

Intervention auf dem First Ministerial Roundtable: „Ensuring access to long-term care and support for carers and families”

Ms. Lisa Paus, Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany

Datum 17.06.2022, 11:30 – 13:00

Ort Rom, Italien

- This round table puts the spotlight on a topic which is pivotal for Germany: How can we ensure high quality accessible long-term care and how can we improve support for family members, providing informal care which constitute a central pillar of caring for those in need.
- When Covid-19 started we put special legal regulations in place to buffer acute needs. Against the background of an unknown future development of Covid-19 especially from fall onwards, we will prolong these regulations till December 31, 2022.
- This means: family members providing informal care continue to profit from flexible care time and family care time arrangements. This includes the right to stay absent from work up to 20 work-days in an emergency care situation caused by Covid-19. During this time the so called “Pflegeunterstützungsgeld” is granted to substitute lost income.
- However, this cannot be enough. The Covid-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated that caring relatives fulfill an extremely important role within the family but also for society as a whole. In most cases we are talking about women, who often take care of children at the same time. But in my country, also 479.000 children and youth take care of chronically ill relatives or those in need of long-term care.
- Long-term care takes time, takes energy and needs money. Thus in November 2021, the new government has agreed in the Coalition Treaty to further develop regulations on care time and family care time. This aims at granting more sovereignty of time for informal caregivers and introducing a substitute for lost income due to care provision. I personally will fight for the realization of these goals and stand for modern and transparent rules.
- To conclude let me elaborate shortly on the project “Pausentaste” aiming at providing counselling and information for young carers. Many of the young carers do not see themselves as care providers. They consider it as their normal task to take care of family members in need. However, often they are overburdened, leading to negative mental, social and educational impacts. “Pausentaste” helps young carers to take a break, to reflect, to accept support, and to talk about their situation – also anonymously. Even if the offer primarily targets young carers , it is open to and aims at sensitizing teachers, outpatient care services, social services in schools, hospitals, and youth organizations as well the general public. Starting in 2021 “Pausentaste” has a special eye on caring university students and young adults in vocational training.