

Policy and Governance

Political Measures – Legal Framework – Governance Mechanisms – Visibility of key topics

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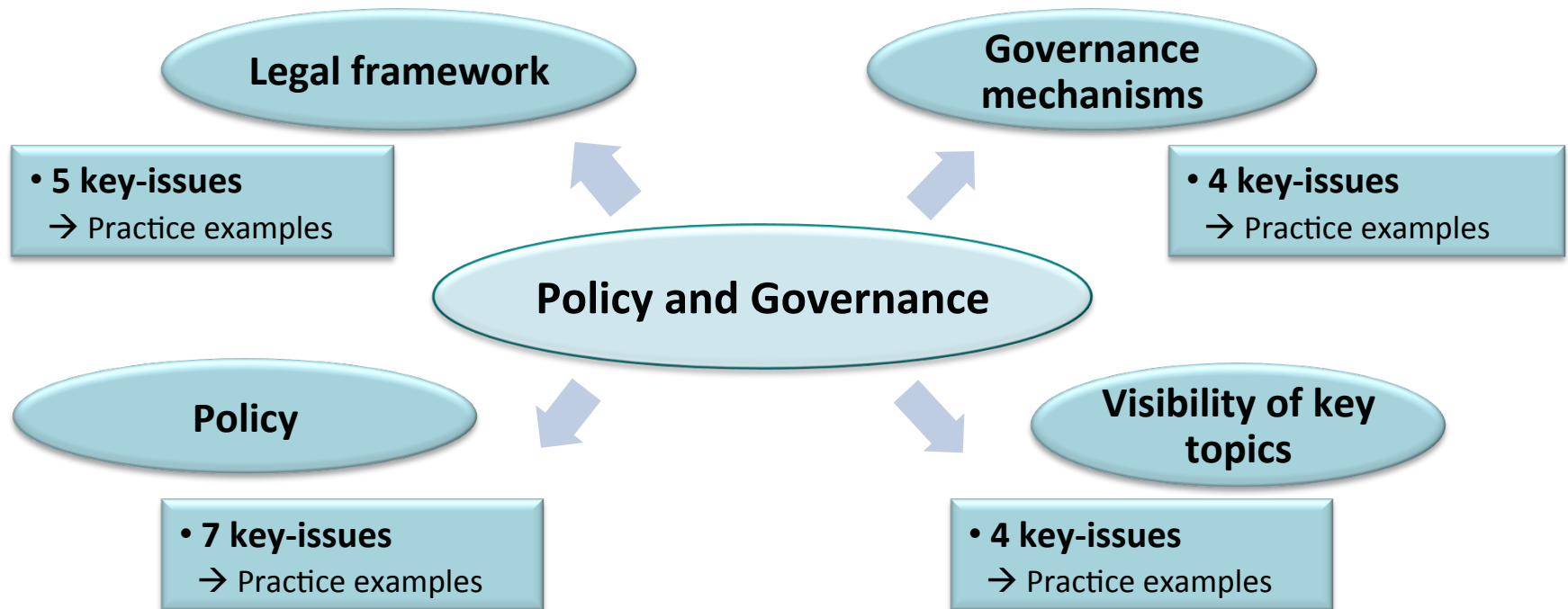
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Theme: Policy and Governance

(<http://interlinks.euro.centre.org/model/policy>)



Key issues in “Policy”

- Policy barriers and opportunities in linking social and health care
- Policies addressing mechanisms concerning interfaces between
 - o Social and health care
 - o Formal and informal care
 - o Prevention/rehabilitation and cure/care
 - o Care at home and residential care
- Implementation strategies
- Policies addressing issues of diversity and equal access

Key issues in “Legal Framework”

Legislation addressing LTC with respect to

- Informal carers
- Interfaces between health and social care
- Workforce planning
- Authorisation, accreditation, quality systems
- Coordination or integration of facilities or services

Key issues in “Governance Mechanisms”

- Institution building to support and emphasize LTC as a specific area of concern
- Incentives linked to contractual and financial mechanisms
- Incentives to provide LTC by addressing multi-level governance
- Steering mechanisms concerning access and eligibility criteria

Key issues in “Visibility of Key Topics”

Programmes and initiatives to promote

- Prevention and rehabilitation
- Informal care
- Quality development
- User empowerment

Practice examples

- Visibility of key topics:
 - o 'We care': Representing informal carers, relatives and friends (DE)
- Policy:
 - o A concept of social services development (SK)
- Legal framework:
 - o Informal carers' right to an assessment of needs (UK)
 - o Municipal LTC obligations to support informal carers (SE)

Discussion

- What can we learn from each other?
- Which recommendations can be given to policy-makers in Europe?

Recommendations of the working group “Policy and Governance” 1

Informal care is valuable

- Cost-benefit analysis of the support to informal carers: how can informal care save money?
- We need research on socio-economic effectiveness of informal care.
- Policy-makers must accept that they have to invest in informal care

Recommendations of the working group “Policy and Governance” 2

Implementation must be improved

- Harmonise legislation to make LTC more seamless
- Clarify responsibilities at administrative levels
- Re-think how institutions can be used in terms of LTC

Recommendations of the working group “Policy and Governance” 3

Respect the user perspective

- People in need in LTC have a right to live an autonomous life as long as possible: self-determination until the end of life
- Human rights must be the guiding principles in LTC

Recommendations of the working group “Policy and Governance” 4

The informal carers’ situation must be respected

- We need complementarity in moving forward – more support for carers in many different ways, e.g. culture, work ...
- It must be a free decision to care or not to care – formal care services must be available
- Carers’ organisations must be involved in the debate on LTC

Recommendations of the working group “Policy and Governance” 5

There are research needs

- A list of indicators for informal care should be developed
- We need a framework for informal care quality standards in LTC that are based on the judgements of cared for older people
- Instruments for needs assessments should be consistent and transferable to other settings