

2021

# Long-term care in the EU

Principle 18 of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) states that everyone has the right to affordable long-term care services of good quality. The EU supports Member States in implementing long-term care policies through EU legislation such as the [work-life balance](#) directive, EU funding, monitoring and analysis, as well as mutual learning activities. [The 2021 Long-term care report](#), jointly prepared by the European Commission and the Social Protection Committee, provides a state of play of long-term care provision and key challenges across the EU. It provides also a first analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The number of people potentially in need of long-term care is projected to rise from **30.8 million** in 2019 to **38.1 million** in 2050.



**33% of women aged 65+ need long-term care**

**only 19% of men aged 65+ need long-term care**



Long-term care expenditure in the EU projected to **increase from 1.7% of GDP in 2019 to 2.5% of GDP in 2050**

**among fastest rising social expenditures**

\*estimation for healthcare associate professionals and personal care workers

**7 million jobs\***  
to be available by 2030

## LONG-TERM CARE SECTOR



**6.4 million workers**

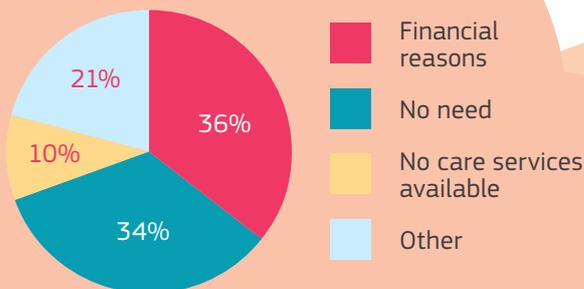


**90% of workers are women**



**workforce is ageing**

## Main reasons for not using (more) professional homecare services



## INFORMAL CARE

- is an important source of care provision in all Member States, and in many cases the only source
- often leads to neglected social and economic costs
- has negative impact on carers' physical and mental health

Already now many people in need do not have access to long-term care