

# The European Care Strategy

Introduction to the Policy Tour de Table

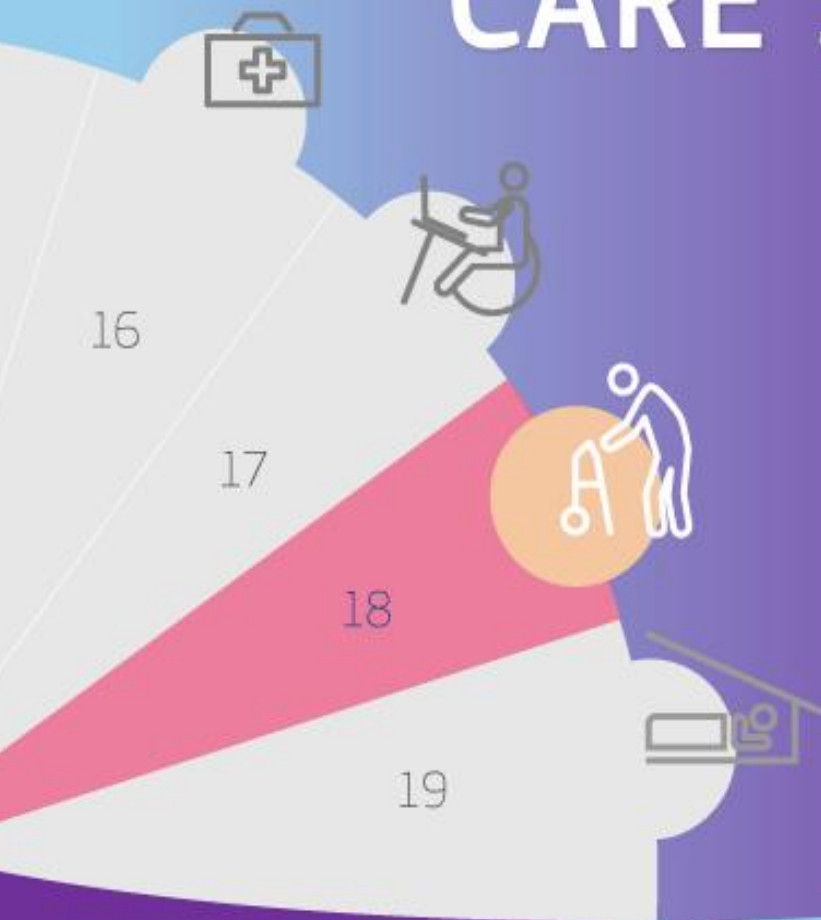
Claire Champeix

Eurocarers AGM, Berlin, May 2023



# EUROPEAN CARE STRATEGY

European Pillar  
of Social Rights  
**Principle 18:**  
**Long-term care**



# The trilemma of care

**LTC NEEDS COVERAGE**

**Very strong State intervention through services**  
(DK, NL, SE)

**Strong State intervention through cash benefits**  
(AT, CZ, DE, IT)

**Strong State intervention through services**  
(BE, FR, FI)

**Mild State intervention through cash benefits**  
(ES, LT, PL, SI, SK)

**Mild State intervention through services**  
(IE, LU, MT)

**Limited state intervention**  
(BG, CY, EE, EL, HR, HU, LV, PT, RO)

**RELIANCE ON INFORMAL CARERS**

**PUBLIC EXPENDITURE CONTAINMENT**

# The 'Care Package'

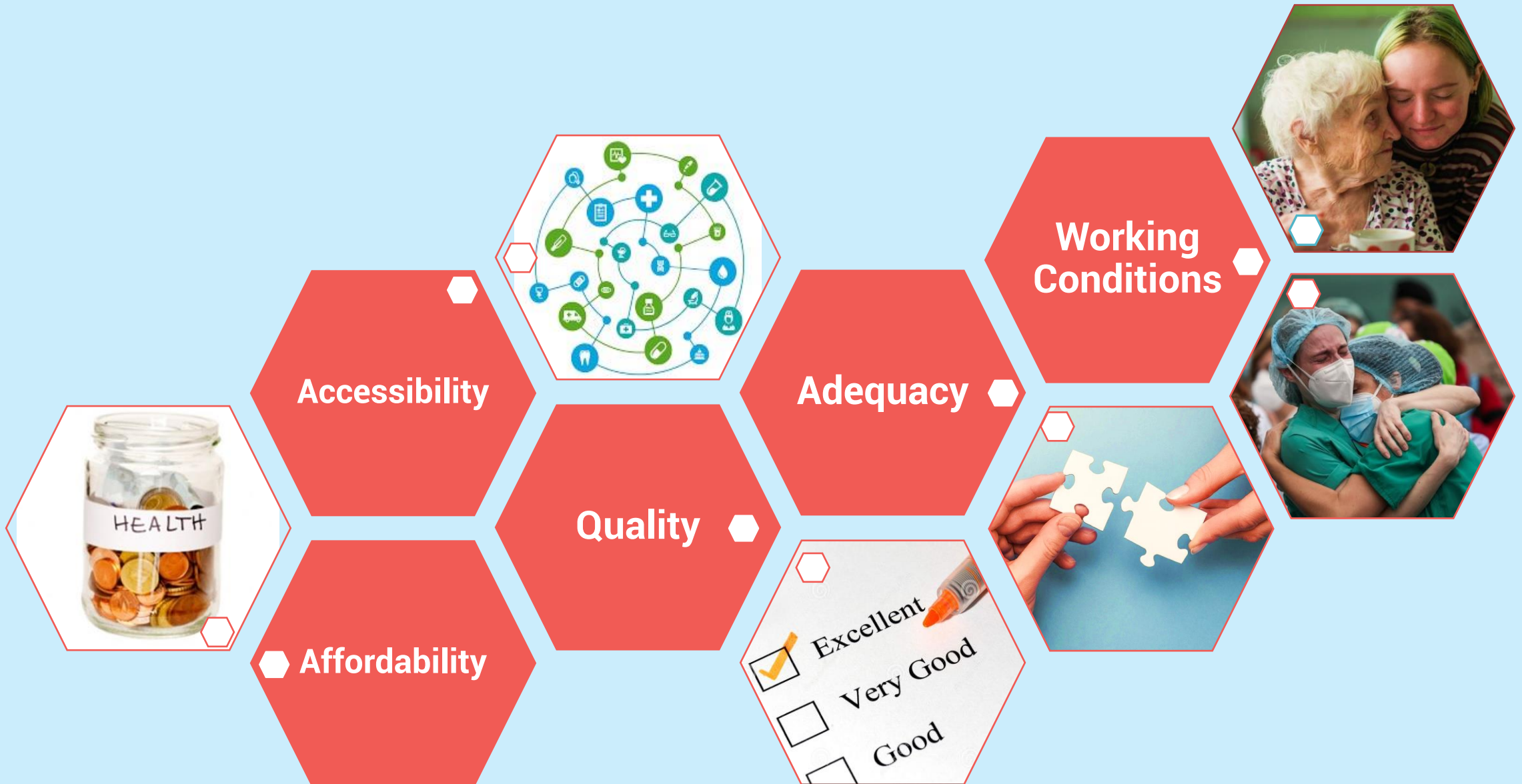
June 2021: 'Joint' long-term care report (European Commission/ Social Protection Committee\*)

September 2022:

- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Care Strategy - COM(2022) 440 final
- Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care (proposed by the EC in Sept. 2022, adopted in Nov. 2022 by the Council)
- Council Recommendation on the revision of the Barcelona targets on early childhood education and care

\* *Advisory policy committee to the Ministers in the Employment and Social Affairs Council (EPSCO).*

# Issues addressed by the strategy



# What can the Strategy bring to informal carers?

**Framework for policy reforms aimed at improving LTC services and working conditions in the LTC sector**

+

**Identification and support of informal carers via:**

- better cooperation with care professionals
- counselling, healthcare, psychological support and respite care
- adequate financial support and social protection

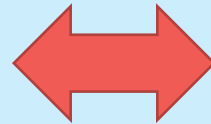




# Will the implementation meet the challenges?

## Instruments put in place \*

- Common indicators on LTC
- EU Funds: Cohesions funds, Recovery and Resilience Fund, Research and innovation programmes (Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, EaSI, CERV)
- Recommendations on Governance
- Quality Principles



## Limitations

- Lack of data
- Competing priorities and budgetary constraints
- Weakened commitment re. coordination and reporting at national level + fragmentation of governance and delivery at nat. level
- Lack reference to Human Rights



# Next steps

- National coordinators appointed in (almost) all EU countries
- MS are invited to consult stakeholders, come up with plans to improve their national policy and inform the EC by June 2024 – bilateral discussions with EC
- Mutual learning meetings (MS + experts)
  - Quality and Social Protection (2023)
  - Workforce and informal carers (2024)
- Work on indicators (Indicator Sub Group of the Social Protection Committee)
- 2027 Commission Implementation report to the Council

The responsibility of implementing the Strategy is in the hands of Member States



# What can contribute to the success of the Strategy ?

- Close scrutiny of the reforms planned by Member States
- Active promotion of a renewed governance: transparency, participation, coordination, at all levels (for innovative approaches see [InCare project](#))
- EU Semester and Fiscal rules to be adapted to support reforms and investment towards fair and sustainable LTC provision, focused on people's needs, while contributing to digital and green transition and gender equality
- EU initiatives for skills to support the care sector (cf. European Carers Day 2023)



# Thank you for your attention!

Claire Champeix, Eurocarers

[cc@eurocarers.org](mailto:cc@eurocarers.org)

[www.eurocarers.org](http://www.eurocarers.org)

