



LTC in Europe: Precariousness, growing demand and austerity

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Summary

1. **Challenges** facing LTC in Europe
2. **Precariousness** and links to quality of services
3. **Austerity**: an aggravating factor
4. **Future** perspectives





1.

Challenges facing LTC in Europe

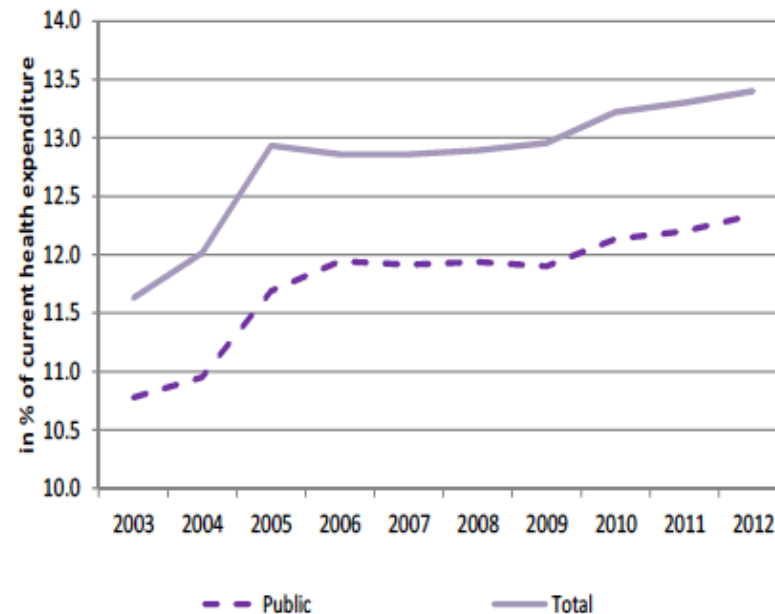




Challenges facing LTC in Europe

- **Relatively low public spending: 1.7% GDP**

Graph II.3.2: Total (public) expenditure on long-term care in the EU, as a share of total (public) current health expenditure



(1) Expenditure based only on the medical care component (HC.3) of system of health accounts data.

Source: European Commission, EPC.





Challenges facing LTC in Europe

- **Growing demand:**

Table 8. Projected changes in number of people 65+ and 80 + in EU27, 2008-2060, millions

EU-27	2008	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	% change (2008-2060)
65+	84,6	87	103,7	123,5	143,1	149,9	152,7	80.5%
<i>Of which: 80+</i>	21,8	23,3	29,7	36,6	48,8	57,5	62,2	185,4%

Source: 2010 EUROPOP

+ 65% increase in public LTC spending by 2060





Challenges facing LTC in Europe

- **Insufficient and poor quality services:**

Limited coverage of LTC through social protection

Comparatively low quality monitoring efforts





Challenges facing LTC in Europe

- **Precarious jobs**, linked to:

Weak public spending/social protection, pressure on services

Low societal recognition of LTC professionals and services in general

→ **Impacts on quality**





2.

**Precariousness and links
to quality of services**





Precariousness and links to quality of services

- **An unattractive working sector**
 - Overburden
 - Unsociable working hours
 - Low pay
 - Lack of recognition
 - Few upskilling opportunities





Precariousness and links to quality of services

- **Low skilled workforce**

70% personal care workers
In some countries, no qualifications required

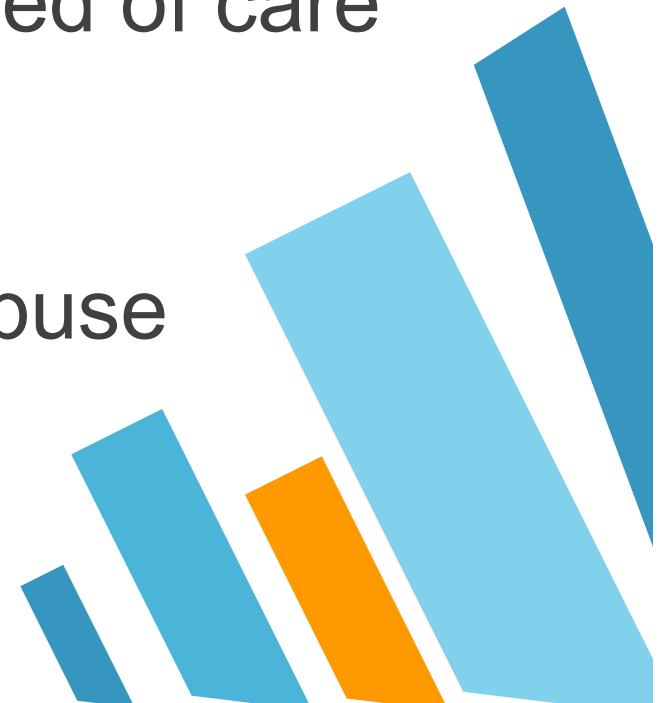
As a result, vulnerable/discriminated groups in the LTC workforce: migrants, (older) women





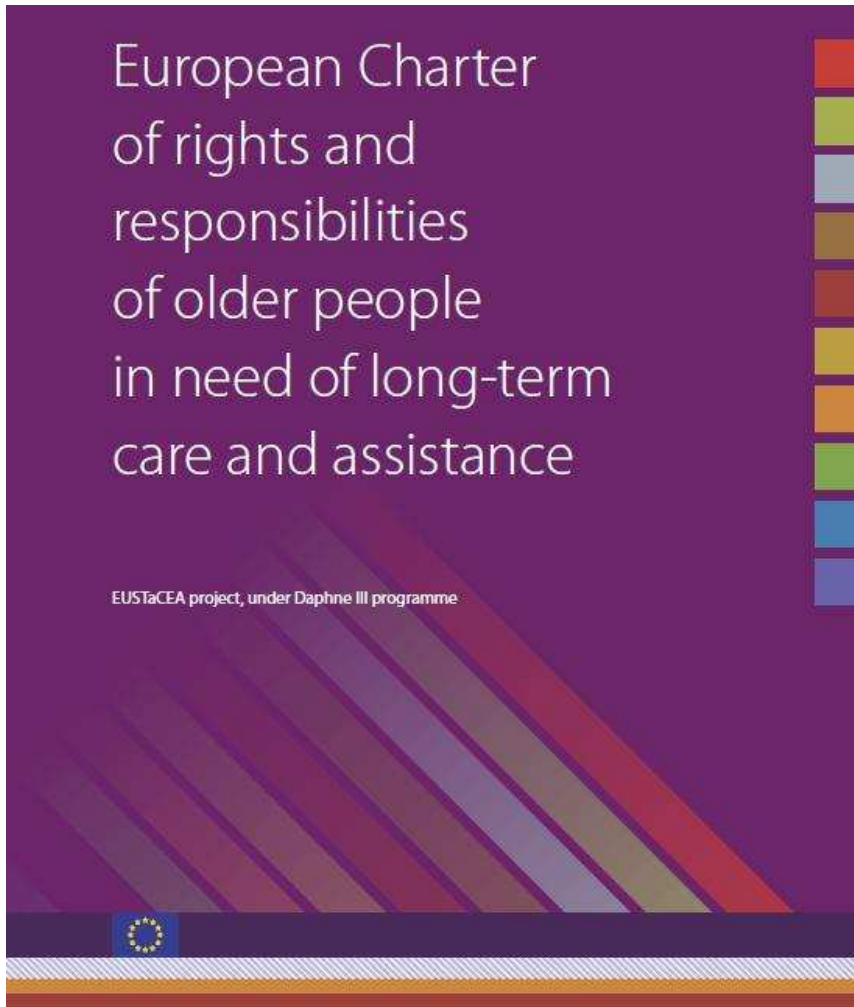
Precariousness and links to quality of services

- **Perpetuation of inadequate care practices**
 - Dignity of persons in need of care overlooked
 - Cases of neglect and abuse





Precariousness and links to quality of services



- » Right to dignity, physical and mental well-being, freedom and security
- » Right to self-determination
- » Right to privacy
- » Right to high quality and tailored care
- » Right to personalized information, advice and consent
- » Right to continued communication, participation in society and cultural activity
- » Right to freedom of expression and freedom of thought/conscience: beliefs, culture and religion
- » Right to palliative care and support, and respect and dignity in dying and in death
- » Right to redress
- » Your responsibilities



Precariousness and links to quality of services



For the Wellbeing and Dignity of Older people



European Quality Framework for long-term care services

Principles and guidelines for the wellbeing and dignity of older people in need of care and assistance

- » Respectful of human rights and dignity
- » Person-centred
- » Preventive and rehabilitative
- » Available
- » Accessible
- » Affordable
- » Comprehensive
- » Continuous
- » Outcome-oriented and evidence based
- » Transparent
- » Gender and culture sensitive




Precariousness and links to quality of services

Research in **care homes** in 6 countries: Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania and Romania

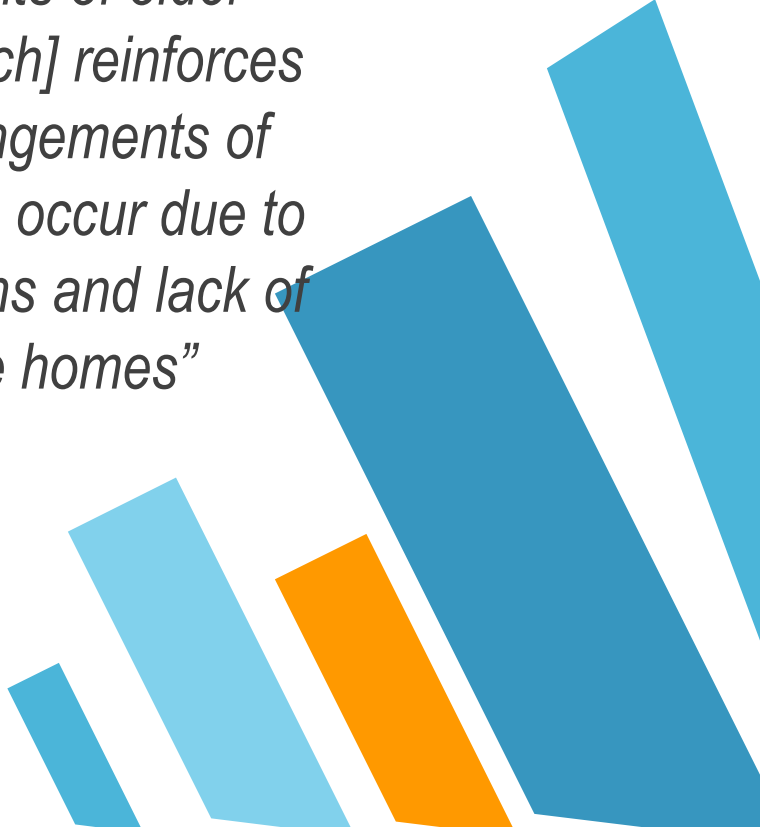
HRs at risk because of:

- Lack of awareness of HRs obligations
- Working conditions (qualifications, motivation, overburden)





“There was some evidence that [discontent among care workers] was a contributing factor to some infringements of older persons’ human rights [, which] reinforces suggestions that most infringements of human rights in LTC settings occur due to inadequate working conditions and lack of skilled personnel in care homes”





3.

**Austerity:
an aggravating factor**





Austerity: an aggravating factor

Economic and financial crisis (2007-)

After counter-cyclical policies (2008-2009),
austerity:

- - **10%** GDP public spending Greece
- - **7 to 8%** GDP Spain, Portugal, UK,
Hungary





Austerity: an aggravating factor

Economic and financial crisis (2007-)

Cuts also in LTC:

- Cyprus, Greece, Ireland (- 5-8%), Spain

Impacts on users:

- Longer waiting lists
- Freeze/elimination of entitlements

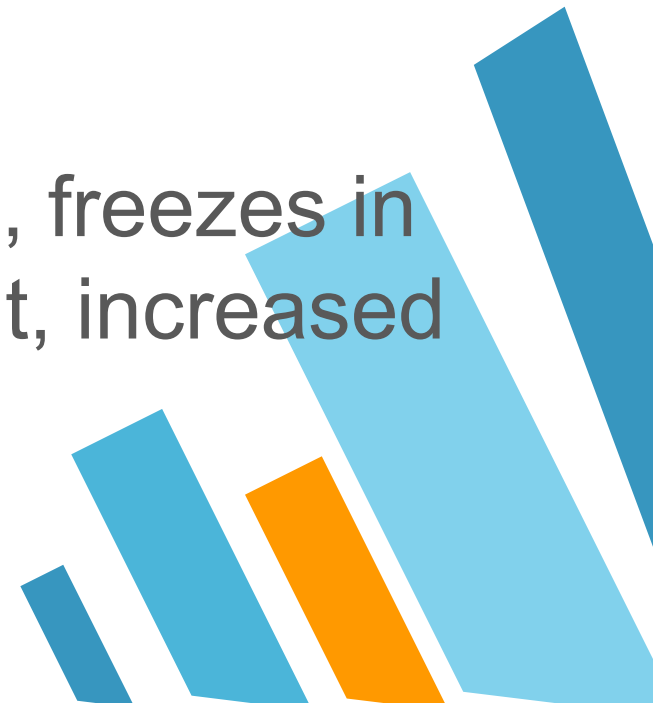




Austerity: an aggravating factor

Impacts on LTC workers:
(on top of increased precariousness in the
labor market)

- Cuts in wages
- Cuts in staff - redundancies, freezes in recruitment, early retirement, increased use of short-term contracts
- Reduced working hours



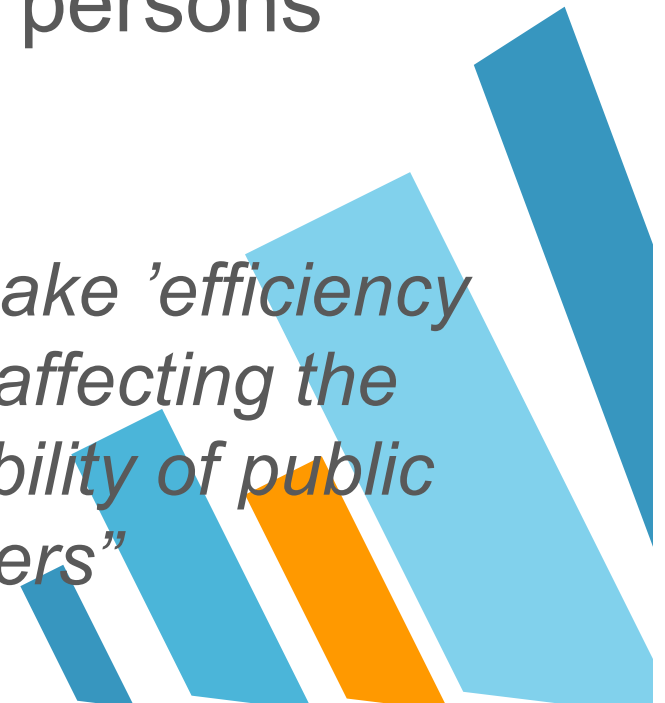


Austerity: an aggravating factor

UN Independent Expert foreign debt:

- Concern about the impacts of cuts on health and social welfare of persons with disabilities

“states have limited capacity to make ‘efficiency gains’ within few years without affecting the quality, accessibility and affordability of public services for rights holders”





Austerity: an aggravating factor

- Evidence of impacts of staffing on **autonomy, privacy and freedom of movement**
- Forced **increasing role for informal carers** and higher prevalence of elder abuse





4.

Future perspectives





Future perspectives

A European narrative for **formal** care services and **dignified working conditions**:

- LTC services as a **social investment**; improving working conditions is key
- **‘White-jobs’**: good working conditions for good quality services





Future perspectives

European **trade union** demands:

- access to training and qualifications
- address low pay
- recruitment and retention strategies
- employment conditions and care quality standards in public procurement
- collective bargaining to cover all care workers





Future perspectives

Conclusions and recommendations:

- Invest in the skills of care professionals
- Integrate human rights/dignity in training
- Promote societal recognition
- Improve public procurement
- Enforce a right to quality long-term care
- Better monitor multiple impacts of austerity

