Task Force on Long-Term Care statistics

16th meeting of the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing
Geneva, 21 November 2023

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Background

- In September 2020, the European Directors of Social Statistics discussed the set-up of a dedicated **Task Force on Long-Term Care statistics (TF LTC)**.

- On 7 September 2022, launch by the EC of the **European Care Strategy** for “high-quality, affordable and accessible care services with better working conditions and work-life balance for carers”

- Council Recommendation on “access to affordable high-quality long-term care” adopted on 8 December 2022 ([2022/C 476/01](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/cord/2022/476/oj)).
  - Art.12: “The Council welcomes the Commission’s intention to: …(d) work with Member States to enhance the availability, scope and relevance of comparable data on long-term care at Union level, building on the forthcoming results of the Commission task force on long-term care statistics;…”

- Overall aim: to develop **comparable EU statistics on long-term care**.
Set-up of the TF LTC

• TF LTC formally a *subgroup* of the Commission Expert Group “European Directors of Social Statistics (DSS)” ([E01552/4](#)).

• Current composition:
  
  • Chair: Eurostat. Other Commission services also following the work (EMPL, ECFIN).
  
  • Members: 12 EU countries (BE, CZ, DE, EE, IE, FR, IT, LV, NL, PT, SI, and FI).
  

• Varied expertise and institutions.

• Kick-off meeting of the TF LTC in February 2023. Conclusion of work: end 2024.
Areas of work

• “To study solutions and provide methodological guidance in”:

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<th>Area of Work</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>to produce guidelines on the boundaries and scope of long-term care: beneficiaries, providers (institutional settings, households,…), treatments, financing, amongst others,</td>
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<td>to improve availability, quality and coverage of long-term care statistics:</td>
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<td>(a) for long-term care health and social expenditure based on the System of Health Accounts 2011,</td>
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<td>(b) for health long-term care, non-expenditure such as data on health activities, health employment, physical resources,</td>
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<td>(c) for non-health long-term care providers and activities,</td>
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<td>(d) for exclusion from long-term care health and social services, due to financial burden and non-affordability of LTC.</td>
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<td>to investigate links across different domains and methodologies,</td>
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<td>to support the cooperation at national level amongst the different national institutions and bodies involved in the provision of LTC related statistics,</td>
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<td>to support the discussions in the different technical groups in order to support member states in developing methods of estimation:</td>
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<td>(a) the informal long-term care services provided by households,</td>
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<td>(b) the long-term care services financed from households budget,</td>
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<td>to investigate the feasibility for a potential legal basis for a data collection dedicated to long-term care.</td>
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First topics addressed

• What is the statistical definition of ‘long-term care’?
• How many persons need long-term care?
• How many persons are ‘working’ in this domain?
• How much is spent in assistance for the independent living of persons in need of long-term care?
Some issues discussed in definitions

- Which level of activity limitation (ADLs) / participation restriction (IADLs) would require long-term care – should ‘mild’ to ‘moderate’ be included?

- Coverage of IADLs in the case of no limitation in ADLs?

- Relation with concepts such as disability, frailty, etc. and other international conceptual frameworks
Need of long-term care

• Various measures considered, all derived from EU social surveys:
  
  • Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI), Total Activities of Daily Living (TADL), Need of Care in Total Activities of daily living (NCTA), Budapest Initiative Mark 2 (BIM2), Conditional Self-Assessed Need of long-term care (CSAN),…

• Some issues related:

  • Population under-coverage (persons not living in private households)
  
  • Incomplete age profiles (age threshold)
  
  • Frequency of surveys
  
  • Relation with measures of related concepts (e.g., disability)
LTC caregivers

‘Formal’
- Identification using a cross-classification ISCO / NACE of EU Labour Force Survey data
- Classification of additional categories of workers (in the broad sense)
- Terminology clarified

‘Informal’
- Identification using survey data (EHIS)
- Possible coverage of additional categories of non-professional LTC caregivers not belonging to the family of the care recipient (e.g., volunteers)
- Potential link with households’ satellite accounts (unpaid household work)
Social component of LTC expenditure

• One of the main topics of the TF LTC
• Improvements needed on the System of Health Accounts (SHA) variable HCR.1 (“LTC social”)
• National expertise is even more fundamental

• Discussion to be continued
• Possible revision of guidelines
Thank you

For any additional info, please contact: estat-tf-ltc@ec.europa.eu

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