



# EUROPEAN AGEING NETWORK

## Newsletter Summer 2022

### European care strategy is a good first step



Last week, the European Commission published its European Care Strategy. A document that was long awaited and that has been linked with huge expectations since it is the first strategic document dealing solely with care in the European Union.

The European Care Strategy was announced exactly one year ago, by Commission President Von der Leyen in her State-of-the-Union speech. Although a little bit by surprise then, it was more than welcome. Now, we finally have a truly European strategy for care.

I think that we as the European Ageing Network should welcome the direction of the strategy. The strategy tackles many important topics, issues and challenges of our sector. I'm particularly happy that the European Care Strategy focuses not only on service quality to guarantee a high quality of life for the service users, but also on investments in and financing of social services, on workforce issues and social dialogue as well as on policies and measures to strengthen the resilience of social services.

Other positive notes, especially for our own sector of elderly care providers, are the inclusive approach of the Strategy towards both the public as well as the private sector on the one hand and the recognition of the need for residential care for those older people that are in need of extra support and that can't live any longer independently in the community.

I see the European Care Strategy as a good first step that should and must be accompanied with follow-up actions, activities, national action plans and expert dialogue. I think we as EAN are a perfect platform to contribute to that. I'm looking forward to our discussions and hearing your visions on the future care systems in Europe in our next General assembly in Vienna.

Jiří Horecký,  
EAN President

#### Mixed feelings about new strategy

In response to the introduction of the European Care Strategy, Social Services Europe, represented by EAN President Jiří Horecký, EASPD, AGE Platform Europe, EuroChild, EDF, EPSU, COFACE Families Europe and the Social Employers organised an online webinar to discuss the new EU Care Strategy. Katarina Ivanković, Director for Social Affairs of the European Commission and two expert members of the European Parliament Milan Brglez and Sirpa Pietikäinen, co-rapporteurs of the EP-report Towards a Common European Action on care provided their visions.

Reactions varied from "promising" to "disappointing" as the EU care strategy is seen as on the one hand as a start of more EU guidance in the care sectors, but on the other hand, that the success of the strategy still depends on the way Member States will act and the willingness to invest.

The recorded seminar can be viewed [here](#).

#### Stakeholders ready for partnership

The partners grouped in Social Services Europe (SSE) have offered their help and expertise in realising the new European Care Strategy. It is clear that the new strategy heavily depends on the engagement of Member States. Through their national members, the European associations could be a linking pin between the European and the national level.

The partnership could focus on three elements of the new Care Strategy. SSE members could be helpful in providing concrete help to define and meet the goals of the strategy. Secondly, the European associations can provide feedback on not only policy proposals stemming out of the strategy, but also on follow-up actions on both a European as well as national level.

And finally the partnership could contribute to the making and realisation of concrete action plans based on their experiences and knowledge of the sectors.

### Commission's Care Strategy for caregivers and care receivers relies on Member States' actions

The European Commission has presented its [European Care Strategy](#) to ensure quality, affordable and accessible care services across the European Union and improve the situation for both care receivers and the people caring for them, professionally or informally. The Strategy is accompanied by two Recommendations for Member States [on the revision of the Barcelona targets on early childhood education and care](#), and [on access to affordable high-quality long-term care](#).

The European Care Strategy should be an answer to several questions and issues. In the EU, almost half of people aged 65 or over with long-term care needs have an unmet need, while the number of people in need of LTC will increase by 23% until 2050 (reaching 38.1 million). On the other hand, all Member States face staff shortages: one in six job advertisements concerns long-term care occupations and more than 1.6 million long-term care workers will be needed by 2050 to keep long-term care coverage at the current level. And approximately 52 million Europeans provide informal LTC, where care responsibilities keep 7.7 million women out of the labour market.

The new European Care Strategy therefore focuses on four areas. A first aim is to improve care services as such by tackling issues like availability quality affordability and accessibility.

A second focus is the improvement of working conditions in the care sector by assessing support for social dialogue, reviewing the application of EU law on working conditions in LTC, investments in skills and training and in reviewing legal migration and admission conditions and rights of non-EU LTC workers.

A better balance between work and care responsibilities should address the issues women and informal care encounter in their participation in care provision. And lastly, the Commission calls on Member States to ensure adequate and sustainable financing of care systems, including by using existing EU funding to improve equal access to high-quality long-term care and ensure equal access early childhood education and care services.

The Commission's proposals for Council Recommendations will be discussed by Member States with a view to adoption by the Council, expected by the end of 2022 under Czech EU Presidency.

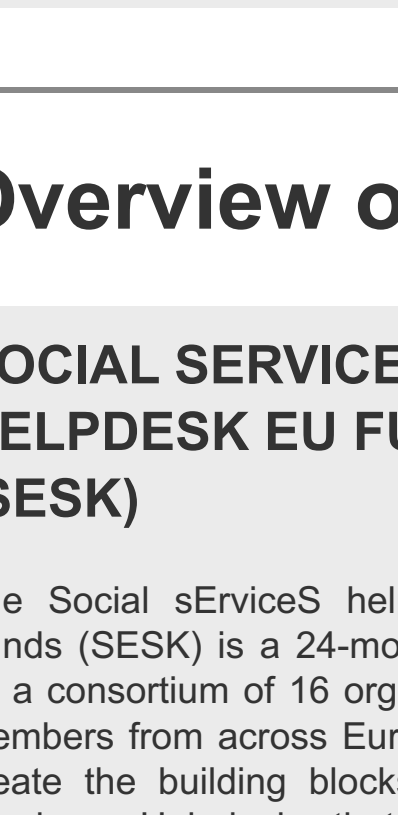
#### Proposal for a Council recommendation on the revision of the Barcelona targets

The recommendation on the revision of the Barcelona targets should encourage Member States to increase participation in early childhood education and care to facilitate women's labour market participation and enhance the social and cognitive development of children, in particular for those in vulnerable situations or from disadvantaged backgrounds.

#### Proposal for a Council recommendation on affordable high-quality long-term care

The recommendation on the access to affordable aims to improve access to affordable high-quality long-term care to all people who need it. It concerns all people in need of long-term care and formal and informal carers. It is applicable to long-term care provided across all care settings and is focused on the adequacy of social protection systems, availability and quality.

### EAN and Austrian member Lebenswelt Heim ready for CARE 4.0 congress



**Lebenswelt Heim and the European Ageing Network are finalising preparations for the 17th Austrian Congress for Managers in Work with the Elderly - CARE 4.0 Change in Competence, which takes place on 28-30 September in Vienna.**

The aim of the congress is to strengthen the cooperation in the field of care for the elderly between the countries and to focus on challenges of the future of care for the elderly in Europe.

The focus of the congress is on networking and the cooperation of all available services, in order to be able to ensure integrated care concepts in the future.

This requires far-reaching competences. For in the coming decades it will be necessary to handle the challenges of demographic change as well as to meet the expectations of service users and future employees.

The keynotes in the main conference hall will alternate with the main topics of our four NetLabs in the side halls. There will be simultaneous translation in several languages. English as standard - other languages will depend on the number and origin of the congress participants. Only English will be offered as translation language in the NetLabs.

Relevant information about the congress (program, venue, registrations) can be found [here](#).

### EAN welcomes members at the General assembly on 30 September in Vienna

EAN is organising its General Assembly on Friday 30 September 2022 in Vienna, after the CARE 4.0 congress.

The meetings will start on Tuesday 27 September with a meeting of the Global Ageing Network (GAN). On the next day, 28 September, the EAN Executive board will meet in the morning, followed by a Come together and a GAN and EAN Boards dinner. ON 29 September, after the conference CARE 4.0, a gala evening is planned. On Friday 30 September, the agenda foresees the EAN General assembly in the afternoon.

#### New working group Digital elderly care

EAN will start a new working group focusing on ICT and digitalisation in elderly care. A first meeting is planned along the EAN meetings in Vienna.

Digitalisation and ICT play an important role in current and future elderly care. The working group will focus on the opportunities of the European Health Data Space (EHDS), best practices by EAN members and prepare for the first EAN Digital Summit, to be organised in April 2023 in Malta.

#### Malnutrition working group runs survey

The Working group Nutritional care in elderly care settings is following-up its report with a more detailed study of nutritional care in France, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands.

For this study, the EAN members in the mentioned countries have received a link to the digital questionnaire in their own language. The questionnaire focuses on issues like screening planning, economics, decision making and best practices.

### Overview of EAN EU-funded projects

#### SOCIAL SERVICES HELPDESK EU FUNDS (SESK)

The Social sEerviceS helpdesK on EU Funds (SESK) is a 24-month project led by a consortium of 16 organisations with members from across Europe. It aims to create the building blocks for a Social Services Helpdesk that will provide support for social services in accessing and using EU funds and help Managing Authorities use EU funds to finance quality interventions in the field of social services. ESN is responsible for providing a quality framework to ensure delivery of high quality outputs and for engaging public and Managing Authorities, as they are key in designing social services and managing EU funds.

Co-funded by the European Social Fund+ (ESF)  
Social Priorities Lines and Specific Competencies Lines (SocPL)

#### TOWARDS USER-CENTERED FUNDING MODELS FOR LTC

The goal of UNIC is to help public authorities to implement user-centred funding models. The project is also aimed at helping service users in long term care and support (LTCs) to move to these funding models, as well as their service providers. User-centred funding models can include Personal Budgets. A Personal budget is an amount of money which is provided to a person and the person can decide how to use it to cover their support needs. UNIC develops tools to help service users, service providers and public authorities to implement a user-centred funding model in long-term care and support.

The UNIC project have received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020).

#### ICT4Elders

Promoting ICT knowledge for the elderly people. The project is going to establish a strong partnership in European level in order to ameliorate the digital skills of elderly people and to eliminate the social inclusion of them given that they do not know how to use Internet.

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

#### PROCARE

The Professional Caregivers Burnout Prevention Initiative (PROCARE) Project is aiming at the training of managers of long-term care units, so they will be able to act as Mentors and support their caregiving staff in their efforts to prevent and manage occupational burnout.

Professional Caregivers Burnout Prevention Initiative

More information about the EAN projects can be found [here](#).

### Dutch, Czech and Finnish EAN delegations compare quality and social dialogue in long-term care



**A joint project of APSS CR (CZ), ActiZ NL and HALI (FIN) finds standards of social services in Czech Republic, Finland and the Netherlands are very high, but that approaches in the given countries are different.**

Central questions in the project are the functioning of long-term care systems, the functioning of social dialogue and collective bargaining and how staffing in social services looks like.

The Czech Republic is characterised by a high efficiency when comparing the quality of care and the funds allocated to the care sector. The Netherlands has a shortage of workforce, while having the highest proportion of volunteers in social services in the entire EU. In the Netherlands, volunteering is a natural part of life of all social classes in general. Finland must deal with a significant increase in the numbers of private care providers who "fight" for employees, it is therefore necessary

to focus on all aspects of the working environment. At the same time, the HALI has a unique and very close relationship with trade unions and collective bargaining in Finland is at a very high level.

The collaboration among the partner associations, APSS CR, ActiZ and HALI, was successful and will continue. Each organisation will make an electronic version of the collection accessible to its members, which will facilitate the transfer of good practices among social service providers. The organisations will also use its usual communication channels, including educational events, seminars, conferences, congresses and other events, to spread this collection.

The findings are summarised in the Collection of good practices of social dialogue and staffing in social services, available [here](#).

### International Federation on Ageing presents Adult Vaccination Advocacy Toolkit

The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) is inviting stakeholders to use its Adult Vaccination Advocacy Toolkit (AVAT). The toolkit responds to an urgent call from stakeholder and advocacy groups. It is designed to help build the capacity and capability to influence and shape adult vaccination policy at local, national, and global levels through an evidence-to-action model of engagement across sectors and disciplines.

The simplification of the vaccine pathways, expansion of the pool of vaccine administrators, effective targeted adult vaccination campaigns, and an environment that strives for vaccination equity are key policy drivers ready for change.

The International Federation on Ageing is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) whose members are government, NGOs, academia, industry, and individuals in nearly 80 countries. IFA stands to drive the agenda for the world's population ageing. IFA has a general consultative status at the United Nations. The International Federation on Ageing is a non-State actor in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO).

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

### Upcoming conferences and meetings

#### September 2022

- **28-30 Sept**  
Care 4.0 - Change in competence, organised by EAN's Austrian member Lebenswelt Heim (Vienna, AT)
- **30 Sept**  
EAN General Assembly, 14h Room 2,31 Foyer D (Vienna, AT)

#### October 2022

- **13-14 Oct**  
EASPD International Conference on "Quality of Life & Quality of Support: from words to action" (Malta)
- **25 Oct**  
FESE online workshop *How can social services employers use the EU Care Strategy at national level?*

### Partners of the European Ageing Network



### HARTMANN



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### European Ageing Network (EAN)

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](mailto:info@ean.care).

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