

# European Care Strategy

Diana Eriksonaite, Social Protection Unit,  
DG EMPL, European Commission

Wednesday 11th of October 2023, Brussels



# Why do we need the European Care Strategy?

- Significantly less children at risk of poverty are enrolled in ECEC (27% vs 35%)
- Almost half of people aged 65 or over with long-term care needs have an unmet need
- The number of people in need of LTC will increase by 23% until 2050 (reaching 38.1 million)
- Care responsibilities keep 7.7 million women out of the labour market
- 52 million Europeans provide informal LTC
- Staff shortages: one in six job advertisements concerns long-term care occupations
- High job creation potential: more than 6 million long-term care workers needed by 2050 to keep long-term care coverage at the current level



# What is in the European Care Strategy?

## Communication on the European care strategy

SWD on  
consultation  
activities

Proposal for a Council  
Recommendation on  
the revision of the  
Barcelona targets

Proposal for a Council  
Recommendation on  
access to affordable  
high-quality long -term  
care

Analytical  
SWD on LTC



# EU level action on long term care

21<sup>st</sup>

European Week of  
Regions and Cities

Thriving Regions, Stronger Europe

## Services

- LTC recommendation
- Technical assistance (TSI)
- International cooperation (WHO)
- Innovation (Horizon Europe)
- Digitalization (Digital Europe)

## Workforce

- Working conditions
- Attracting more workforce
- Skills
- Social dialogue
- Work-life balance

## Funding

- Funding for care is investment, not cost
- Ensure adequate investment in care
- Promote public and private investment in care
- EU funds for care (ESF+, ERDF, RRF ...)

## Evidence and monitoring

- Improving data, task force on LTC statistics
- Projections on demand for care
- Research (Horizon Europe)
- Policy monitoring (European Semester)
- Mutual exchanges and learning
- EASI social innovation projects on LTC



# Council recommendation on long term care



## Affordability

adequate, timely and comprehensive social protection



## Availability

more LTC services & options, home care & community-based care, territorial gaps, innovative & digital solutions, accessibility



## Quality

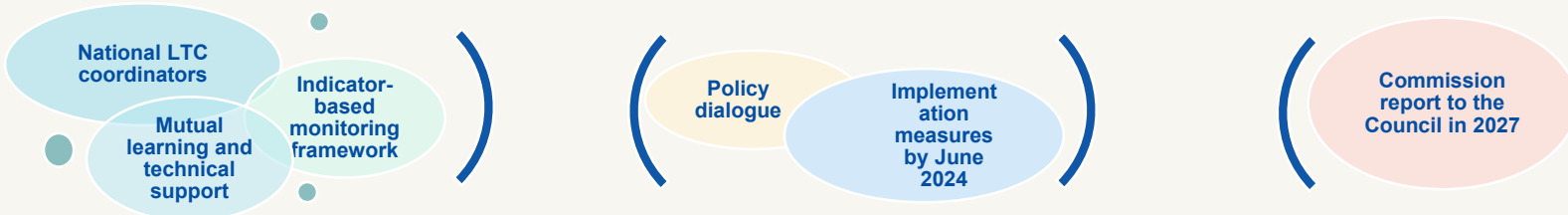
LTC quality framework, based on quality principles and quality assurance



## Carers

quality employment, fair working conditions, addressing skills needs and workforce shortages, access to support services and social protection for informal carers, work-life balance

## Monitoring and governance



# EASI social innovation projects in long -term care

## Rural Care

designing and piloting a model of integrated LTC services adapted to people living in rural areas, based on individual needs (Castile and León region, ES))

## Moov & smile

testing in other MS an innovative approach to improve autonomy, based on Adapted Physical Activity, developed in France for people with decreasing independence (FR, BE, IE, ES, ...)

## To give what is really needed

developing and testing an innovative model for providing LTC in scarcely populated and rapidly ageing rural areas (Łódź region, PL)

## UNIC

supporting the transition to user-centred funding models in LTC by exploring the use of personal budgets (BE, LU, IE, AT, CZ, FI, ES)

## InCare

promoting participatory, innovative and integrated approaches to LTC policy and service development (AT, ES, MK)

## Social service centers in SK

creating a functioning pilot model of community-based social service centres for older people to help integrate social and health services (Banská Bystrica region, SK)

## I-CCC

developing, testing and advocating for social innovative community and volunteer-based services for older people (AT, ME, SRB)