



Expertise by Policy Areas

Findings and recommendations for **labour mobility and migration, long-term care, and child poverty**

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Plan of the session



- *Three* policy expertise areas
 - Rationale and background for research in the field
 - Projects at the European Centre
 - Illustrative findings
- Policy take-aways
- Discussion

Labour mobility and migration



- In 2024, cross-border and posted workers increased to **1.8 million (+3%)** and **5.5 million (+19.5%)**, respectively.
- The **inflow of third-country nationals doubled** reaching 3 324 000 (+133%).
- **European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)** principles and mobility and labour migration: social protection portability, equal treatment, and lifelong learning rights.
- **Adequate Wage Directive (2022/2041)**, **Platform Work Directive (2024/2831)**, direct and indirect effects of regional conflicts

Labour mobility and migration

Recent projects

- **JUSTMIG**: Sustainable and socially just transnational sectoral labour markets
- **ELA-TCN**: Contracting chains and recruitment patterns of posted third-country nationals within the European Union
- Posting.STAT 2.0: Enhancing the collection and analysis of national data on intra-EU posting 2.0
- ELA Framework Contract for the provision of analytical and methodological support (Qualitative analysis and mapping, mixed methods) – Seasonal workers



Labour mobility and migration

Illustrative findings from JUSTMIG & ELA-TCN projects

- Empirical work across **seasonal workers, third-country nationals, posted workers, temporary immigrants, and cross-border workers**, including the intermediaries and public institutions.
- Original data collection in both projects involved qualitative and quantitative approaches, secondary sources, and participatory events.

Labour mobility and migration

Illustrative findings

- **Recruitment & Intermediaries:** Migrant workers often enter through **complex contracting chains** with reliance on agencies/intermediaries, which creates dependency and opacity.
- **Precarious Conditions:** Across sectors (care, food processing, construction, transport), migrants face **low pay, insecure contracts, long hours, and weak enforcement** of standards.
- **Rights & Representation Gaps:** Legal dualism and subcontracting limit migrants' access to **social rights and collective bargaining**, leaving many outside effective protection.
- **Structural Segmentation:** Migrant labour regimes reproduce **segregated roles** (seasonal, posted, TCNs, carers), with limited skills recognition and mobility, sustaining systemic inequalities.

Labour mobility and migration

Illustrative findings

- Projects highlight **skill development & capacity building** as underexploited levers, especially in mobilizing social partners, strengthening institutional capacities, and improving cross-border coordination in industrial relations.
- **Role of Social Partners:** Union and works council presence makes a difference. For instance, Austria's stronger enforcement and collective agreements mitigate some exploitation.
 - In some sectors, however, migrants have **limited access to collective bargaining**, leaving them outside traditional worker representation channels .
 - Especially for non-EU nationals and posted workers.

Long-term care

- Increasingly recognised as a social risk that should be shared across populations in welfare states
- European Pillar of Social Rights 2017: Article 18
- European Care Strategy 2022: Adequacy, availability, quality, support for carers, governance



Long-term care and ageing

Recent projects

- **DISCOPMB:** Diversity-sensitive care for older migrants and their families / informal carers
- **Facts and Figures** on Healthy Ageing and Long-term Care
- **InfoCare:** Supporting informal carers in well-developed welfare states
- Report on labour mobility and social issues in the long-term care sector (ELA Lot 2-1)
- **ICE:** Informal Care and Employment
- Older Persons Affected by Violence and Abuse

Diversity-sensitive care for older migrants



- **Older migrants** use health and care services less than the native population
- **Barriers** to accessing care: language, trust, health system literacy, lack of adapted services, etc.
- **Diversity-sensitive care** is an integral part of person-centred care

DI.S.C.O.P.M.B. project:

- Intervention through education and awareness raising among stakeholders
- 40-hour face to face training package for education, 20-to-40-hour MOOC course
- Webinar series, dissemination event in the European Parliament, 2 Policy Briefs
- Importance of diversity-sensitive care, role of education in fostering skills for diversity-sensitive care, effectiveness of training materials developed

Ageing, Health and Long-Term Care

- Population ageing is reshaping demographic and household structures in Europe and beyond
- Epidemiological shifts: chronic diseases, multimorbidity, dementia, disability
- Longer life expectancy $\neq$ longer healthy life expectancy
- Ageing and health trends directly shape LTC needs

Ageing, Health and Long-Term Care

Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and LTC report

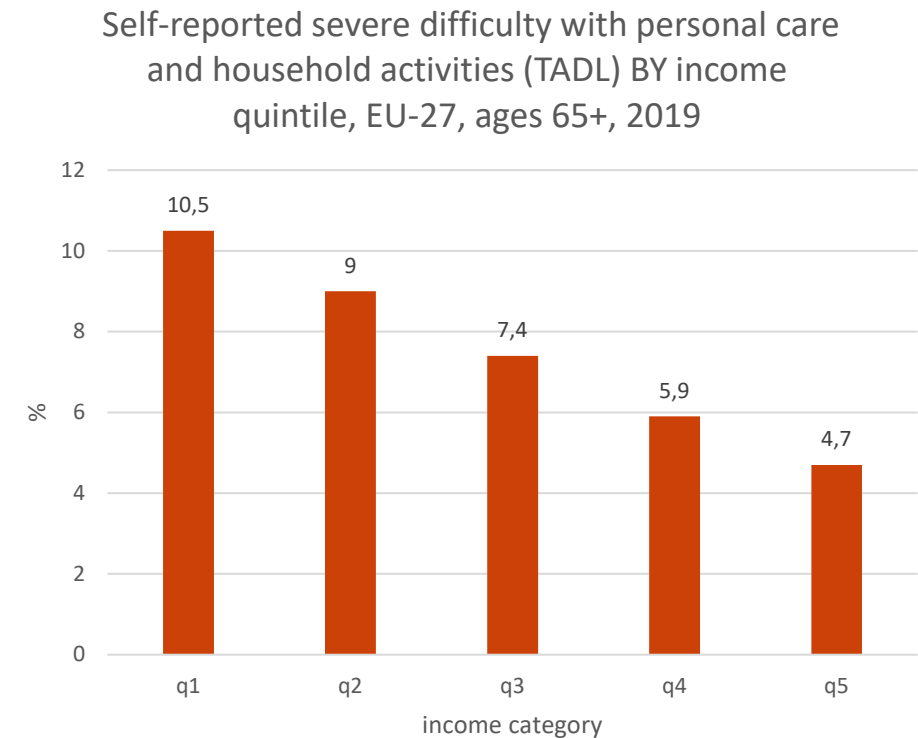
- Comparative analysis across European countries providing a quantitative foundation for policy debates
- Key indicators: demographics and ageing, health trends, formal & informal care, LTC financing
- Significant heterogeneity across countries (speed of ageing, system maturity) and within countries (inequalities)
- But shared challenges ahead: need to scale up LTC investments and develop innovative solutions as population ageing intensifies

Ageing, Health and Long-Term Care

Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and LTC report

- Older adults in the lowest income quintile (q1) report more severe difficulties with daily activities than those in the highest quintile (q5).
- A consistent socioeconomic gradient in health and care needs recurs across multiple indicators in the Facts and Figures report.

Source: Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and LTC (European Centre, 2025), Eurostat (EHIS)

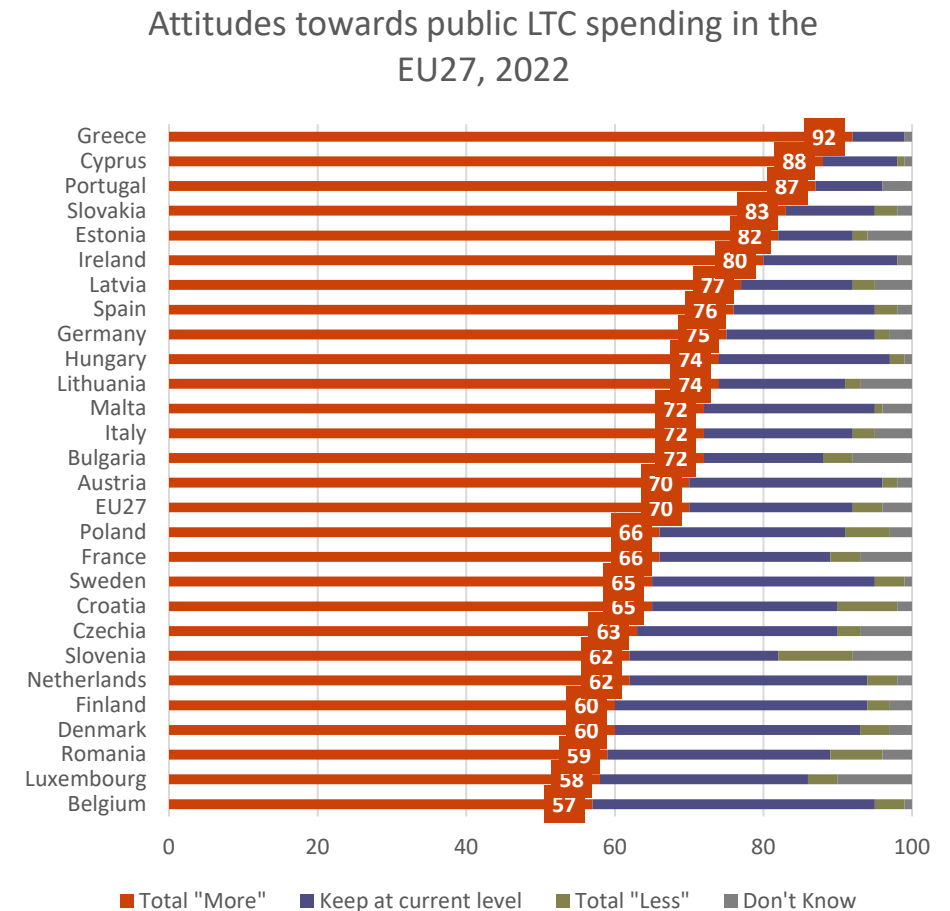


Ageing, Health and Long-Term Care

Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and LTC report:

- Majority of EU citizens support increased public spending on LTC
- Stronger demand for more investment in South and Eastern Europe
- Northern countries show more satisfaction with current public investment levels

Source: Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and LTC (European Centre, 2025), Special Eurobarometer 529 — Fairness, Inequality and Intergenerational Mobility (2022).



(Child) poverty: 2021 Action Plan

European Pillar Social Rights



- Sets out key targets for 2030 (compared to 2019)
- Areas: employment, skills, and poverty reduction
- Reduce number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million
 - incl. at least 5 million children

Basic facts

More than 20% of EU population are at risk of poverty or social exclusion
→ 25% of children

Exposure to child poverty leads to lower wages, less labour market integration, and poorer health in adulthood

Large families with many children and single-parent families are at greater risk
→ single parents are the largest group among working poor

Prevention of child poverty is cheaper than rectifying the consequences later in life

Child costs are covered to a relatively lesser extent for single parents

The earlier the public interventions (prenatal, early childhood, [pre]school, vocational training), the higher ROI

Expertise based on EUROMOD, the EU tax-benefit microsimulation model

- Covers all important features of social contributions, income tax, cash benefits, and indirect taxes
- Fiscal and distributive effects of real or hypothetical policy changes on disposable household incomes
- The European Centre is responsible for updating
 - Austrian EUROMOD component since 2002 (funded by JRC), and
 - Austrian online microsimulation tool SORESI since 2013 (funded by Austrian Federal Ministry for Social Affairs)

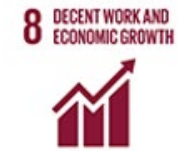
Recent projects using EUROMOD

- Planned: Distribution and consequences family-related tax credits (Academy of Sciences/AMDC)
- Effect COVID-19 on poverty and material deprivation of children (ÖNB-Jubiläumsfonds)
- Simulation increase minimum pension top-up (Caritas)
- Simulation introduction basic security for children (Volkshilfe)
- Microsimulation tax credit family bonus (AK)
- Analysis non-take up minimum income benefits (ÖNB-Jubiläumsfonds)

Policy example to break poverty cycle: Basic security for children

- Benefits in cash and in kind
- **Monetary:** universal and income-dependent component
 - „Free“ children from social assistance
 - Challenge: securing work incentives
- **In kind:** Early interventions, improved healthcare, healthy meals in kindergarten, etc.

Policy take-aways



Labour mobility & migration	Long-term care	Child poverty
Strengthen enforcement, monitoring, and transparency in recruitment and contracting	Ensure affordable LTC of good quality (e.g. article 18 EPSR, EU Care strategy)	Reducing child poverty has a high return on investment – invest in combatting child poverty rather than in rectifying its consequences
Ensure equal access to social rights for all mobile and migrant workers, in line with the EPSR and recent EU directives	Develop LTC systems further so that the LTC needs of older migrants can be met	Combining cash transfers with benefits in-kind (childcare, housing, etc.) has the best chance to break the cycle of poverty
Promote social partner involvement to support integration, mobility pathways, and more sustainable labour market outcomes	Scale up LTC investments and develop innovative solutions as population ageing intensifies	Microsimulation tools (e.g., EUROMOD) are useful for policymakers in predicting changes in child poverty before reforms are implemented



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