



Promoting the needs and added value of informal carers at EU level

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The Eurocarers Network



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

Over 65 member organisations

Eurocarers defines a carer as a person who provides unpaid care to someone with a chronic illness, disability or other long lasting health or care need, outside a professional or formal framework.



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WORKING FOR CARERS

Our Mission

- Contribute to sustainable social protection systems and recognition of informal carers
- Prevent carers from falling into poverty and social exclusion
- Stimulate and support the development of carers' organisations in EU countries and regions

Data collection and production

- Evidence
- Share good practices among Member States
- Recommendations

→ Implement/Document

Advocacy

- Partnerships
- Solidarity and economic argument
- Inform policy makers
- Communication (newsletter, websites)

→ Raise awareness



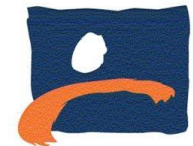
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Socioeconomic backdrop



- Boost jobs to make the EU social model future-proof
- Adapt the welfare state to the new context through innovation
- Budget Cuts and cost containment, doing more with less



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The EU Semester



EUROPEAN SEMESTER: A PARTNERSHIP EU-MEMBER STATES

	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
European Commission	<p>Autumn Economic Forecasts</p> <p>AGS AMR € Area Annual Growth Survey and Alert Mechanism Report</p> <p>Commission opinion on draft budgetary plans</p>	<p>Bilateral meeting with Member States</p>	<p>Fact-finding missions to Member States</p>	<p>Country Report per Member State (reform agenda and imbalances)</p>	<p>Bilateral meeting with Member States</p>		<p>Commission proposes country-specific recommendations for budgetary, economic and social policies</p> <p>CSR</p>					
European Council / Council	<p>€ Area Finance ministers discuss EC opinions on draft budgetary plans</p>	<p>National ministers adopt conclusions on AGS + AMR</p> <p>AGS AMR EU leaders agree main areas for coordination based on AGS + AMR</p>			<p>EU leaders adopt economic priorities based on AGS</p> <p>AGS</p>		<p>National ministers discuss the CSRs</p>	<p>EU leaders endorse final CSRs</p> <p>CSR</p>				
Member States		<p>€ Area Member States adopt budgets</p>			<p>Member States present their National Reform Programmes (economic policies) and Stability or Convergence Programmes (on budgetary policies)</p>						<p>€ Area Member States present draft budgetary plans + Economic Partnership Programmes (EDP countries)</p>	
European Parliament					<p>Dialogue on economic priorities</p>						<p>Debate / resolution on the European Semester and the CSRs</p> <p>CSR</p>	

From social retrenchment to social investment

The Social Investment Package comprises three policy strands:

→ Spending more effectively and efficiently

→ Investing in people's skills and capacities

→ Ensuring that social protection systems respond to people's needs at critical moments during their lives



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The Social Investment Package

- Investing in Children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage
- Active Inclusion of people excluded from the labour market
- Strengthening Social Services of General Interest
- Long-Term Care in ageing societies
- Confronting Homelessness
- Investing in Health
- Making good use of Structural Funds –
The European Social Fund

The Situation of carers in Europe

The Personal is Political



Across Europe, unpaid family carers and friends are the largest providers of health and social care support

As demographic change increases demand, the 'balance of care' increasingly shifts to informal care

Women are disproportionately affected and are more likely to give up employment to care



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Impact of caring

Clear correlation between caring and:

- Work-life/care balance and employment
- 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”

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



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The Eurocarers Research Working Group

- 'Kick-off' meeting - Dublin, 22nd April 2015
- Teleconference meetings- May 26th 2015
- Second meeting –Brussels , 17 June 2015



Aims of our group

→ Create a vibrant and sustainable research community

- Stimulating the creation and sharing of different forms of knowledge and expertise among members
- Strengthening research capacity among Eurocarers' members

→ Identify and reach consensus on current research priorities

- including gaps in knowledge and scientific challenges within care, carers and caring in Europe

→ Act as a catalyst for more cohesive and strategic collaborative work

- Within the identified prioritised areas

→ To facilitate the work of Eurocarers as an organisation

- To be able to work proactively and influence the research agenda in the areas of care, carers and caring at EU level, for example, Horizon 2020

→ To feed into the definition of evidence-based policy recommendations

- Supporting the role and added value of carers



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Thank you

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