

The European Care Strategy



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#EUCareStrategy

Social services workforce: EU challenges



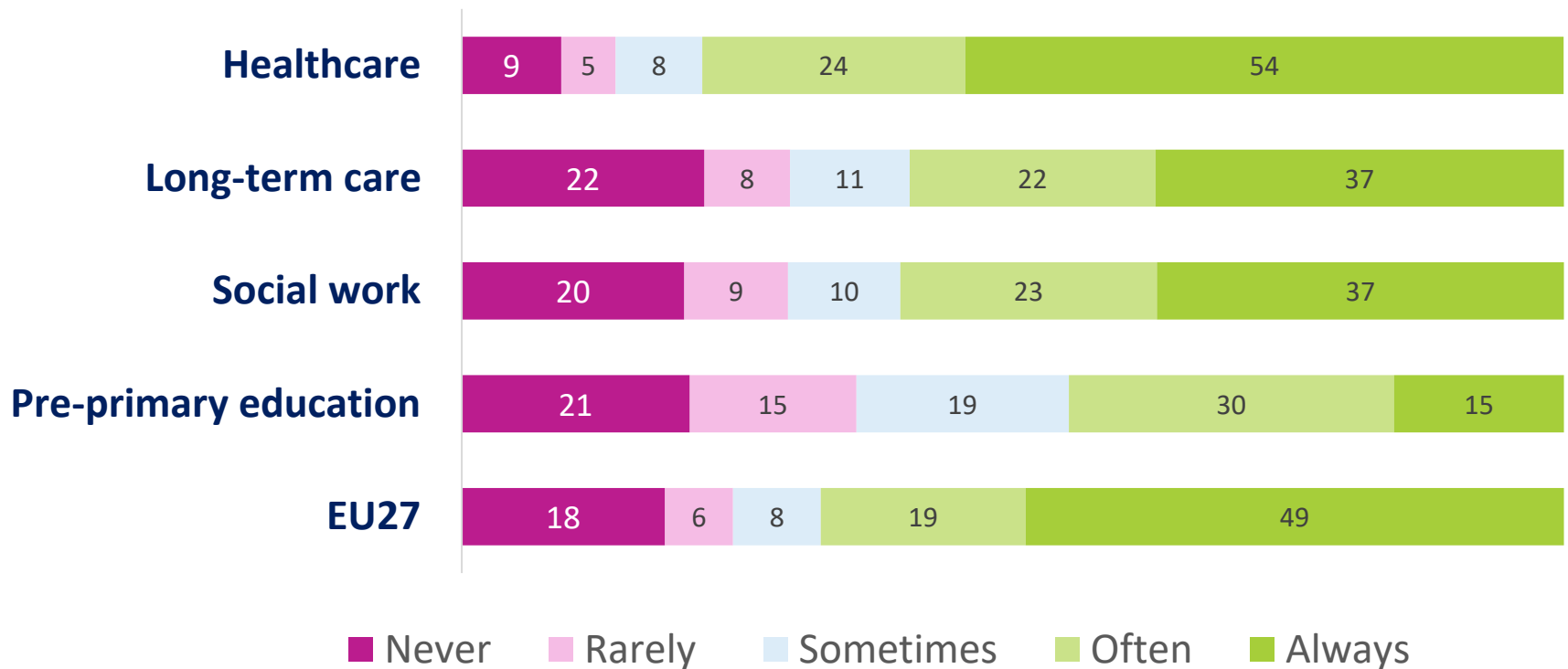
Heterogenous sector, but some common challenges:

- Women dominated sector
- Job strain and shortages
- Poor working conditions,
- Health and safety risks and psychological stress
- Training needs, especially digital

<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/publications/2021/social-services-europe-adapting-new-reality>

Example: digital gap in social services

EW CtS 2021: *How often does your main paid job involve working with computer, laptop, tablet, smartphone?*



EU response

Policy initiatives

- **European care Strategy and Council Recommendation on LTC**
- Council Recommendation on minimum income
- Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Social economy action plan and Council Recommendation
- Council Recommendation on Barcelona Targets
- Council Recommendation on European Child Guarantee

EU funding support

- MFF and Next generation EU
 - ESF+
- * help desk for social services

Skills initiatives

- European Year of Skills
- ESF+ - 15 billion EUR allocated to adult skills development
- Skills development, ex. **Pact for Skills**
- Skills recognition
- Formal education and training

European Care Strategy: EU-level actions on LTC

LTC services

- Policy dialogue and mutual learning for the national LTC coordinators and in SPC/ EMCO
- International cooperation (WHO, OECD)

Workforce

- Skills
- Social dialogue
- Working conditions
- Occupational health and safety
- Support for informal carers

Funding and technical support

- Technical assistance (TSI)
- Innovation (Horizon Europe, EASI)
- Digitalization (Digital Europe)
- EU funds (RRPs, ESF+, ERDF...)

Evidence and monitoring

- Improving data, task force on LTC statistics
- Projections on demand for care
- Policy monitoring (European Semester, Social OMC)

European Care Strategy: EU-level actions on LTC workforce

Commission decision setting up the European social dialogue committee for social services

As part of the follow-up to the 2022 Care Strategy and the 2023 Social Dialogue Initiative, the Commission adopted on 10 July 2023 a decision setting up the European social dialogue committee for social services.



Pact for Skills: launch of large-scale skills partnership for long-term care

Today, long-term care service providers, social partners and education and training providers, with the support of the European Commission, have set up a large-scale skills partnership for the long-term care sector.



- [Large-scale partnership for skills in LTC](#) - April 2023
- CEDEFOP brief "[Handling change with care: skills for the EU care sector](#)" - September 2023
- [Commission decision setting up the European social dialogue committee for social services](#) - July 2023
- On-going: study on admission conditions and pathways for third-country national to join the EU labour market; thematic study on the application of EU labour law in the long-term care sector; analysis of occupational safety and health issues in the health and LTC sector
- Mutual learning in 2024

Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality LTC



Affordability

adequate, timely and comprehensive social protection



Availability

more LTC services & options, home care & community-based care, territorial gaps, innovative & digital solutions, accessibility



Quality

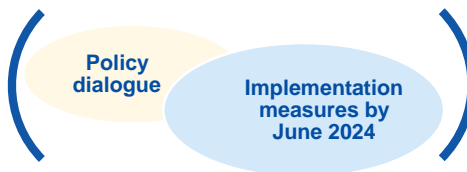
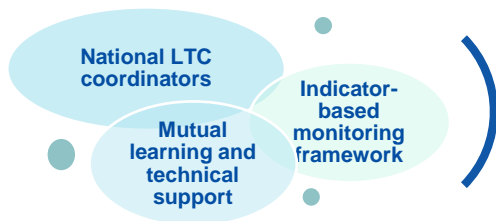
LTC quality framework, based on quality principles and quality assurance



Carers

quality employment, fair working conditions, addressing skills needs and workforce shortages, access to support services and social protection for informal carers, work-life balance

Monitoring and governance



Workforce dimension in the Council REC

Quality employment and fair working conditions

- Social dialogue and collective bargaining, incl. attractive wages
- Occupational health and safety
- Vulnerable workers

Professionalisation of care, skills needs and worker shortages

- Education and training
- Building career pathways; upskilling, reskilling and skills validation
- Legal migration pathways for LTC workers
- Tackling gender segregation in the LTC sector

Thank you!