



European Institute for
Gender Equality

EIGE CARE survey – evidence on gender gaps in care and related socioeconomic costs

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Outline:

- Key facts about EIGE CARE survey
- What are the socioeconomic costs of caring?
- How the care load could be lifted?
Formal care services
- What are the key policy steps to take?

Thematic scope of EIGE CARE survey

Five key themes:

- Informal long-term care
- Informal childcare
- Housework
- Voluntary, charitable and political activities
- Leisure

Cross-thematic dimensions explored:

Time spent, tasks performed, use of external services and informal networks, division of tasks within household, work-life balance reconciliation, gender attitudes and more.

Key methodological characteristics of EIGE CARE survey

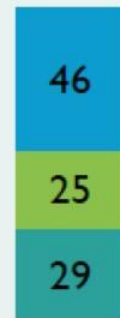
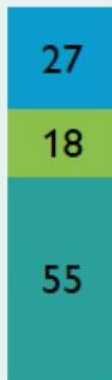
- Online panel survey covering the EU27 (2022)
- 60 000 respondents, aged 16-74
- Sampling design:
 - i. National hard quotas based on sex, age and regions (non-probability)
 - ii. Additional monitoring quotas: education, household composition, degree or urbanization
 - iii. Exceptions for Malta and Luxembourg (telephone-based interviews)
- Translated in EU official languages





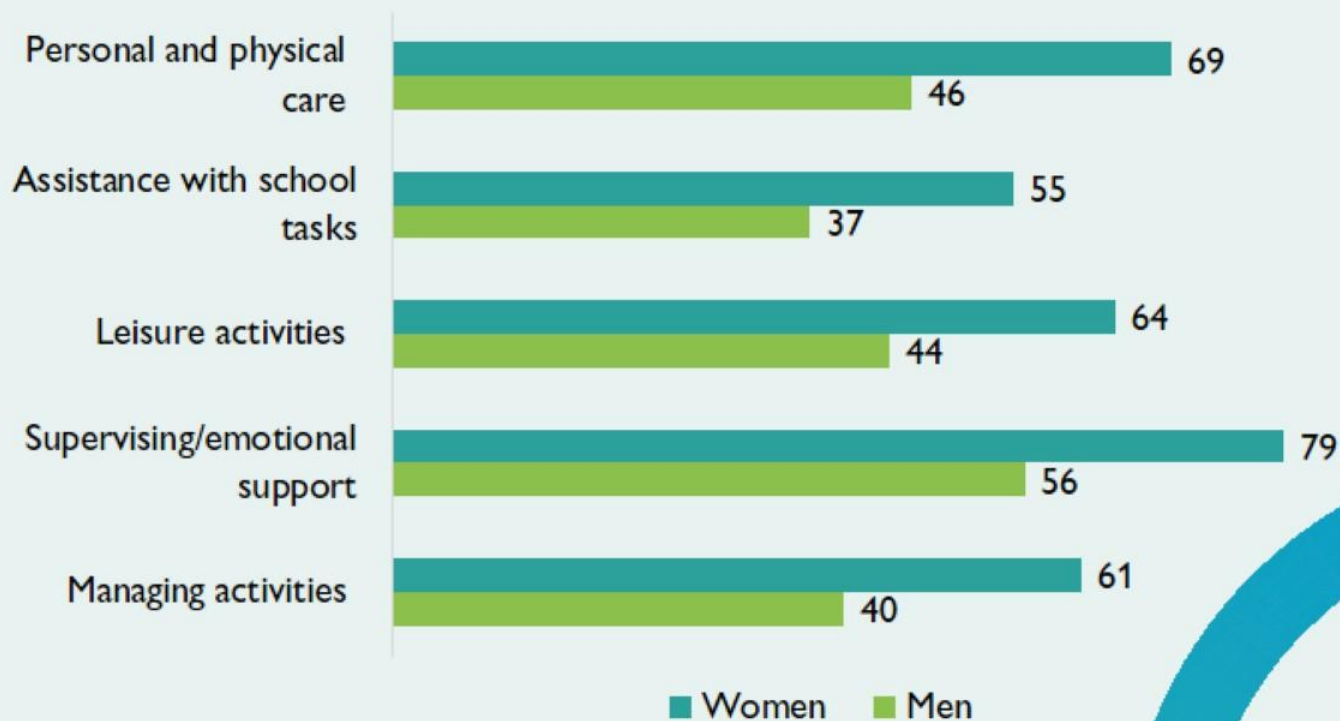
Caring has socioeconomic costs

Engagement in childcare for children below 12 years



- < 3 hours per day
- 3 to 5 hours per day
- > 5 hour per day

Childcare tasks performed every day



Profile of high-intensity carers*

Women 66%

Men 34%

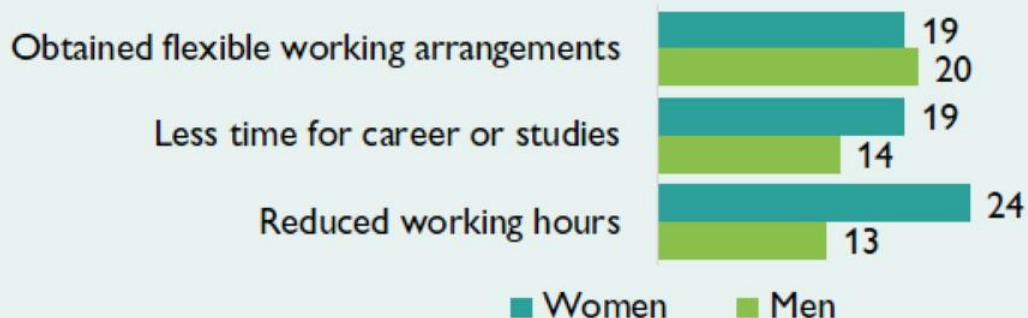
79%	is 25-49 years old	65%
75%	lives in a couple with children	66%
59%	is employed	71%
14%	is out of the labour market fulfilling domestic tasks	2%
40%	is in part-time employment	35%
62%	is below the median income	39%

*Those who provide LTC and/or care for children <12 more than 5 hours a day

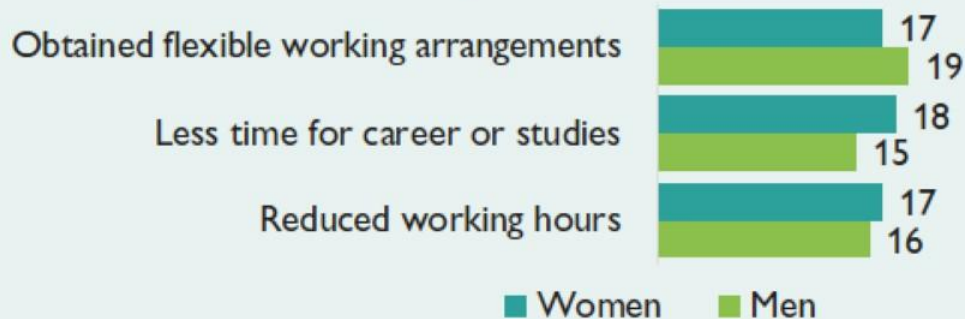


Care responsibilities have impact on carers' working lives

Childcare for children under 12 years of age (%)



Long-term care (%)

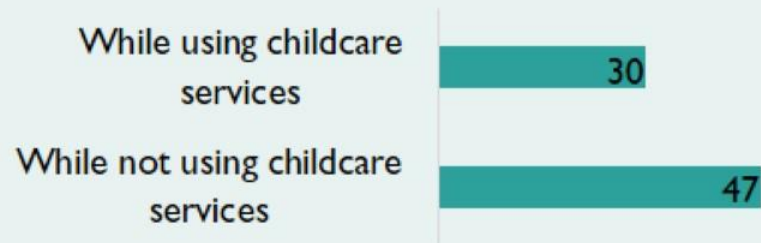




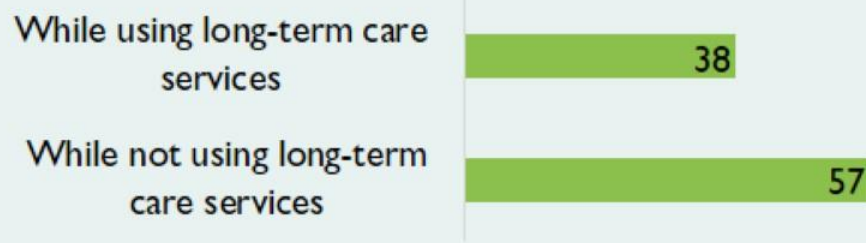
Lifting the load: formal care services

Formal care services help to reduce the care load

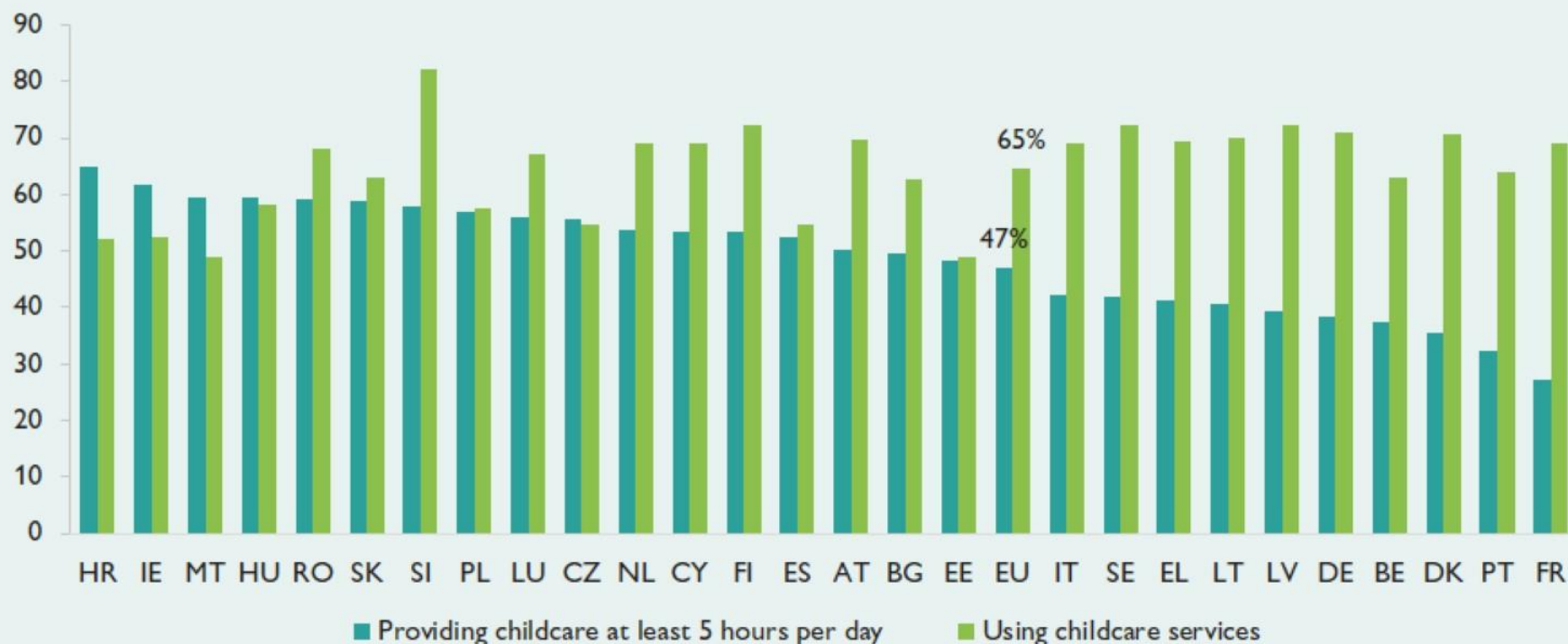
Childcare for children under 6 years of age, more than 10 hours daily (%)



Carers providing long-term care daily (%)

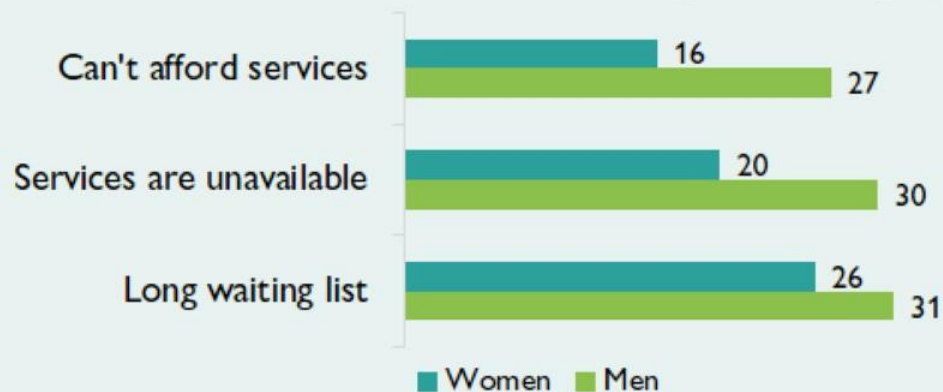


Access to childcare services reduces the time spent on intensive childcare

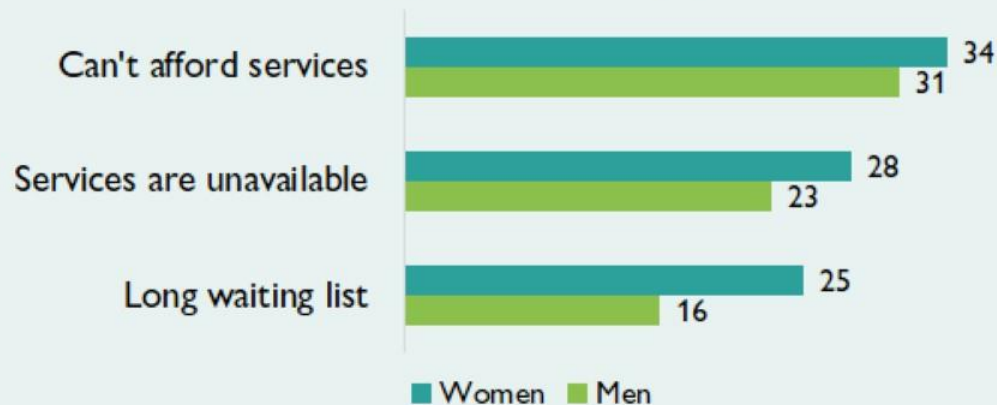


Caregivers struggle to access all the services they need

Childcare for children under 6 years of age (%)



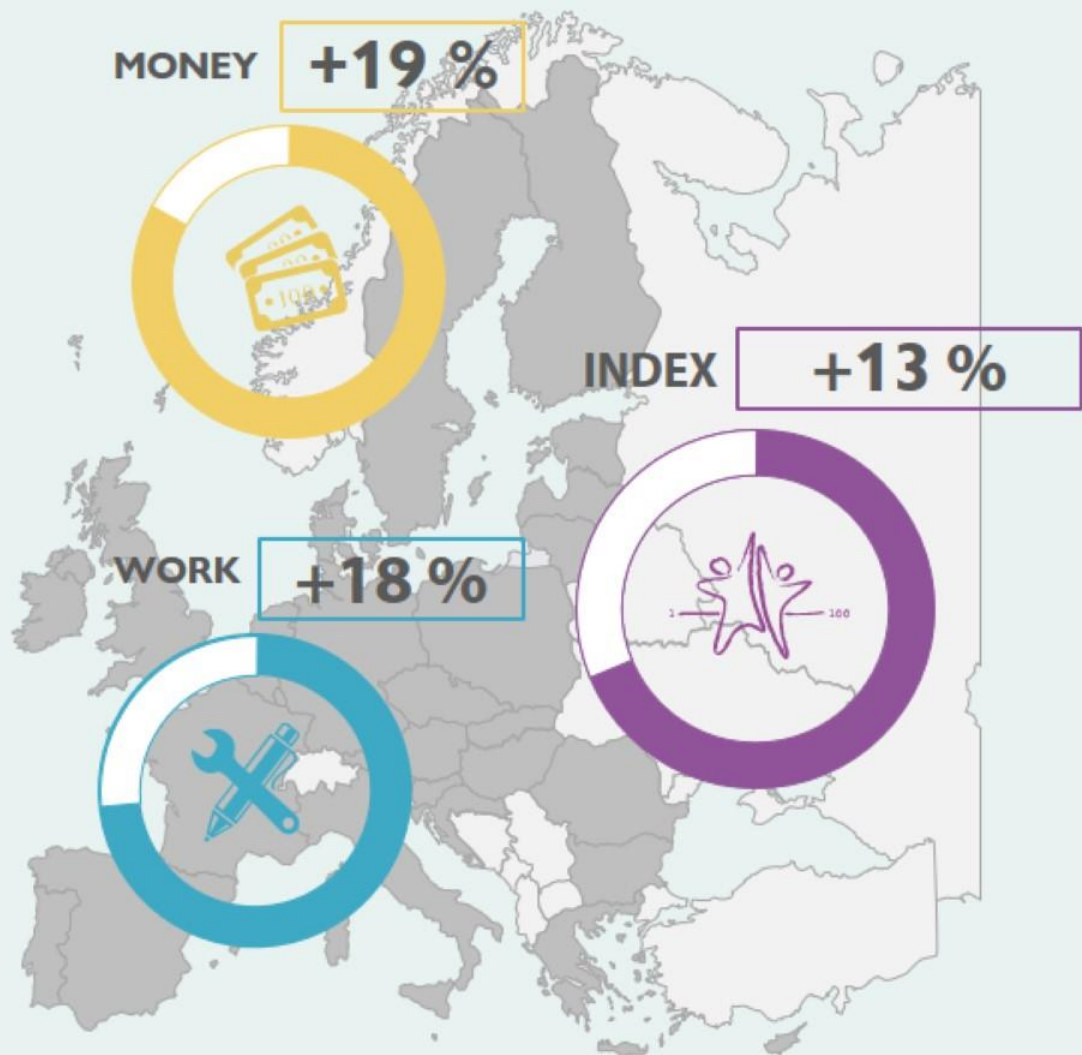
Long-term care (%)





Benefits of care services for gender equality

Investments in formal care services increases probability of gender equality



Steps

1. Strengthen, earmark and **increase investment and funding in formal care services** to improve quality, accessibility and affordability, particularly in areas with limited access, such as rural and remote regions.
2. Take targeted measures to **challenge traditional gender roles** and actively promote the equal sharing of caring responsibilities and equal engagement in paid work of both women and men in all their diversity.
3. Ensure the **collection of EU wide gender statistics on unpaid care, work-life balance and access to formal care services**. Set ambitious quantitative targets at the EU level to foster increased coverage of long-term care services at a national level.

More on EIGE CARE survey

Publications:

- Gender Equality Index 2023
- A Better Work–Life Balance: Bridging the gender care gap (policy brief)
- Technical report of the survey

EIGE's Gender Statistics Database (GSD)

- Selected indicators from the CARE survey are published on GSD

GESIS data archive

- Microdata published for all interested researchers

CARE survey (2nd wave)

- Fieldwork (autumn 2024)
- Data analysis and dissemination (2025)

