The future of research and policy in long-term care

Parallel Session 2

UNOV | 26-27 September 2024

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY
AND RESEARCH

50 years

Aims

- Present the Discussion Paper

- Get feedback and fresh ideas from experts

- Identify additional areas of future research in health and social care

- Networking and forging potential partnerships

26 September ┃ 14.30 ┃ Room CR1

The future of research and policy in long-term care

Parallel Session 2 – Chair: Kai Leichsenring, European Centre

Presentation of the Discussion Paper

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Comments

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Caring Societies:
The Future of Long-Term Care

Discussion paper 'Health & Care' Team

Selma Kadi, Niki Kalavrezou, Mirjam Pot
26 September 2024

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

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Paper structure

- Introduction
- Key challenges in long-term care (LTC)
- Latest trends in policy and research in the area of LTC
- Conclusion

Introduction

Long-term care aims "to ensure people with, or at risk of, a significant loss of intrinsic capacity can maintain a level of functional ability consistent with their basic rights and human dignity" (WHO, 2022)

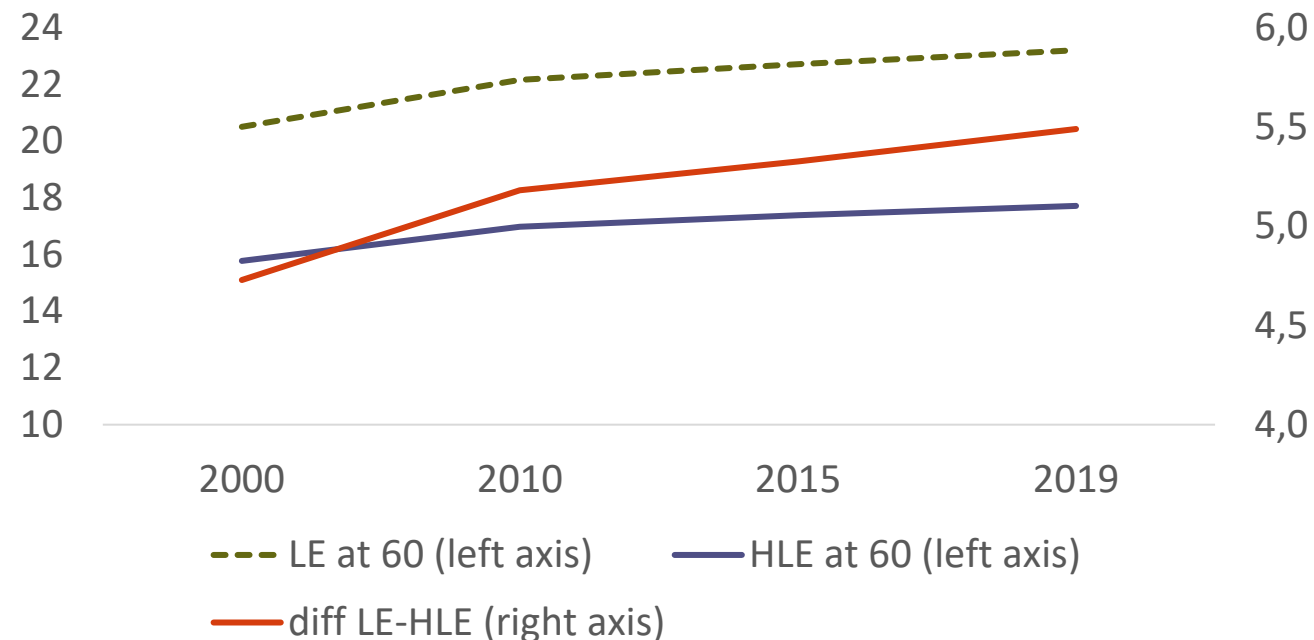**Caring societies** recognize the fundamental role of care for the political, economic and social organisation of society

Key challenges in LTC

Key challenge #1: Changes in LTC needs

Figure 1. Evolution of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at 60 (EU27), 2000-2019

- In many countries, rising longevity due to advances in medicine, healthcare and other factors

- However, life expectancy in good health (HLE) increasing at a slower pace than life expectancy (LE)
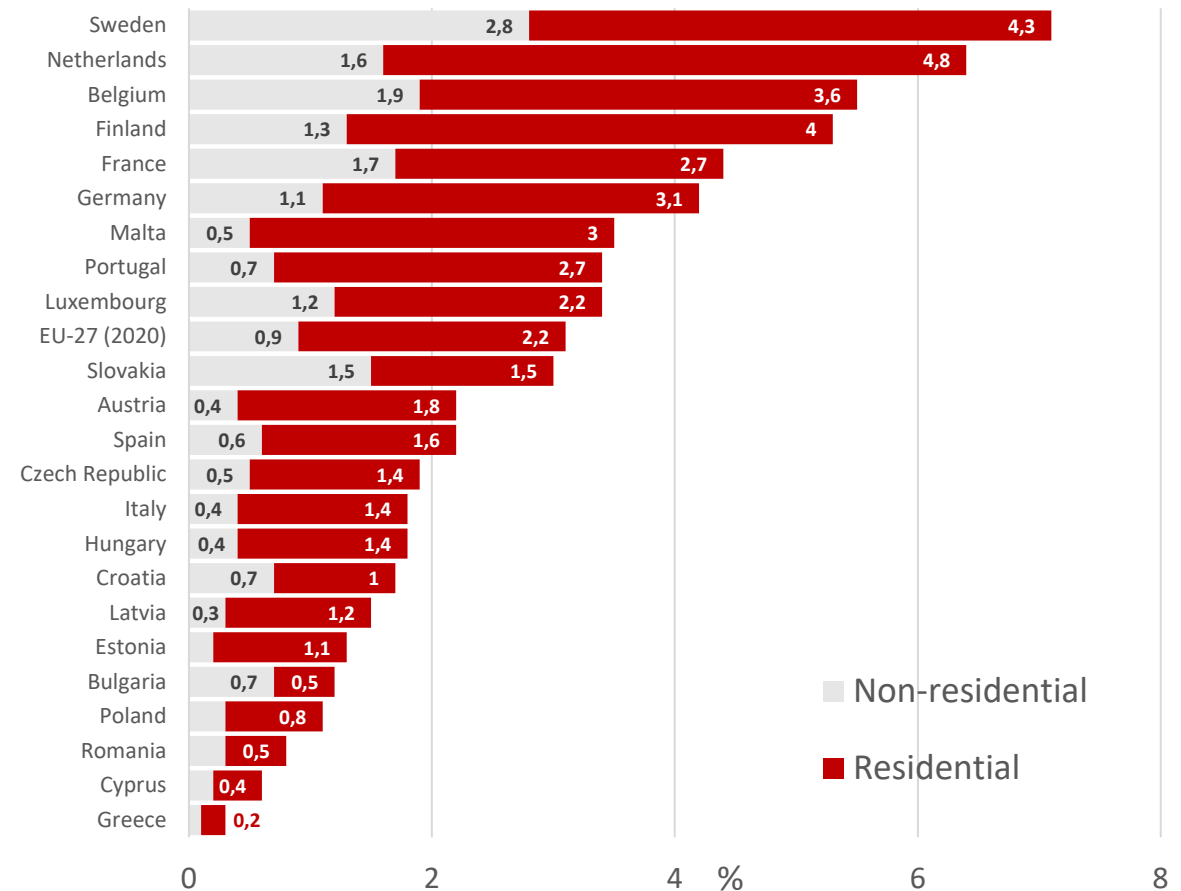

- - - LE at 60 (left axis) ——— HLE at 60 (left axis)

——— diff LE-HLE (right axis)

Source: WHO, authors' calculations. Notes: LE = life expectancy, HLE= healthy life expectancy

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Key challenge #2: Labour force shortages and poor working conditions

Figure 2. LTC workers as a share of the total workforce by EU Member State, 2019

- Huge differences in the size of the workforce between Member States

- Composition (gender, age, migrant background)

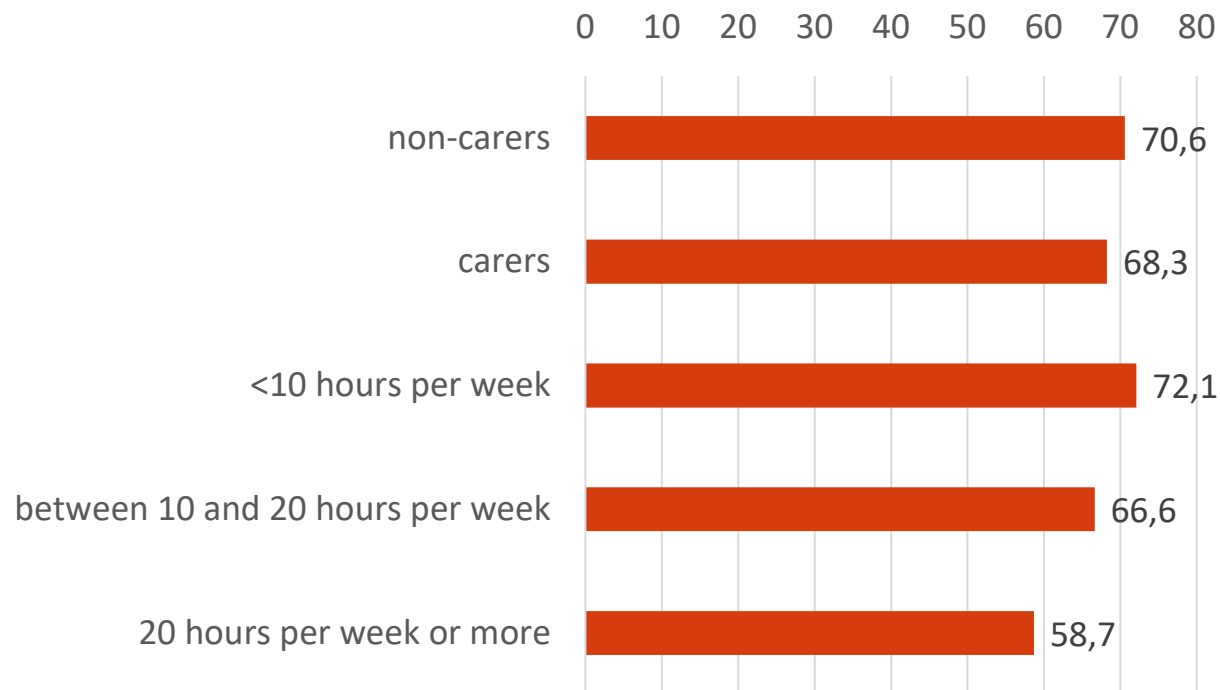- Work physically and mentally challenging, imminent shortages

Source: Eurofound, 2020 (based on the EU-LFS)

Key challenge #3: Sustainability of informal caregiving

Figure 3. Persons (%) self-reporting excellent/very good health status by carer status, EU-26, 2019
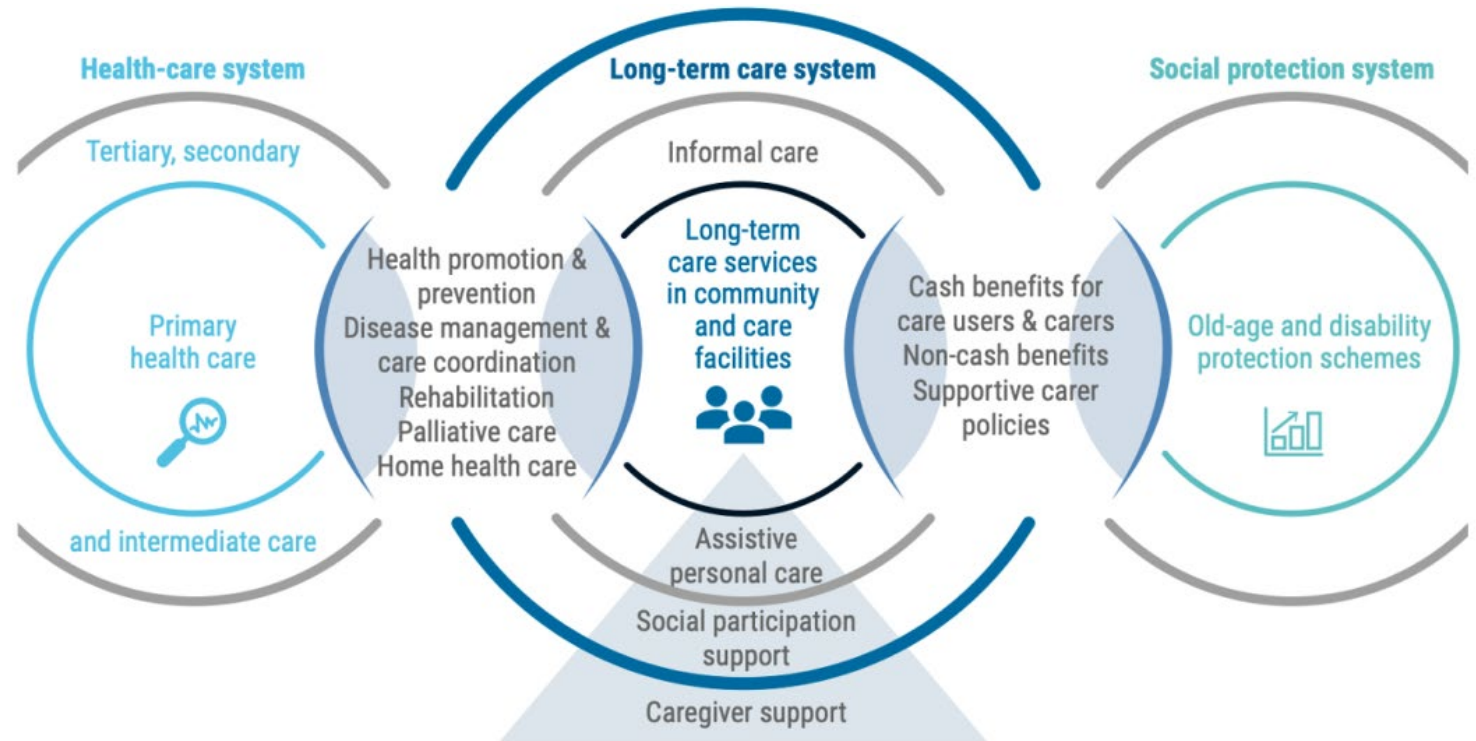

- Carers are confronted with difficulties in labour market participation, income, well-being as well as physical and mental health outcomes

- Differences in prevalence and intensity of informal caregiving between Member States

Source: authors' calculations based on EHIS microdata, wave 3 (2019). Note: microdata for France not available.

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International trend #1: Towards person-centred, integrated LTC systems

- Better integration of LTC with healthcare and social protection system

- Expansion of definitions of care needs: beyond physical and medical needs, e.g. inclusion of cognitive and social needs
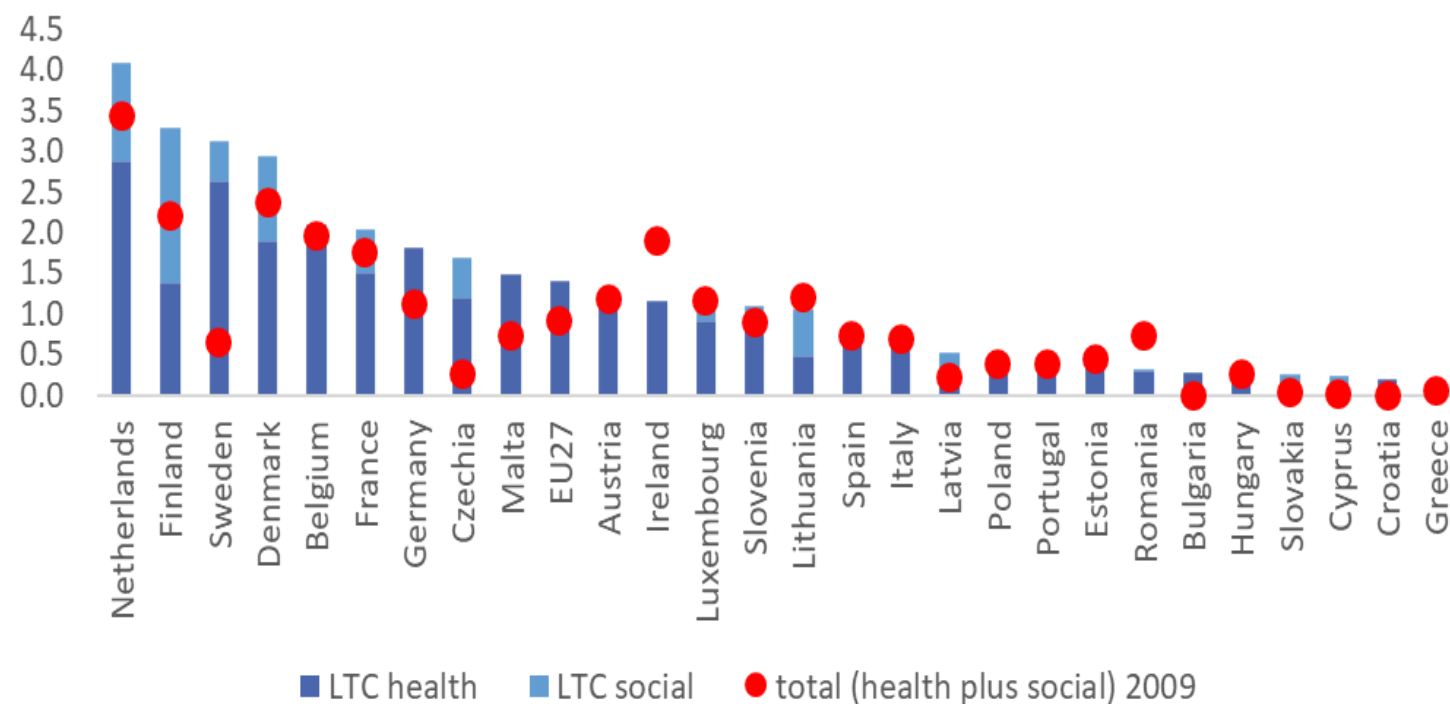

Source: WHO Europe (2022)

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International trends in long-term care

International trend #2: Investing in LTC and addressing workforce shortages

Figure 4. Public LTC expenditure as a % of GPD, 2021 (by component) vs. 2009 (total)

- In 22 out of 27 countries LTC spending increased between 2009 and 2021

- Large differences in terms of public LTC expenditure among Member States

- LTC expenditure as an investment in social and economic cohesion

Source: Eurostat, SHA.

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International trends in long-term care

International trend #3: Reframing unpaid care work

- Better recognition in care policies (e.g., EU Care Strategy)

- Implementation of support measures for informal carers (Rocard & Llena-Nozal, 2022)

What is needed:

- Acknowledging the importance of unpaid care work for the economy and functioning of society

- Ensuring proper income support and social securtiy for informal carers
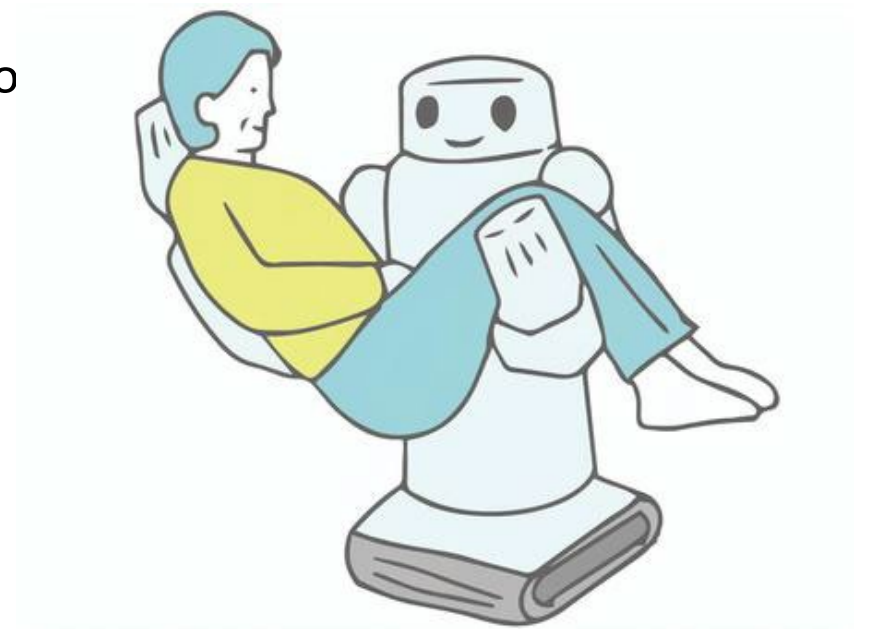
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International trends in long-term care

International trend #4: Implementing digital technologies in LTC

- From electronic health records and smartphone apps to service robots and smart home technologies

- Expectations that they will improve access to and quality o LTC, support formal and informal carers, and address workforce shortages (Zigante, 2020)

- Current policies: limited awareness about inequalities in access to digital technologies and the complexity of LTC provision (Valokivi et al., 2023)
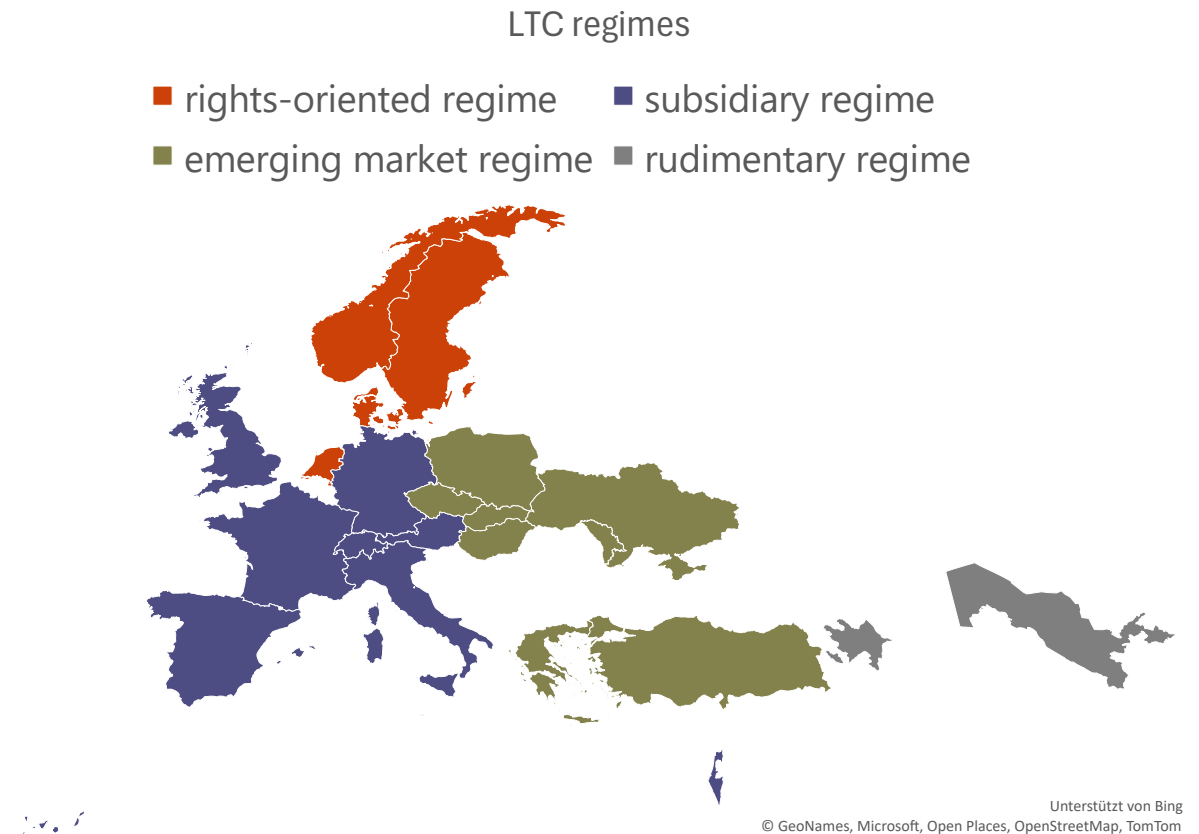
What is needed:

- Effective regulation of digital LTC technologies

- Embedding of digitial technologies in broader LTC strategies

Source: https://en.ac-illust.com/clip-art/23385148/nursing-care-robot

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Conclusions: From care regimes to a caring society?

- **4 types** of LTC regimes: rights-oriented, subsidiary, emerging market, rudimentary

- with similar challenges in working towards caring societies

LTC regimes

- rights-oriented regime
- subsidiary regime
- emerging market regime
- rudimentary regime

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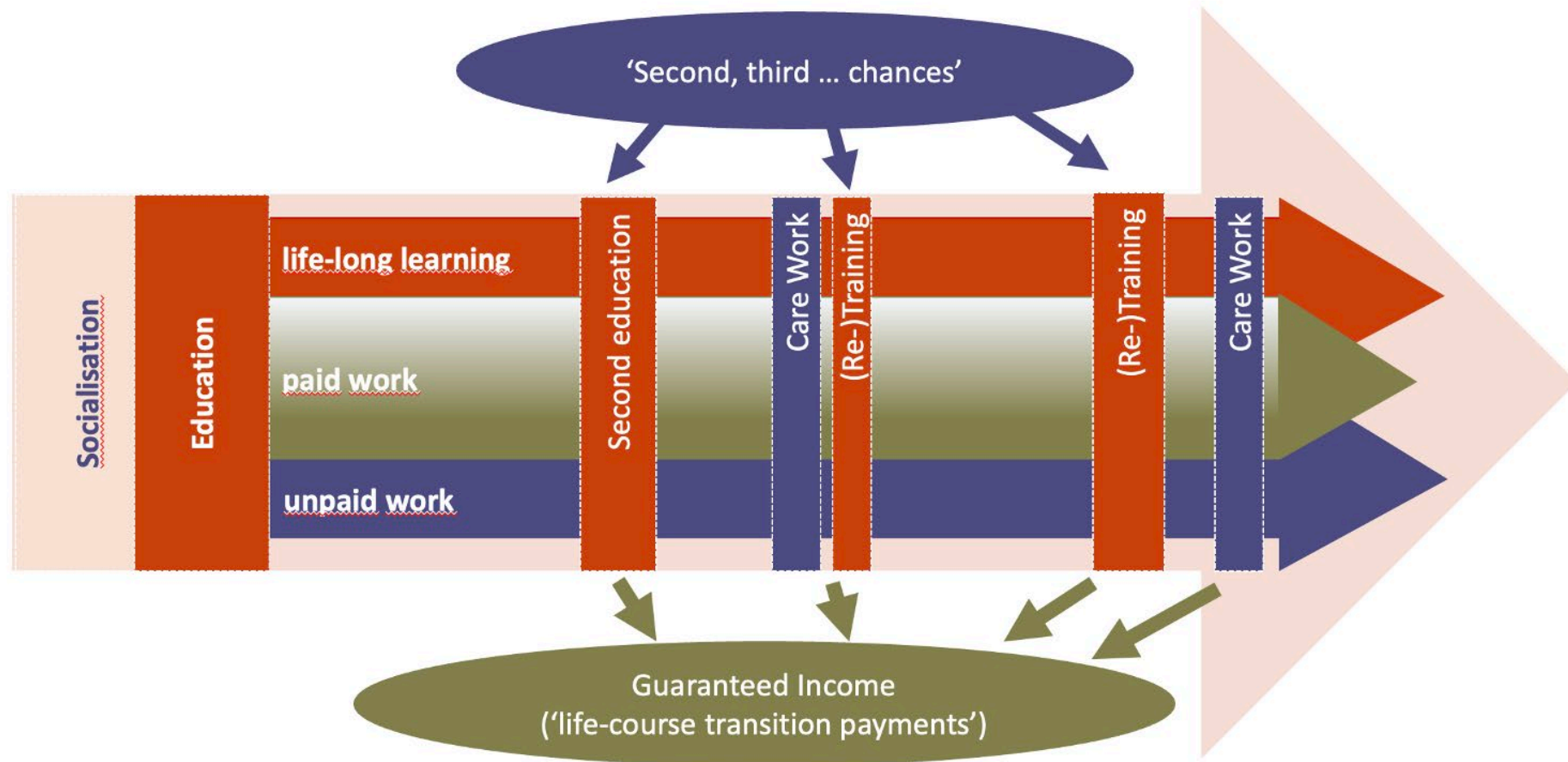# Selected dimensions of the "caring society"

Dimension	Issues to be addressed in policy and research
Family ethics	• Distributing care across society relieves families from being the main provider of care • Analyse inequalities in LTC provision and the potential of care eco-systems
Gendered division of (care) work	• Work towards gender balance, facilitating the care responsibilities (and professional perspectives) for men • Qualitative studies about (paid and unpaid) care work by men and the potential of local eco-systems
Commodification and professionalisation of care work	• Investment in education and training in LTC and attractive new jobs, integrated care services and facilities • Analyse the potential of new job profiles in LTC and the potential for professionalisation, incl. digitalisation and the social return on investment, respectively
Defamilialization	• Developing alternatives to isolated care in the family, waiver of asset-based out-of-pocket payments by family members • Participative research to develop local care networks, housing alternatives and partnerships with local stakeholders in LTC

Selected dimensions of the "caring society"

Dimension	Issues to be addressed in policy and research
Political economy of care	• Moving care at the centre of a mixed economy of care (public, private for- and non-profit) • Analysing the preconditions of a mixed economy of care based on national traditions and potentials for social innovation, including in terms of working conditions and quality of life
Acknowledgement of LTC as social risk	• Securing sufficient funding for LTC services, gauging alternative payment mechanisms (integrated care organisations), and considering funding of care activities over the life course • Analysing incentive structures and behavioural change
Access to LTC	• Securing equal access to high-quality services and facilities in local LTC eco-systems, including prevention and re-ablement • Participative studies on how to improve acceptance and the distribution of information on LTC eco-systems, including the role of digital support
Agency of stakeholders	• Establish rights for users and carers, with checks and balances, including quality assurance • Monitor rights-based approaches to LTC and evaluate the impact of user rights on quality of life (of users and carers)
Degree of social/health care coordination	• Facilitate the coordination and integration of health & social care and formal & informal care • Participative research with stakeholders on how to improve interprofessional working, the involvement of relevant agents, and to create and scale up local LTC eco-systems

Underpinning caring societies through an integrated life-course perspective

Sources: Leichsenring, 2018; Leichsenring & Sidorenko, 2024.

Questions for discussion

- How will changes in **life-course patterns** (childbearing at a later age, longer working lives, increasing mobility) and faster technological change impact the quantity and quality of **informal care** and intergenerational exchange?

- What types of **social welfare schemes and support mechanisms** would support the development of "caring societies," i.e. what measures, apart from professional services, would contribute to defamilialising care work?

- Which intergovernmental initiatives are needed to address issues regarding the **migration of care labour and migrants' live-in care work** in private households?

- What intergovernmental policies can facilitate **mutual learning** not only within the EU (where relevant initiatives take place via the Open Method of Coordination and in the context of the EU Care Strategy), but in a wider Europe and particularly in Accession Countries?

15.45 – 16.15
Enjoy your break!

26 September | 16.15 | Room CR1

The future of research and policy in long-term care

Parallel Session 2 – Chair: Cees Goos, European Centre

Niamh Lennox-Chhugani
International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC), Belgium

Stefania Ilinca
WHO Europe, Denmark

Giovanni Lamura
National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing, Italy

Mateja Nagode
Ministry of a Solidarity-Based Future, Slovenia

Stecy Yghemonos
Eurocarers, Belgium

Aims of this session

- To include additional perspectives from policy, research and stakeholder organisations

- To define the way ahead and gauge new areas of future research in integrated health and social care (long-term care)

- To agree on future ways of cooperation

Please follow us to the bus stop in front of UNOV!

The bus will leave at 18.15

Thank you!

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