UNECE Policy Seminar on Ageing Quality in Long-Term Care

Wednesday 23 November 2022, 09:30 - 17:00 | EN & RU | Geneva

Objective

Population ageing and growing longevity have been continuously increasing the demand for long-term care and for skilled care professionals in the Euroepan region. In particular, the growth in the number and proportion of the "oldest old" above 80 years, who are more frequently in need of long-term care, is exercising pressure on countries' care infrastructures.

To prepare for this surge in demand, long-term care services need to be continually expanded and adjusted, to be able to maintain high quality while securing access for all. Apart from ensuring access to appropriate care, it is equally important to uphold the dignity and highest possible level of autonomy and self-determination of older persons across long-term care settings.

The policy seminar aims to provide space for discussion and experience exchange between members of the Standing Working Group on Ageing and other stakeholders, reflecting on the main determinants of quality in long-term care, some of the key associated challenges, as well as mechanisms and tools for quality assurance.

The seminar will analyse the resource needs of high-quality long-term care and the sustainability of service provision in this sector, focusing on human resource needs and professional care workers in particular. It will also dive into the matter of quality assurance and monitoring, making country experineces available and facilitating exchange between policy makers, civil society and the research community in the European region.

Target Group

The policy seminar is designed for national policy makers, experts on long-term care systems and services, civil society representatives and other stakeholders.

Expected results

Better understanding of the determinants of quality in long-term care provision and of the challenges associated with ensuring high-quality long-term care services. The seminar should also provide new insights into meeting the resource needs of quality long-term care, with specific regard to care workforces, and into the mechanisms that can be implemented to improve quality assurance and monitoring in this sector.

Provisional Agenda | UNECE Policy Seminar on Ageing

Morning | Wednesday 23 November 2022, 09:30 – 12:30

09:30 - 09:45 Welcome

09:45 – 10:30 Opening Session: Determinants and implications of quality in long-term care

This session will introduce the main factors affecting the quality of long-term care services in various care settings. It will highlight the importance of high-quality long-term care for the quality of life of older persons dependent on care, and will detail the implications for their human rights, dignity and individual autonomy. This presentation will provide the context within which the following two main sessions are situated. It will be followed by discussion.

10:30- 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 -12:30 Session 1: Meeting the resource needs of high-quality long-term care

This session will focus on strategies to improve the quality of long-term care by investing in professional health and social care workers (working conditions, training etc.), and by considering their diverse needs and perspectives (mental and physical health, immigration/visa support for migrant care workers, specialized support for older care workers, etc.). The session will also provide space for discussion on care workforce shortages and for presenting country experiences in attempting to increase the availability of qualified personnel.

Lunch Break

Afternoon | Wednesday 23 November 2022, 14:30 – 17:00

14:30 -16:15 Session 2: Quality assurance in long-term care

This session will discuss mechanisms and tools to ensure quality in long-term care across different care settings, including residential and home care. It will provide space for experience exchange on monitoring tools developed in various countries. The session will also highlight participatory instruments to ensure the involvement of older persons in the decision-making process around the care services they receive.

16:15 – 17:00 Wrap-up & closing remarks

This session will summarise findings from the two main panels of the policy seminar, highlight good practices and outline recommendations and actions for the future.