

Support and services for older people



Easy to read version

Easy to read is a way to make information accessible so people with intellectual disabilities and all people can understand it. This text is written by Lila Sylviti and checked by Soufiane El Amrani.



Explanation of difficult words

Here you can find an explanation of difficult words.
You can always come back to this page
to remember the explanation of these words.

- **European Union**

The European Union
is a group of 27 countries in Europe
that came together to make things better for their people.



- **Long-term care**

Long-term care means that people get the support and services
they need in their everyday lives for as long as they need it.

- **Coronavirus**

'Coronavirus' is a new disease
that can pass easily
from one person to another.
We also call it 'COVID-19'.
Sadly, too many people in the world



are now ill from coronavirus.
Most of the people recover,
but many people die from it.

Coronavirus can pass very easily
from one person to another
in the air from coughs and sneezes.
That is why we must stay at home
as much as possible.

When we need to go out,
we must wear face masks.

To stop the coronavirus from passing
from one person to another,
many places stay closed.
For example, schools, shops and restaurants.

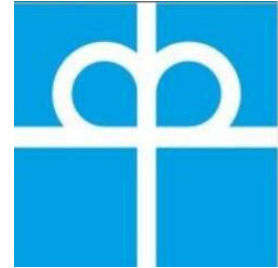


Who we are

We are **Eurodiaconia**.

We are an organisation in Europe that works to help people who are in need or left out. We want things to be fairer for all people in Europe and no one to be left out of the community.

This is the symbol we use when we talk about Eurodiaconia.



We have many members in different countries.

These are churches and organisations that work to make things better for all people in need.

We are all Christians.

This means that we believe in Jesus Christ.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.

We try to follow his words and help people in need.

We want all people to have the same chances in life and nobody to be left behind.



What this booklet is about

We wrote this booklet to explain how important it is to give good support and services to older people.

We asked our members to tell us how things are in their countries and how they can be better.



Older people

Today, people live much longer than before.

In the past, people died at a younger age.
With today's technology, medicine and health care,
people live a longer and healthier life.



Older people have the right to enjoy life as everyone else.
They have the right to **long-term care**.

Long-term care means that people get the support and services
they need in their everyday lives for as long as they need it.
For example, some older people may need help to:

- Do their groceries,
- Prepare their meals,
- Manage their money,
- Take their medicine,
- Go to the doctor,
- Use the bathroom,
- Get dressed.



All countries in Europe should make sure that older people
get good support and services to be able to live a good life.

Our members' work

Many of our members in different countries work with older people
and support them in their everyday lives.
The work of our members can be hard because:

- They may not have enough staff to be able to help all the people in need.
- The salaries of their staff may be very low and many leave to find better jobs.
- Countries may not give them enough money to be able to do their work well.

Coronavirus has made things even harder. Many older people died from coronavirus. Also, many older people feel lonely and sad because their families cannot visit them.



In these hard times, the work of our members can be very stressful. They want to help as many people as possible, but they do not have enough staff or money to do so.



Countries should give them support to be able to continue doing their job to help people.

How things can be better

We think that the European Union and its countries should:

- Make sure that all older people have access to good support and services.
- Be more prepared to protect people from difficult situations like we have today with the coronavirus.



- Make sure that all countries in Europe have the same good quality of support and services for people in need.
- Give more money to organisations that work to give support and services to people in need.
- Give training and good salaries to people who work in these services.
This way more and more people will be interested in doing this kind of job.
- Listen to the views of our members and organisations that give services to people in need.
This way they can understand their needs and support them to continue doing their important work.



More information

If you have questions about this topic, you can send an email to Kewan.Mildred@eurodiaconia.org.

If you want to know more about Eurodiaconia and our work, you can visit our website at www.eurodiaconia.org.

