UNECE Policy Seminar on Ageing
Informal care for persons with dementia

Wednesday 20 November 2019, 9.30 -17:00 | Room V, Palais des Nations

Objective
The informal care and support provided by families, friends and neighbours is a central pillar in enabling older persons to age with dignity. In the face of changing family structures, enhanced mobility and longer working lives, the societal capacity to provide informal care comes under increased pressure. At the same time, parallel developments such as growing longevity and the emphasis on ageing in place increase the need for home- and community-based care. The growing prevalence of dementia represents a particularly challenging situation for affected families.

The focus of the policy seminar is placed on the types of support that family carers of people affected by dementia need. The Lisbon Ministerial Declaration adopted by UNECE member States in 2017 underlines the importance of “promoting the participation of both persons with dementia (…) and their informal carers in social and community life, and [of] ensuring integrated care on a local basis with treatment, care, and support after diagnosis as needed, especially through community-based services”. A number of countries in the region have recognized and addressed this policy challenge by developing national dementia strategies and support measures for affected families. The policy seminar provides a dedicated space for in-depth discussion, experience exchange and peer learning in this important policy area.

A unique opportunity for participants this year will be to learn about informal care policy in Switzerland, the dementia action plan and support measures by the canton and city of Geneva, through site visits in the afternoon.

Target group
The policy seminar is designed for national focal points on ageing attending the annual meeting of the Working Group on Ageing, experts on dementia and informal care, civil society representatives and other stakeholders.

Expected results
New insights on the needs of informal dementia carers and policy measures designed to support informal care while ensuring that the needs of people with dementia are met.
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09:30 – 10:00 Welcome and setting the scene
UNECE & Swiss delegation

10:00 – 10:20 The growing prevalence of dementia in the UNECE region and the international policy response
Dr. Tarun Dua, Mental Health Programme, World Health Organization

10:20 – 10:45 What are the challenges experienced by informal carers of persons with dementia?
Stecy Yghemonos, Executive Director, Eurocarers

10:45 – 11:00 Health break

11:00 – 12:30 How can informal carers be supported in their role?
Provision of adequate formal care services and their integration with informal care - Austrian Dementia Strategy - Erika Winkler
Local Alliances for People with Dementia in Germany - Anneli Rüling
Dementia Activity Centres in Malta that provide respite day care and enable informal carers to work - Cynthia Formosa
Self-and mutual help groups of informal carers of persons with dementia in Ukraine - Galina Poliakova

Sharing of policy approaches by participants & discussion

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break
Sandwich lunch offered outside the meeting room; Transfer to the Applied University of Social Work Geneva (HETS), Room A006

14:00 – 15:15 Welcome by Joëlle Libois, Director of HETS, HES-SO
Informal care policy for people with dementia in Switzerland
Professor Barbara Lucas, HETS, HES-SO

Geneva Action Plan on Dementia and services to support informal carers of persons with dementia
Derek Christie and Thierry Monod, General Directorate of Health, Department of Security, Employment and Health, Canton of Geneva

Introduction of site visit
Sophie Courvoisier, Director Geneva Section of Swiss Alzheimer

15h15-16h00 Training programme for professionals of the City of Geneva: towards an Alzheimer friendly community (HETS, Room D107)
Sophie Courvoisier, Director of the Geneva section of Swiss Alzheimer and Lieutenant Giovanni Martinelli, Coordinator Prevention, Geneva Cantonal Police. (Innovative Police training programme in Switzerland)

16h15 -17h Visit of the day care centre OASIS and presentation of care relief services for informal carers in Geneva
http://www.foyers-jour-nuit.ch/oasis/
Claudio Testori, manager of the Day care center OASIS and Joël Goldstein Director, President of the NGO Pro Senecute Geneva

17:00 Farewell aperitif, HETS, Room A006