Martha Meyer

Supporting Family Carers of Older People in Europe – the National Background Report for Germany
Contents

Preface by the Editors: A Short Description of EUROFAMCARE .......................... 9

The EUROFAMCARE Network ........................................................................... 11

Preface .................................................................................................................... 13

Summary of Main Findings .................................................................................... 14

Introduction – An Overview on Family Care .......................................................... 20

1 Profile of Family Carers of Older People ............................................................ 25

1.1 Number of carers ............................................................................................ 25

1.2 Age of carers .................................................................................................. 25

1.3 Gender of carers ............................................................................................. 25

1.4 Income of carers ............................................................................................. 26

1.5 Hours of caring and caring tasks, caring for more than one person .............. 28

1.6 Level of education and / or Profession / Employment of family carer .......... 29

1.7 Generation of carer, Relationship of carer to OP ......................................... 31

1.8 Residence patterns (household structure, proximity to older person needing care, kinds of housing etc.) ................................................................. 32

1.9 Working and caring ......................................................................................... 33

1.10 General employment rates by age .................................................................. 34

1.11 Positive and negative aspects of care-giving ................................................ 35

1.12 Profile of migrant care and domestic workers (legal and illegal). Trends in supply and demand ...................................................................................... 38

2 Care Policies for Family Carers and the Older Person needing Care ............... 40

2.1 Introduction: Family ethics and expectations - the national framework of policies and practices for family care of dependent older people .......... 41

2.1.1 What are the expectations and ideology about family care? Is this changing? How far are intergenerational support and reciprocity important? ................................................................. 42

2.1.2 Are there any legal or public institutional definitions of dependency - physical and mental? Are these age-related? Are there legal entitlements to benefits for caring? .......................................................... 44

2.1.3 Who is legally responsible for providing, financing and managing care for older people in need of help in daily living (physical care, financial support, psycho-social support or similar)? ................................................... 45
2.1.4 Is there any relevant case law on the rights and obligations of family carers? ........................................................................................................... 47
2.1.5 What is the national legal definition of old age, which confers rights (e.g. pensions or benefits) ............................................................................... 47
2.2 Currently existing national policies ............................................................................... 47
  2.2.1 Family carers ........................................................................................................ 47
  2.2.2 Disabled and/or dependent older people in need of care/support ................... 49
  2.2.3 Working carers: Are there any measures to support employed family carers (rights to leave, rights to job sharing, part time work, etc) .............. 50
2.3 Are there local or regional policies, or different legal frameworks for carers and dependent older people? .............................................................. 51
2.4 Are there differences between local authority areas in policy and/or provision for family carers and/or older people? ................................................... 52
3 Services for Family Carers .............................................................................................. 53
  3.1 Examples .................................................................................................................. 56
    3.1.1 Good practices .................................................................................................... 56
    3.1.2 Innovative practices ............................................................................................ 56
4 Supporting Family Carers through Health and Social Services for Older People .......................................................... 59
  4.1 Health and social services ....................................................................................... 60
    4.1.1 Health services .................................................................................................. 60
    4.1.2 Social services .................................................................................................. 67
  4.2 Quality of formal care services and its impact on family care-givers: systems of evaluation and supervision, implementation and modelling of both home and other support care services ............................................. 74
    4.2.1 Who manages and supervises home care services? ........................................... 74
    4.2.2 Is there a regular quality control of these services and a legal basis for this quality control? Who is authorized to run these quality controls? 74
    4.2.3 Is there any professional certification for professional (home and residential) care workers? Average length of training? ................................. 75
    4.2.4 Is training compulsory? ...................................................................................... 76
    4.2.5 Are there problems in the recruitment and retention of care workers? .......... 76
4.3 Case management and integrated care (integration of health and social care at both the sectoral and professional levels) ...........................................77

4.3.1 Are family carers' opinions actively sought by health and social care professionals usually? .................................................................77

5 The Cost - Benefits of Caring ..............................................................................................................................................................................78

5.1 What percentage of public spending is given to pensions, social welfare and health? ......................................................................................78

5.2 How much - private and public - is spent on long term care (LTC)? ....78

5.3 Are there additional costs to users associated with using any public health and social services? .................................................................79

5.4 What is the estimated public / private mix in health and social care? ..79

5.5 What are the minimum, maximum and average costs of using residential care, in relation to average wages? ..................................................80

5.6 To what extent is the funding of care for older people undertaken by the public sector (state, local authorities)? ...........................................81

5.7 Funding of family carers .................................................................................................................................................................................81

5.7.1 Are family carers given any benefits (cash, pension credits / rights, allowances etc.) for their care? Are these means tested? .................82

5.7.2 Is there any information on the take up of benefits or services? ......83

5.7.3 Are there tax benefits and allowances for family carers? .................83

5.7.4 Does inheritance or transfers of property play a role in caregiving situation? .................................................................83

5.7.5 Carers' or Users' contribution to elderly care costs ..........................84

6 Current Trends and Future Perspectives ........................................................................................................................................................................88

6.1 What are the major policy and practice issues debated on family care of the elderly from the carers' point of view? Are older people and / or carer abuse among these issues? .........................................................89

6.2 Do you expect there to be any changing trends in services to support family carers, e.g. more state or more family support, more services or more cash? .................................................................90

6.3 What is the role played by carer groups / organisations, "pressure groups"? ..............................................................................................91

6.4 Are there any tensions between carers' interests and those of older people? ...............................................................................................92
6.5 State of research and future research needs (neglected issues and innovations) ................................................................. 93

6.6 New technologies - are there developments which can help in the care of older people and support family carers? ................................................................. 95

6.7 Comments and recommendations from the authors ................................................................. 95

7 Appendix for the National Background Report for Germany ................................................................. 96

7.1 Socio-demographic data (This section is of specific importance for countries where little is known about family carers and the socio-economic conditions under which they care.) ................................................................. 96

7.1.1 Profile of the elderly population—past trends and future projections... 96

7.2 Examples of good or innovative practices in support services .............. 103

8 References to the National Background Report for Germany ................. 105