, national and regional level to ensure that the Pillar is properly implemented and not watered down or weakened in any way. More than ever, the work of the Eurocarers network fits into the framework offered by the Pillar and actively contributes to its enactment. This is extensively illustrated in our [Annual Report 2017](#) which was published a couple of weeks ago.

In this summer edition of our newsletter, you will find updated information about the European Semester, the EC proposal for a directive on work-life for parents and carers, new EU data about ageing, the sustainability of care systems, the role of informal carers and much more!

As always, we hope that this information will prove useful and we wish you a very good and relaxing summer break.

Stecy Yghemonos  
Executive Director

## Menu

### » EU Policy Developments

» Informal care in Europe - Exploring Formalisation, Availability and Quality

- » EP ENVI - Workshop on Sustainability of Health Systems
- » EP EMPL - Work-life balance for parents and carers
- » Council - Leave and flexible work for parents and carers: Council agrees general approach on the draft directive on work-life balance
- » European Network of Equality Bodies - Work-life balance
- » European Semester 2018 Spring Package
- » 2018 Ageing Report: Policy challenges for ageing societies
- » ECOFIN Council - Public finances: Conclusions on age-related spending
- » A Guide to the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU
- » New Policy Briefing by Population Europe on “Social Inequalities in Mortality - The Increasing Advantage of the Married”
- » WHO European Centre for Primary Health Care: annual report of activities 2017
- » Your Vision for Europe survey
- » Eurocarers' response to the European Commission's consultation on integration of long-term unemployed into the labour market
- » **Research in Action**
  - » DG CNECT - Workshop series: How to use European Structural and Investment Funds for health projects
  - » Support of ESI Funds to the implementation of the Country Specific Recommendations and to structural reforms in Member States
  - » AAL Market and Investment Report
- » **Events and Calls for proposals**
  - » DG EMPL - Second International Seminar on the Active Ageing Index (Sep 27-28)
  - » ICIC19 Call for Papers Until Friday, 31 August
- » **News from the network**
  - » 6th Scottish Carers Parliament, 24 October 2018 - Focus on young carers
  - » iCONNECT- A new Erasmus+ project for Greek Association of Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders
  - » Educating Informal Carers” – The new Erasmus+ KA1 project of EPIONI
  - » Family Carers Ireland: Online CareGuide
  - » Variations and Innovations in care and care work: critical perspectives
  - » Paid Carer's leave is now an option in Estonia
  - » Carers' efforts are costly when it comes to dementia
  - » MATUROLIFE: a participative approach to designing assistive technology
  - » ENhANCE meeting in Figueira da Foz – 2nd and 3rd of July 2018
  - » Eurocarers Young Carers Working Group Meeting 25-26 June 2018
  - » The First Conference on Informal Care in Slovenia
  - » Carers in financially vulnerable situations: paving the way to paid work

## EU Policy Developments

### Informal care in Europe - Exploring Formalisation, Availability and Quality

Informal care forms a cornerstone of all long-term care (LTC) systems in Europe and is often seen as a cost-effective way of preventing institutionalisation and enabling users to remain at home. Most recent LTC reform packages have included important components focused on informal carers.



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## EP ENVI - Workshop on Sustainability of Health Systems

Health systems contribute to preserving and restoring good health of the EU population. They also enable people to live independently through the provision of social care services. The health care sector also plays an important role in the overall economy: it accounts for 8% of the total European workforce and for 8.5% of GDP in the European Union.



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## EP EMPL - Work-life balance for parents and carers



On May 15, the EMPL Committee met for a consideration of amendments on Work-life balance for parents and carers. The rapporteur, David Casa (EPP, MT), explained that he received several hundreds of amendments, trying to find a balance between protecting the rights of parents and carers and not placing too much of a burden on SMEs.

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## Council - Leave and flexible work for parents and carers: Council agrees general approach on the draft directive on work-life balance

On 21 June 2018, the Council agreed its negotiating position (general approach) on the directive on work-life balance for

parents and carers. On the basis of this mandate, the Council Presidency will start negotiations with the European Parliament once the latter has adopted its position.



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## European Network of Equality Bodies - Work-life balance



The series of Equinet's 'In Focus Briefs' are short thematic papers, which highlight the work of Equinet and its members, as well as European developments on a given topic. This one focuses on the issue of work life balance, highlighting the work of equality bodies to support work life balance, what challenges they face and good practice examples. EU level developments on work life balance are also outlined.

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## European Semester 2018 Spring Package

European Semester 2018 Spring Package:  
Commission issues recommendations for Member States to achieve sustainable, inclusive and long-term growth



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## 2018 Ageing Report: Policy challenges for ageing societies

The 2018 Ageing Report shows that fiscal costs linked to pensions, health care and long-term care are expected to rise over the coming decades, as Europe's population continues to age significantly.



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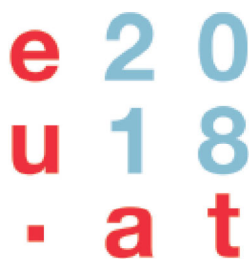
## ECOFIN Council - Public finances: Conclusions on age-related spending

The Council endorsed a report highlighting the challenges posed by ageing populations for the sustainability of public finances in Europe. Ministers' conclusions call for policy actions by the member states to resolve specific issues identified in the report.



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## A Guide to the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU



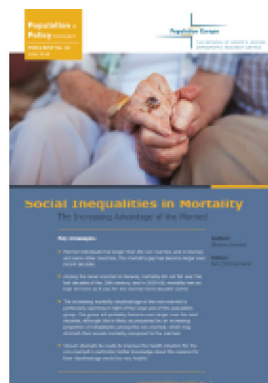
On 1 July 2018, Austria has assumed the 6-month Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the third time after 1998 and 2006.

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## New Policy Briefing by Population Europe on “Social Inequalities in Mortality - The Increasing Advantage of the Married”

Population Europe, the network of Europe's leading demographic research centres, just released a new policy briefing on Social

Inequalities in Mortality - The Increasing Advantage of the Married. Among its key messages, the briefing shows how married individuals live longer than the non-married, and in Norway and some other countries, this mortality gap has become larger over recent decades.



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## WHO European Centre for Primary Health Care: annual report of activities 2017

Based in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the WHO European Centre for Primary Health Care is the technical hub on health services delivery for the WHO European Region.



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## Your Vision for Europe survey

During the summer of 2018, Social Platform, of which Eurocarers is a member, organises a survey among national, regional and local civil society organisations working in the social field and who are members of the European networks forming Social Platform.

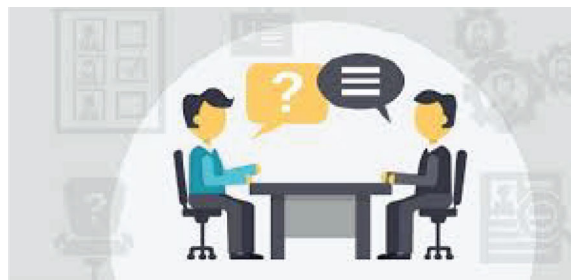


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## Eurocarers' response to the European Commission's consultation on integration of long-term unemployed into the labour market

Informal caring can be an obstacle to employment. Policies aimed at integrating

long-term unemployed into the labour market must take this reality into consideration. This is why Eurocarers responded to the consultation launched by the European Commission last May.



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## Research in Action

### DG CNECT - Workshop series: How to use European Structural and Investment Funds for health projects

A series of workshops on the development and implementation of ESI-funded projects in the area of health are being held across Europe.



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### Support of ESI Funds to the implementation of the Country Specific Recommendations and to structural reforms in Member States



As part of the European Semester (the framework for the coordination of economic policies across the EU), the European Commission presents every year each EU countries with a set of country-specific recommendations providing policy guidance on how to boost jobs and growth, while maintaining sound public finances.

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## AAL Market and Investment Report

On the 20th June, the AAL Association released the AAL Market and Investment Report. The work aims to provide a consolidated view of the existing market and investment information in Europe for the Active and Assisted Living domain.



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## Events and Calls for proposals

### DG EMPL - Second International Seminar on the Active Ageing Index (Sep 27-28)

The European Commission, UNECE, the University of the Basque Country, the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, with the support of the Government of Biscay (Spain), are organising a Second International Seminar on the Active Ageing Index (AAI) in Bilbao in September 2018.



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### ICIC19 Call for Papers Until Friday, 31 August



The 19th International Conference on Integrated Care will take place in San Sebastian, the Basque Region, from 1-3 April 2019. With the overarching theme 'Evaluating and implement models of integrated people-centred services', the conference is a partnership of OSAKIDETZA – Basque Health Service, Bioef, Ministry for Health of the Basque Government the City Council of Donostia-San Sebastian and the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa.

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## News from the network

### 6th Scottish Carers Parliament, 24 October 2018 - Focus on young carers

On 24 October 2018, the Scottish Government and Scotland's national carer organisations will hold the 6th Scottish Carers Parliament. The Carers Parliament is a forum providing carers, young carers, and carer representatives from across Scotland an opportunity to discuss and debate matters important to them.



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### iCONNECT- A new Erasmus+ project for Greek Association of Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders



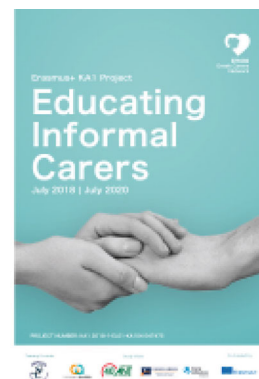
*Intergenerational CONnect between students and people with dEmentia through CreaTive education*

iCONNECT - Intergenerational CONtact between students and people with dEmentia through CreaTive education is a project under the umbrella of Erasmus+ KA2 - Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices And KA203 - Strategic Partnerships for higher education which has been started on September 1st 2017 and will finish in August 30th 2020.

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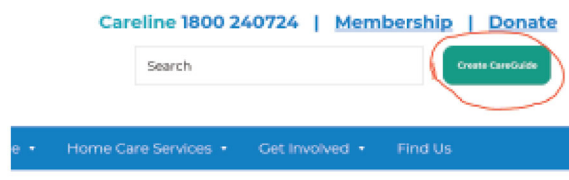
### Educating Informal Carers” – The new Erasmus+ KA1 project of EPIONI

We are pleased to announce that the EPIONI Erasmus+ KA1 project entitled “Educating Informal Carers” was approved by the Greek National Agency IKY. This project will offer training to EPIONI Greek Carers Network Board Members in effective management of EU funded projects.



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## Family Carers Ireland: Online CareGuide

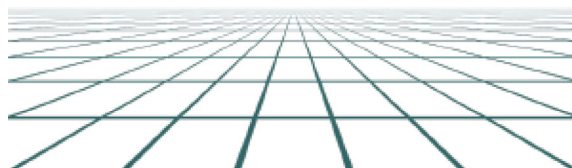


Family Carers Ireland recently developed an online informational tool to help carers, the CareGuide. It is simple to use and the completed guide, which is based on the details entered by the carer, provides a source of information on rights and entitlements, health and wellbeing, finances and more tailored to their specific caring situation

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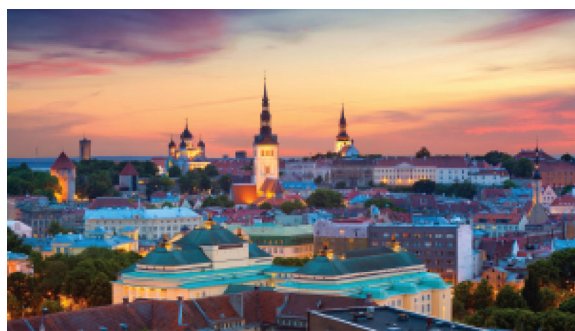
## Variations and Innovations in care and care work: critical perspectives

A timely themed issue about variations and innovations in care and care work has just been published by the International Journal of Care and Caring. This themed issue provides new knowledge about some of the variations and innovations that have been developed by two important, ongoing changes impacting care and care work today.



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## Paid Carer's leave is now an option in Estonia



Carers combining work and care in Estonia have now the right to apply for 5 days of paid care leave per year. Employment Contracts Act that came in force on 1st July 2018 gives legal basis for it.

The outtake from Employment Contracts Act describes the eligibility and compensation terms for the leave.

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## Carers' efforts are costly when it comes to dementia

On July 4, Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) released the report "Global estimates of informal care". It shows, among other things, that women

around the world contribute with over 58 billion hours of unpaid work per year, or 40 million full-year jobs, to take care of people with dementia. They also account for a disproportionate part, 71 percent, of informal care globally.



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## MATUROLIFE: a participative approach to designing assistive technology



Eurocarers is a partner in a new project entitled 'MATUROLIFE', funded under the Horizon 2020 programme, focusing on assistive technology for older people.

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## ENhANCE meeting in Figueira da Foz – 2nd and 3rd of July 2018



The partners of the ENhANCE project gathered on the 2nd and 3rd of July 2018, in Figueira da Foz, in Portugal to discuss the current role of community nurses in the European Union.

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## Eurocarers Young Carers Working Group Meeting 25-26 June 2018

On 25th and 26th June 2018, 10 adolescent young carers and young adult carers from 8 European States met in Brussels for the second face-to-face meeting of the Eurocarers Young Carers Working Group.



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## The First Conference on Informal Care in Slovenia



On the 8 May 2018 Anton Trstenjak Institute for Gerontology and Intergenerational relations, along with family carers and under the patronage of the Ministry of Health and Eurocarers, carried out the First Slovenian conference on informal care.

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## Carers in financially vulnerable situations: paving the way to paid work

Movisie, member of Eurocarers, is taking up the research work package in the 'Alliance Together it works!'. This alliance consists of a consortium of five NGO's: Foundation Clara Wichmann (legal research), Movisie (intervention research), the Dutch Women's Council (NVR), WO=MEN (advocacy) and WOMEN Inc. (lead and advocacy).



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