

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

Time for a comprehensive EU Carer's Strategy

Vision for Long-Term Care in Europe

Brussels, 21st November 2019

The Eurocarers Network



European network of carers' organisations and relevant research & development organisations

68 member organisations in 26 countries

Who are the (informal) carers?

A carer is any person who provides care - usually unpaid - to someone with a chronic illness, a disability or any other long-lasting care needs, outside a professional or formal framework.

The Situation of carers in Europe



The Personal is Political

According to research:

- Informal carers are **largest providers of health and social care support**
- Make up about **10-25% of the total EU population**
- **Women** provide 2/3 of care mainly as daughters (in law) and spouses/partners.
- Usually **between 45 and 75 years**

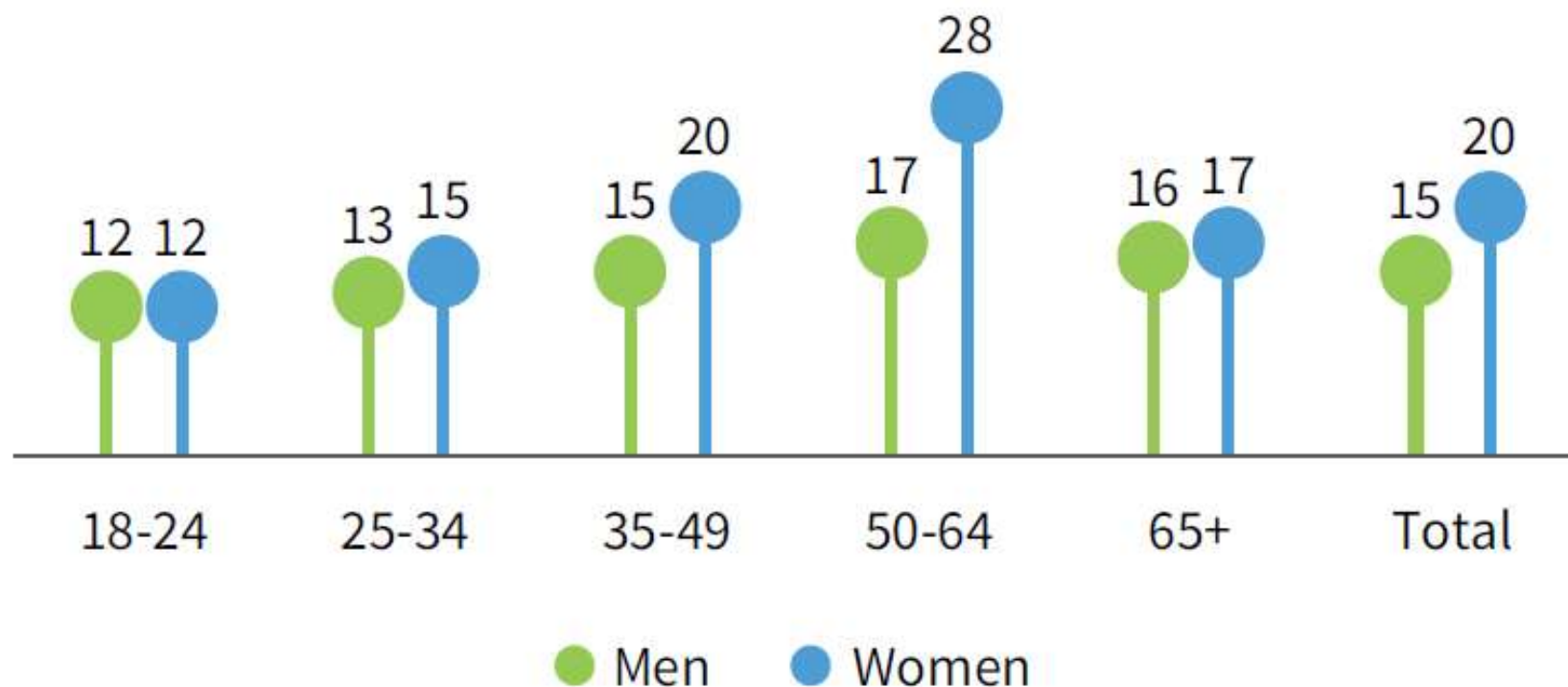
The “economic” value of informal care

Estimates of the value of unpaid informal care in EU Member States between 50 and 90 % of the overall costs of “formal” LTC provision

Budgetary impact of progressive shift from informal to formal care by 2070 would mean an increase by 130% in share of GDP devoted to LTC on average for the EU

→ No universal long-term care without informal carers !

Caring for disabled/infirm relative or friend



Proportion of men and women in different age groups providing care (at least once a week) – EQLS 2016

Regular carers of people with a disability or infirmity, among people of working age (18–64 years), by country (%)

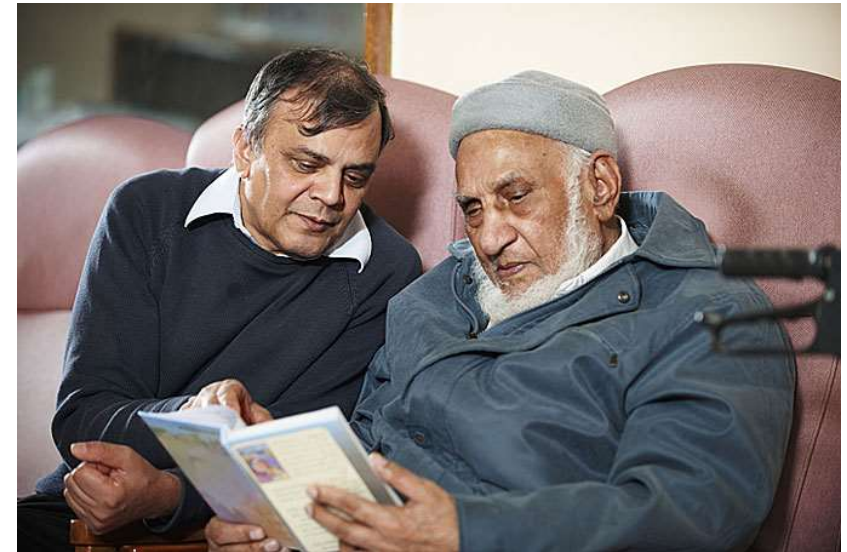
	Non-carers	Working carers	Carers not in employment
Austria	95	3	2
Belgium	81	11	8
Bulgaria	92	3	5
Croatia	87	7	6
Cyprus	89	5	6
Czech Republic	91	4	5
Denmark	93	5	2
Estonia	88	7	5
Finland	90	7	3
France	74	18	8
Germany	94	4	2
Greece	90	3	6
Hungary	92	4	3
Ireland	86	6	7

Italy	90	6	5
Latvia	78	15	7
Lithuania	86	10	5
Luxembourg	85	11	3
Malta	86	5	9
Netherlands	91	6	3
Poland	89	5	6
Portugal	93	4	3
Romania	84	10	6
Slovakia	91	5	3
Slovenia	87	8	5
Spain	88	7	6
Sweden	96	4	1
United Kingdom	86	9	5
EU28	88	7	5

Impact of caring

Clear correlation between caring and:

- Work-life/care balance
- Social exclusion and poverty
- Health and well-being



"As a carer, you have no social life whatsoever. I have been an unpaid carer for 20 years. I do not feel part of society at all. I feel a complete outsider"

Social and economic situation of regular carers of working age (18–64)

	Non-carers	Working carers	Other carers
In fair or bad health	22	27	41
Having difficulties making ends meet	38	44	54
In lowest income quartile	25	26	45
Feel lonely more than half of the time (in previous two weeks)	10	14	17
Feel the value of what they do is not recognised by others	19	26	28
Social Exclusion Index	2.1	2.2	2.4
Life satisfaction	7.2	7.1	6.5

Regular carers' refers to those providing care to someone with a disability or infirmity several days a week or every day - Eurofound 2018

What do carers want?



Financial support: income based on a minimum wage

Employment: flexible working, paid and/or unpaid leave

Pension credits for care time

Regular breaks from caring

Training

Caregiving is not the source of my stress and exhaustion, the constant battle for services is!

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
5. Social dialogue & involvement of workers
6. Work-life balance
7. 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



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EC Directive on WLB for parents and Carers

WHAT WILL THE NEW DIRECTIVE IMPROVE?

	CURRENT EU LAW	IMPACT OF THE NEW DIRECTIVE
Paternity Leave 	No minimum standards for paternity leave at EU level.	<p>Working fathers will be able to take at least 10 working days of paternity leave around the time of birth of the child.</p> <p>Paternity leave will be compensated at least at the level of sick pay.</p>
Parental Leave 	<p>At least 4 months per parent, out of which 1 month is non-transferable between parents.</p> <p>No minimum rules on allowance/payment.</p>	<p>At least 4 months per parent, out of which 2 months are non-transferable between parents. Parents can request to take the leave in flexible forms (full-time, part-time or in a piecemeal way).</p> <p>The 2 non-transferable months of parental leave will be compensated at a level set by Member States.</p>
Carers' Leave 	No minimum standards for carers at EU level (except "force majeure" allowing to take short time off for imperative and unexpected family reasons).	All workers will have the right to 5 working days of carers' leave per year.
Flexible Working Arrangements 	<p>Right to request reduced and flexible working hours upon return from parental leave.</p> <p>Right to request part-time work for all workers.</p>	<p>All working parents with children up to at least 8 years old and all carers will have the right to request the following flexible working arrangements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reduced working hours 2. flexible working hours 3. flexibility on the place of work

The rationale for an EU-wide Strategy on Carers



Thank you

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