

## Guidance for reporting on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care

### I. Setting the scene

The Council Recommendation on **on access to affordable high-quality long-term care**<sup>1</sup> (LTC) calls on Member States to improve access to affordable, high-quality long-term care for all people who need it. This entails ensuring the adequacy of social protection for long-term care, continuously aligning the offer of long-term care services to the respective needs, ensuring that high-quality criteria and standards are established for all care settings and applied to all providers, supporting quality employment and fair working conditions in the sector, improving the professionalisation of care work and addressing skills needs and worker shortages, as well as supporting informal carers in their caregiving activities.

Further, the Recommendation invites Member States to share with the Commission within 18 months from its adoption, i.e. by June 2024, the set of measures taken or planned to implement it, building where relevant on existing national strategies or plans and taking into account national, regional and local circumstances. In this context, it is important to involve relevant stakeholders, for example, social partners, civil society organisations, social economy actors, professional training and education institutions, care recipients and other stakeholders, at national, regional and local levels in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the planned measures.

In its meeting of 28 November, the SPC agreed that its thematic social reporting in 2024 would be dedicated to policy measures to support the implementation of the Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care. As such, the synthesis of the social thematic reports will be part of the 2024 SPC Annual Report and feed into the report on the progress made in implementation, which the Commission is mandated to submit to the Council by December 2027.

### II. Aims and structure of the guidance

This voluntary guidance aims to support the consistency of the reporting, while taking into account the country-specific context and circumstances, with a view to facilitate monitoring the implementation of the Recommendation, as well as policy dialogue and mutual learning at EU level.

The **context section** should aim to establish the **baseline** for reporting. As such, it should outline the specificities of the LTC system design and **identify the gaps or remaining challenges** in relation to the policy objectives of the Recommendations. It should also recall the consultation or **stakeholders' involvement** in the preparation of the implementation measures.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Recommendation of 8 December 2022 on access to affordable high-quality long-term care (2022/C 476/01) [EUR-Lex - 32022H1215\(01\) - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

The section on **overall policy response and measures** (to be) taken would explain how the key objectives of the Recommendation are followed up in the national context, by providing details on **how the Member State intends to close the gaps**, if any, in relation to the specific provisions of the Recommendation. This should be underpinned by an **outline of the measures** adopted or planned to be adopted, including, to the extent possible, information on the type of measure, target group, timeline, funding, expected impact etc. To ensure synergies and contain the administrative burden, cross-references can be made as relevant to additional sources providing more detailed information for the relevant measures reported. As a **way forward**, the report could mention potential **remaining LTC challenges not addressed** by those measures already taken/ planned. It should also highlight concrete **needs for further EU support** and **potential contributions from the Member State** to the EU level policy dialogue in the area of LTC (e.g. good practice, high-level initiatives or networking opportunities, etc.).

### III. Template for reporting

#### 1. Context and baseline

##### 1.1. Diagnosis of the gaps and remaining challenges

*This section provides a **brief assessment of the national situation** in relation to the building blocks of the LTC Recommendation, identifies **challenges to be addressed** (if there are any). To the extent possible, the assessment, identification of challenges and good practices should be mapped with the relevant articles/ letters of the Recommendation. It could rely, inter alia, on Semester Country Reports/ Country Specific Recommendations/ National Reform Programmes/ Recovery and Resilience Plans, 2023 SPC Annual Report, 2021 EC-SPC report on LTC.*

##### 1.2. Stakeholders' involvement

*This section explains **how the various stakeholders were involved** in reviewing national LTC policy in relation with the LTC Recommendation and in defining national measures to address the identified challenges.*

#### 2. Policy objectives and measures (to be) taken

##### 2.1. Overall policy response

*This section describes how the gaps identified in relation with the objectives of the Recommendation have been/ will be addressed. It provides a breakdown of the overall policy response into a list of concrete measures, mapped to the extent possible with the relevant articles/ letters of the Recommendation.*

##### 2.2. Detailed description of the measures

*This section provides further details for each of the measures listed in the previous section. For each measure, MS should provide a detailed description. This could include, for example,*

information on the *aim, type* (e.g. legislative reform, investment, etc.), *target group* (definition and size), *results and impact* (expected or achieved), *timeline, financial resources* (national and/ or EU funding), *implementing body(ies) and cooperation with stakeholders, evaluation and cross-linkages with other measures*.

### 3. Remaining challenges and needs for EU support

#### 3.1. Remaining challenges

*This section describes any potential remaining LTC challenges not addressed by those measures already taken/ planned. Reflections on why they cannot be addressed at national / regional level are welcome.*

#### 3.2. EU support

*This section should highlight concrete needs for further EU support, including in relation with remaining challenges not addressed by planned/ already taken measures, and highlight potential contributions from your MS to the EU level policy dialogue in the area of LTC (e.g. good practice, high-level initiatives or networking opportunities, etc.).*

## IV. Submission of reports

One report per Member State should be submitted via official correspondence for the attention of Commissioner Schmit. A courtesy copy should be sent to [EMPL-LTC@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EMPL-LTC@ec.europa.eu) by 15 June 2024 at the latest. Earlier submissions are strongly encouraged and will facilitate the timely input to the SPC Annual Report.