

Promoting the needs and added value of informal carers across Europe

Webinar Mantelzorg in tijden van COVID-19

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The Eurocarers Network



*European network of carers' organisations
and research institutes.*

73 members from 26 European countries.

Our mission

*To ensure that policies and practices
across Europe recognise and support
informal carers (*mantelzorgers*).*

Informal carers across Europe

In Europe, 80% of care is provided by informal carers.

The number of informal carers is estimated to be at least twice as the number of professional carers.

→ **Without informal carers our welfare systems would be unsustainable!**

Majority of carers are women.



Across Europe, 7-8% of children have caring responsibilities.

Young carers are often invisible to policymakers and service providers.

Impact of caring

Caring can have a negative impact on:

- *Participation in paid labour market*

Gender dimension

- *Physical and mental health*
- *Social inclusion and finances*

Human rights (and economic) reasons call for carers to be supported!

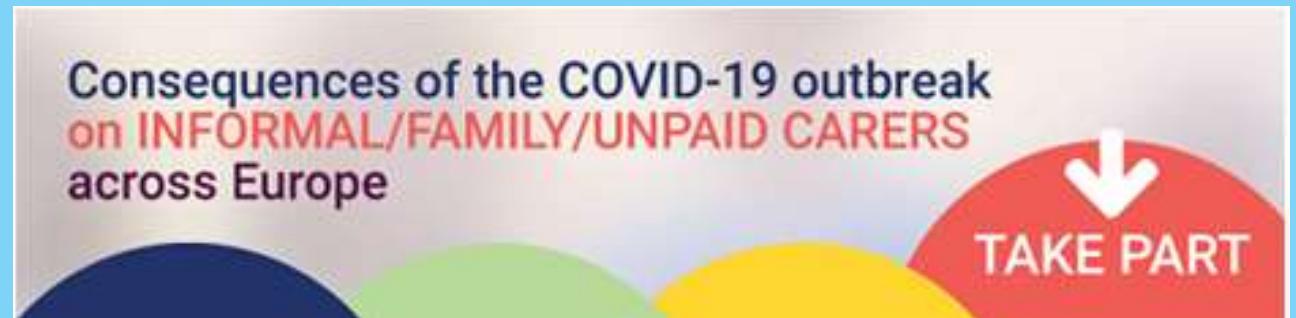
Supporting carers is a win-win strategy!

The impact of COVID 19 on care and caring

Eurocarers Survey

Open to all informal carers

Deadline: 15 January 2021



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8B5NBJR>

Caring in times of coronavirus

Challenges

Carers are caring more, with no breaks

They feel isolated

Worsened mental health

More difficult to combine work and care (or education and care)

Financial negative impact

Carers feel like they have been forgotten

New population of carers

Needs

Reinstatement of home care, support and respite services

Opportunities for social inclusion

Support with mental health

Measures to facilitate combination of work (or education) and caregiving

Additional financial support

Recognition and appreciation

Responding to the needs of carers

Good Practices

From the voluntary sector

- *Online support services*
- *Guidance and contingency plans*
- *Identification cards*

From employers

- *Additional arrangements to support carers' health and wellbeing*
- *Increased remote working options*
- *Flexible working arrangements (including leaves)*

Never let a good crisis go to waste

'The personal is political'

- ✓ *Opportunity to overcome the stereotypical gender distribution of care*
- ✓ *Place care at the centre of policy debates, i.e. values and allocation of resources, respective responsibilities (individuals vs. collective), etc.*





**LET'S MAKE
CARER-FRIENDLY
SOCIETIES
A REALITY**



Thank you!

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