Transforming Long-term Care in Europe: Improving Quality and Ensuring Access

Tuesday 28th January 2014
NH Hotel Grand Sablon
Brussels
Overview

With an ageing population and growing costs, ensuring and improving the quality of long-term care (LTC) services has become an important policy priority across OECD countries. According to the recent OECD and European Commission Health Policy Study: A Good Life in Old Age? Monitoring and Improving Quality in Long-term Care (June 2013), the fastest-growing age group are people over 80, whose number will almost triple by 2060, rising from 4.6% of the EU population to 12% in 2050, resulting in an increased demand for long-term care. It is estimated that nearly 6% of those over 80 will need help to cope with their daily activities, however, even today families and public authorities struggle to deliver and pay for high-quality care for elderly people with reduced capabilities.

The report suggests that very few countries systematically measure whether long-term care is safe, effective, of a high quality and meeting the needs of care recipients. LTC quality measurement lags behind developments in health care. Only a few OECD countries have well-established information systems for care quality. While the collection of LTC quality data poses a number of challenges, there is a potential for harmonising data collection on LTC quality at the international level.

The most common policy approach to safeguard and control quality focuses on setting minimum acceptable standards and then enforcing compliance. In two-thirds of the OECD countries reviewed, certification or accreditation of facilities is either compulsory, a condition for reimbursement, or common practice. Furthermore, the EU should assist in coordinating Member States’ LTC policies, which vary considerably across countries. Such coordination may involve equal access to services, inclusion policies, and improvement of the quality of care, as well as sustainable financing schemes.

Public financing in LTC varies widely across Member States and alternatives to formal care (such as informal care or home-based care) could be a solution to the increasing demand for LTC in Europe. The lack of care professionals in Europe is another challenge to address through better cooperation between social and health services, more attractive offers for care workers as well as adapted training programmes.

Following the EU-funded project ANCIEN and the Council’s guidelines for the 2012 European Year or Active Ageing, this timely international symposium provides an invaluable opportunity to explore how coordination between Member States can be strengthened to implement a sustainable plan for long-term care. Delegates will discuss how data collection, financing opportunities, quality of care and jobs in the sector can be improved to provide better long-term care across Europe.

Why Attend?

- Discuss the successes and failures of long-term care in Europe
- Examine existing European standards for long-term care services and the EU framework for coordinating Member States’ actions
- Assess the costs of long-term care at national level and the financing opportunities
- Share best practices on alternatives to formal care and consider better support for families and friends

Who Should Attend?

- Governmental Organisations and Agencies
- Local and Regional Authority Officers and Councillors
- Health Practitioners
- Social Care Practitioners
- Active Ageing Organisations
- Health Promotion Agencies
- Care Providers
- Mental Health Practitioners
- Patients Organisations
- Community Engagement Officers
- Community Relations Advisers
- Social Inclusion Officers
- Disability Practitioners
- Equal Opportunities Officers
- Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Practitioners
- Pensions Organisations
- Legal Advisers
- National Association of Pensioners
- Research Labour Institutes
- Elderly Women’s Activity Centres
- Federations of Elder Associations
- National Societies of Gerontology
- Public Service Pensioner’s Councils
- National Institutes of Adult Continuing Education
- National Centres for Public Health Protection
- National Departments of Health
- Centres of Health Economics
- Campaigning Organisations
- National Senior Citizens Organisations
- Citizen’s Advice
- Welfare and Elderly Federations
- Unions of Retired Persons
- Institutes of Lifelong Learning
- Adult Education Organisations
- Palliative Care Associations
- Charities, Social Enterprises and Cooperatives
- Third Sector Practitioners
- Trade Union Representatives
- Academics and Researchers

Venue and Accommodation

NH Hotel Grand Sablon,
Rue Bodenbroek 2/4. B-1000 Brussels
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László ANDOR, European Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, November 2012
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Programme

09:15 Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:00 Chair’s Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:10 Addressing Long-Term Care Demand in the EU
   - Facing Demographic Change and an Ageing Population
   - Assessing the Impact of the Growing Need For Long-Term Care and Collecting Efficient Data
   - Discussing The Need for a Proper EU Framework Based on Shared Health Values
   - Recommendations for Future Actions
10:40 First Round of Discussions
11:10 Morning Coffee Break
11:30 Moving Towards Sustainable and Planned Financing Policies
   - Analysing the Setting and the Cost of LTC Services at National and European Levels
   - Current Financing Instruments for Institutional, Home-Based and Informal Care
   - Discussing the Shortcomings of Private LTC Across Europe
   - Exchanging Best Practices
12:00 Second Round of Discussions
12:30 Networking Lunch
13:30 Providing Options to People in Need of Long-Term Care
   - Supporting Family and Friends as Caregivers
   - Offering Flexibility in Designing Support Measures For LTC Services
   - Promoting the EU Coalition through Innovative Projects - Presenting the European Quality Framework for Long-Term Care Services
   - Encouraging Healthy and Active Ageing
   - Recommendations for Future Projects
14:00 Third Round of Discussions
14:30 Afternoon Coffee Break
14:50 Improving Job Quality and Services in LTC Labour Markets
   - Attracting and Retaining Care Workers
   - Focusing on Cost Effective Solutions in the Long-term Care Sector
   - Coordinating Health and Social Security Services
   - Sharing Ideas and Practices
15:20 Fourth Round of Discussions
15:50 Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments
16:05 Networking Reception
16:45 Symposium Close

**Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice**

Event Details

Date: Tuesday 28th January 2014
Time: 10:00am – 4:45pm
Venue: NH Hotel Grand Sablon, Brussels

Speakers include

- Wojciech Dziworski, Senior Economist and Political Analyst, Innovation and Healthy Ageing, DG Health and Consumers, European Commission (confirmed)
- Lisa Schoenenberg, Policy Officer, European Social Network (confirmed)
- Frank Goodwin, President, Eurocarers (confirmed)
- Andrea E. Schmidt, Researcher and Policy Analyst, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (confirmed)
- Patrick De Bucquois, President, Social Services Europe (confirmed)
- Dominique Verté, Founding Director, Belgian Ageing Studies; Professor, PhD in Gerontology, Department of Adult Educational Sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussels (confirmed)

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