LONG-TERM CARE SECTOR FROM ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE: PUBLIC SUPPORT OF INFORMAL CARERS

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Bratislava, 15 October 2009
OUTLINE

LTC – new and complete mission

Informal carers in Slovakia

Public support of informal carers

Open questions, challenges
1. LTC – NEW AND COMPLETE MISSION

Protection of cared for persons

Protection of caring persons
1. LTC – NEW AND COMPLET MISSION 2

Recognition of care provided within an informal setting as a key factor of long-term sustainability of the LTC system

(LTC in EU, part 3.3/3.3.4)
2. INFORMAL CARERS IN SLOVAKIA 1

68% : 45%

(Special HLTC-Eurobarometer, 2007)
2. INFORMAL CARERS IN SLOVAKIA 2

- More than 50 000 care allowance recipients (Repkova, 2008):
  - 82% women, 18% men
  - Almost a half in the age 51-64 („sandwich generation“)
  - Most often in the position of adult child (40%)
  - Most often from NI and PP region
  - ¾ cases – shared common household with care dependent person
  - 45% began to care in unemployment status
  - cca 2% - working + caring (mainly thanks to wider family support + caring friendly policy of employers; Repkova, 2009)
3. **Public Support of Informal Carers**

1 – **Direct**

- Paliative clients – recognition within social compensatory policy
- Basic income for ICs - care allowance
- ICs = family + „foreign“ persons sharing common household with dependent person
- Social and health insurance of ICs (state insurees)
- Reconciliation working and caring (possibility for limited income from job, flexible working arrangements)
- Respite care (30 days/year + 8 hours/month of home care service)
- Free of charge social counselling
PUBLIC SUPPORT OF INFORMAL CARERS 2
— INDIRECT

- Direct payments for compensation of severe disabilities’ consequences (e.g. for increased diet costs) – assessment based!

- Direct payment /personal budget for personal assistance /attendance allowance (§§20-23 Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on direct payments)

- Social services organised daily/in field/residentially (e.g. Specialised social facility, §39 Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on social services)

- Nursing care in social services facilities (§22 Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on social services; Reg. No 109/2009 Coll. on health care services in social care facilities)

- Social services in residential health care facilities (§70 Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on social services)

- Dotations for civic society organisations (e.g. for social rehabilitation stays)
4. OPEN QUESTIONS, CHALLENGES

- Basic income
- Employment services
- Care allowance + income from job
- Health and social insurance
- Respite care
- Dotations

- Means- tested care allowance
- Minimal rate of income substitution
- Non-flexible work arrangements
- Lack of training for extensive care
- No care leave (no garanncy of job after care)
- Secretive family setting
- Financial restriction in dotation policy
- Administrative bureaucracy
REFERENCES

- Health and long-term care in the European Union. Special Eurobarometer 283/Wave 67.3. 2007
- Repková, K.: Situácia rodinných opatrovateľov/liek vo svetle sociálnych štatistik. IVPR, Bratislava 2008

- Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on social insurance, amended
- Act No. 5/2004 on employment services, amended
- Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on direct payments for compensation of severe disabilities
- Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on social services
- Reg. No 109/2009 Coll. on health care services provided in social care facilities by the staff of the social care facilities