



Carers in EU initiatives on poverty and social inclusion

Interest Group on Carers
04 February 2015, Brussels

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2014 SPC/EC Report *Adequate social protection for long-term care needs in an ageing society*

- Key messages adopted by EPSCO Council in June 2014
 - There are solid equity and efficiency reasons for MSs to establish adequate social protection for LTC needs – "*significant health-related economic and social risk for individuals/families*"
 - There is a need to clarify the common objective of adequate social protection against LTC dependency
 - MSs should move from a reactive to increasingly proactive policy approaches – "*enhancing support for informal carers and making it easier for them to reconcile employment and care responsibilities*"

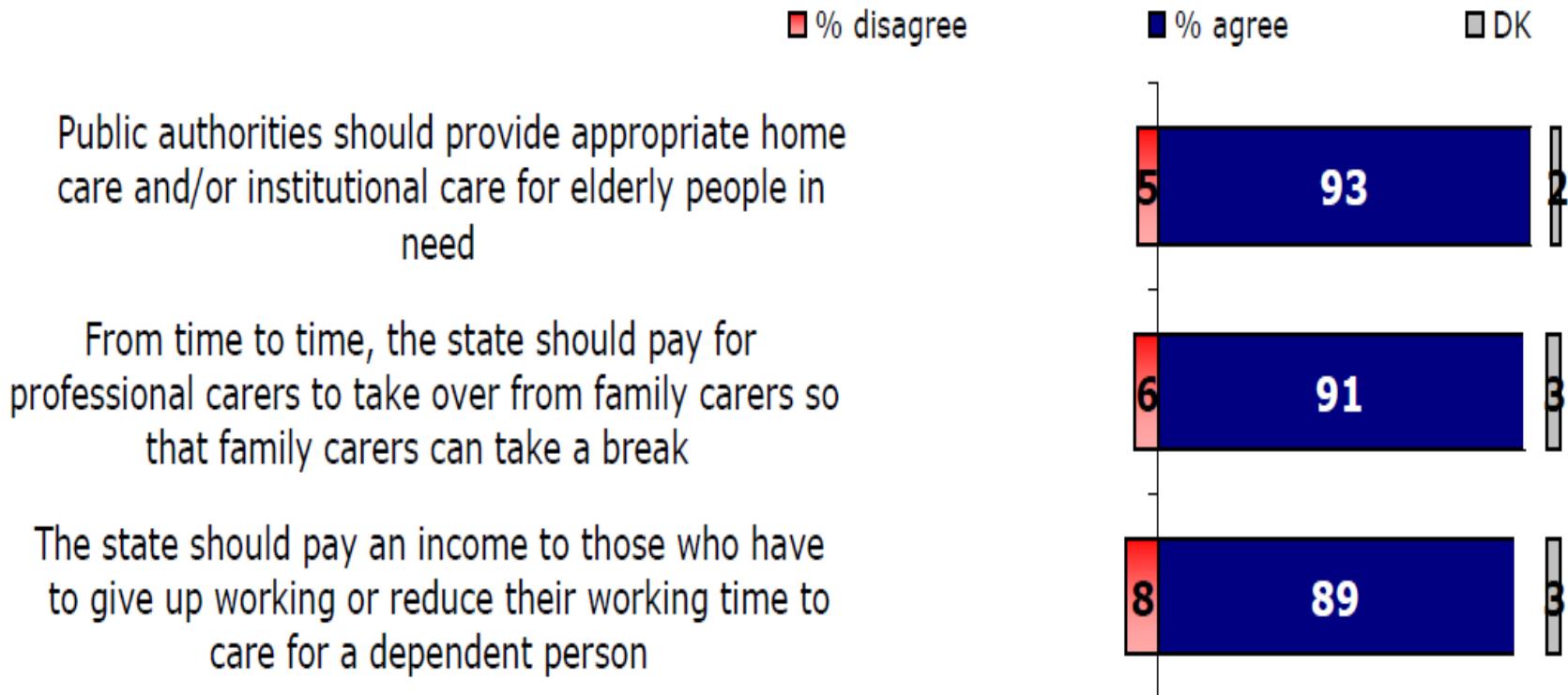


Clear evidence on economic, (social) and health risks for informal carers

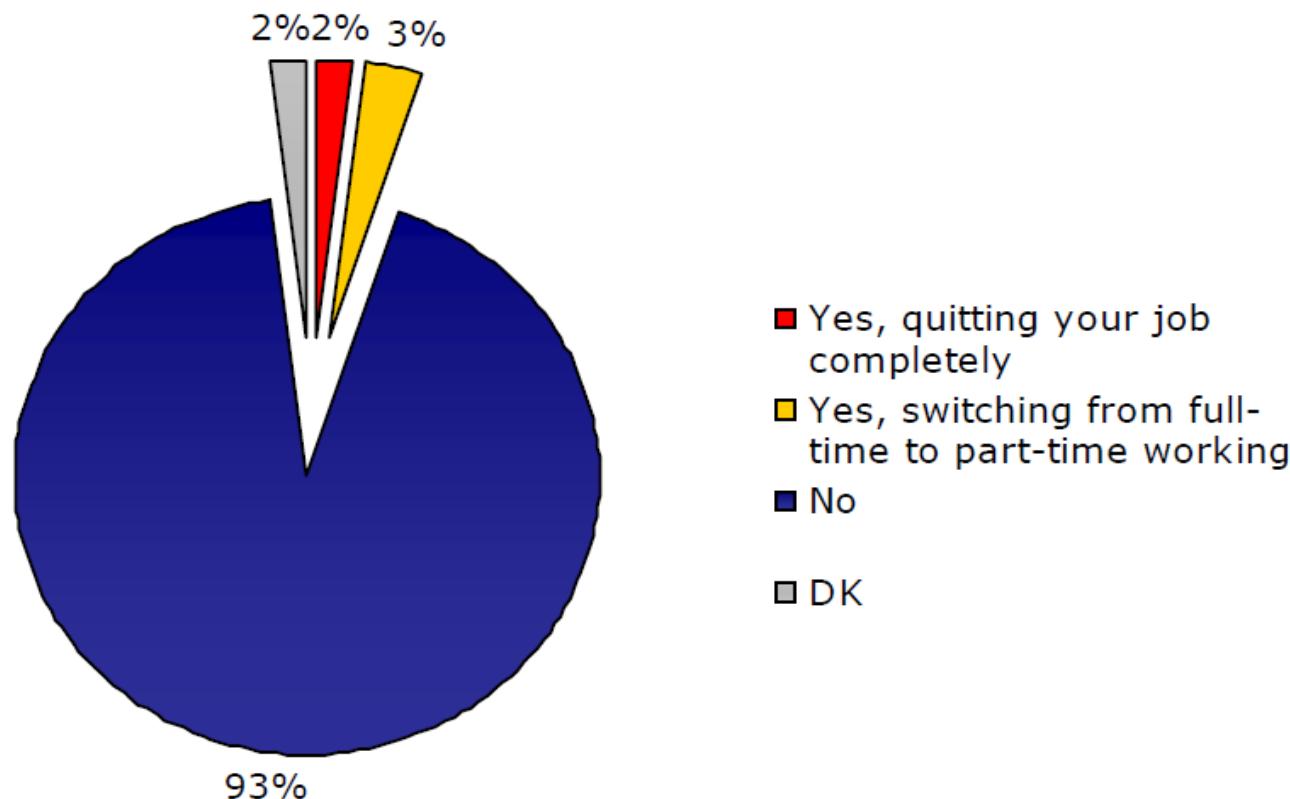
- Findings that impact of care on labour force participation is significant only when individuals provide a high intensity of care (20 hours/week or more)
- Variation in the employment impact across Europe
 - Northern Europe no significant impact
 - Southern Europe substantial in employment/working hours
- Possible explanation: informal carers are better able to reconcile care responsibilities and employment in countries with well-established and highly utilised formal care services and support policies for informal carers
- High intensity care-giving associated with 20% higher prevalence of mental health problems

QA8 For each of the following statements regarding the care of the elderly, please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree?

- % EU27



QA15 Did you ever give up paid work in order to take care of your elderly parents? - % EU27





Policies supporting informal carers

- Compensating and recognising carers: carers allowances, tax credits, pension rights
- Reconciling caring and paid work: unpaid leave, paid leave, flexible working arrangements
- Other measures such as training, counselling, respite care



Relevant EU policies

- Europe 2020 strategy
 - Impact of caring responsibilities relevant for achieving employment and poverty target
- Social Investment Package
 - Addressing the gender dimension (higher poverty among elder women "*caused by unpaid household, childcare and LTC task*")
 - *Calls for Social Investment throughout the individual's life: "The contributions of older people to society as carers for others or volunteers are often overlooked, and they should be given adequate support to pursue this".*
 - SWD on long-term care
- Reconciliation policies (possible proposal for a directive on carers leave)



2014 long-term care CSRs

MS	2014 CSR
AT	Further improve the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of health and long-term care services. Reinforce measures to improve labour market prospects of (...) women. This includes further improving childcare and long-term care services (...).
BG	In order to alleviate poverty, further improve the accessibility and effectiveness of social services and transfers for children and older people.
DE	Make additional efforts to increase the cost-effectiveness of public spending on healthcare and long-term care.
EE	Improve the efficiency of local governments and ensure the provision of quality public services at local level, especially social services complementing activation measures.
IT	Adopt effective action to promote female employment, by adopting measures to reduce fiscal disincentives for second earners by providing adequate care services.
LU	In view of ensuring fiscal sustainability, curb age-related expenditure by making long-term care more cost-effective,
NL	Implement the envisaged reform in the area of long-term care with a view to ensure sustainability, while ensuring fair access and the quality of services and monitor its effects.
SI	Contain age-related expenditure on long-term care by targeting benefits to those most in need and refocusing care provision from institutional to home care.



Improving the evidence base

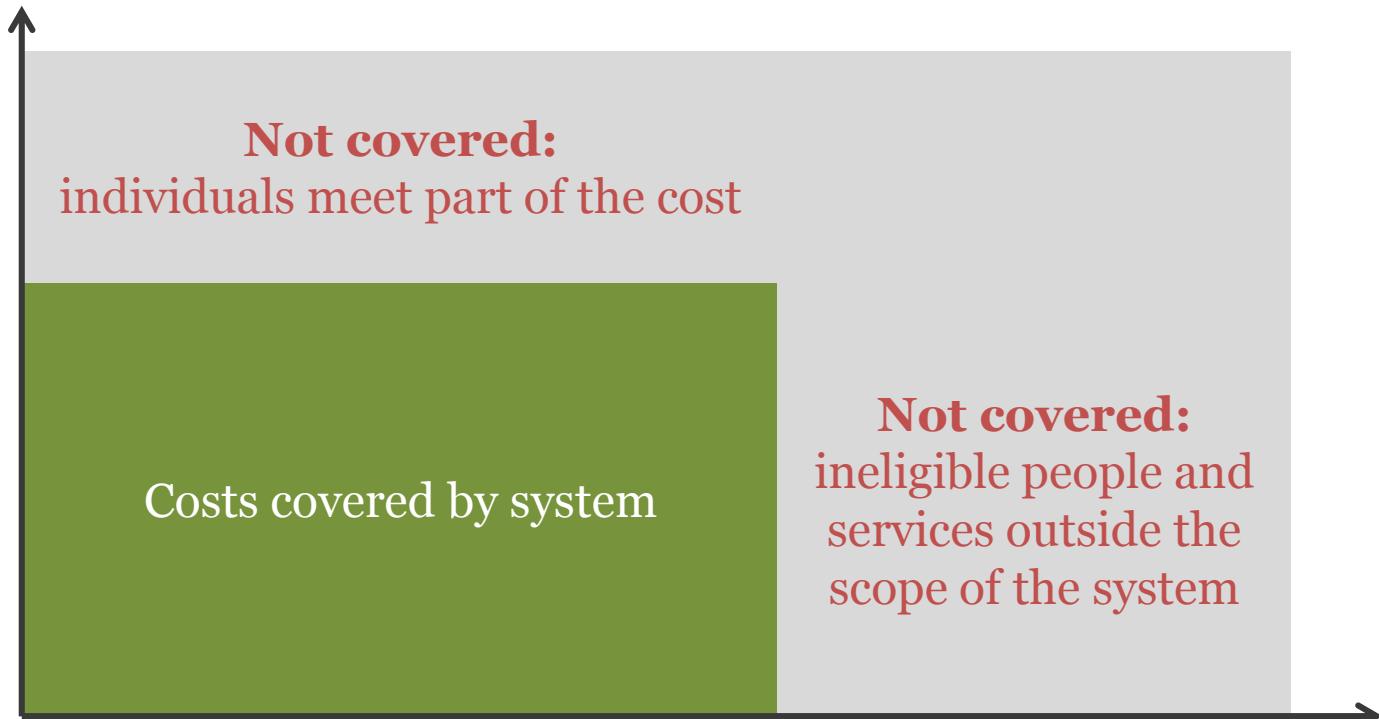
- Labour force survey on impact of caring on employment
- EU-SILC future on access to LTC services (special module ???)
- Improving MISSOC data base
- Joint Project with OECD on Measuring adequacy of social protection for long-term care needs



We need to consider the breadth and depth of coverage

“Depth”

- What % of the cost is covered?



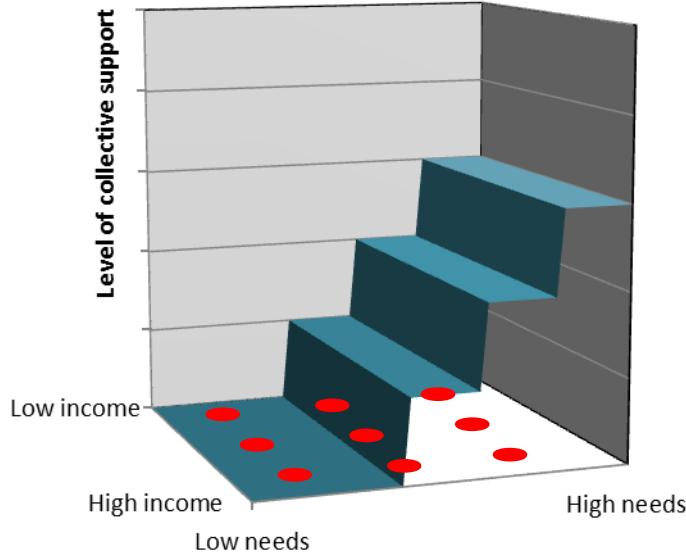
“Breadth”

- What services / needs are included?
- Who is eligible?



Defining equivalent means is easy enough, but needs are more difficult

Universal entitlement with fixed levels of benefit – e.g. Germany



Fully means-tested safety net system – e.g. United Kingdom

