

# "The European Care Strategy: challenges and the way forward"

- *PHS employers' perspective on the potential of fostering healthy ageing and prevention -*

EESC Conference

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European Federation  
for Services to Individuals

# Overview of the PHS sector

- PHS workers provide both **direct** (care for elderly, persons with disabilities or children) **and indirect care** (cleaning, housekeeping) in households.
- Key numbers on the PHS sector :
  - **9,5** million PHS workers in the EU 27,
  - representing **5%** of EU-27 total employment,
  - 91% of PHS workers are women = **7,5%** of total female employment.
- Various and complementary models of employment: **direct employment** (user is the employer), **service providers** (public or private).

PHS workers :

essential actors to reach the EU Care strategy's objectives

- PHS workers, **key players of the Care economy** “*care giving not only embodies personal care but also non-relational, indirect care work*” (ILO – 2018).
- PHS workers provide **essential services enabling older persons to pursue a good and dignified life** in their own home.
- **Crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic** in guaranteeing the continuity of care and support to the most vulnerable.

Home care :

a tailored made  
solution to  
respond to  
currents care  
needs

- **HOME** : place of new transformations (prevention, support, help and care).
- **People in the need for care want to control** what is happening in their home : freedom of choice, human centered approach.

→ **PHS stakeholders are committed to develop the quality of care and support:** various services, qualified professionals, flexibility, network with other key actors.

## Key recommendations

- 1. Recognize the PHS Sectors** to ensure their objectives of availability and affordability of childcare services, long-term care services or services for persons with disabilities, as well as decent working conditions for all care workers.
- 2. Consider PHS on an equal footing compared with other existing provision models** when it comes to working conditions, quality requirements, and investment.
- 3. Recognize the different professional and skills' profiles of the care workforce** in its entirety : avoid the creation of a two-class care workforce within PHS.
- 4. Consider the essential role of migrant care workers** in the long-term care provision.
- 5. Foster the structuration of PHS stakeholders** to guarantee social dialogue and reach the targets of quality of care.

Thank you for  
your attention

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