



European  
Commission

# EU POLICY ON LONG-TERM CARE



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# Why do we need action on long-term care?



Almost **half of people aged 65+** with LTC needs have an unmet need

The number of people in need of LTC **will increase by 23%** until 2050 (up to **38.1 million**)



Staff shortages: **one in six** job advertisements concerns LTC occupations

High job creation potential: more than **1.6 million** LTC workers needed by 2050 to keep LTC coverage at the current level



**52 million** Europeans provide **informal LTC**

Care responsibilities keep **7.7 million** women out of the labour market

# Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality LTC



## Affordability

adequate, timely and comprehensive social protection



## Availability

more LTC services & options, home care & community-based care, territorial gaps, accessibility



## Quality

LTC quality framework, based on quality principles and quality assurance



## Carers

Fair working conditions and wages, addressing skills needs and workforce shortages, identification and support for informal carers

## Monitoring and governance

- National LTC Coordinators
- Mutual learning and technical support
- Indicators based monitoring

- **Implementation measures by June 2024**

- **Commission implementation report to the Council by 2027**

# LTC Council Recommendation- informal carers

- It is recommended that Member States establish clear procedures to identify informal carers and support them in their caregiving activities by:
  - (a) facilitating their cooperation with long-term care workers;
  - (b) supporting their access to the necessary training, including on occupational health and safety, counselling, healthcare, psychological support and respite care, as well as supporting them in balancing work and care responsibilities;
  - (c) providing them with access to social protection and/or to adequate financial support, while making sure that such support measures do not deter labour market participation.

# European Care Strategy – implementation

## Services

- **LTC recommendation**
- Technical assistance (TSI)
- International cooperation (WHO, OECD)
- Innovation (Horizon Europe)

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## Carers

- Working conditions
- Skills
- Social dialogue
- Attracting more workforce
- Support informal carers
- Work-life balance

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## Funding

- Funding for care is investment, not cost
- Ensure adequate investment in care
- Promote public and private investment in care
- EU funds for care (RRF, ESF+, EaSI, ERDF, Horizon and Digital Europe)

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## Evidence and monitoring

- Improving data, task force on LTC statistics
- Projections on demand for care
- Policy monitoring (European Semester)

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# Going forward...

## Policy dialogue with MS/ LTC coordinators

**15 June 2024:**  
submission of  
implementation  
reports by MS

June 2024:  
Coordinators meeting  
(online)

29 October 2024 (tbc):  
Conference taking stock  
of the LTC RECC and  
Care Strategy

2025: policy dialogue  
and mutual learning with  
MS

## Policy dialogue with MS/ SPC

15 June 2024: SPC  
thematic reporting  
deadline

Mid-July 2024: first  
SPC draft report

September 2024:  
second SPC draft  
report

**17-18 September  
2024: adoption by  
SPC**

# Other policy areas

- **EU work-life balance directive (2019) and CERV programme**
- **Disability and Inclusion**, upcoming deliverables:
  - Guidance recommending to Member States improvements on independent living and inclusion in the community
  - Specific framework for Social Services of Excellence for persons with disabilities
  - Roll out the deliverables of the Disability Employment Package

# What's next ? Ideas for future work

- Work does not finish in June, need to continue monitoring the situation of national level and report → *expertise of this network much needed*
- Toolkit supporting informal carers (spring 2025) → *help with dissemination*
- Events and discussions to keep momentum on care with the new EC and EP → *NB: 29 October 2024 (tbc): Conference taking stock of the LTC RECC and Care Strategy*
- Continue research and discussions on: impact of labour shortages in the care sector on informal carers, cooperation between care workers and informal carers, support to informal carers (leaves, flexible conditions, training, counselling, respite care, social protection), digitalisation support to informal carers(?)



# Thank you



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