



# EUROPEAN CARE STRATEGY: FOR CARERS AND CARE RECEIVERS







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#EUCareStrategy

## Why do we need a European Care Strategy?

- ➔ **Care concerns us all.** Throughout our lives, we and our loved ones will at one point need or provide care. The **COVID-19 pandemic** has highlighted even more the importance of care services.
- ➔ High quality of care services has a **clear benefit for all**. This is why the European Care Strategy is about **putting people first, from childhood to old age**, ensuring they get the right care, at the right time, and in the right place.
- ➔ It aims to improve the situation for **both carers and care receivers**.

## What are the issues faced by caregivers and receivers?

-  For many people care services are still **not available, accessible or affordable**.
-  **Women** are bearing the brunt of care responsibilities, impacting their labour market participation and economic situation.
-  **Good working conditions** in the care sector are needed to attract and retain talents, promote gender equality and give carers the respect they deserve.
-  The **inadequacy of care systems** has an economic cost and undermines the sector's potential to create jobs.



Almost 90% of the formal care workforce are women

**7.7**  
million  
women do not work because of unpaid care responsibilities

Investing in care can generate an additional  
**13.6**  
million  
jobs in the EU by 2030



In 2019, only 27% of children at risk of poverty and social exclusion were enrolled in early childhood education and care compared to 35% for the general population of children

Around  
**1/3**  
of households with long-term care needs do not use home care services because they cannot afford them

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

### How will we achieve this?

The Commission proposes a Recommendation to Member States to revise the **Barcelona targets** to ensure that by 2030:

- ➔ **50% of children** under 3 years participate in early childhood education and care; and
- ➔ **96% of children** between the age of 3 and the starting age of compulsory primary education participate in early childhood education and care in line with the European Education Area target

### The Recommendation pays particular attention to:



Ensuring that childcare services are **affordable** and reasonably proportionate to other household expenses, **accessible and of high quality, and available** in urban as well as rural or disadvantaged areas;



Ensuring inclusion of **children from disadvantaged backgrounds, with disabilities or special needs**, with particular focus on children at risk of poverty or social exclusion and closing the participation gap in early childhood education and care between children at risk of poverty or social exclusion and the overall population of children;



Providing a **sufficient number of hours of early childhood education and care** to allow parents to meaningfully engage in paid work;

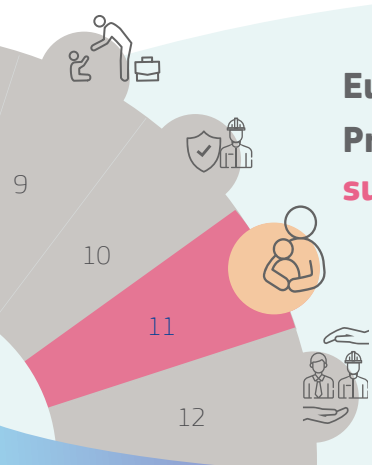


Establishing a **legal entitlement to early childhood education and care**, where public authorities guarantee a place for all children whose parents demand it, and where there is no gap between the end of paid family leave and the legal entitlement.



### European Pillar of Social Rights Principle 11: **Childcare and support to children**

*Children have the right to affordable early childhood education and care of good quality.*



# LONG-TERM CARE

## How will we achieve this?



Improve the **adequacy of social protection for long-term care** so it is timely, comprehensive and **affordable to those who need it**, allowing them to maintain a decent standard of living and protecting them from poverty;



**Increase the offer and provide a balanced mix of long-term care services** in all care settings like home, community-based and residential care, close territorial gaps in the access to long-term care, roll-out accessible digital solutions in the provision of care services, and ensure that long-term care services and facilities are accessible to people with disabilities;



Ensure a **quality framework for long-term care** for compliance with high-quality criteria and standards;



**Address the challenges of vulnerable groups of workers** like domestic and migrant care workers, including by effective regulation and professionalisation of this work;



**Tackle skills and labour shortages** with education, training and legal migration pathways;



**Support informal carers** including through training, psychological and financial support;



**Improve fiscal sustainability** by ensuring cost-effectiveness of long-term care, for example, through a coherent and integrated governance framework.



## European Pillar of Social Rights Principle 18: Long-term care

*Everyone has the right to affordable long-term care services of good quality, in particular home-care and community-based services.*



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