

# Strategic Dialogue on the European Care Strategy

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

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**The following are the challenges listed in the Call for Evidence:**

- access and availability
- affordability
- quality
- workforce
- informal careers
- demographic trends
- gender dimension of the sector
- Inequalities and territorial dimension
- Level of public expenditure
- Digitalization and innovation
- Impact of COVID-19

**Are there other challenges which should be considered:**

*1500 character(s) maximum*

- impact of the Ukrainian refugee crisis (immediate, medium, long-term) on the need for, availability, accessibility & affordability of care; issues of increased informal care & legal rights.
- while heightened attention is needed among deprived and vulnerable groups, and considering a changing borders of 'vulnerability', a balanced approach (proportionate universalism along a social gradient) is called for to provide care for all with urgency and intensity according to (unmet) need, leaving nobody behind.
- socio-economic, commercial, cultural & behavioural determinants of inequalities, resulting in diverse health outcome, life-long cumulative effect of deprivation, how a concept of 'care' can capture that.
- levels of public expenditure on prevention and health promotion in relation to GDP & total healthcare budgets remain low & insufficient at an average of 3% across the EU, adding to a challenge of steering investments in healthy/active ageing, and integrated preventive/wellbeing-enhancing approaches throughout the lifecourse. Issues related to high & growing out-of-pocket payments (incl. for prevention/health-enhancing intervention to ensure healthy/active ageing, ECEC), reliance on private care provisions & affordability of it for disadvantaged groups.
- Capacity and skills of the care sector/workforce to work in inter-disciplinary teams, person-centred, community-based manners, assets-oriented.
- social innovation & maturity of social economy market.

### **How could your organisation help to reach the objectives of the Care Strategy at EU:**

*1500 character(s) maximum*

- Continued advocacy for the Economy of Wellbeing and a caring society approaches, health equity impacts assessments, strong focus on the intersection of health and social inequalities along lifecourse
- Continued advocacy and exchange of good/promising practice between members on prevention and health promotion aspects of the Care Strategy at EU and (sub-) national levels
- Call for an overarching approach to the Strategy's implementation, along other synergetic EU-level initiatives listed in the background document. Highlighting the Care Strategy's potential for the European Health Union and the sustainability of the healthcare systems in the post-pandemic recovery and resilience-building efforts.
- Support to development of a methodology for national action plans/mechanisms, including relevant targets and indicators.

### **and at local level:**

*1500 character(s) maximum*

- Continued advocacy and exchange of good/promising practice between members on prevention and health promotion aspects of the Care Strategy at national, regional and local levels

### **Contact**

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