



# EUROPEAN CARE STRATEGY

## Webinar on Stakeholders' Initial Reactions

*9 September 2022*



#EUCareStrategy

Employment,  
Social Affairs  
and Inclusion

#EUCareStrategy

“

*We will come forward with a new  
European Care Strategy to support men  
and women in finding the best care and  
the best life balance for them*

*State of the Union 2021*

”

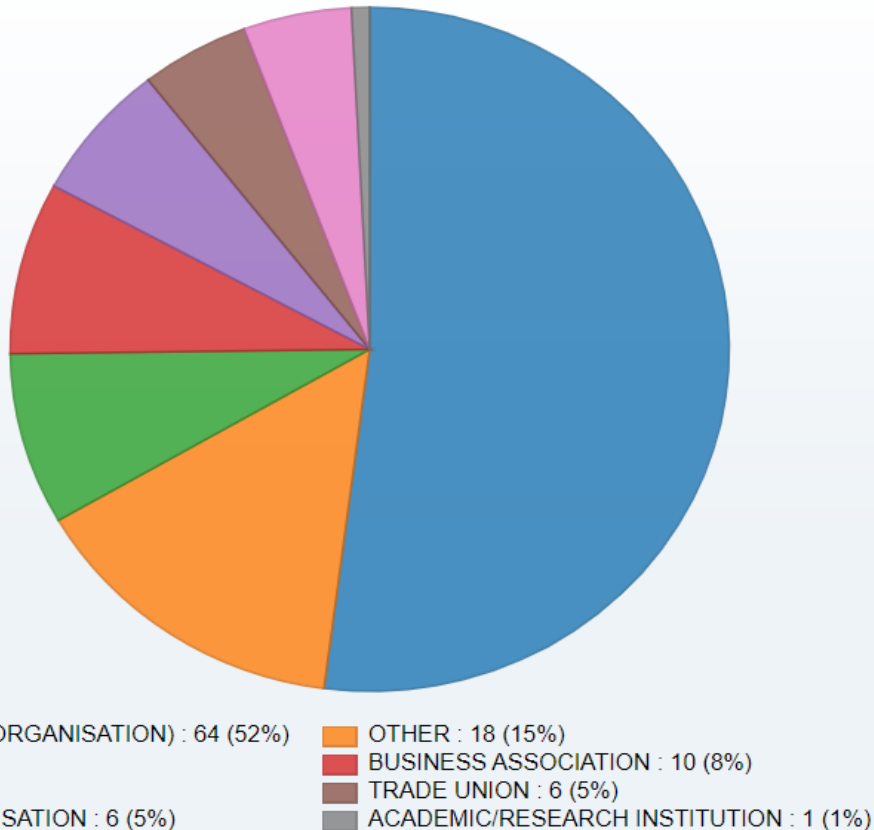
**Ursula von der Leyen**  
President of the European Commission



European  
Commission

# Preparatory work

## Call for evidence



## Targeted consultations and opinions

- ✓ High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming
- ✓ Social Protection Committee and Employment Committee
- ✓ Strategic dialogue with civil society organisations
- ✓ Joint hearing of the Committees of the European Parliament on Employment and Social Affairs and Women's Rights and Gender Equality & opinion
- ✓ Dedicated hearing with EU-level social partners
- ✓ Opinions EESC and CoR

# The Care Package

**Communication on the European care strategy**

SWD on  
consultation  
activities

**Proposal for a Council  
Recommendation on the  
revision of the Barcelona  
targets**

**Proposal for a Council  
Recommendation on  
access to affordable  
high-quality long-term  
care**

Analytical  
SWD on LTC

# Why do we need a European care strategy?



## European Pillar of Social Rights

- Care responsibilities keep **7.7 million** women out of the labour market
- Significantly less children at risk of poverty are enrolled in ECEC (**27% vs 35%**)
- Almost **half of people aged 65 or over** with long-term care needs have an unmet need
- The number of people in need of LTC **will increase by 23%** until 2050 (reaching **38.1 million**)
- **52 million** Europeans provide **informal** LTC
- Staff shortages: **one in six** job advertisements concerns long-term care occupations
- High job creation potential: more than **1.6 million** long-term care workers needed by 2050 to keep long-term care coverage at the current level

# Commission Communication on the European care strategy

# Key messages

- Care concerns us all and high-quality care services have clear benefits for all ages
- The pandemic highlighted the need to improve the resilience of care systems
- For many people care services are not affordable, available or accessible



- Care has multi-dimensional gender inequalities
- Good working conditions are vital for the resilience of the sector
- The inadequacy of care systems has high economic & social costs and undermines the sector's job creation potential





# Care strategy - overview

## Scope

- Care receivers and carers
- Care in a lifelong perspective, with focus on ECEC and long-term care
- Synergies with other policies and related EU initiatives (e.g. skills, employment, disability, health care, social dialogue, gender equality)

## Areas of action

- Improving care services
- Improving working conditions in the care sector
- Better balance between work and care responsibilities
- Investing in care
- Improving the evidence base and monitoring progress





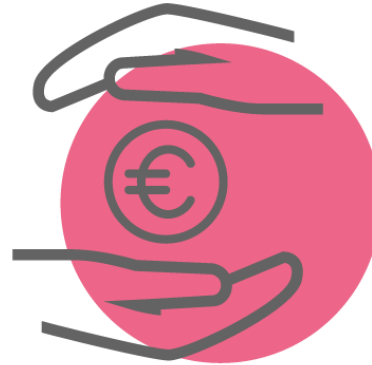
# Improving care services



**Availability**



**Quality**



**Affordability**



**Accessibility**

# EU level actions to improve ECEC services

**Proposal for a Council Recommendation on  
revision of the Barcelona targets**



**Monitoring and  
mutual learning**

**Combating  
gender stereotypes**

**Technical support to  
Member States**

# EU-level actions to improve LTC services

## Overarching policy reforms

Proposal for a Council Recommendation on long-term care



## Strategic and integrated approach to care

Technical support and international cooperation

## Innovation and digitalisation

Horizon Europe, Digital Europe

# EU-level actions on care workforce

## Support for social dialogue

- Explore set up of sectoral social dialogue
- Funding opportunities

1

## Working conditions

- Review application of EU law on working conditions in LTC
- Research funding
- Assessing social & economic value of work in care sector

2

## Skills

- Erasmus opportunities for ECEC staff
- Skills partnership for LTC under Pact for Skills
- Digital skills in health & care via Digital programme + EU4H
- Skills intelligence

3

## Legal migration

- Map admission conditions & rights of non-EU LTC workers
- Talent partnerships

4

# EU-level actions on work-life balance

Monitor take up of WLB  
Directive

Awareness raising  
campaign on WLB  
Directive

Communication  
campaign on combating  
gender stereotypes

Tackle unfavourable  
treatment of workers  
who take family leave

Support family-friendly  
work practices and  
promote the role of men  
in family responsibilities

WHO tools on support  
measures for informal  
carers

# Investing in care



**Spending on early childhood education and care** varies between **0.1** and **1.7 %** of GDP across the EU and has slightly increased over the past 20 years.



**Public expenditure on long-term care** ranges from below **1 %** in half of the Member States to above **3 %** of GDP in other countries. On average, public expenditure on long-term care came to **1.7 %** of EU GDP in 2019, which is relatively low compared to the value of hours of long-term care provided by informal carers (estimated to be around **2.5 % of EU GDP**).

- Public support for care is a social investment, which needs to be stepped up
- Public spending on care varies considerably between Member States
- Prevention and cost-effectiveness can contribute to fiscal sustainability
- Social economy actors bring added-value

- 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
  - ensure equal access early childhood education and care services

# Evidence base & monitoring progress

Improving care-related  
data collection &  
analysis

Monitoring progress  
and developing  
indicators on ECEC

Task force on long-  
term care statistics

Projections on  
demand for health and  
long-term care

Horizon Europe  
projects on territorial  
inequalities and  
integrated care

Sharing of evidence on  
care provision in rural  
areas

Monitoring progress in  
European Semester

Mutual learning on all  
dimensions of care



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

# Aim and scope

- **Aim:** 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.
- **Scope:** Early childhood education and care for all children.

# Structure

Revision of the Barcelona targets

Gender care gap

Staff working conditions

Quality, territorial distribution, accessibility and affordability

Governance, data collection, monitoring and reporting

# Revised Barcelona targets

- New ECEC targets to be reached by 2030
  - At least **50% of children below age 3 and at least 96% of children between 3 and mandatory school age** – taking into account
    - 1) **intensity** of participation of at least 25 hours for children below 3 and 35 for children between 3 and compulsory school age
    - 2) participation of **children** from disadvantaged background, with the specific aim to close the gap in participation for children **at risk of poverty or social exclusion**

# Proposal for a Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care

# Aim and scope

- aims to improve access to affordable high-quality long-term care to all people who need it
- concerns all people in need of long-term care and formal and informal carers
- applies to long-term care provided across all care settings

# Structure

Adequacy of social protection, availability and quality

Carers (formal and informal carers)

Governance, monitoring and reporting

Annex with quality principles

**Staff Working  
Document with  
analytical  
underpinning**



# Building blocks

Affordability	Availability	Quality	Carers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• social protection (timely, comprehensive, adequate)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• more LTC services &amp; more options</li><li>• home care &amp; community-base care</li><li>• territorial gaps</li><li>• innovative &amp; digital solutions</li><li>• accessibility</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LTC quality principles</li><li>• LTC quality assurance elements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• formal (working conditions, skills needs and worker shortages, social dialogue)</li><li>• informal (mapping carers, support, e.g. training, counselling, respite care)</li></ul>

# Implementation, monitoring & reporting

- MS to ensure **sound policy governance** in LTC (stakeholder involvement, better data, LTC needs forecasting, contingency planning, cost-effectiveness, awareness)
- MS to appoint national **LTC coordinators**, submit national **action plans** (within 12 months) and subsequent **progress reports**
- Monitoring via the **European Semester** with the SPC (and EMCO), based on a dedicated framework of indicators to be developed with the SPC
- EC to support MS (EU funding, mutual learning, better data) and **report to the Council** on progress within 5 years

# SWD on LTC – analytical underpinning

1

## Context

- Demographic, social and labour market trends
- Digital transition

4

## Policy options for addressing the LTC challenges

Policy scenarios and practical examples of

- strengthening the affordability, availability, and quality of LTC
- addressing the challenges faced by formal and informal carers
- tapping into the potential of digital technologies
- ensuring sound policy governance and of adequate and sustainable funding for LTC

2

## State of play and challenges in MS

- Organisation and financing
- Social protection
- Availability and accessibility
- Quality
- Workforce and informal carers
- Impact of Covid-19

3

## Union support and EU actions

- EU initiatives
- Analytical work
- Open Method of Coordination & European Semester
- Funding and technical support

# Thank you



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Social Europe



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