



The contribution of informal carers to integrated care across the EU

Opportunities and challenges of ICT-based solutions
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The Eurocarers Network



European network of carers' organisations and relevant research institutes. 67 members from 25 European countries.

Our mission

Ensure that the significant contribution made by informal carers to health and social care systems and the economy as a whole is recognised and safeguarded through adequate support.

Who are the informal carers?

Any person who provides care - usually unpaid - to someone with a chronic illness, disability or other long lasting health or care need, outside a professional or formal framework.



Socioeconomic backdrop



- Boost jobs to make the EU social model future-proof
- Adapt the welfare state to the new context through innovation
- Budget Cuts and cost containment, doing more with less

The Situation of carers in Europe

The Personal is Political



Across Europe, unpaid family carers and friends are the largest providers of health and social care support

As demographic change increases demand, the 'balance of care' increasingly shifts to informal care

Women are disproportionately affected and are more likely to give up employment to care

The “economic” value of informal care

Estimates on the economic value of unpaid informal care in EU Member States range from 50 to 90 percent of the overall costs of “formal” long-term care provision

Estimated value of contribution made by carers in the UK: 135 billion € per year

Estimated value of contribution made by carers in Ireland:
4 billion € per year (20% of Dept. of social protection’s budget)

Impact of caring

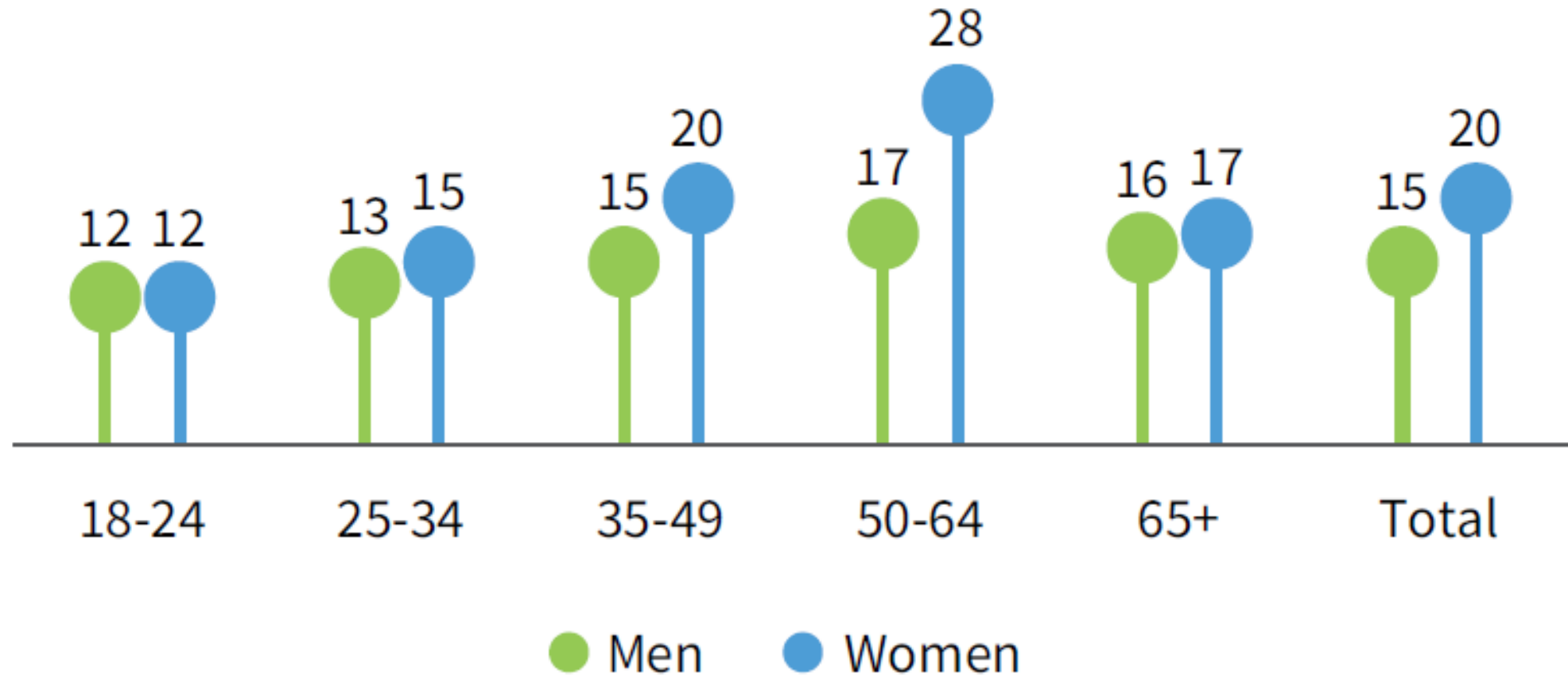
Clear correlation between caring and:

- Work-life/care balance and employment
- Social exclusion and poverty
- Health and well-being



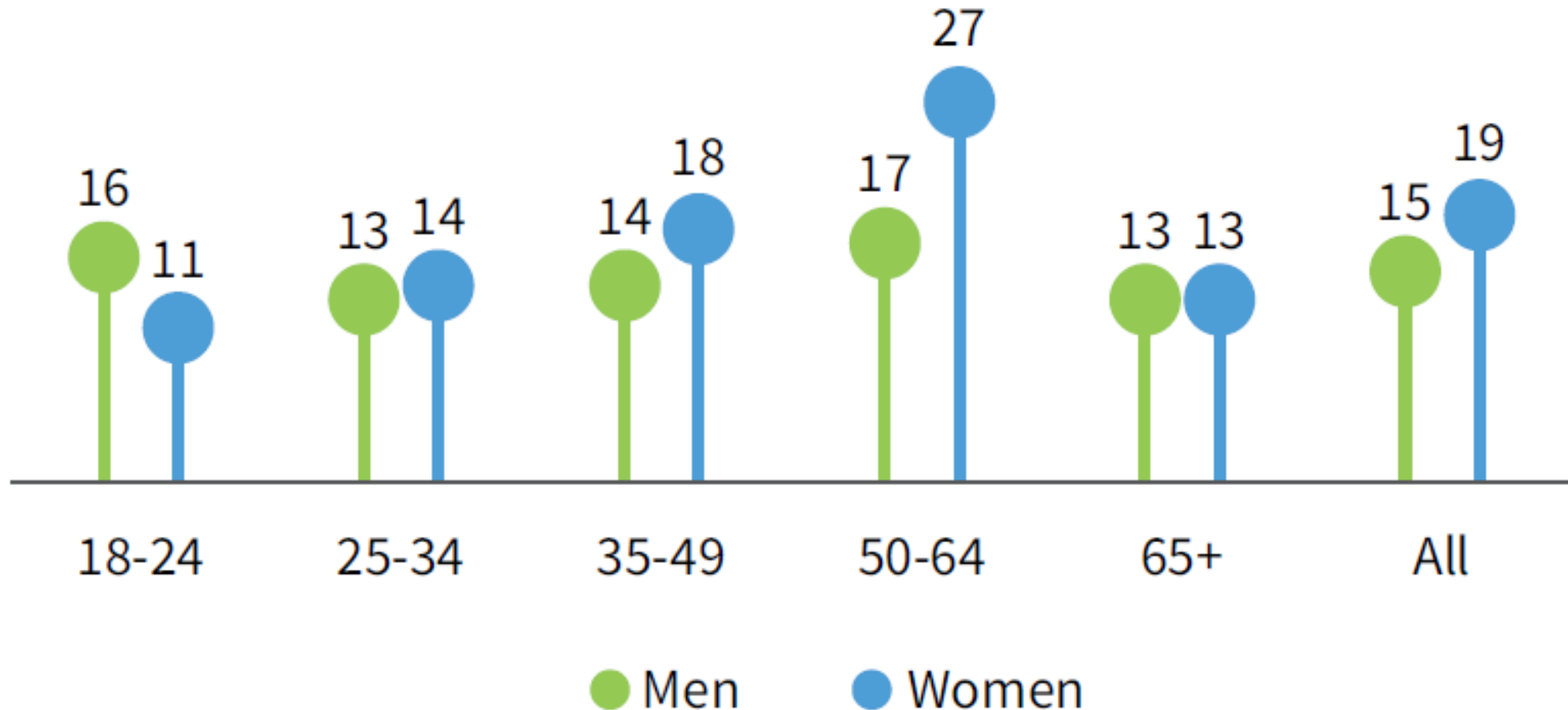
“As a carer, you have no social life whatsoever. I have been an unpaid carer for 20 years. I do not feel part of society at all. I feel a complete outsider”

Proportion of men and women in different age groups providing care (at least once a week)



Proportion of workers providing care at least once a week – EQLS 2018

Caring for elderly or disabled relatives among people in employment, EU28 (EQLS)



Proportion of workers providing care at least once a week – EQLS 2018

Regular carers of people with a disability or infirmity, among people of working age (18–64 years), by country (%)

	Non-carers	Working carers	Carers not in employment
Austria	95	3	2
Belgium	81	11	8
Bulgaria	92	3	5
Croatia	87	7	6
Cyprus	89	5	6
Czech Republic	91	4	5
Denmark	93	5	2
Estonia	88	7	5
Finland	90	7	3
France	74	18	8
Germany	94	4	2
Greece	90	3	6
Hungary	92	4	3
Ireland	86	6	7

Italy	90	6	5
Latvia	78	15	7
Lithuania	86	10	5
Luxembourg	85	11	3
Malta	86	5	9
Netherlands	91	6	3
Poland	89	5	6
Portugal	93	4	3
Romania	84	10	6
Slovakia	91	5	3
Slovenia	87	8	5
Spain	88	7	6
Sweden	96	4	1
United Kingdom	86	9	5
EU28	88	7	5

Social and economic situation of regular carers of working age (18–64)

	Non-carers	Working carers	Other carers
In fair or bad health	22	27	41
Having difficulties making ends meet	38	44	54
In lowest income quartile	25	26	45
Feel lonely more than half of the time (in previous two weeks)	10	14	17
Feel the value of what they do is not recognised by others	19	26	28
Social Exclusion Index	2.1	2.2	2.4
Life satisfaction	7.2	7.1	6.5

Regular carers' refers to those providing care to someone with a disability or infirmity several days a week or every day - Eurofound 2018

What do carers want?



Financial support: income based on a minimum wage

Employment: flexible working, paid and/or unpaid leave

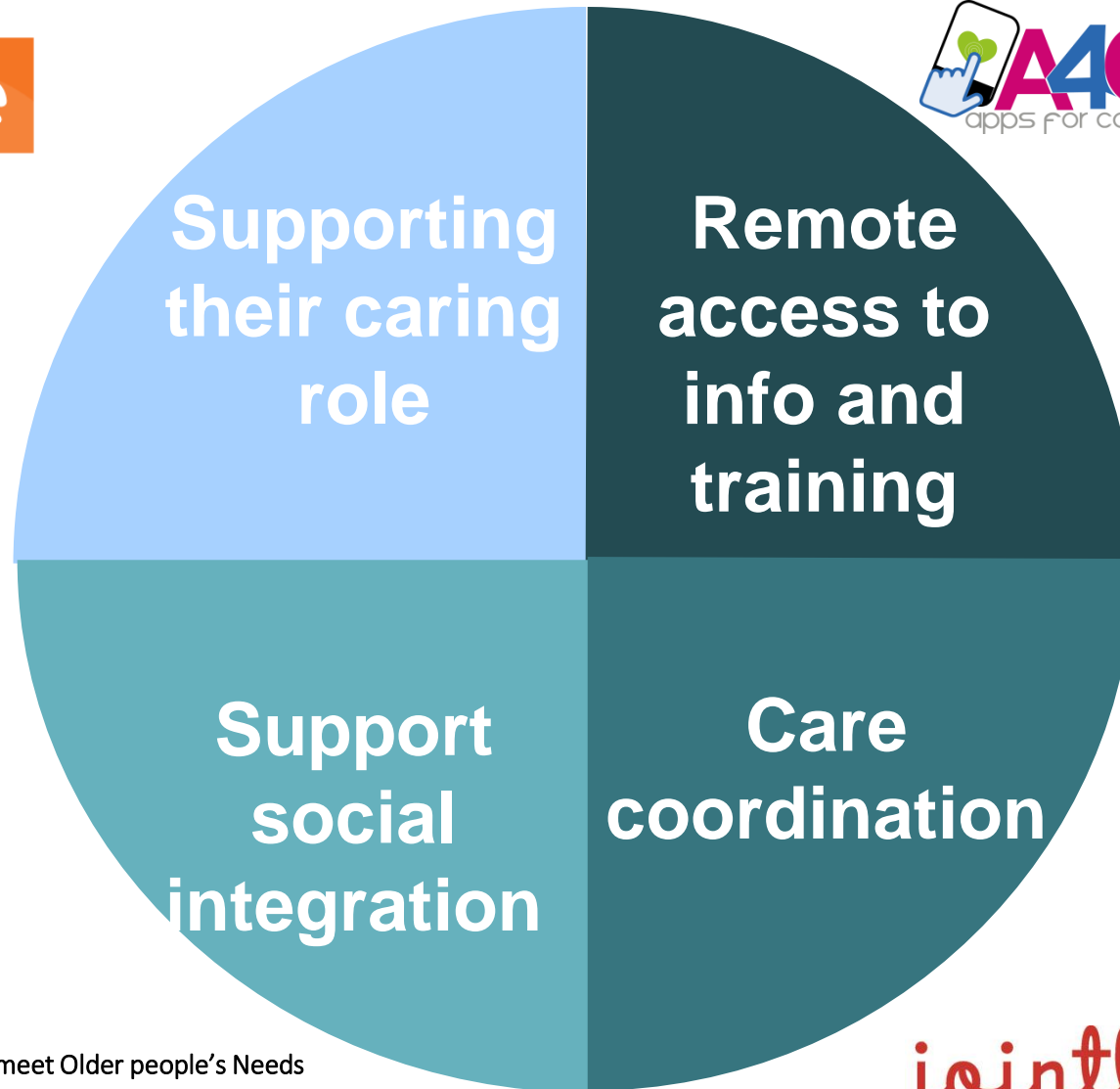
Pension credits for care time

Regular breaks from caring

Training

What can ICT do for carers?

InformCare



jointly



Thank you for your attention!

www.eurocarers.org

