

## Briefing Note – On the PHS Industry Monitor

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PHS stands for **Personal and household services** and is mainly relating to personal assistance services (care-related services) and to services of daily living (household support).

The PHS Industry Monitor was published by the **European Federation for Services to Individuals (EFSI)** and seeks to actively tackle the challenge of the under-representation of the sector in the public debate. To read the full report, click [here](#).

### ISSUE

**Personal and household services (PHS)** play a key role in the economy and are constantly developing. They face numerous pressures such as population ageing, women's increased participation to the labour market and insufficient support from public authorities.

The importance of the PHS sector in terms of macroeconomic contribution is relatively unknown across the European Union. By publishing the PHS Industry Monitor, the **European Federation for Services to Individuals (EFSI)** seeks to actively tackle the challenge of the under-representation of the sector in the public debate.

### BACKGROUND

The PHS sector brings together activities carried out mainly in users' homes relating to personal assistance services (early childhood, child care, dependence, disability, invalidity, etc.) summarized under the term **care-related services** and to services of daily living (cleaning, ironing, gardening, small DIY, maintenance, remedial classes, etc.) united under the term **household support**.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### PHS jobs

- In the EU, the PHS sector represents 8 million jobs and 4% of total employment.
- PHS activities are especially developed in Southern and Northern European countries as well as in Belgium, France and the United-Kingdom.
- Countries with a low share of PHS in total employment are found in Central and Eastern Europe.

### Women and the PHS sector

- **91%** of the PHS workers are **women**.
- Men are mostly absent from the sector, except in some specific activities such as gardening and small repair works.
- In the EU, 1 out of 13 women work in the PHS sector, which represents 7,5% of women total employment.
- Women spend on average 3.5 hours per day on PHS unpaid activities, whereas men spend nearly 1.5 hours on those activities.

### Employment distribution

- 70% of PHS workers are hired through the provider organisation model (meaning the worker is not employed by an individual but by an organisation) and 30% through direct employment.
- The average share of household support activities is 37% whereas care-related activities represents 63% of PHS.

### Challenges

- PHS are the third most common identified sector for undeclared work, after the construction sector and hotels, restaurant and catering.
- 70% of PHS are delivered by undeclared workers.

### Development trends

- The demand for PHS keeps increasing.
- Population ageing will be a determining factor for the evolution of PHS needs.
- There will be about 36,8 million Europeans over 80 years of age in 2030 in the EU.
- Across Europe about 80% of care provision hours are delivered by informal carers, predominantly women aged 45 or more.
- An appropriate public supporting scheme could create several million jobs in the EU.

## CONCLUSIONS

- The PHS sector brings together a variety of activities which are difficult to define with the European statistical nomenclature NACE.
- The study serves as an attempt to fill a statistical gap in the sector at an European level.
- EFSI calls on Eurostat to launch a thorough work on the subject in partnership with national statistical bodies.