



Dear readers,

Welcome to this first edition of our newsletter in 2018. Last year was marked by the ambitious EC proposal for a Directive on Work-Life Balance for Parents and Carers, which has been at the core of our advocacy efforts. This important political process which could be a new positive milestone in the development of carer-friendly societies is far from over and the momentum now lies at national level since the European Parliament and the EPSCO Council are due to support or discard the proposal by the end of this year. This is the reason why we are working closely with our member organisations to contact individual MEPs and relevant authorities (national and regional parliaments, ministries, etc.) and convince them that supporting carers makes social and economic sense and that the proposed legislative package should therefore be supported.

This important agenda should not overshadow the launch of six promising new EU-funded projects, focusing on young carers, ICT-based solution for care and integrated care, which will help us maintain the existing momentum and further inform the development of evidence-based policies targeted at carers in Europe. To do so, the secretariat has been reinforced through the recruitment of three new experienced colleagues:

- » [Mariana Vicente](#) is our new Senior Project Officer. Mariana is a trained psychologist. She has worked as a Senior Health Officer at the Portuguese Ministry of Health for almost a decade and - more recently – was a Project Manager at the European AIDS Treatment Group. Mariana will lead our work on integrated care services and the implementation of the Social Pillar's objectives on the provision of equitable health, social and long-term care. Her input will build on two of our new projects, on ICT-based solutions for good quality care; which she will coordinate.
- » [Olivier Jacquemain](#) is our new Communication Officer (part-time). Olivier has wide-ranging experience and expertise in the fields of design, editing, campaigning, online communication and publications. He will be a great asset for the development of our future communication strategy and the coordination of our messaging at all levels. He is no stranger to our work since he has been one of the driving forces behind our publications in the last couple of years.
- » [Riika Lempiainen](#) is our new Administration and Finance Officer. A Finnish national, she holds a Master's Degree in history and economics. Her extensive experience in finance, human resources management and office administration will prove useful in the context of our new development phase.

Needless to say that our colleagues Claire Champeix and Francesca Centola are still fully committed to our work. As a Policy Officer, Claire will contribute to all of our advocacy activities with a specific focus on employment, social inclusion and poverty. Francesca is now a Project Officer and she will coordinate our Young Carers Working Group and lead our work in the two new projects aiming to improve the resilience, mental health and well-being of Adolescent Young Carers and mitigate the negative influence of informal care on their educational and professional prospects.

Find more information about these developments and more in the present newsletter and on our website. I would like to draw your particular attention to the 'News from the Network section', which includes an article presenting our proposed work programme for the year and a call for interest. As always, we hope that you will find this edition of the newsletter interesting, the next one will be circulated at the end of April 2018.

All the best,



Stecy Yghemonos - Executive Director

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## EU Policy Developments

**A more united, stronger and more democratic Union: Joint Declaration on the EU's legislative priorities for 2018-2019**

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker signed today the new Joint Declaration on the EU's legislative priorities for 2018-2019, alongside President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani



and holder of the rotating Council Presidency and Prime Minister of Estonia, Jüri Ratas.

The Declaration sets out 31 new legislative proposals tabled by the Commission which will be given priority treatment by the Parliament and Council for adoption or substantial progress by the time of the European Parliament elections in 2019.

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## Social Agenda 50 – The new social dimension

The latest edition of DG EMPL's Social Agenda magazine explains how the European Pillar of Social Rights, proclaimed by EU leaders on 17 November 2017, sets the stage for a more united and democratic EU and is strengthening the social dimension of EU economic governance.



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## In-depth analysis "How to further strengthen the European semester?"



A new report by the European Commission's DG on internal policies, commissioned by the European Parliament, investigates the changing nature of the Semester, the drivers of such changes and the possible way forward.

The report states that the emphasis of the European Semester should shift from economic policy coordination – intended as the process through which Member States commit to common rules and recommendations adopted by the Council of the European Union under the surveillance of the European Commission – to a stronger national ownership.

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## The European Economic and Social Committee welcomes the Commission's work-life balance package

New incentives aim to foster a fairer division of childcare and other caring duties between men and women, which should help reduce the persistent gender employment gap.

Measures proposed by the European Commission to help families achieve a better work-life balance and tackle the unequal distribution of care responsibilities between men and women represent a step in the right direction, said the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) at its plenary session in December 2017.



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## Bulgarian Presidency - Programme and agendas of the new Presidency



Please follow [the link](#) to access the **Programme** of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council, running from January 1 to June 30 2018.

The **Priorities** of the Bulgarian Presidency will be structured around 4 pillars:

- » The Future of Europe and the Young People – Economic Growth and Social Cohesion
- » European Perspective and Connectivity of the Western Balkans
- » Security and Stability in a Strong and United Europe
- » Digital Economy and Skills needed for the Future

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## Healthcare in the EU: Expert Panel on Health publishes 3 opinions to help guide policy makers

The independent Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health has adopted three Opinions related to access to healthcare, innovative payment models for high-cost innovative medicines and performance of primary care.



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## WHO/Europe - Cross-sectoral toolkit to guide Member States along SDG roadmap

A technical meeting successfully advanced the development of a toolkit for Member States that will guide activities towards achieving health, equity and



well-being for all at all ages within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2-day meeting took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 18–19 January 2018.

European Member States endorsed the Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Health 2020, the European policy for health and well-being at the 67th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in September 2017.

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## Research in Action

### Eurofound - European Quality of Life Survey 2016

Nearly 37,000 people in 33 European countries (28 EU Member States and 5 candidate countries) were interviewed in the last quarter of 2016 for the fourth wave of the European Quality of Life Survey. This overview report presents the findings for the EU Member States. It uses information from previous survey rounds, as well as other research, to look at trends in quality of life against a background of the changing social and economic profile of European societies. Ten years after the global economic crisis, it examines well-being and quality of life broadly, to include quality of society and public services.



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### Public consultation on next EU Research & Innovation programme



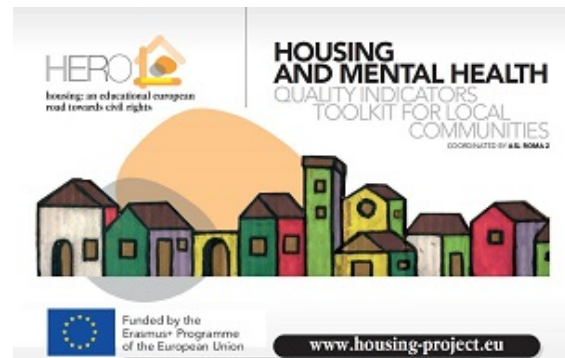
On 10 January 2018, the European Commission launched a series of public consultations clustered by key policy areas, in preparation for the EU's next long-term budget post-2020 (Multi-annual Financial Framework). Citizens, organisations and businesses can give their views online until 8 March 2018.

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### Launch of an online toolkit on Housing and Mental Health

All the members of HERO's partnership are very glad to introduce the eBook "Housing and Mental Health – Quality Indicators Toolkit for Local Communities". The

eBook is a contribution to the spreading of the teams' experiences and ideas on Housing for people with experiences of severe mental health issues.



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## Launch of the Me-We Project - Addressing the resilience of adolescent young carers



The **Me-We project** - abbreviation for **Psychosocial Support for Promoting Mental health and wellbeing among adolescent young carers in Europe** – has just been launched. The project - funded by the European Union under the **Horizon 2020 Programme**- brings together prominent universities, research institutes and civil society organisations, all members of the Eurocarers network.

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## Events and Calls for proposals

### 18th International Conference on Integrated Care - "Value for People and Populations: Investing in Integrated Care"

The International Foundation of Integrated Care (IFIC) in partnership with RIVM and Vilans presents the 18th International conference on Integrated Care "Value for People and Populations: Investing in Integrated Care" to take place in The NBC Congresscentrum, Utrecht, Netherlands 23 – 25 May 2018.

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### Conference of Partners of the European Innovation Partnership on Active & Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA)

The next Conference of Partners will take place on the 27-28 February in Brussels. The EC is planning for this to be a working 2-day meeting, open to EIP on AHA partners and dedicated to reviewing the action plans of the Action Groups and the Reference Sites Collaborative Network, and especially how these



plans are aligned with the European Commission policy activities, notably the "Transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market" Communication currently in preparation.

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## Call for proposals on social innovation and national reforms: Innovative work-life balance strategies to facilitate reconciliation of professional and caring responsibilities

This call for proposals aims to support governmental and non-governmental actors, and social partners in delivering on the rights and principles set out in the Pillar through social innovation and national policy reforms as regards reconciling work and private life.



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## 2018 Call for proposals of the Active and Assisted Living Programme now open



The Active and Assisted Living (AAL) Association has opened its 2018 Call for proposals: 'Smart Solutions for Ageing Well'. The new challenge-led call has room for more flexible, smaller innovation projects. You can watch the recordings of the AAL info day for more information.

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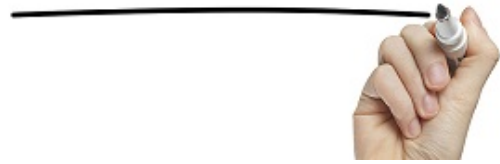
## News from the network

### Signature of new Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission and proposed programme of activities 2018

Following the submission of a proposal in September 2017, we are delighted to announce that the Eurocarers Secretariat recently renewed its partnership agreement with the European Commission under the EU programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) for the period 2018-2021. This will provide our network with a

stable structure for the coming years and, although we are still expecting the Commission's feedback about our proposed work programme 2018, we can already invite you to mark your diary and confirm your interest regarding the following activities (presented by chronological order):

## ACTION PLAN



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### Call for action - Urgent lobbying needed to ensure the adoption of the 'Work/life Balance' Directive by the European Parliament and Council



Ongoing EU negotiations regarding the Work-Life Balance (WLB) Directive have now entered a crucial phase, which requires resolute action from civil society organisations at national/regional level to ensure the swift and full adoption of the Directive without delay.

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### Eurocarers' contribution to the work of the ROSEnet consortium on reducing social exclusion in old-age

On the 20th February, Claire Champeix, Policy Officer, presented Eurocarers' messages and activities at a policy seminar organized by the network on Reducing Old-age Exclusion through collaborations in research and policy (ROSEnet), funded through the COST action programme. ROSEnet aims to generate synergies and collaborations in the fields of research and policy. Claire contributed to the event by taking part in a policy panel on 'Stakeholders' perspectives on old-age exclusion and policy' together with Norah Keating (IAGG Global Social Issues on Ageing), Patricia Conboy (HelpAge International) and Susan Reinhard (American Association of Retired Persons).



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### Eurocarers to support the work of the European Cancer Organisation in the field of integrated care

As a result of the attention generated by our joint White Paper on Cancer Carers (with the European Cancer Patients Coalition - ECPC) and the links established around the development of our future





**EUROPEAN  
CANCER  
ORGANISATION**

toolkit on cancer carers, Eurocarers has been invited to join the newly-established **Working Group on the integration of primary and secondary care in the cancer care continuum by the European Cancer Organisation (ECCO)**. The Group builds on ECCO's [position statement on integrated cancer care 'bringing primary care and secondary care together'](#) adopted in May 2017, following up on the European Cancer Congress back in January 2017 in which Eurocarers was already represented.

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## Germany: Reform of care education to tackle the overall shortage of care professionals

Last summer, the German Care Professions Reform Act (Pflegerberufereformgesetz) was passed and approved. The act is aimed at modernising care education, providing for better training conditions, strengthening the identity of care professions and thus raising the appeal of care professions in order to tackle the overall shortage of care professionals in Germany.



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## Germany: Creating a place for networking and strengthening of carers' voice in science



When it comes to living situations of carers, the dynamic and growing body of research has substantial practical implications. To strengthen the voice of carers in science, representation of interests and participation in research processes is of crucial importance. Against this background members and partners of the German carers advocacy wir pflegen established a research working group in autumn 2017.

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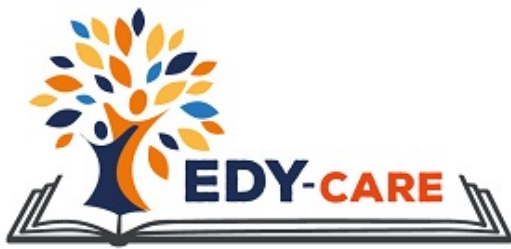
## The Netherlands: Carers Survey 2016

The Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP) carried out a survey in 2016 on informal care. 7,000 Dutch citizens (helpers and non-helpers) were surveyed. The survey demonstrated that 32% of the respondents help out of which 8,5% experience a severe burden. Has this evolved between 2014 and 2016?



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## Edy-Care Project – Call for good practices to promote young carers-friendly school environments



In the framework of the [Edy-Care project](#), we are launching a [call for good practices](#) regarding [educational strategies](#), [didactical approaches](#) and [organisational adjustments](#) that can support young carers in their educational career (by maintaining a regular frequency of classes, reaching learning goals, finalising formal education of high school, integrating with other students).

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## The gender dimension of informal care

On 20-21 February 2018, the European Institute for Gender Equality organised the annual consultation meeting with Civil Society organisations, aimed to strengthen synergies and cooperation in the field of gender equality.

The meeting brought together representatives of the [Social Platform](#), [European Women's Lobby](#), [MenEngage Network](#) and the European Economic and Social Committee.



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## Eurocarers participated in the Third EU Mental Health Compass Forum, Luxembourg, 8-9 February 2018



The third Annual EU Compass Forum on Mental Health and Well-being was held in Luxembourg on 8-9 February 2018. This event brought together Member States' representatives, NGO's, experts in mental health, and representatives from WHO and the Commission to share their experiences and knowledge in addressing mental health issues.

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