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## Dear readers

In an attempt to respond to the rising level of Euroscepticism and to pave the way for the future of the European Union after Brexit, President Juncker presented a White Paper on the Future of Europe on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. The paper presents five possible scenarios for how the Union could evolve by 2025, namely 1. Carrying on (i.e. status quo), 2. Nothing but the single market, 3. Those who want more do more (i.e. a two-tier EU), 4. Doing less more efficiently, and 5. Doing much more together. While scenario 1 would amount to a refusal to address the barriers that currently exist on the road to EU integration, scenarios 2-5 all imply significant changes for the EU as we know it – and not necessarily for the best. This is the reason why, civil society organisations (including Eurocarers) are actively working to ensure that Europe's shared values will be preserved and a strong social Europe that truly takes into consideration the voice of people – in particular those in vulnerable situations – will ultimately emerge from the process.

Against this concerning political backdrop, the activities developed by our network to contribute to an as ambitious as possible proposal for an EU Pillar of Social Rights and Work-life Balance Package, both of which will be released at the end of April, are of particular significance. The Pillar is indeed promising as it seeks to encourage member states to invest in care systems while the package may include supporting measures to carers in terms of leave and flexible working conditions. These two policy developments would therefore nicely respond to the emancipating and empowering strands of our message. Carers should be able to rely on accessible good quality (long-term) care services but their role should also be recognised and supported.

You will find information about these and other important developments in this edition of the newsletter and the Pillar and Package will form part of the agenda of our upcoming Interest Group meeting to be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> April in Brussels.

Needless to say that we will keep you posted about the next steps soon.

In the meantime, enjoy your read!

Best,

Stecy Yghemonos

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## EU Policy Developments

### EP Plenary- White Paper on the Future of Europe

On March 1, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, presented to the



## Women's economic empowerment

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality held an inter-parliamentary committee meeting dealing with the economic empowerment of women. The meeting took place on 08-09 March 2017.

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The Council held a policy debate (6265/17) on the European Semester 2017. Focusing on the implementation of the country-specific

recommendations, it discussed how to enhance labour market access and reduce divergences across the EU. Ministers highlighted that the employment and social situation in the EU is slowly improving. Towards the end of 2016, the EU registered the lowest unemployment rates since 2009. Similarly, youth and long-term unemployment rates are decreasing.



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## UNECE international conference "A sustainable society for all ages"

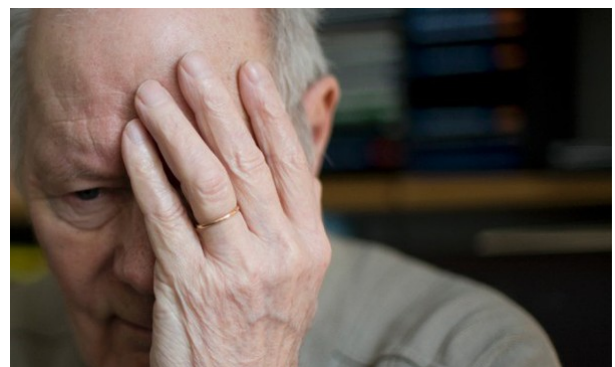


Portugal will host the next UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing - A sustainable society for all ages: Realizing the potential of living longer - in Lisbon (21st and 22nd of September). The aim is to convene the responsible ministers of the 56 Member States of UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) and relevant entities, such as the United Nations, the European Commission and the International Labour Organisation.

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## European Day for Victims: let's protect also the victims of elder abuse!

On the occasion of the European Day for Victims of Crime (on February 22), AGE Platform Europe published a position paper entitled 'Victims' rights: let's not forget the victims of elder abuse!' in order to call on EU countries and the European Commission to implement in a comprehensive and ambitious way the 2012 European Union Directive on Victims' Rights.



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## Creating age-friendly environments in Europe. A tool for local policy-makers and planners (2016)

This publication by the World Health Organization (WHO) provides a toolbox to guide local policy-makers and planners in developing, implementing and evaluating age-friendly policies and



interventions policies that support people to age actively and healthily and thus both to do the things that are important to them and to contribute to their communities. Based on lessons learned from existing age-friendly initiatives in Europe, this publication summarises key factors for establishing and sustaining successful initiatives within four phases of the policy process: engaging, planning, implementing and evaluating.

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## MED-TECH Round Table on Community Care

On 16th March, Eurocarers took part in a Round Table organised by MED-TECH Europe to explore, together with other civil society organisations active in the area of health, shared topics of interest within the theme of Community/Home/Social Care.

MED-TECH Europe is the European trade association representing the medical technology industries, from diagnosis to cure.



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## Social Platform commits itself to digital inclusion



"60 million European have never used the Internet, and 45% of Europeans don't have enough digital skills" (Digital Scoreboard 2016)". In the next three years, the European Platform of Social NGOs (Social Platform) will be working with members on digital inclusion, as part of its strategic action "Leaving no one behind – prioritizing people in vulnerable situations".

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## Research in Action

### DG SANTE- BLOCKS: tools and methodologies to assess integrated care in Europe

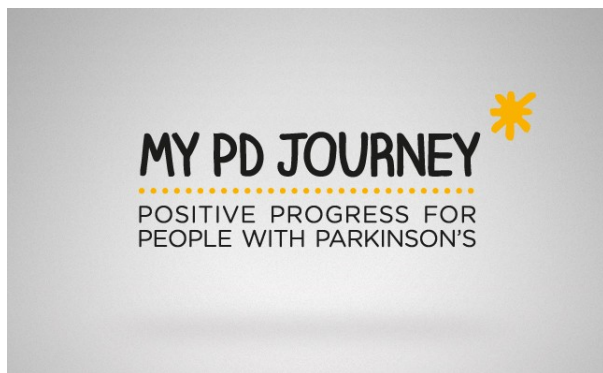


The expert group on Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA) was activated in the autumn of 2014. It was mandated to focus each year on a particular policy area and to identify tools and methodologies to support national policy makers in developing HSPA in that specific area.



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## Update on 'My Parkinson Disease (My PD) Journey'



'My Parkinson Disease (My PD) Journey' is a project of the European Parkinson Disease Association, EPDA)

The seventh meeting of the Steering Committee of the project 'MY PD Journey', in which Henk Bakkenrode represented Eurocarers, took place on 6th March 2017. Here are the main points discussed.

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## Would you be interested in voicing your opinion about clinical trials and make a mark on the future practice of clinical trial research?

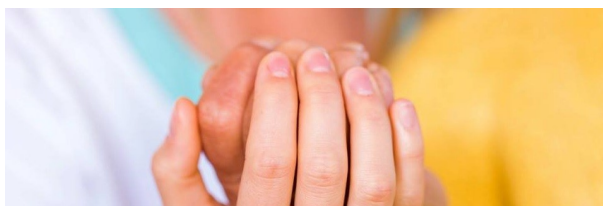
Despina Vasileiou is a researcher in Lancaster University, UK at the Mathematics and Statistics department. She presents an advertisement for a questionnaire purely for research purposes to Eurocarers. This questionnaire relates to the carers' opinion of clinical trials.



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## CARESS Erasmus + project contributes to the development of homecare in Europe

The development of quality homecare services is a key action to ensure the sustainability of Europe's social systems in a context of demographic ageing. Skilled homecare professionals can support older



persons with care needs to have dignified lives and can be of great help for informal carers.

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## Events and Calls for proposals

### Save the date: AAL Forum 2017, Coimbra, 2-4 October 2017

The AAL Forum is the place to be for the European community dealing with technology and active ageing. It brings together all the stakeholders in Active and Assisted Living domain, and this year will take place in Coimbra, in the Centro Region of Portugal. This 2017 event aims at bringing together all the stakeholders of the active assisted domain in Europe in order to investigate how to bring closer demand and offer.



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### News Active Citizenship Network - European Patients' Rights Day 2017



**XI European Patients' Rights Day**  
**10th May 2017, 15:00 – 19:00**  
 European Parliament, Brussels – room JAN 6Q2

*The European & national medicines regulatory systems: the challenges for an equitable, timely and suitable access to innovation*

Active Citizenship Network will celebrate the 11th European Patients' Rights Day with a multi-stakeholder conference, to be held on 10 May 2017 in Brussels.

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### Calls for application 2017 - Third Programme of the Union's action in the field of health (2014- 2020)

A call for applications "Supporting Member States in mainstreaming health promotion and disease prevention in health and educational settings" was just launched. The call is based on the Third Programme for the Union's action in the field of Health (2014-2020) and its 2017 Work Programme.

The objective of this call is to communicate the potential of health promotion and disease prevention and health determinants in the Member States and to increase the commitment of public authorities to this topic.



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## CHAFEA - Provision of training for first-line professionals and law enforcement officers working at local level with migrants and refugees, and training of trainers



Call for tenders N° Chafea/2016/Health/12

concerning the Provision of training for first-line health professionals and law enforcement officers working at local level with migrants and refugees, and training of trainers.

The purpose of the contract is to conduct a training programme for health professionals, social workers, law enforcement officers or professionals with equivalent functions in refugee and migrant centers...

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## The European Foundations' Initiative on Dementia (EFID) launches the European Awards: "Valuing the expertise of people living with dementia".

A group of foundations, composed of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Fondation Médéric Alzheimer, the King Baudouin Foundation and the Genio Trust launch the European Foundations' Initiative on Dementia (EFID) Awards "Valuing the expertise of people living with dementia" in order to reward initiatives that give people living with dementia a stronger voice and value and respect their autonomy and citizenship



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## International Carers Conference registrations open





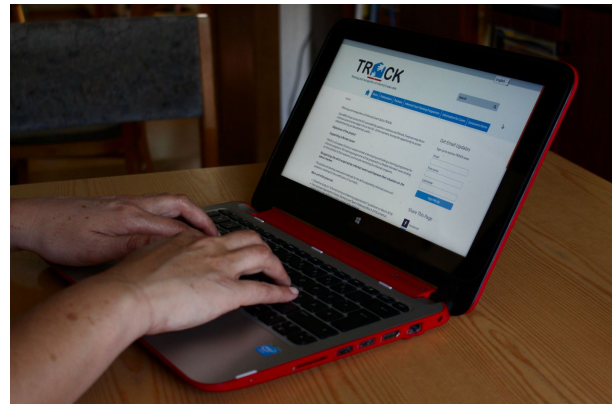
Carers Australia is pleased to announce that registrations for the 7th International Carers Conference being held from 4-6 October at the Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia, are now open.

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## The final conference of the project TRACK will be hosted by Eurocarers on the 21st June in Brussels. Save the date!

Since September 2015, Eurocarers is engaged in the project TRACK aiming to develop and test a blended training programme targeted at informal carers who care for someone suffering from dementia.

Eurocarers will host the final conference of the project on the 21st June in Brussels, concluding two years of intense cooperation. This event will take place on the day after Eurocarers' General Assembly, so as to facilitate the participation of Eurocarers' members.



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## News from the network

### 10th Panhellenic Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (PICAD) and 2nd Mediterranean Conference Neurodegenerative Diseases (MeCoND)

Alzheimer Hellas organised successfully the 10th Panhellenic Conference on Alzheimer's disease and Related Disorders and the 2nd Mediterranean Conference on Neurodegenerative Diseases, which took place during February in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The combination of these two Conferences has achieved: a) to host the most renowned scientists in the field, who presented and shared the results of the latest scientific research, pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical trials and the application of new technologies,



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### Creation of a new carers' organisation in Greece



In 2016, a group of carers from Greece had the opportunity to follow Eurocarers' work. One point of discussion was that there was no carers' organisation in Greece.

After a fruitful period of dialogue at local level, starting towards the end of 2016, 22 carers created the "Greek Carers Network EPIONI" ....

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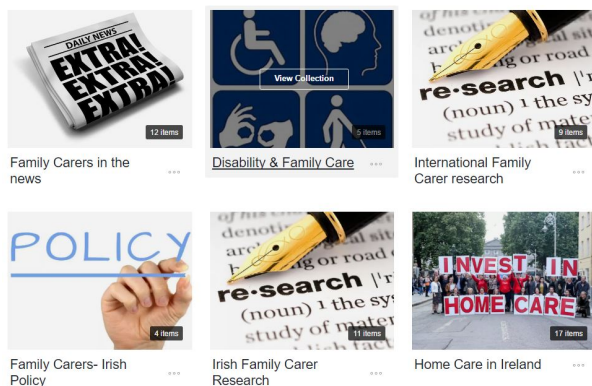
## Care Alliance Ireland launch resource booklet and website on the topic of Family Carer training

Care Alliance Ireland are happy to announce the launch of two complementary resources for professionals who provide training to Family Carers. The first, a website which can be found at [www.familycarertraining.eu](http://www.familycarertraining.eu), contains international research and good practice examples on multiple topics of interest to those who are providing, or plan to provide, training to Family Carers. This includes information on developing outcome based training, creating online supports and training courses and other pertinent topics.



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## Care Alliance Ireland Research & Policy Round Up Launched



Care Alliance Ireland is delighted to announce the launch of the Care Alliance Ireland Research & Policy Roundup. This regularly updated online magazine aims to collate major news, policy and research matters related to Family Caring into one easily accessible place online. At launch, there are 6 sections: Family Carers in the news; Disability and Family Carers; Irish Family Carer research; Irish Family Carer policy; International Family Carer research; Home Care in Ireland.

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## Presentation of a new member from Spain: Asociación Cuidadores Familiares

We are a small NGO active within the Valencian Community in Spain. For the past 10 years, we have

been supporting family caregivers by providing services and resources that improve their working conditions, so that caring is rewarding and carers are willing to continue caring. The motto of our association is "Family Caregivers, so you can continue to care".



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## Eurocarers is official partner of the campaign for the World Thrombosis Day



We have joined the World Thrombosis Day Movement and we are contributing to raise awareness about thrombosis risks.

World Thrombosis Day is 13 October 2017, but thrombosis is a condition that causes 1 in 4 people to die around the world every year. Support is critical to improving the understanding of thrombosis and to spread the word.

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