



Long-term care in the EU

State of play and looking into the future

DG EMPL D2

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Structure of the presentation

Systems & reforms at national level

2021 Long-term care Report

Current EU activities

European Care Strategy 2022

LTC systems & reforms at national level

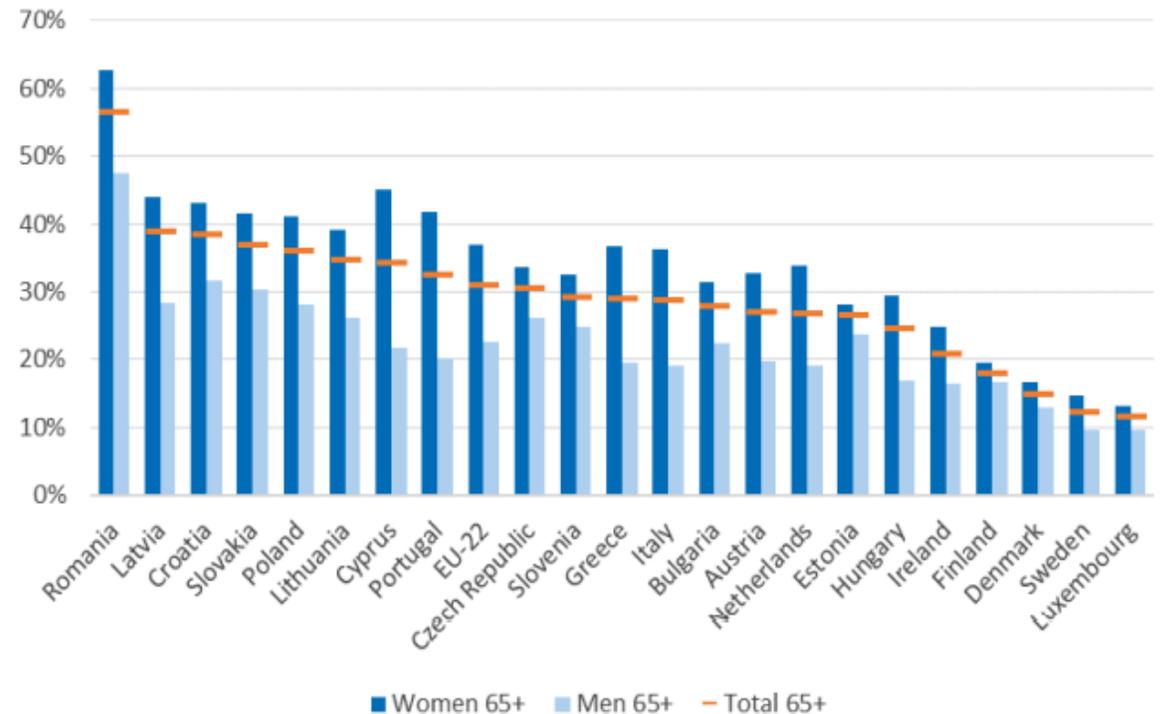
A varied LTC landscape

- **Responsibility:** national vs. regional (EC in the supportive role)
- **Structure:** formal care vs. informal care
- **Settings:** home care vs. semi-residential and residential care
- **Supply:** market-based vs. public provision
- **Social protection:** extent, financing (tax-based, social insurance-based or mixed), etc.

Big differences in LTC systems

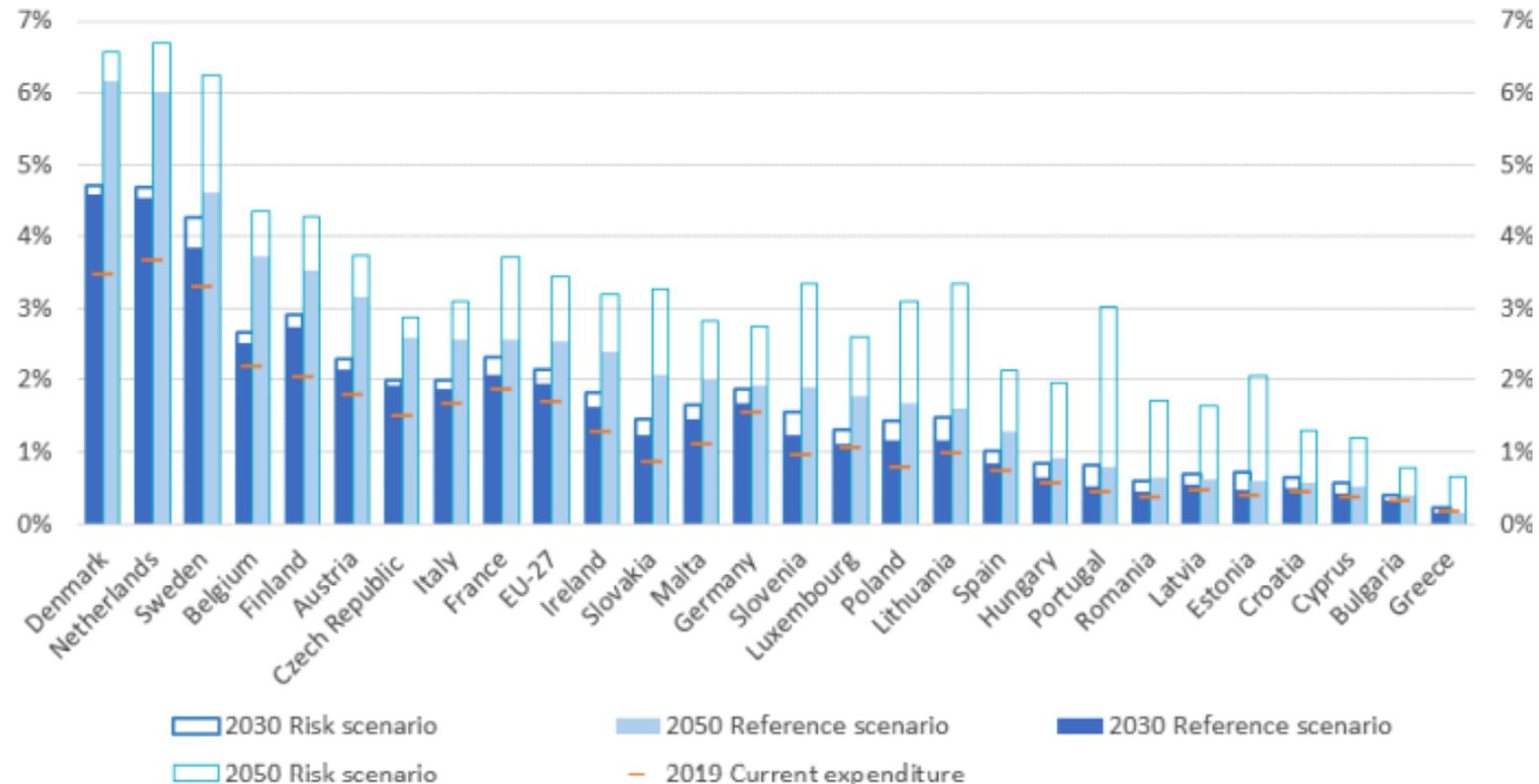
- Needs levels differ between MS
- Big differences in supply & organisation
- Wide range of expenditure levels
- **Nevertheless common challenges**

On average, 30.9 % of people aged 65+ were in need of long-term care in the EU-22 (2019 data), with marked gender differences



Public expenditure on LTC differs greatly

Public long-term care expenditure is projected to increase significantly across the EU-27



Source: 2021 Ageing Report (European Commission and EPC, 2021); base data for 2019.

Trends in reforms

Mostly subject to parametric reforms

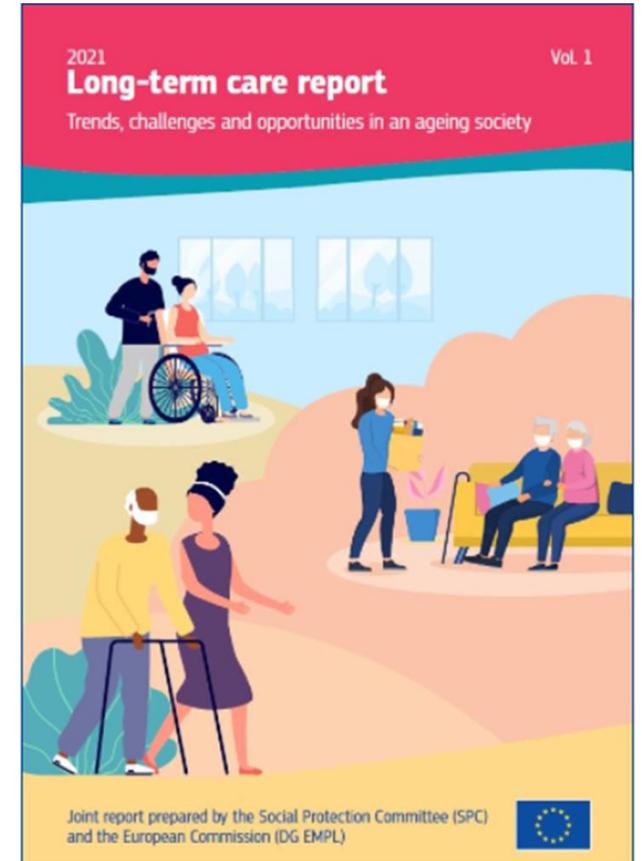
- improve the situation of informal carers,
- facilitate access to and the affordability and quality of home-based services and of residential care, and
- improve the situation of the professional long-term care workforce.

Member States also took measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly ad-hoc measures but a few (FR, LU, NL, SI, SK) introduced structural changes.

2021 Long-term care report

2021 Long-term care report

- Second joint [EC-SPC report on LTC](#) in the context of population ageing
- Vol I (Key conclusions + Horizontal analysis) + Vol II (country profiles)
- **Report to serve as analytical underpinning for policy development and policy dialogue**
- Key messages endorsed by (EPSCO) Council



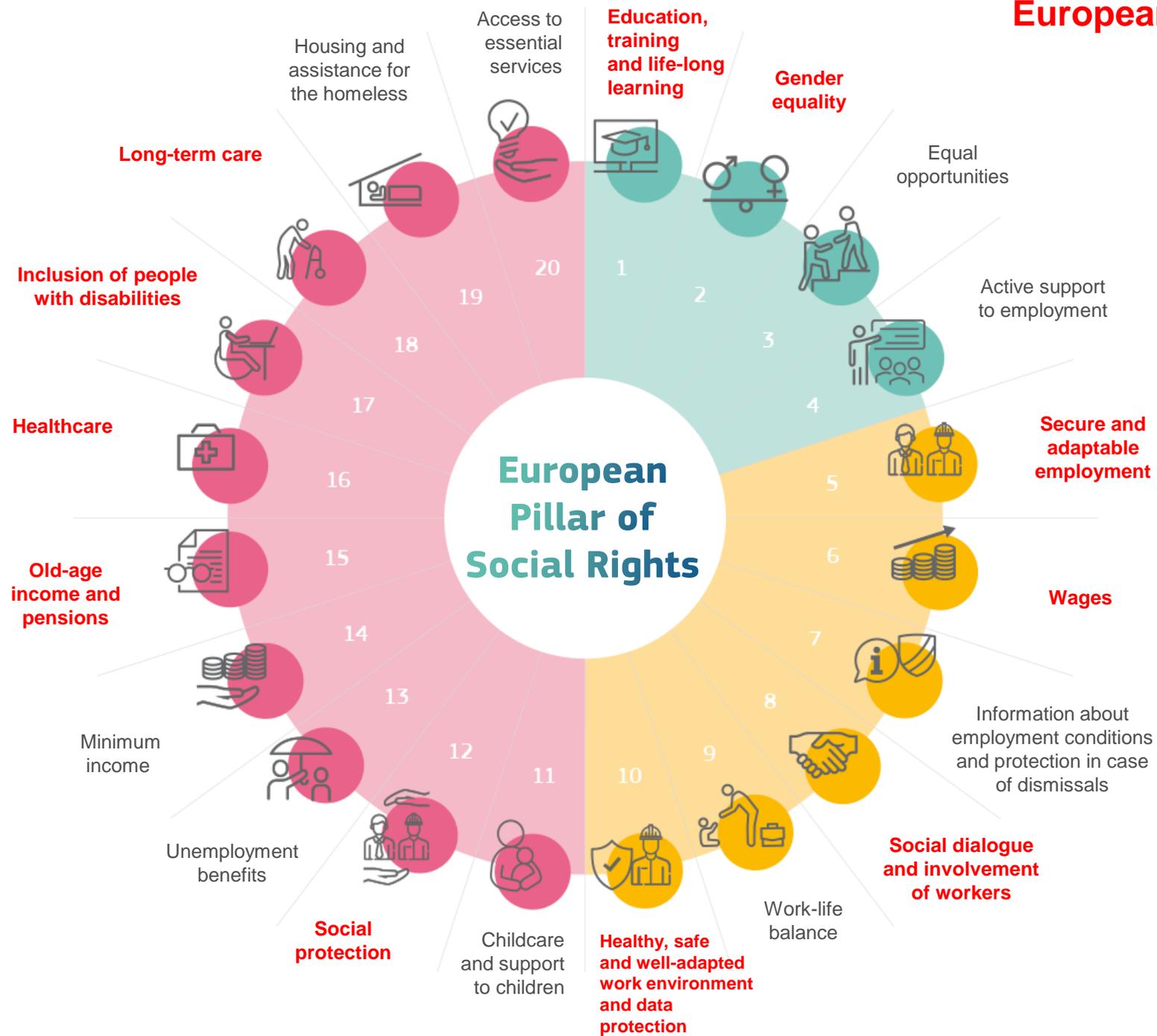
Key conclusions highlight that....

1. ...the **demand for high-quality LTC is set to rise**, and reinforcing its provision can contribute to gender equality and social fairness.
2. ...**access, affordability, and quality** are key challenges in relation to LTC.
3. ...**an adequate workforce** is key to meeting the rising demand for high-quality services, but the current labour shortage may intensify further.
4. ...**informal care has been essential** in LTC provision, but this often comes with neglected costs.
5. ...**reforms of LTC systems**, and the investment related to it, **need to be pursued further** and should build on the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SPC therefore...

1. ...considers that there may be scope for **further work at EU and Member State levels** to address long-term care challenges. Further reforms need to be pursued by MS to address structural weaknesses in LTC systems and to make them more resilient to future external shocks.
2. ...considers that although progress is being made in developing common EU indicators on LTC, **important data gaps remain**.
3. ...**calls for further consideration of how to shape LTC policies and systems**. It also invites the EPC to jointly reflect on the findings of the 2021 LTC Report, the 2021 PAR, and the 2021 Ageing Report.
4. ...**intends to prepare a third joint LTC report**.

Current framework



EU actions

Analytical work

European Semester

LTC indicators

EU funding

Mutual learning

European Care Strategy 2022

European Care Strategy 2022 – Q3

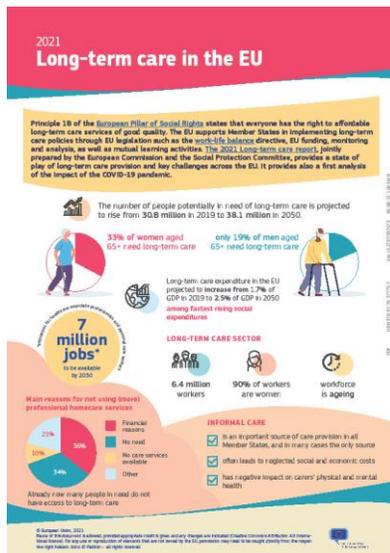
Commission Communication European Care Strategy

Revision of
Barcelona targets

Proposal for Council
Rec on long-term care

Useful links

- [2021 Long-term care Report \(Vol I + II\)](#)
- [Eurofound study \(Employment and Working conditions in LTC\)](#)
- [Publications catalogue - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)



Thank you