



Informal carers in the EU: data and policy developments

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Francesca Centola— Project Officer, Coordinator activities with and for young carers



The Eurocarers Network



European network of carers' organisations and research institutes.

67 members from 27 European countries.

Our mission

Ensure that policies and practices across Europe recognize and support carers.

Who are (informal) carers?

Any person who provides care - usually unpaid - to someone with a chronic illness, disability or other long lasting health or care need, outside a professional or formal framework.

The actors of long-term care

Informal carers

Family, friend, neighbours

Not professionals and untrained

No contracts (in majority of cases)

Unpaid (but financial compensations)

Wide range of tasks incl. emotional support

Never really 'off duty'

AND

Formal carers

Trained, licensed and qualified

Control by public or private organisation

Contracts specifying care responsibilities

Paid and entitled to social rights and working regulations

Caring tasks in line with professional qualifications

Caring and off duty time

Private care workers hired by families

How is long-term care provided across Member States?

Nature of the system	Countries	Characteristics
Cluster A  Formal-care (FC) oriented provision, generous, accessible and affordable	Denmark, The Netherlands, Sweden	<i>Public provision</i> of LTC financed from general revenue allocations to local authorities High public and low private spending on FC Low Informal Care (IC) use, high IC support Modest cash-for-care benefits
Cluster B  FC of medium accessibility Some informal care (IC) orientation in provision	Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, (Luxembourg)	<i>Obligatory social insurance</i> against LTC risk financed from contributions Medium public and low private FC spending High IC use, high IC support, Modest cash-for-care benefits
Cluster C  FC of medium to low accessibility Medium IC orientation in LTC approach	Austria, England, Finland, France, Spain, (Ireland)	<i>Social insurance</i> against LTC risk financed from contributions or general revenue Medium public and private FC financing High IC use, high IC support High cash-for-care benefits
Cluster D  Low FC accessibility Strong IC orientation in LTC approach	Hungary, Italy, (Greece), (Poland), (Portugal), (Slovenia)	<i>Modest social insurance</i> against LTC risks Low public and high private FC financing, High IC use, low IC support, Low cash-for-care benefits
Cluster E  Rather low FC accessibility Almost exclusive IC orientation in LTC approach	(Bulgaria), (Cyprus) (Estonia), (Lithuania), (Latvia), (Malta), (Romania)	<i>Little social insurance</i> against LTC risks Very low public spending on FC Very high IC use, little to no IC support No or very low cash-for-care benefits

Data on carers in Europe

➤ 80% of care provided by informal carers.

➤ Majority of carers are women.

➤ Typical carer: spouse, daughter or in-law, between 45 and 75.

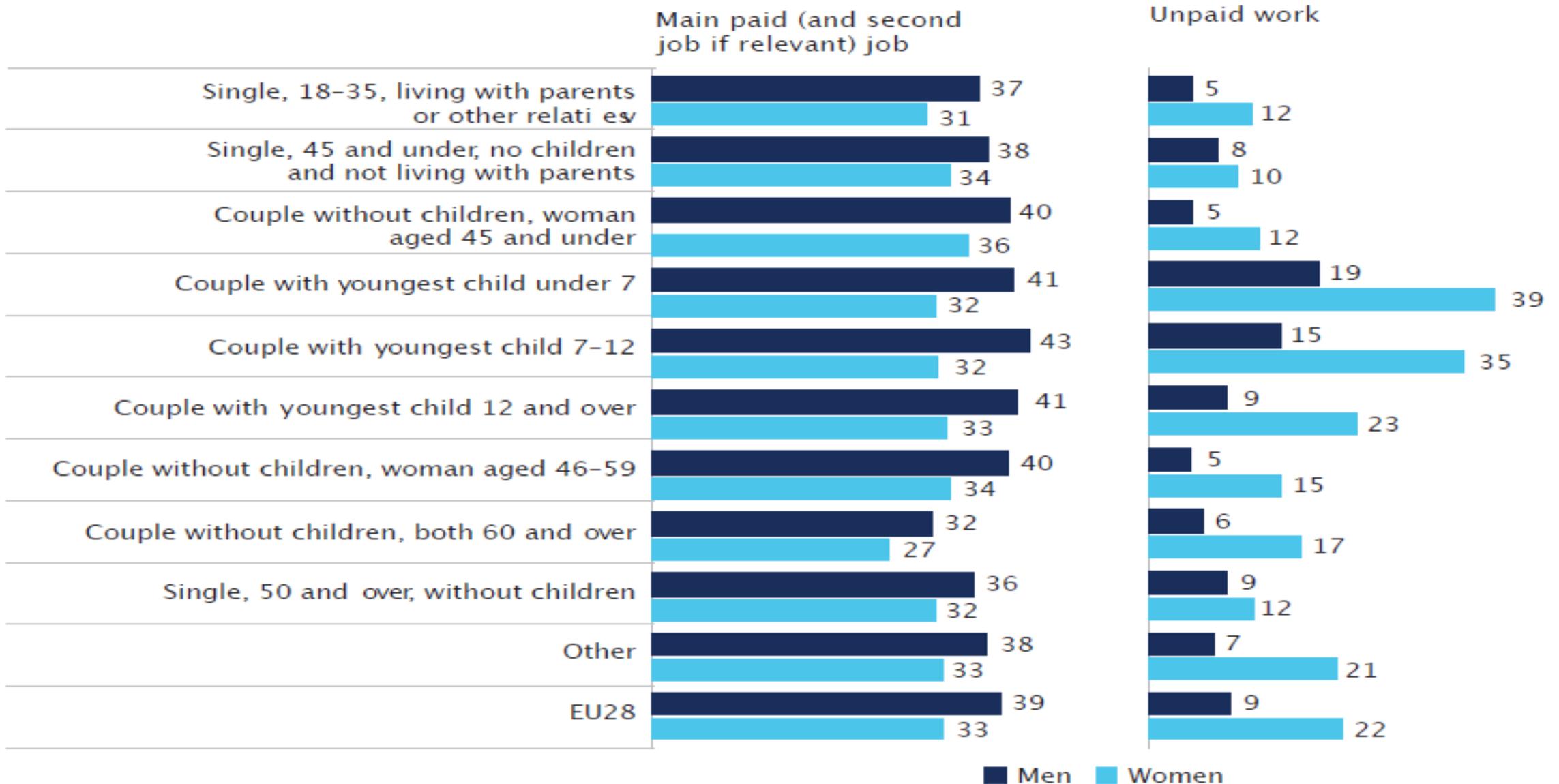
➤ Care provided in **gendered ways**.

	Male		Female	
	Carer	Non-carer	Carer	Non-carer
18-24	11%	89%	10%	90%
25-34	7%	93%	10%	90%
35-49	12%	88%	18%	82%
50-64	18%	82%	22%	78%

	Every day	Several days a week	Once or twice a week	Less than once a week	Never
Men	4%	3%	5%	10%	78%
Women	7%	4%	5%	11%	73%
All	6%	4%	5%	10%	75%

Paid and unpaid work, by gender

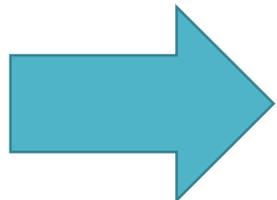
Paid and unpaid working time, by household composition and gender (hours per week), EU28



Informal care across Europe: a precious resource

- Economic value of care in EU between 50% and 90% of overall formal LTC costs
- Overall value of informal care between 20,1% and 36,8% of EU GDP.
- Replacing informal by formal care by 2070 would increase the share of GDP devoted to LTC by 130% on average.

Unpaid carers save the UK £132 billion a year – the cost of a second NHS



Without the vital contribution of Informal carers our welfare systems would be unsustainable!

Impact of caring

Clear correlation between caring and:

➤ Participation in paid labour market

+ Gender dimension

➤ Health and well-being

+ Gender dimension

➤ Social exclusion and poverty

“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”

7% and 21% of informal carers reduce their working hours and between 3% and 18% withdraw from the labor market. (EU 28, EQLS data)

Why support carers ?

➤ Social imperative:

Everybody should have the right to **choose** and **develop** his/her potential

➤ To address the challenges in LTC (access, adequacy, quality and financial sustainability) in a context of increase demand of LTC & deinstitutionalisation

➤ Economic imperative

If not supported, caring has negative impact on employment and health → reduced taxes and contributions to the pension pot + increased costs for welfare benefits and increased health costs



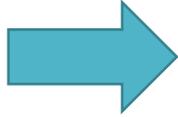
Europe is ageing

MORE PRESSURE ON CARERS

£5.3billion has been wiped from the economy in lost earnings due to people who've dropped out of the workforce to take on caring responsibilities for older or disabled loved ones.

How to support informal carers?

CHOICE



1) Provision of formal LTC services (accessible and of good quality)



2) Support measures:

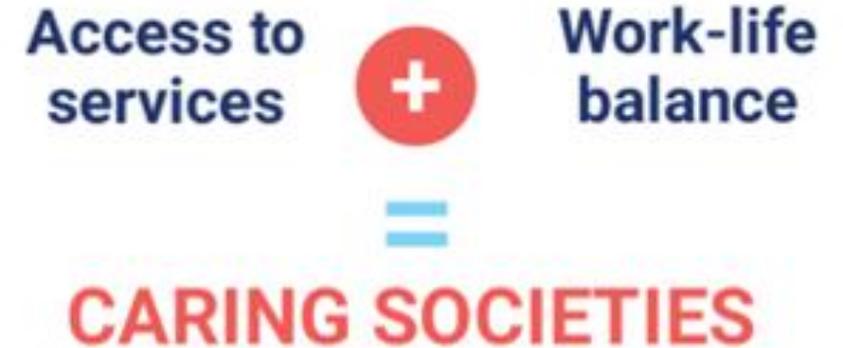
- Provide financial remuneration for carers
- Facilitate flexible working hours
- Allow leave from work for care reasons
- Give pension credits for care time
- Provide a right to part-time work
- Provide training
- Fund respite care during care-giver holidays



European Pillar of Social Rights

Principle n. 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**.

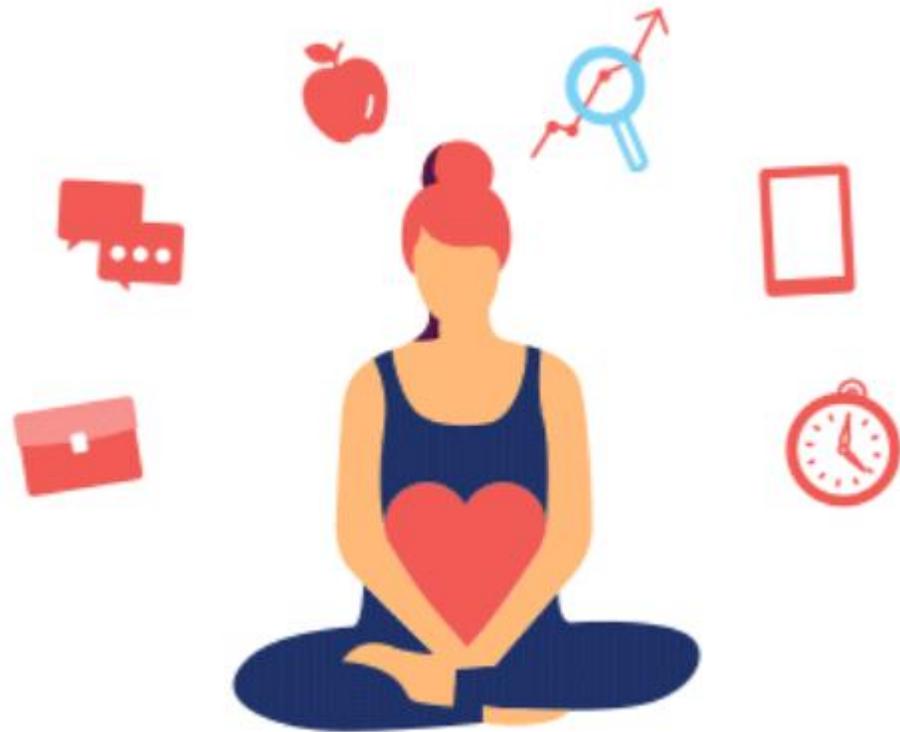


Principle n. 9 – Work-life balance

Parents and people with caring responsibilities have the right to suitable **leave, flexible working arrangements** and access to care services. Women and men shall have equal access to special leaves of absence in order to fulfil their caring responsibilities and be encouraged to use them in a **balanced way**.

The work-life balance directive

5 days care leave



***SUPPORT CARERS
BY ENDORSING THE
WORK-LIFE BALANCE
DIRECTIVE NOW***

Supporting carers is a win win strategy

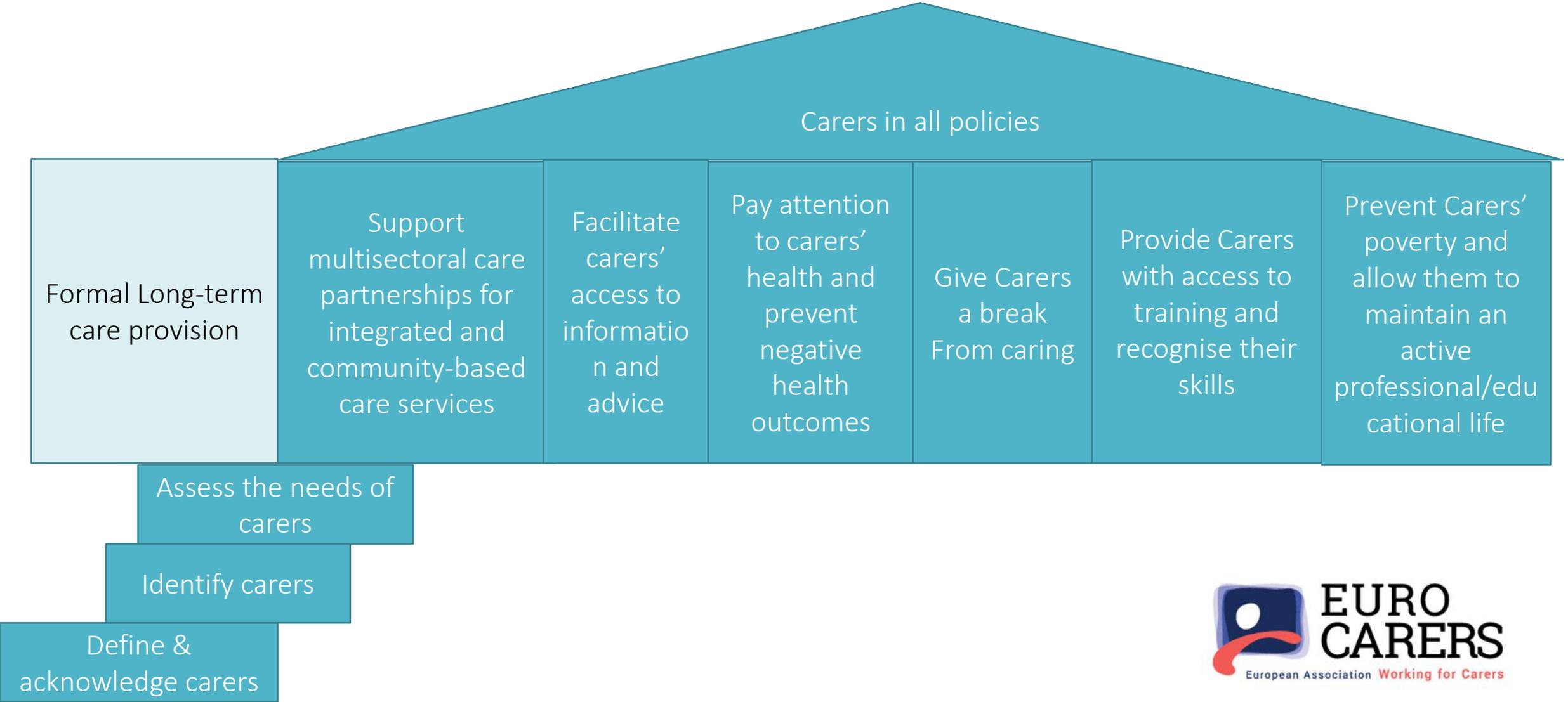
Care should be considered as central to the well-being of our societies and responsibilities should be distributed equitably between men and women, as well as between the family and the State.

The personal is
political!

Need for coherent, integrated approach – a STRATEGY! – to mainstream caregiving across all major policy areas, starting at EU level to ensure that all Member States are made equally aware about the urgency of such a crucial commitment!

This will benefit carers, the cared for persons, but also society as a whole!

An EU strategy to support and empower informal carers



Translating Eurocarers vision into practice

- A Manifesto to support carers across Europe



- Country profiles: evaluating States' performance in supporting carers
- Comparable indicators for Long Term Care

**LET'S MAKE
CARER-FRIENDLY
SOCIETIES
A REALITY**

Rosalyn Carter, Former First Lady of the United States once said: “There are four kinds of people in the world - those who have been carers, those who currently are carers, those who will be carers and those who will need carers.”

Thank you for your attention!



Email: fc@eurocarers.org

www.eurocarers.org