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Newsletter Autumn 2021

European Commission announces new European Care Strategy

In her State of the Union speech, Commission President Von der Leyen announced a European care strategy and plans to come new policies to support men and women in finding the best care and the best life balance for them. The aim is to support carers and those receiving care.

In June, a group of MEPS of the European People's Party (EPP) called for a European care strategy, both to support carers in their work and to ensure that those receiving care or needing support are best provided for. In its [paper](#), the EPP points out that care policies and ageing policies should be well aligned, and take into account demographic developments, while harnessing the value of the silver economy.

The European Care Strategy is expected for 2022.

EAN holds first "live" General Assembly in Vienna since COVID



On 30 October EAN members got together in Vienna for the first "live" General Assembly's meeting since the COVID outbreak. The meetings were hosted by the Austrian members.

On Friday 1 October the General Assembly was followed by a special session about the EAN training certificates and curriculum.

Presentations of working group reports

At the last General Assembly meetings of September, EAN presented the fruit of its two working groups: the reports Promoting well-nutrition in elderly care settings and Taboos and prejudices in long-term care.

The Nutrition working group has developed guidelines for tackling malnutrition in elderly care settings. The guidelines are based on EAN's vision on long-term care in 2030 and highlight the social, cultural, financial and medical and clinical aspects of nutritional care.

The Working group on taboos and prejudices has developed the results of a members' query about most pressing prejudices and taboos that exist in elderly care. The report is meant to open and to feed the ongoing discussions and changes on people's view on older people, their needs and living environments.

Both reports can be found at the [EAN website](#).

EAN's new certification scheme

During the General Assembly meetings, EAN presented its new training curriculum. This program is based on a so called „teaching units table“. This table divide full time education and alternative forms of education into lines according to the modules and sets minimum and maximum teaching units. There are four versions of these tables: Basic (200 teaching units of 45 min), Advanced (520 teaching units) and Professional (800 teaching units).

The teaching program is based on the principle of flexibility. The modular education form reflects the current state in the social service area in different countries and their specific topics. Every level contains a range of minimum and maximum number of teaching units so that every VET provider can adjust the full program to the demand, needs and expectations. Module 13 is blank and offers tailored solutions for country specific topics (i.e., legislation, quality management, structure of long-term care, etc.).

More information about the new EAN certificates and training program can be found via [this link](#).

EAN welcomes new members

The Board and the general Assembly of EAN have welcomed two new members at its last meetings. TIME4 from France is a consultancy group active in the elderly care sector. As a second Romanian member, EAN welcomed Federatia Furnizorilor de Ingrijire pe Termen Lung, which is the national federation of long-term care providers.

With the two new members EAN has grown steadily to 45 member, growing from 41 members in 2019 and 43 members in 2020.

EAN joins forces in Social Services Europe



EAN has become a member of Social Services Europe (SSE). SSE aims to strengthen the profile and position of social services, and promote the role of not-for-profit social service providers in Europe.

The network seeks to ensure that the specificity of not-for-profit social and healthcare service providers be recognised and that economic, social and legal conditions exist for quality social and healthcare services. SSE also wish to redress the lack of qualitative and quantitative data on social dialogue in the social service sector from an employers' perspective and promote a culture of effective social dialogue and industrial relations.

The membership of SEE includes Caritas Europa, the European Council for non-profit organisations (CEDAG), European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), the European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR), Eurodiaconia, European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) and the Red Cross EU Office

More information about Social Services Europe can be found [here](#).

New Eurofound report on how to tackle labour shortages in the EU

The new Eurofound report explores various approaches to identifying labour shortages and maps national policy debates around the issue. It documents public and social partner interventions to tackle labour shortages, such as measures fostering geographical or occupational mobility, addressing skills shortages and underinvestment in skills, improving working and employment conditions, and providing better matching procedures.

The report focuses on three main measures to tackle the issue of labour shortages:

- Attracting labour by enhancing the attractiveness of certain sectors, improving pay, working conditions and training opportunities.
- Overcome labour market barriers faced by groups such as persons with disabilities, women, migrants and other persons in disadvantaged situations.
- Enhance the retention of workers by upskilling and reskilling, addressing skills mismatches and preventing exit from the labour market.

Eurofound also highlights the key role of social partners in the design and implementation of measures to tackle labour shortages, as they have the best understanding of emerging trends and labour demands in their sector.

The unmet demand for labour increased in the EU overall between 2013 and 2019, with some significant differences between Member States. The pandemic has also aggravated long-standing shortages in in many sectors such as in health and care services, as well as in long-term care (LTC).

In 2020, all European countries reported an insufficient supply of LTC workers. The restrictions from the pandemic have impacted countries like Austria, Germany and the Netherlands where provision of home-based long-term care often relies on workers from Eastern Europe and other countries. The long-term care sector already suffers from labour shortages due to the lack of attractiveness of the sector, with relatively low levels of pay, challenging working conditions and often poor career prospects.

The full report can be found [here](#).

Final report on behavioural analysis on negative effects of digital illiteracy on Elderly People



The report was developed within the framework of the project "ICT4Elders – Promoting ICT knowledge for the elderly people", which is implemented in the Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, and Luxembourg, with the financial support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

The purpose is to present the findings of the primary and secondary research activities performed in the partner countries under the scope of Intellectual Output 1 (IO1) of the project, entitled "Behavioural Analysis on the negative effects of Information Technology illiteracy on Elderly People". The Final Report aims to consolidate the main findings and conclusions of the national activities and provide recommendations for the development of training and guidance schemes in the next IOs of the project.

You can find the report [here](#).

Eurocarers launches InCARE survey on LTC

Eurocarers, that brings together carers' organisations as well as relevant universities and research institutes, has launched a survey to collect attitudes, experiences, and expectations on long-term care. The aim of the survey is to understand how people view care for older people with support needs and how they assess long-term care systems.

Findings from this study will be used to raise awareness of the challenges faced by older people with care needs and their families, to advocate for policies that can support them, and to help design better support systems for older people, their families and communities.

The questionnaire is a tool of the InCARE project. The InCARE project aims to promote participatory, innovative and integrated approaches to long-term care (LTC) policy and service development. The InCARE consortium is composed of national public authorities and social partners that will implement the action in Austria, North Macedonia and Spain, and international technical-support partners with extensive experience in LTC service design, research, policy analysis, and advocacy.

InCARE builds on the expertise accumulated by international knowledge centers while empowering local stakeholders to define, implement and scale-up activities aimed at shaping national LTC policies and service delivery through a socially innovative approach to decision-making processes and multi-level governance development.

To access the questionnaire, you can click [here](#).

Upcoming conferences and meetings

October 2021

- **24-27 Oct**
Leading Age Annual meeting (Atlanta, US)
- **27-29 Oct**
EAN & LARES European Congress (Virtual)

September 2022

- **28-30 Sept**
Care 4.0 - Change in competence, organised by EAN's Austrian member LeBenswelt Heim (Vienna, AT)

April 2022

- **11-13 Apr**
XVI LARES-EAN International conference - Workforce in long-term care in Europe (Alicante, ES)

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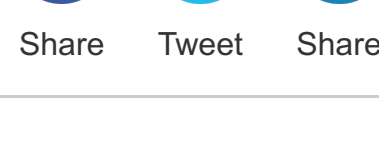
The European Ageing Network (EAN) is the new association of the European Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (EAHSA) and the international umbrella organisation representing national associations for directors and providers of long-term care services in Europe. The European Ageing Network groups more than 10.000 care providers, is present in 25 European countries, and is servicing millions of older people in Europe.

EAN is registered in Luxembourg, has its Secretariat in Prague and a branch office in Brussels. For more information, or for a membership application, contact info@ean.care.

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