

The role of long-term care in Europe

Challenges and approaches

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LONG-TERM CARE IN EUROPE

The way forward: Innovation by coordination and integration

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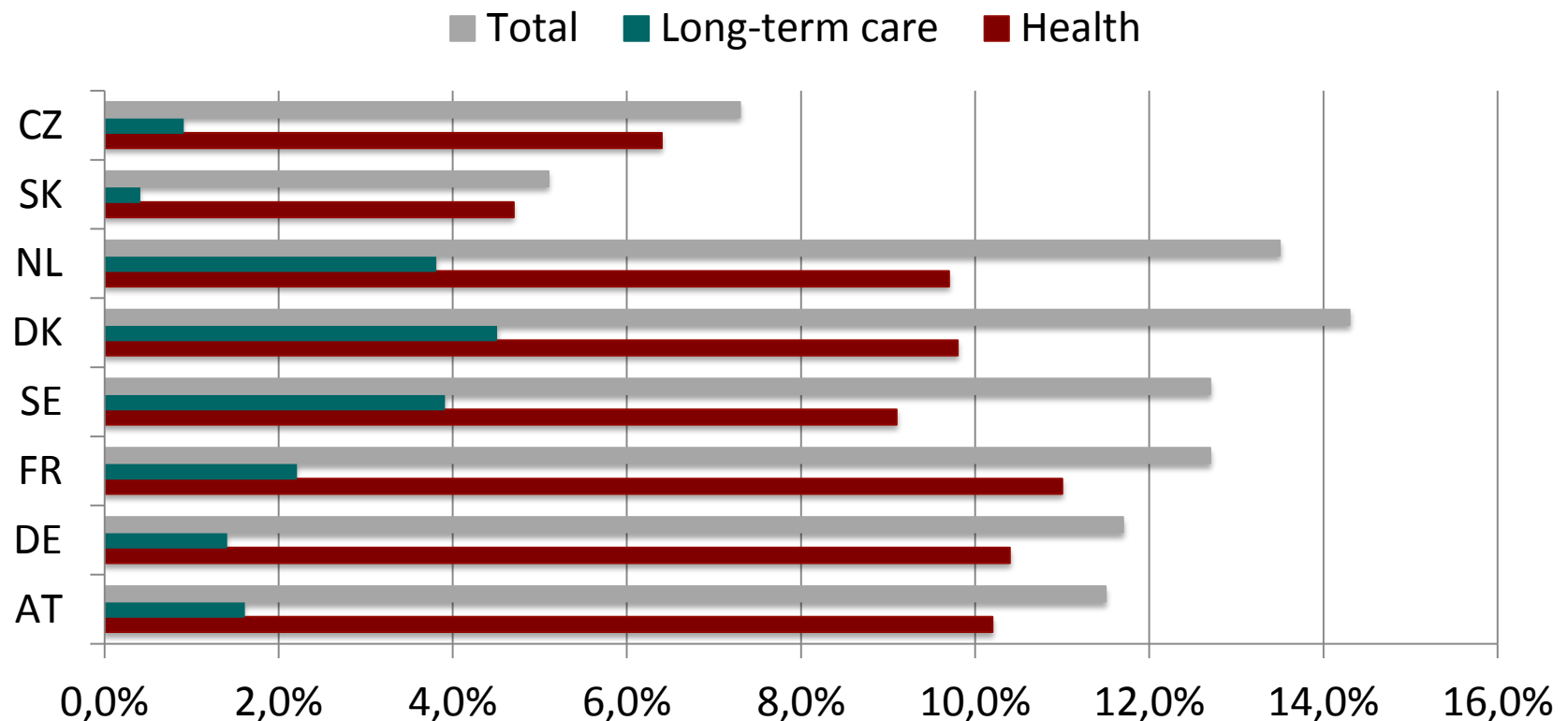
What is your image of ageing?



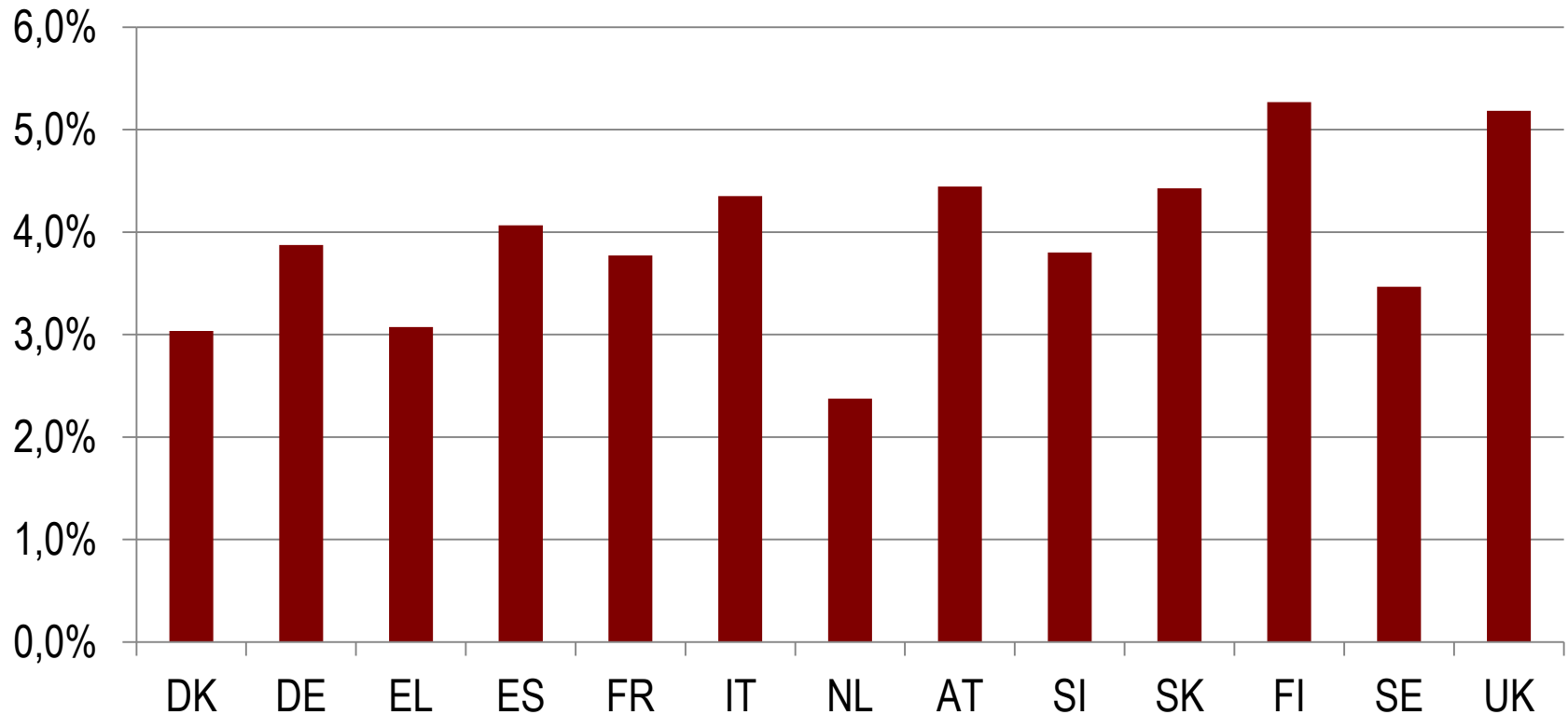
**Long-term care is an issue of concern
in ageing societies:
Innovation is necessary, feasible,
... and preferable to panicking**



Proportion of public expenditures for health and long-term care (selected Member States, in % of GDP, 2010)



Proportion of older people receiving long-term care provisions (in % of total population, 2010)



What happens, if nothing happens? The phenomenon of migrant carers

- Italy: over 700,000 'badanti'
 - High proportion of moonlighting
 - Partly legalised
- Austria: over 30,000 '24-hours assistants'
 - mostly from Slovakia and the Czech Republic
 - 'Legalised' in 2007
- Similar situation in Germany, Greece, Spain ...
- A (legalised) phenomenon with a close expiry date?



Social innovation in long-term care is feasible and points at enhancing quality of life

- **Prevention & rehabilitation within long-term care**
 - Networking with local, formal and informal resources
 - Promoting activation and self-care in the neighbourhood
- **Adequate support for informal carers**
 - Family care is not for free
- **Quality improvement by working in partnership**
 - From inspection to quality development
 - Quality development across different settings

Social innovation in long-term care is feasible and points at enhancing quality of life

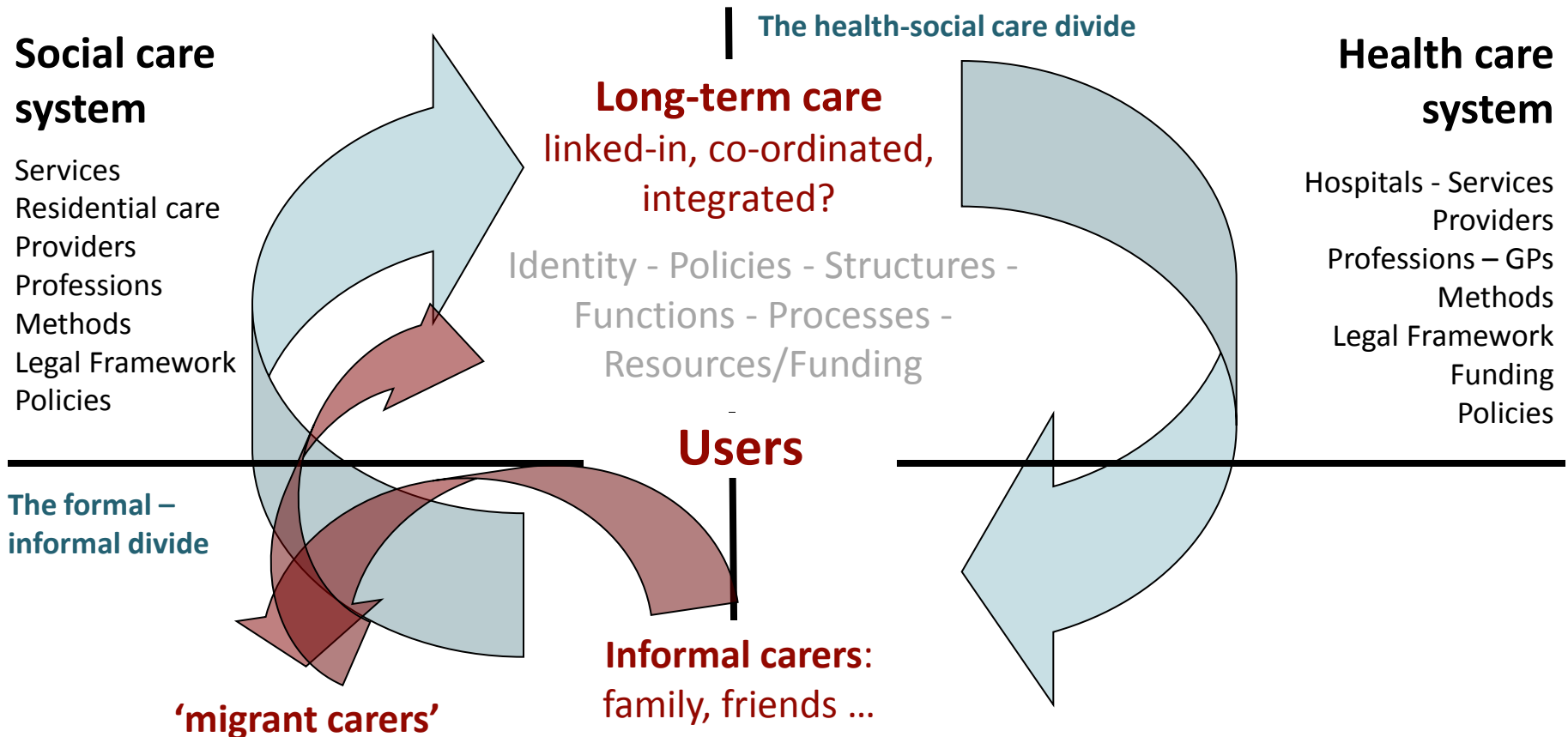
- **Integration between health and social care**
 - Focusing on the interfaces along the pathway of long-term care
 - Participative leadership to overcome silo-thinking
- **Intelligent use of technology**
 - Management and organisation matters
- **Re-thinking governance and finance**
 - Investments needed in long-term care to realise savings in health care
 - Addressing workforce issues

Background: The FP7 Project INTERLINKS

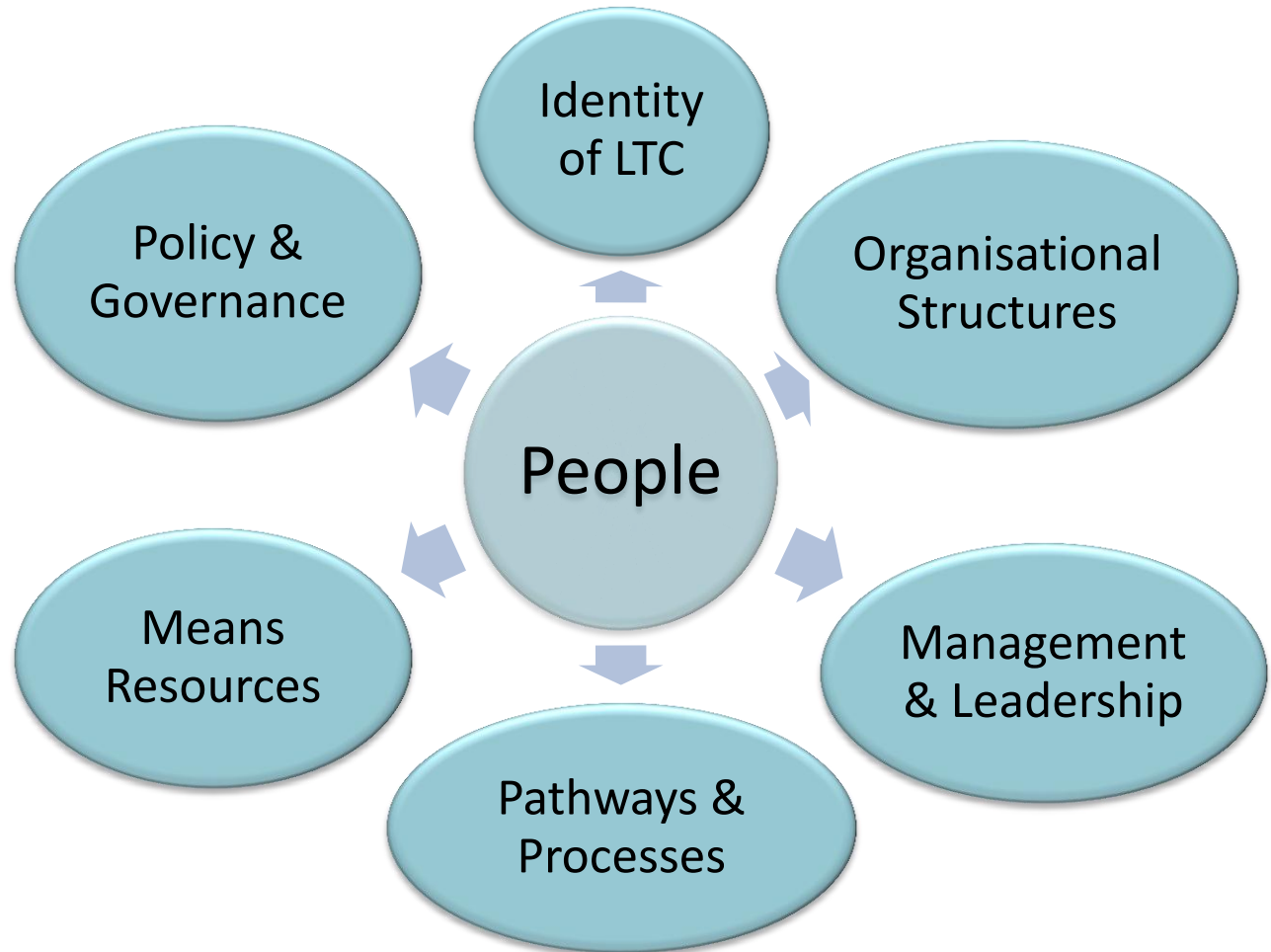
- 15 partners from 13 European countries: AT, CH, DE, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, IT, NL, SE, SK, UK
- A European Framework for LTC
 - 6 themes, 29 sub-themes and 135 key-issues
 - illustrated by about 100 validated practice examples
- An interactive website → <http://interlinks.euro.centre.org>
 - to involve users in providing feedback and their own practice examples
 - Country information: 33 National reports
 - 4 European overview reports on prevention & rehabilitation, quality management, informal care, governance & finance of LTC ...



The key challenge: linking social and health care



The elements and themes of a long-term care system



Describing and analysing individual themes

Themes

6

3-6 subthemes in each theme

28

2-8 key issues for each subtheme

135



About 100 practice examples to illustrate key-issues

Selected key-issues in developing an own identity of long-term care

- Values and mission statements that address the interfaces with health and social care services, and with informal carers
 - European Charter of Rights for people in need of long-term care
 - [European Quality Framework for long-term care services](#)
- Initiatives to promote prevention and rehabilitation, and empowerment of users

A European Quality Framework for long-term care services

Aim:

- Preventing abuse and improving quality of services

Quality principles and areas of action:

- Respectful, person-centred, accessible, continuous, preventive, transparent etc.
- Empowering older people
- Ensuring adequate working conditions and physical infrastructure
- Developing a partnership approach and a system of good governance
- Communication and awareness-raising



Selected key-issues to develop integrated long-term care policies

- Using contracts or agreements to enable and sustain processes between services and/or organisations
 - Reimbursement (fines) for delayed hospital discharges
- Shaping (new) job profiles, fostering mutual understanding of comprehensive pathways
- Promoting integration and quality of services

Reimbursement (fines) for delayed hospital discharges (Sweden)



- Aim: To reduce the number of patients who are inadequately placed in a hospital
- Reform: Municipalities (responsible for community care and housing) have to reimburse Counties (responsible for hospitals) if patients cannot be discharged due to the lack of local services and arrangements
- Results: Decrease of 'bed-blockers', but other factors are also important:
 - Availability of alternative residential and other forms of care
 - Availability of local resources
 - Partnership approach, rather than 'passing the buck'

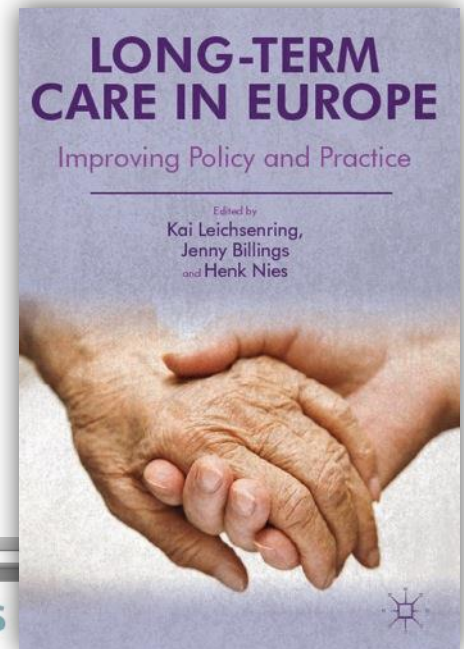
Long-term care as an emerging area of social investment

- Developing a culture of innovation
 - to create adequate employment
 - to promote cooperation and involvement of all stakeholders
 - to address ethical questions at the end of life
 - to accompany older people in need of care along their pathways



More information and contact

- Kai Leichsenring, Jenny Billings and Henk Nies (eds.) (2013) *Long-term care in Europe – Improving policy and practice*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
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INTERLINKS - A Europe-wide resource that aims to improve long-term care for older people | Interlinks

<http://interlinks.euro.centre.org/>

Health systems and long-term care for older people in Europe. Modelling the interfaces and links between prevention, rehabilitation, quality of services and informal care

interlinks

THE PROJECT THE FRAMEWORK FOR LTC COUNTRY INFORMATION NEWS CONTACT

INTERLINKS - A Europe-wide resource that aims to improve long-term care for older people

Health systems and long-term care for older people in Europe - Modelling the INTERfaces and LINKS between prevention, rehabilitation, quality of services and informal care

The INTERLINKS project helps people in Europe who work with and represent older people in need of long-term care (LTC). We want to inspire health and social care professionals, policy makers, people from administrative agencies, and people working in non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to:

- work towards integrated systems of LTC;
- improve planning and delivery of services for frail older people at the interfaces between formal and informal care, and between social and health care;
- integrate prevention, rehabilitation, quality management, governance and finance in the toolbox to develop LTC systems.

Mission

Older people and their carers want to be independent and have some control over their care. But gaps in LTC pathways often lead to poor quality care in which they cannot make the right choices. INTERLINKS looks for ways to fill these gaps and improve care. We aim to assist planners and those who provide services towards improved ways of supporting older people. We take particular notice of older people who may be difficult to reach.