


Chapter 6


European Union and Home Care Services

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ABSTRACT

In this chapter, an investigation was conducted into the European Union (EU), home care services, organization, and scope of home care in European Union countries. In the 21st century, increasing life expectancy and decreasing fertility rates have led to demographic change in the EU. This has profound implications for a range of areas, including the economy, health systems and pensions, and in particular has deepened the need for home care. The absence of comprehensive, EU-wide legislation pertaining to home care services engenders considerable variation in the implementation of home care practices across member states. This variation is attributable to a range of factors, including the health system structures, financing models, and cultural approaches of each country. In the EU, home care services are structured in a manner that integrates the “health” subsystem into the healthcare system and the “social” subsystem into the social system.

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1. INTRODUCTION

A Brief Summary on the History of the European Union

The European Union (EU) idea has been repeatedly raised by Roman Emperors, Napoleon, Hitler and others, as well as philosophers and thinkers in the history of the European continent characterized by violence, starting from the idea of achieving a continental unity based primarily on various principality alliances, ethnic harmony, ideology or raw power (Dinan, 2014a). The Second World War was the period when the idea that a unity in Europe was necessary to prevent severe destruction and deaths was awakened in the nations and rulers of the continent. Europe, which emerged from the Second World War devastated and exhausted, was in search of a new political and economic model, so the idea of the EU became fully operational to create a multinational political and economic union that emerged intending to establish lasting peace and develop economic cooperation on the European continent (Stone, 2014). The nations that established the European Communities, the precursor to the EU, consciously decided to temper the strong nationalist sentiment that had shaped European politics. This involved a deliberate choice to restrict, though not eliminate, their national sovereignty – the defining characteristic of the modern nation-state – in pursuit of shared peace, economic unity, and a system of governance operating above the national level. In this way, it was hoped there would be no return to the disastrous early twentieth-century decades. However, the European people and politicians were primarily interested in ending political strife, promoting social cohesion, and increasing economic prosperity. They wanted to eliminate the hatred and rivalries that were destroying European countries. For them, integration in Europe was synonymous with peace and prosperity (Dinan, 2014a).

The endeavor towards European unity commenced relatively soon after the conclusion of the Second World War. This undertaking was driven by a profound desire to secure lasting peace and foster increased economic partnership among nations across the continent. Economic integration in Europe found its initial foundation in 1950 with the proposition by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman suggesting the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) (Schuman Declaration, 1950). This foundational step aimed to unite the original six participating states—Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands—by placing their crucial coal and steel industries under a joint management structure for strategically vital production.

Key early developments involved the ECSC's establishment in the early 1950s, providing a basis for further integration by consolidating crucial industrial assets. Following this, the Treaty of Rome in 1957 brought into being the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community. Their

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