

Promoting the needs and added value of informal carers across the EU

Time for an ambitious EU initiative on Care & Caring

Meeting of the EP Interest Group on Informal Carers

23 February 2021

Carers in all policies



Assess carers' needs

Identify carers

Define carers

10 Steps to support and empower informal carers

Number of carers and existing support measures across the EU



	OFFICIAL NUMBER		UNOFFICIAL NUMBER		1 - Legal recognition of carers	2 - Identification	3 - Needs Assessment	SUPPORT TO CARE			9 - SOCIAL INCLUSION /PROTECTION		
	Number of carers	% of population with caring responsibilities	Number of carers	% of population with caring responsibilities				5 - Access to information	7 - Respite care	8 - Training	Financial compensation (direct or indirect)	Carers' leave	Pension credits
AT	290.000	3,5%	457.000	5,2%	✓	---	---	---	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BE	870.000	9,4%	1.965.250	17,5%	✓	✓	✗	---	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BG	N/A	N/A	700.000	10%	✗	✗	✗	✗	---	---	---	---	✗
CH	600.000	7,0%	1.047.168	10,8%	---	✗	✗	---	---	---	---	✓	✗
CY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗	✗	✗	---	✓	---	✗	✗	✗
CZ	281.000	2,7%	1.263.600	12%	---	---	✗	---	✗	---	✓	✓	✗
DE	5.000.000	2%	2.500.000	3%	✓	---	---	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DK	20.000	0,4%	100.000	7,7%	✗	---	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EE	N/A	N/A	100.000	7,7%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	---	---	✗
EL	273.000	2,5%	3.665.200	34,0%	✗	✗	✗	---	✗	---	✗	---	✗
ES	7.232.310	15,3%	9.541.080	20,4%	---	---	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	---
FI	N/A	N/A	700.000	12,6%	✓	---	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
FR	8.300.000	12,4%	11.000.000	19,6%	✓	---	---	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HR	N/A	N/A	459.030	13%	✗	✗	✗	✗	---	✗	---	---	---
HU	N/A	N/A	450.000	7%	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	---	✓	✗
IE	195.263	4,1%	391.260	8%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IT	4.035.000	7,0%	16.119.600	26,5%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	---	---
LV	N/A	N/A	125.497	13,8%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	---	---	✗
LT	N/A	N/A	236.9	8,2%	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	---	✗
LU	4.752	1,0%	39.396	20,1%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MT	N/A	N/A	35.000	14,0%	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	---	---	✓
NL	4.400.000	25,9%	N/A	N/A	---	✓	---	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
NO	N/A	N/A	800.000	15,4%	✗	✗	✗	---	---	✗	✓	---	---
PL	1.214.000	3,2%	4.318.800	18,3%	✗	---	✗	✗	✗	✗	---	✓	✗
PT	1.100.000	12,5%	N/A	N/A	✓	✗	✗	---	✓	---	✓	✓	✗
RO	N/A	N/A	1.580.800	8%	✗	✗	✗	✗	---	---	---	---	✗
SE	1.300.000	13,7%	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	---	✓	✓	✗
SI	N/A	N/A	215.000	10,4%	✗	✗	✗	---	✗	---	---	---	✗
SK	58.000	1,1%	N/A	N/A	✗	---	✗	✗	---	✗	---	✓	✗
UK	6.500.000	10,4%	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	---	✓

Revised on Oct., 29 2020

EU Pillar of Social Rights

Chapter 1: Equal opportunities & access to the labour market

1. Education, training and lifelong learning
2. Gender equality
3. Equal opportunities
4. Active support to employment

Chapter 2: Fair working conditions

5. Secure & adaptable employment
6. Wages
7. Information about employment conditions & protection in case of dismissal
8. Social dialogue & involvement of workers
9. Work-life balance
10. Healthy, safe & well-adapted work environment & data protection

Chapter 3 : Social protection and inclusion

11. Childcare and support to children
12. Social protection
13. Unemployment benefits
14. Minimum income
15. Old age income and pensions
16. Health care
17. Inclusion of people with disabilities
18. Long-term care
19. Housing and assistance for the homeless
20. Access to essential services

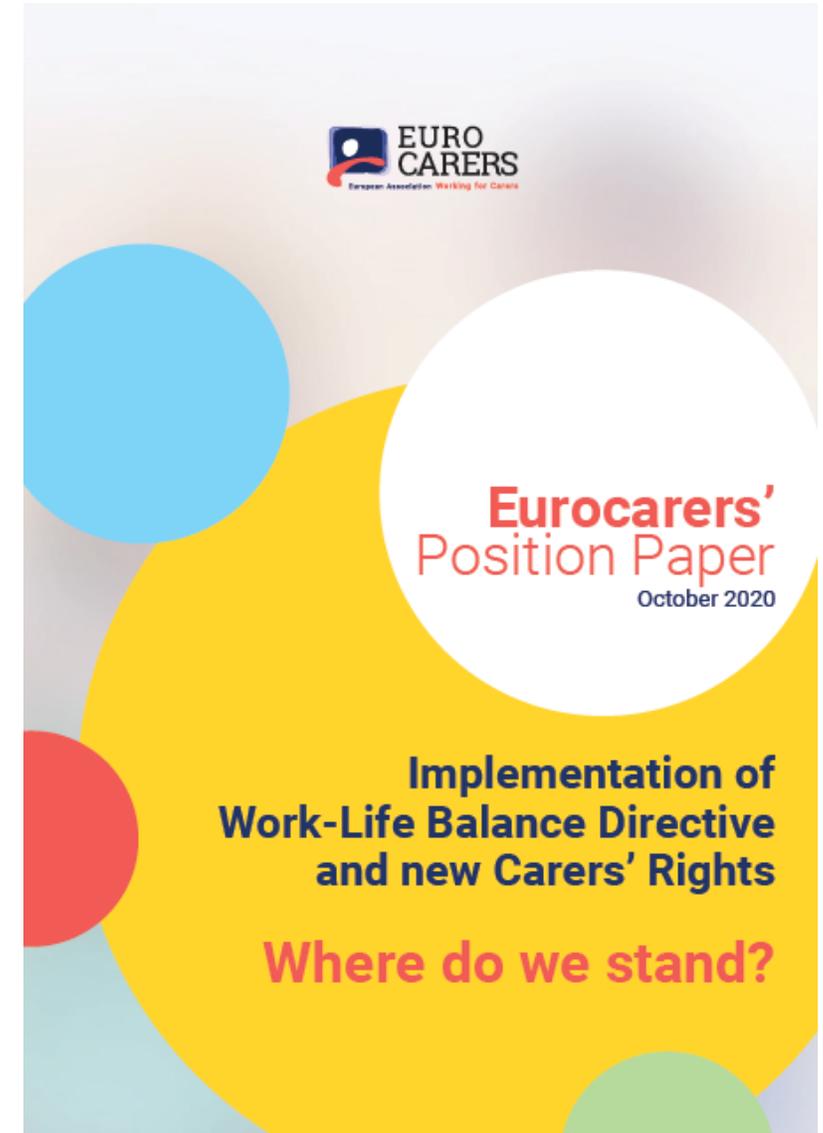


WLB Directive and new Carers' rights

Benefits and entitlements too often provided **at a minimal level**

- Narrow-focused notion of 'informal care' (i.e. based on type of condition, severity, etc.),
- Strict eligibility criteria
- Reliant on employers' approval or discretion

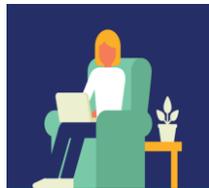
An unfinished journey !



Enhancing the rights of carers through the Social Pillar

1. APPROACH YOUNG CARERS AS A GROUP AT RISK.
2. EXTEND CARERS' RIGHTS TO TRAINING AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING
3. A CARER'S LEAVE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE
4. ADEQUATE INCOME FOR CARERS
5. PENSIONS CREDITS FOR CARERS
6. AN AMBITIOUS EU INITIATIVE ON LONG-TERM CARE

→ **AN EU STRATEGY TO SUPPORT AND EMPOWER INFORMAL CARERS**



Approach Young Carers as a group at risk

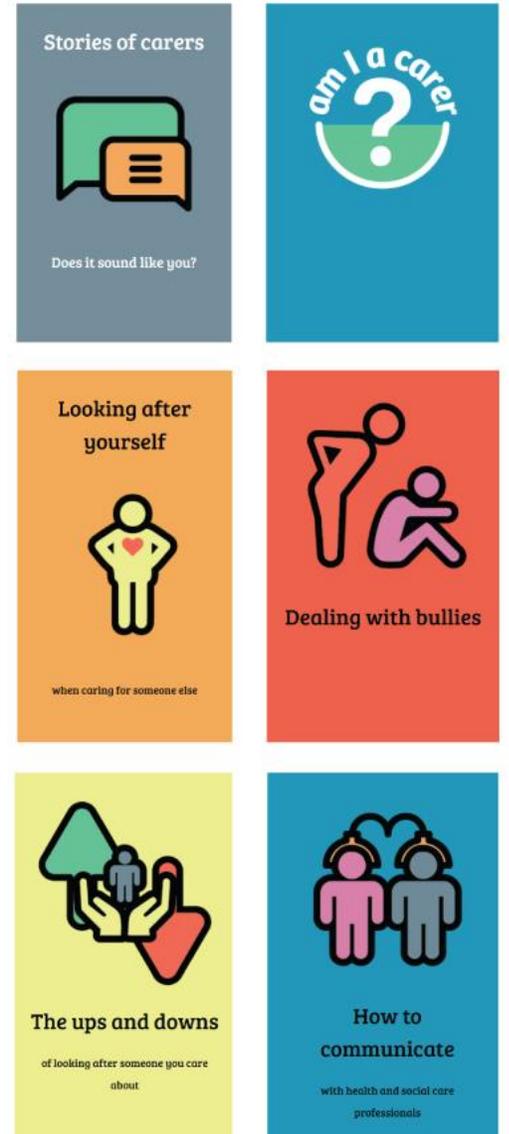
- Obstacles faced by young carers are well documented: education, mental health, social inclusion...
- Young carers have been identified as being at higher risk of becoming NEET

AND YET...

- Young carers remain largely invisible in policy developments
- Lack of awareness of the challenges faced by young carers among key stakeholders

THE EU SHOULD LEAD THE WAY

- Addressing the situation of young carers via the new strategy on the rights of the child and the child guarantee
- Building on promising practices and projects



Pension credits for carers

- There is evidence that the risk of poverty among women increases with age, especially in retirement, with benefits 40% lower than those of men. Caring breaks contribute to gender pension gaps.
- There is a consensus on the need **to give informal carers adequate pension rights** (High-level Group of Experts on Pensions, 2019, Council Conclusions 2016, Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025..)

AND YET...

- No comparative data
- Pension provisions for carers remain uneven and insufficient across the EU.

ACTION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IS NEEDED NOW

- Following the examples of Austria, Ireland, and France
- Considering the value and the costs of caring

