

Effect of the pandemic on personal and household services

EESC Labour Market Observatory (LMO) Hearing
May 21, 2021



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)

Overview of the PHS sector

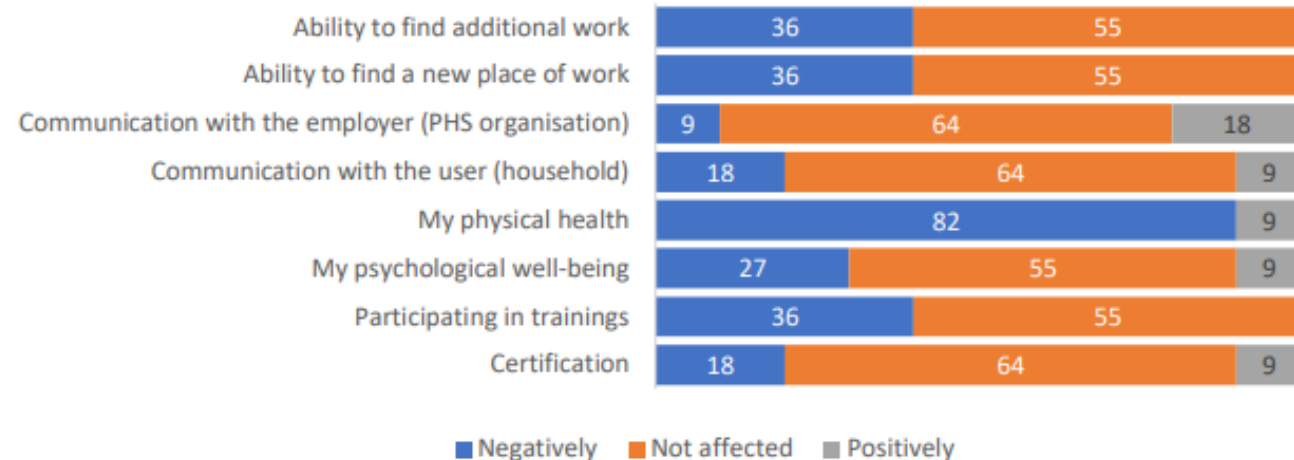
- PHS: potential job creation resulting from appropriate public support mechanism
- Central to current social, demographic, and societal changes
- **Crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic** in guaranteeing the continuity of care and support to the most vulnerable

The short-term impact of the pandemic

Ad-PHS report

- Half of **PHS organisations** experienced business closure with a strong to moderate influence on their revenue.
- **75% of PHS provision were cancelled or reduced.**
- **PHS workers** reported reduction of their working hours (46%) and an impact on their physical health (82%).

Figure 3: Aspects of PHS provision affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (February-June 2020): PHS workers (In %)



Source: Ad-PHS COVID survey (2020).

The short-term impact of the pandemic

Ad-PHS report

PHS organisations:

- provided PPE for their workers (91%),
- revised the standards and procedures of service provision (84%),
- addressed the well-being of their workers (71%), and
- changed the frequency, duration and/or nature of services (69%).

PHS workers main measures was to use PPE either provided by the employer (64%) or bought by themselves (27%).

Support measures vary significantly between EU Member States:

- recommendations or guidelines,
- government support programmes
- legal advice on labour law and regulations.

Member States supporting measures

Various goals: guaranteeing and stabilising PHS provision, protecting employment and safeguarding the sector.



Immunity granted to employers who registered their UDW workers and to migrant domestic workers who had been working before Oct.19 by issuing temporary residence permit.



The maximum lump-sum tax allowance for employing domestic workers was temporarily increased from €5,400 to €6,750.

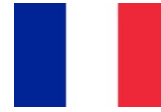


Implementation of an exceptional compensation scheme for workers directly employed by end-users, complemented by emergency financial assistance and access to PPE.

Member States supporting measures



Regions provided additional support to service vouchers companies and workers in order to compensate revenue loss and the purchase of PPE.



Home care providers received short-term additional support to face the extra costs generated by the crisis. A bonus has been granted to care workers, triggering a debate on the revaluation of care work.



Financial support for self employed childminder

Temporary measures that needs to be translated into long-term commitment towards the sector.

Recommendations

- Access to quality, affordable and accessible PHS for the greatest number of European citizens must be facilitated.
- Recognise the complementarity and coexistence of multiple work arrangements and various employment relationships.
- Reevaluate domestic and care work occupations reflecting their important social contribution.
- Transform undeclared PHS jobs into regular jobs covered by labour law and social protection.



International
Labour
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Save the date

June 28-29

European online conference on the
10th Anniversary of ILO Convention
189 on decent work for domestic
workers



EESC Labour Market Observatory hearing – 21 May 2021



Thank you for
your attention

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