

socialplatform

WORK SHOP “Who Cares?”

6th December 2006, Brussels, Belgium

RESULTS

The Workshop with the title “Who Cares?” took place on 6 December 2006 during the Social Platform Conference “Social Values and Democracy: Renewing the guiding principles of the European Union”. It was co-organised by the European Women’s Lobby (EWL), the European Federation of Unpaid Parents and Carers at Home (FEFAF) and Eurochild^{AISBL}. It was chaired by Roshan Di Puppò from the Social Platform. After a short introduction the viewpoints on Care of the 3 organisations were briefly presented. Each of them tried to focus on some main messages:

EWL (presentation of EWL campaign “Who Cares?”, Martine Lévy, Board member):

- Equality between men and women
- Challenges: ageing population, decreasing population
- Reaffirmation of values
- Both men & women should take their responsibility for Care – it is part of the day-to-day organisation of our life
- All actors should feel concerned (media, public authorities, individuals, civil society) and their diversity taken into account
- Care services should be Social Services of General Interest

FEFAF (presentation of the case of carers at home: Áine Uí Ghiollagáin, President & Ada Garriga, researcher at *Universitat Internacional de Catalunya*)

- Recognise human, educational, social, cultural, economic value of care giving work
- Implement Beijing Platform for Action
- Heading of unpaid active caregiver
- Access to economic & social rights based on all work
- Strengthen rights based on part-time employment
- Knowledge based approach (statistics & research) involving key stakeholders by European Commission
- Return to paid work & lifelong learning

Eurochild^{AISBL} (presentation of the case of quality child care, Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General of Eurochild)

- Quality of Services (whether they are public or private or situated in a “poor” neighbourhood)
- Training of professionals and better recognition & professional development
- Rights of the Child



Fédération
Européenne des
Femmes
Actives au
Foyer

co-organised by:



European
Federation of
Unpaid
Parents and
Carers at Home



This was followed by a general discussion with the public, which contributed some more ideas and suggestions, as the issue is very large and multi-dimensional. On the basis of this debate conclusions were drawn on **how to move forward on Care**:

- Quality of life (not only the economic side to it), rehabilitation of the private sphere
 - Involve men, help them to get involved (mandatory universal right to parental leave: maternity & paternity leave & for gay parents = 100% of salary, economic salary to care for dependants)
 - Recognise the needs of the person who needs care (elderly, children, disabled people, etc.)
 - Recognise & implement the rights of the person who needs/wants to care (contribution/choice/flexibility)
 - Recognise care to dependent people as a human service (= equivalent of all kinds of care services: private, public, etc.) = social right (recognition of time a person spent at home educating children or taking care of other relatives, managing household, playing role in social life of partner, etc.)
- ↳ Care Revolution & Manifesto
- All actors should take their responsibilities (public authorities, individuals, civil society, trade unions, employers, etc.)
 - Use of Structural Funds for care services, education, etc. ⇒ put the issue on the European agenda
 - Social rights of part-time workers should be the same than for full-time workers
 - Accessibility (cities vs. rural areas) & affordability of care services (also for poor families & carers staying at home)
 - Means of fighting against social exclusion & poverty
 - Fighting stereotypes / change cultures, mentalities / campaigns
 - Services of general interest accessible to all (choice)
 - Diversity of providers (including associations, on-site child care...)
 - Individualisation of taxes
 - Changes in social systems
 - Social contract between the citizens (especially women) and the government
 - Time (reduction of normal working hours of both men & women)
 - 2007: European Year of Equal opportunities for all
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The main messages from the organisations and points on how to move forward were presented at the following '**Ideas café**', organised by the Social Platform.