



Social Services & COVID-19: what role for EU?

Online Summit | 25 June 2020 | 10:00-12:00 CEST

Social Services provide crucial care and support to millions of people in Europe, helping older persons, persons with disabilities, children, people at risk of poverty, homeless persons, migrants, people suffering from domestic violence and many others to live better, healthier and more active lives. Social services are essential services.

COVID-19 has impacted the lives of people across Europe, no more than for the millions who use and provide social services every day. Social service providers have moved quickly to ensure they can maximise the care and support they provide, whilst also ensuring that those involved can do so in safe and healthy conditions. The use of technology has played a huge part in achieving that. Yet, COVID-19 has also meant that many forms of face-to-face support have not been provided, that many social workers have worked under significant pressure and that the financial stability of some service providers has been put at risk.

The European Union is now focusing its attention on recovery, discussing a 1.8 trillion euro investment plan. The President of the European Commission – Ms Ursula von der Leyen – has referred to a debt of gratitude towards care workers.

Will this be translated into action? How will the European Union be supporting social services in the months and years to come? What actually do those involved in social services need from Europe?

Join us on the 25th June 2020 to discuss: “Social Services & COVID-19: what role for EU?”

10h00	Welcome by Moderator	Luk Zelderloo, EASPD
10h05	Opening Remarks	Alfonso Montero, European Social Network
10h10	Keynote Speech	Frank Vandembroucke, University of Amsterdam
10h20	Panel Discussion: The reality on the ground during COVID-19	
	<i>For support for persons with Disabilities</i>	<i>For support for persons in poverty or homeless</i>
	Gunta Anca, European Disability Forum	Helle Christiansen, Kirkenskorshaer, Denmark
	Maya Doneva, Karin Dom, Bulgaria	Mauro Striano, Bruss'help, Belgium
	<i>For support for older persons</i>	<i>For support for children and families</i>
	Romana Belova, Slezská Diakonie, Czech Republic	Hilde Daems, Caritas Espana, Spain
	Maria Mannerholm, City of Stockholm, Sweden	Ana Radulescu, Centre for Training and Skills Assessment in Social Work, Romania
11h00	Keynote Speech	Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission
11h10	Panel Debate: what role for the EU?	
		Maria Nyman, Caritas Europa
		Freek Spinnewijn, Social Services Europe
		Jan Willem Goudriaan, European federation of Public Service Unions
		Sylvain Renouvel, Social Employers
		Martins Moors, Riga City Council, Latvia
		David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament (tbc)
	Q&A	
11h50	Concluding Remarks	Heather Roy, Eurodiaconia



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