E U R O F A M C A R E

Care Situations in Different European Countries:
The Impact of Formal and Informal Support

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on behalf of the EUROFAMCARE group[1]

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Methodology

- Personal interviews were conducted from 1,000 Family Carers in each of the six Core Countries (DE, EL, IT, PL, SE, UK)

- A Common Assessment Tool (standardised questionnaire) was used

- A cluster analysis was used to construct six clusters which are identical in each of the six countries.

- The clusters represent different care situations which are comparable on a national as well as European level.

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Content

- Domains that describe care situations

- Characteristics of care situations

- Prevalence of care situations in the six countries

- Country comparison according to support by informal network and professional services
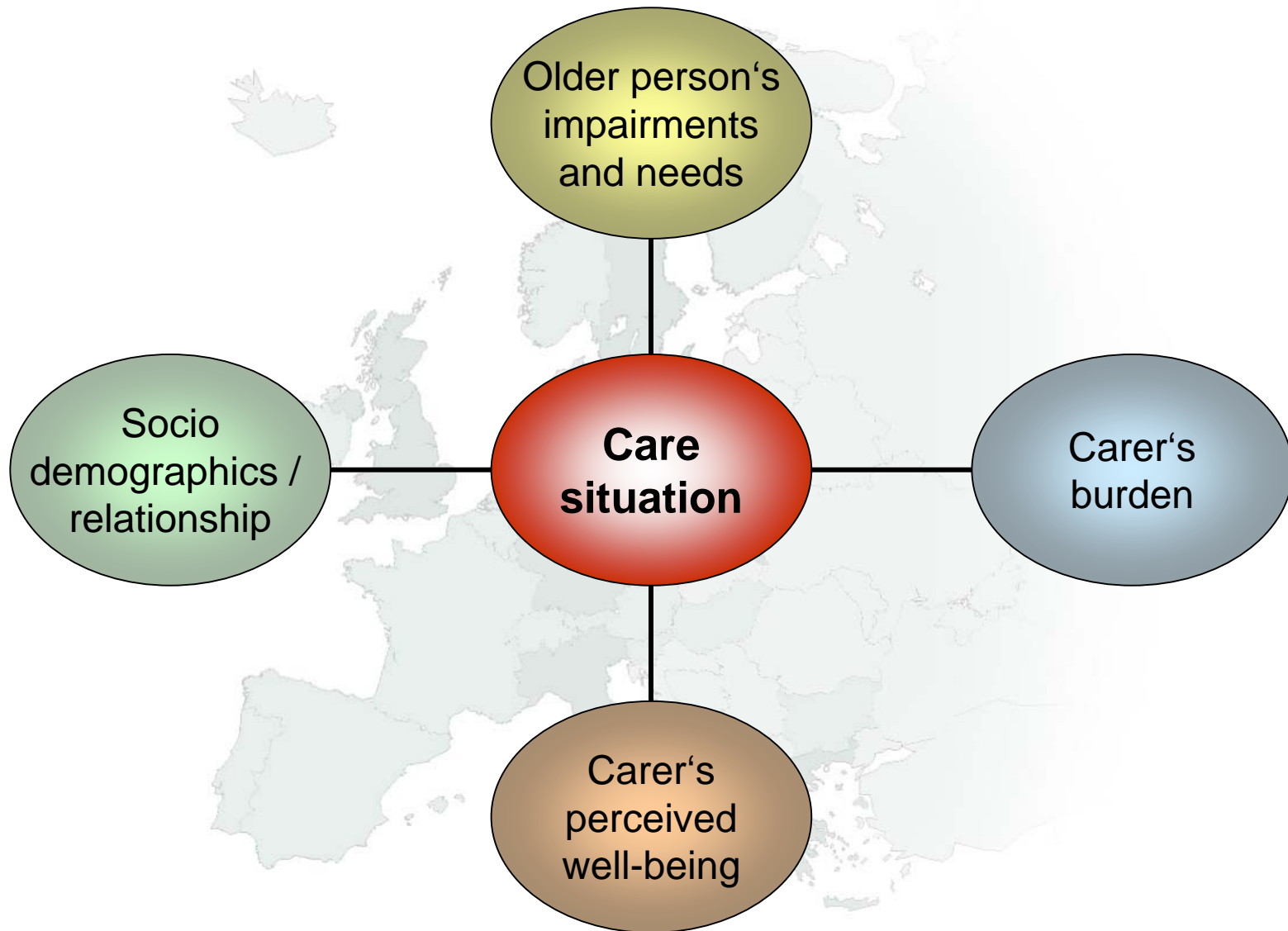
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Aspects to be reflected in comparative studies

- Possible bias between countries due to partly different recruitment strategies

- Country specific care structures, which also affect the observed phenomenon, e.g. more intra-generational care within one country or a higher rate of women carers in employment

➤ If possible, these effects should be controlled. This can be achieved by cluster building

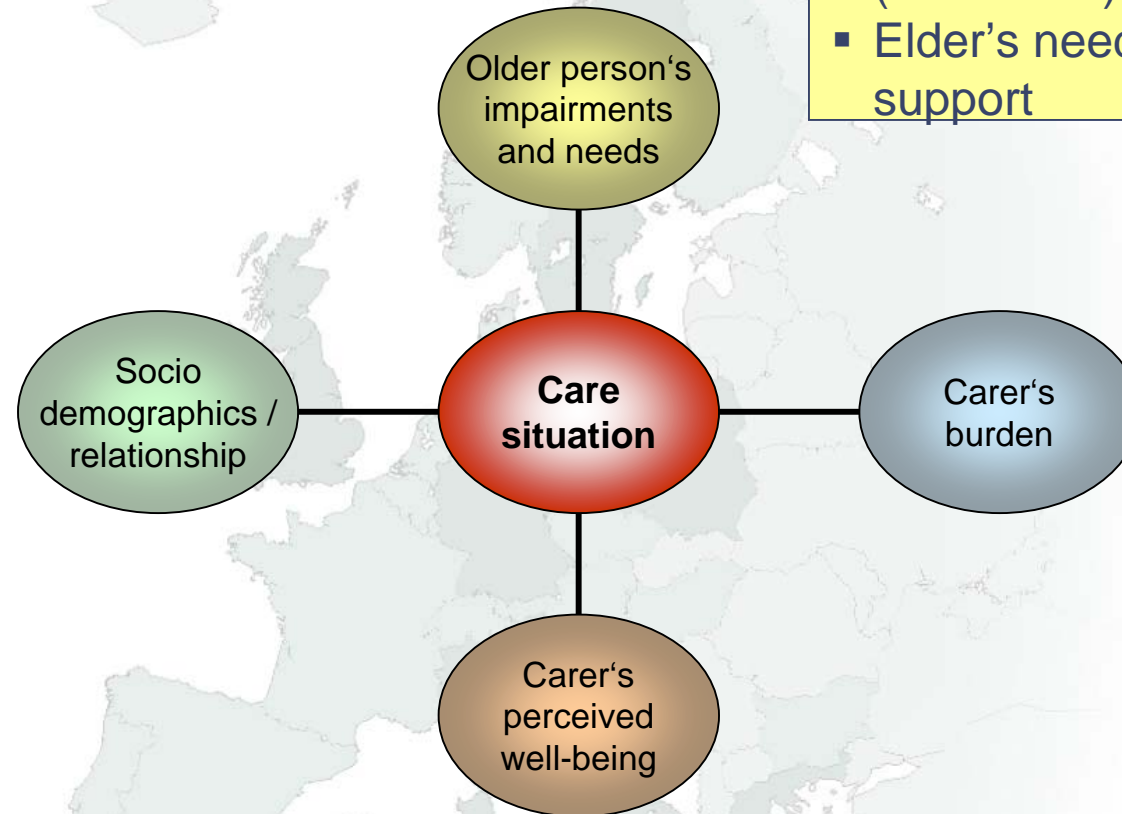**Core Group**
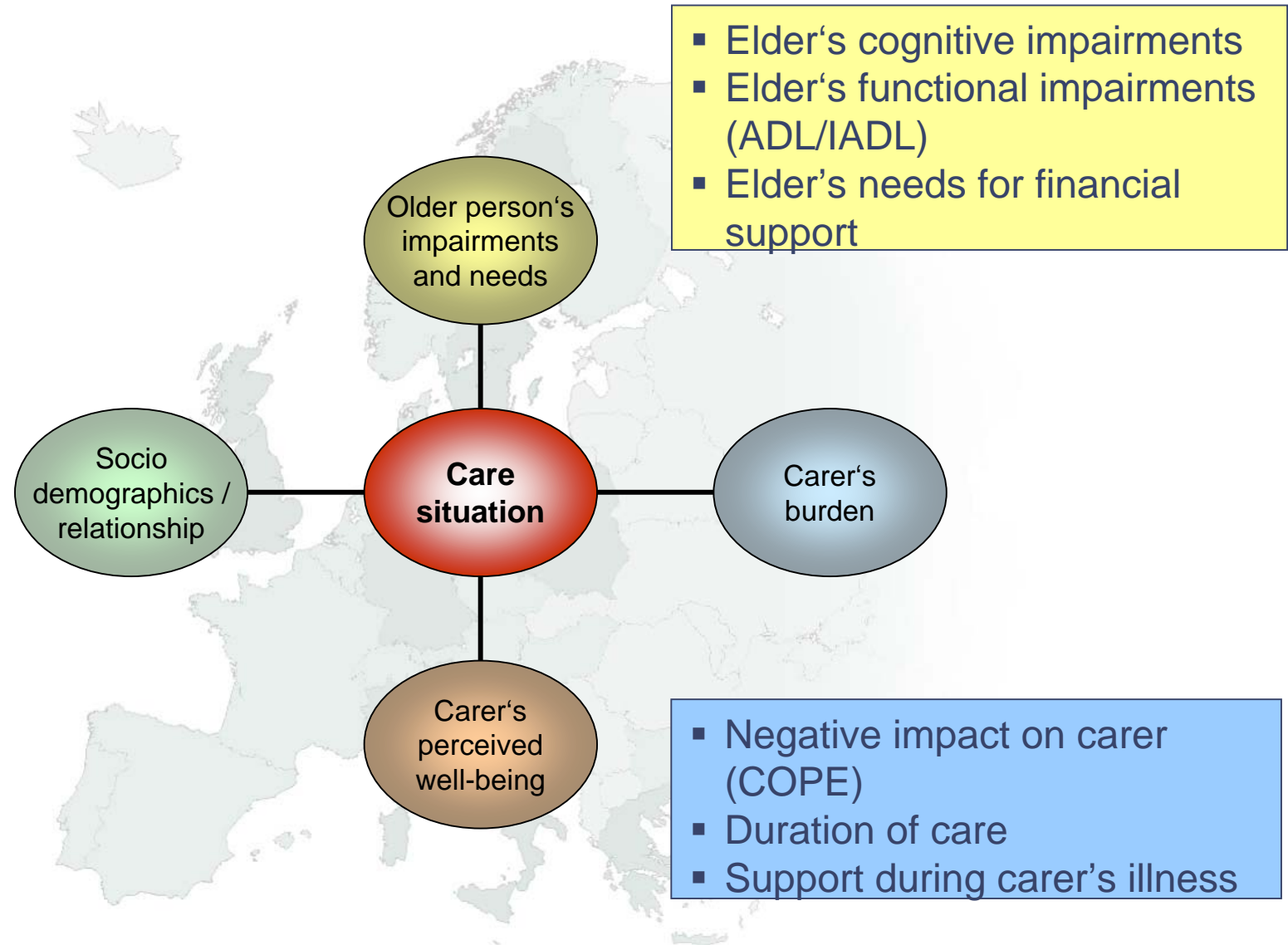
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Selection of Variables (1)

Selection of Variables (2)

- Elder's cognitive impairments
- Elder's functional impairments (ADL/IADL)
- Elder's needs for financial support

Older person's impairments and needs

Socio demographics / relationship

Care situation

Carer's burden

Carer's perceived well-being

Selection of Variables (3)

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Older person's impairments and needs

Socio demographics / relationship

Care situation

Carer's burden

Carer's perceived well-being

- Elder's cognitive impairments
- Elder's functional impairments (ADL/IADL)
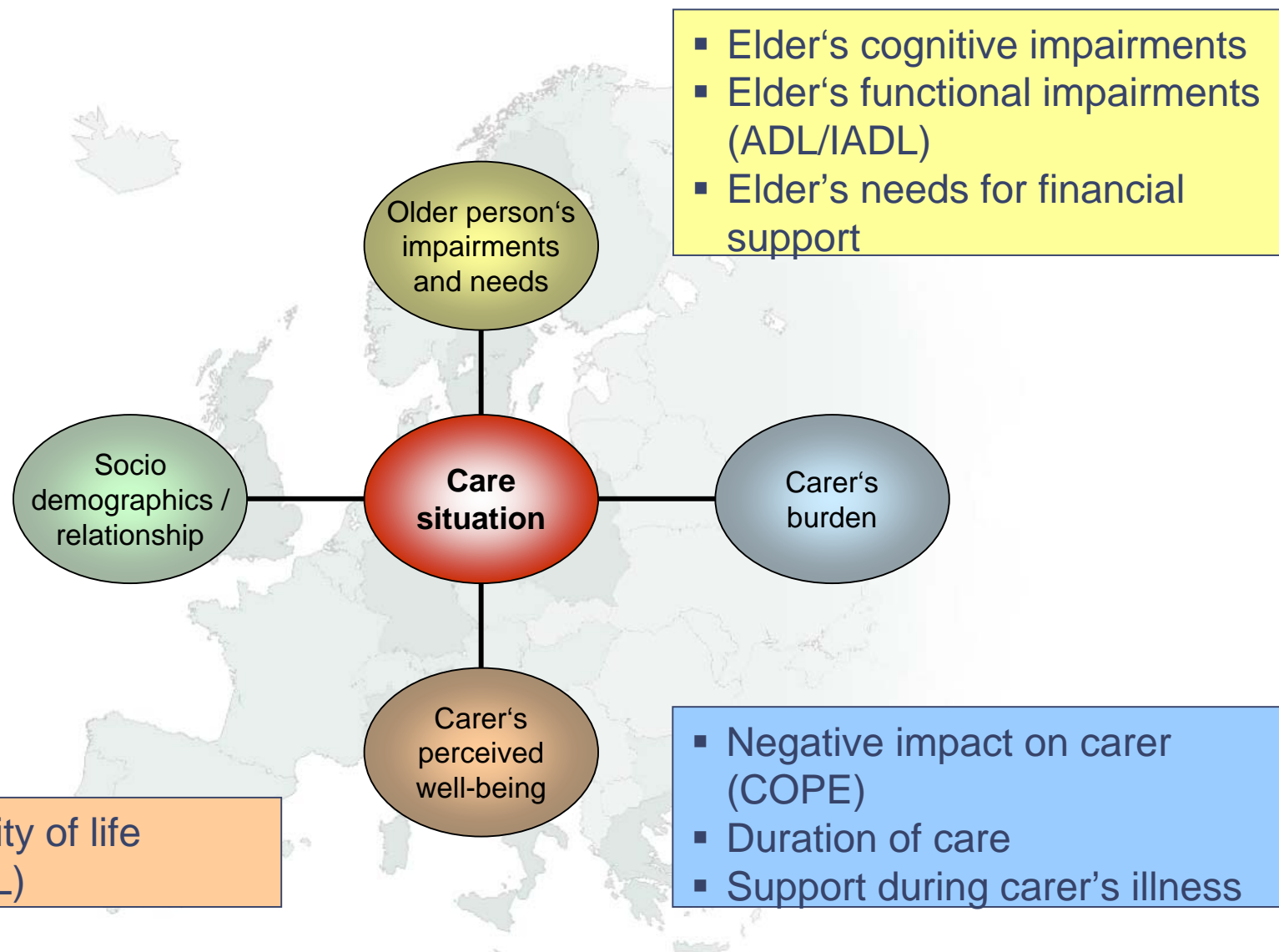- Elder's needs for financial support

- Negative impact on carer (COPE)
- Duration of care
- Support during carer's illness

Selection of Variables (4)

- Older person's impairments and needs
- Socio demographics / relationship
- Care situation
- Carer's burden
- Carer's perceived well-being

- Elder's cognitive impairments
- Elder's functional impairments (ADL/IADL)
- Elder's needs for financial support

- Negative impact on carer (COPE)
- Duration of care
- Support during carer's illness

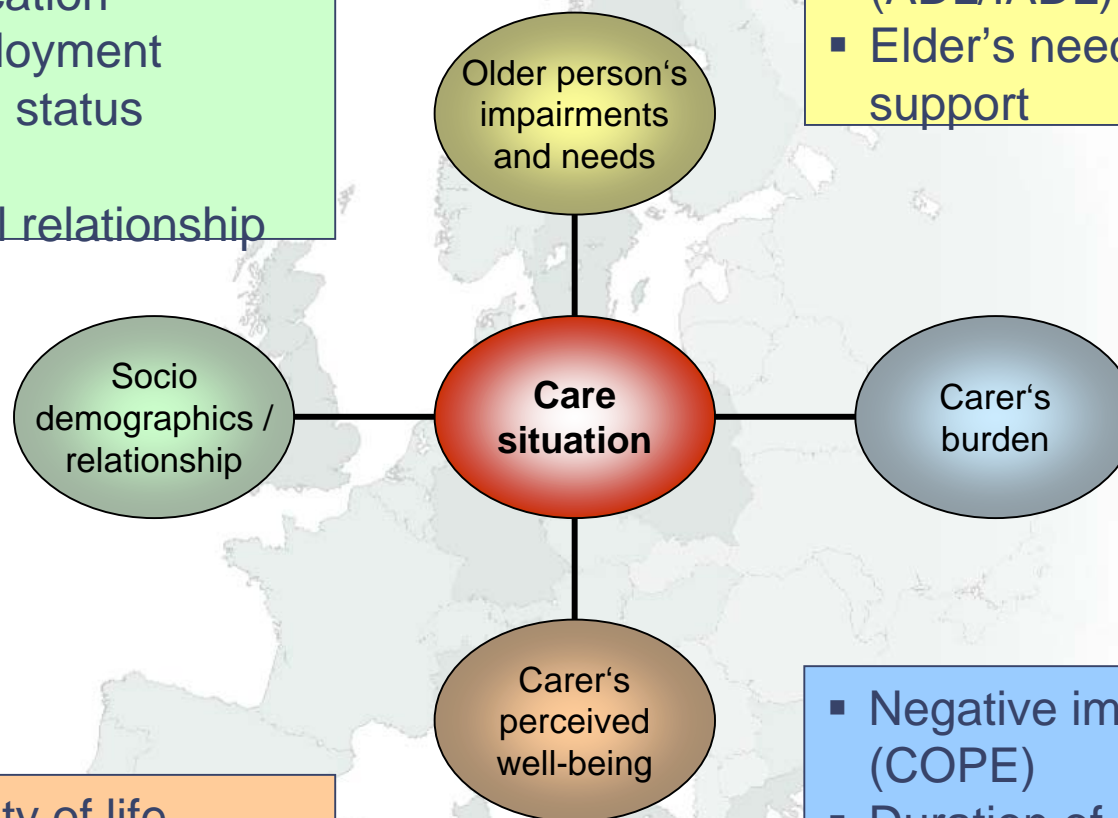- Carer's quality of life (WHO-5 QoL)

Selection of Variables (5)

- Sex of carer/Elder
- Elder's age
- Carer's education
- Carer's employment
- Cohabitation status
- Locality type
- Generational relationship

- Elder's cognitive impairments
- Elder's functional impairments (ADL/IADL)
- Elder's needs for financial support

Older person's impairments and needs

Socio demographics / relationship

Care situation

Carer's burden

Carer's perceived well-being

- Carer's quality of life (WHO-5 QoL)

- Negative impact on carer (COPE)
- Duration of care
- Support during carer's illness

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Characteristics of the six Care Situations

Cluster no.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Gender (% female, carer)	+++	++				
Gender (% female, older person)	++	++				
Generation (% same)	- - -	- - -				
Cohabitation status (% same house)	o	-				
Caregiving duration (% > 2 years)	+	+				
IADL abilities (% higher impairment)	+++	++				
Cognitive status (% higher impairment)	++	++				
Burden (% higher)	+++	+++				
Quality of life (% better)	- -	-				
Help if ill (% "no")	+	o				
Working status (% „yes", carer)	- - -	+++				
Education (% low, carer)	-	- - -				
Age (% > 80, older person)	++	o				
Place of residence (% urban)	+	++				
Financial support (% needed)	o	o				

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Characteristics of the six Care Situations

Cluster no.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Gender (% female, carer)	+++	++	+++	- - -		
Gender (% female, older person)	++	++	- - -	+++		
Generation (% same)	- - -	- - -	+++	+++		
Cohabitation status (% same house)	o	-	+++	+++		
Caregiving duration (% > 2 years)	+	+	++	++		
IADL abilities (% higher impairment)	+++	++	++	+		
Cognitive status (% higher impairment)	++	++	+	o		
Burden (% higher)	+++	+++	+	+		
Quality of life (% better)	- -	-	-	o		
Help if ill (% "no")	+	o	++	++		
Working status (% „yes", carer)	- - -	+++	- - -	- - -		
Education (% low, carer)	-	- - -	o	-		
Age (% > 80, older person)	++	o	-	- -		
Place of residence (% urban)	+	++	+	+		
Financial support (% needed)	o	o	-	o		

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Characteristics of the six Care Situations

Cluster no.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Gender (% female, carer)	+++	++	+++	- - -	++	++
Gender (% female, older person)	++	++	- - -	+++	++	++
Generation (% same)	- - -	- - -	+++	+++	- - -	- - -
Cohabitation status (% same house)	o	-	+++	+++	-	- -
Caregiving duration (% > 2 years)	+	+	++	++	+	o
IADL abilities (% higher impairment)	+++	++	++	+	+++	- - -
Cognitive status (% higher impairment)	++	++	+	o	o	- -
Burden (% higher)	+++	+++	+	+	- - -	- - -
Quality of life (% better)	- -	-	-	o	++	++
Help if ill (% "no")	+	o	++	++	- -	- -
Working status (% „yes", carer)	- - -	+++	- - -	- - -	o	+
Education (% low, carer)	-	- - -	o	-	- - -	- - -
Age (% > 80, older person)	++	o	-	- -	+	-
Place of residence (% urban)	+	++	+	+	+	+
Financial support (% needed)	o	o	-	o	- -	- -

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Characteristics of the six Care Situations

Cluster no.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Gender (% female, carer)	+++	++	+++	- - -	++	++
Gender (% female, older person)	++	++	- - -	+++	++	++
Generation (% same)	- - -	- - -	+++	+++	- - -	- - -
Cohabitation status (% same house)	o	-	+++	+++	-	- -
Caregiving duration (% > 2 years)	+	+	++	++	+	o
IADL abilities (% higher impairment)	+++	++	++	+	+++	- - -
Cognitive status (% higher impairment)	++	++	+	o	o	- -
Burden (% higher)	+++	+++	+	+	- - -	- - -
Quality of life (% better)	- -	-	-	o	++	++
Help if ill (% "no")	+	o	++	++	- -	- -
Working status (% „yes", carer)	- - -	+++	- - -	- - -	o	+
Education (% low, carer)	-	- - -	o	-	- - -	- - -
Age (% > 80, older person)	++	o	-	- -	+	-
Place of residence (% urban)	+	++	+	+	+	+
Financial support (% needed)	o	o	-	o	- -	- -

Distribution of Care Situations*

23,5% 17,9%

17,4%

17,5%

15,6%

8,1%

N=5384

🟥 Unemployed Carers with high levels of objectiv and subjective burden

🟧 Employed Carers with high levels of objective and subjective burden

⬜ Female carers (spouses and others) with high levels of objective and subjectiv burden

⬜ Male carers (spouses and others) with high levels of objective and subjective burden

🟩 Carers with objective but no subjective perception of burden who have support

🟩 Carers with relativley low objective and subjective perception of burden who have support

* Ordered by burden for carer

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Distribution of Care Situations within the six countries
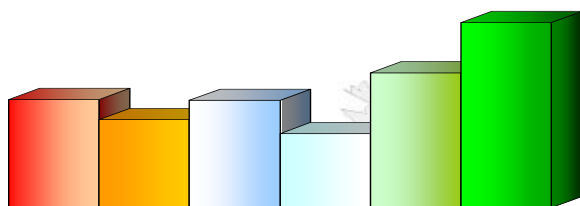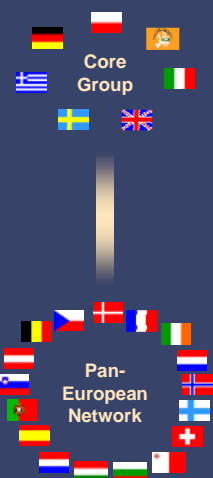

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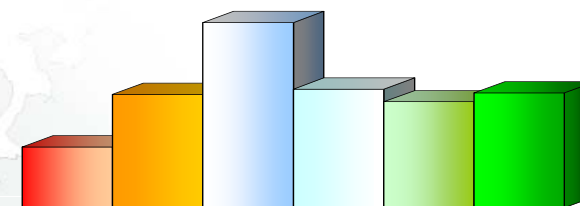
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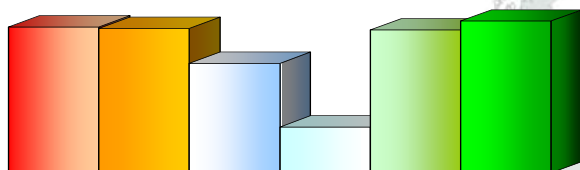
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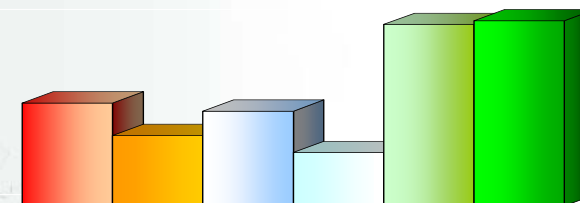
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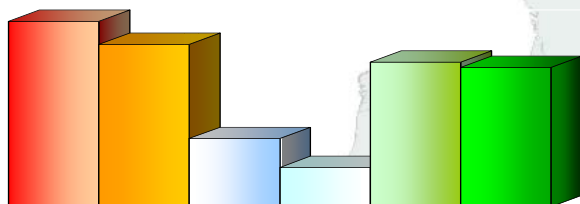
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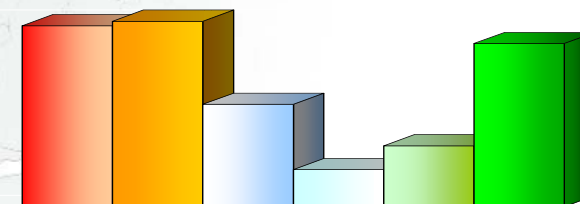
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- 🟥 Burdened, unemployed
- 🟧 Burdened, employed
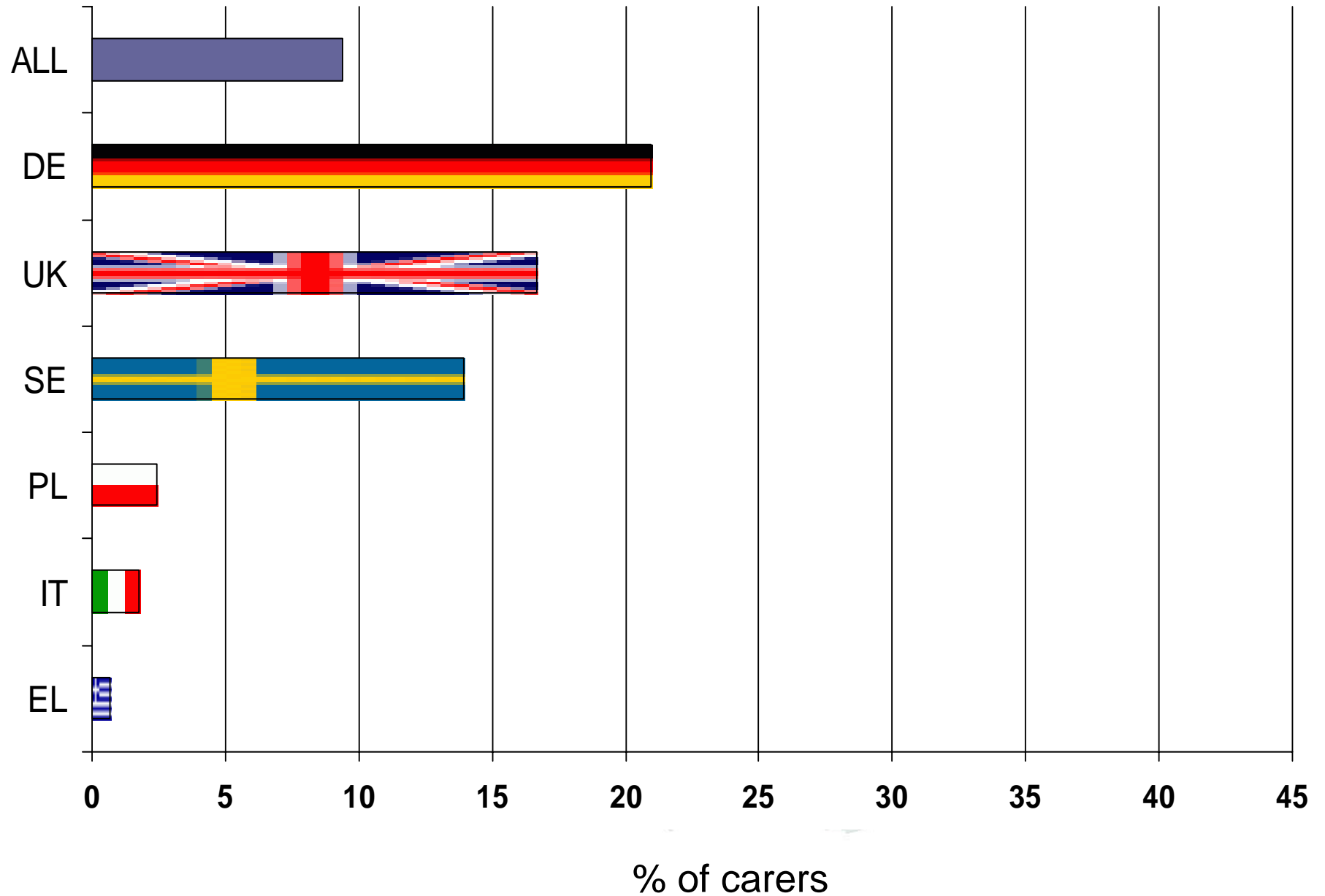- 🟦 Burdened wives
- ⬜ Burdened husbands
- 🟩 Strained, but unburdened
- 🟩 Unstrained, unburdened

Specific support services (at least one) used by country

% of carers

Physical and personal support by…

Legend: ■ Carers themselves   ■ Informal network   ■ Professional services
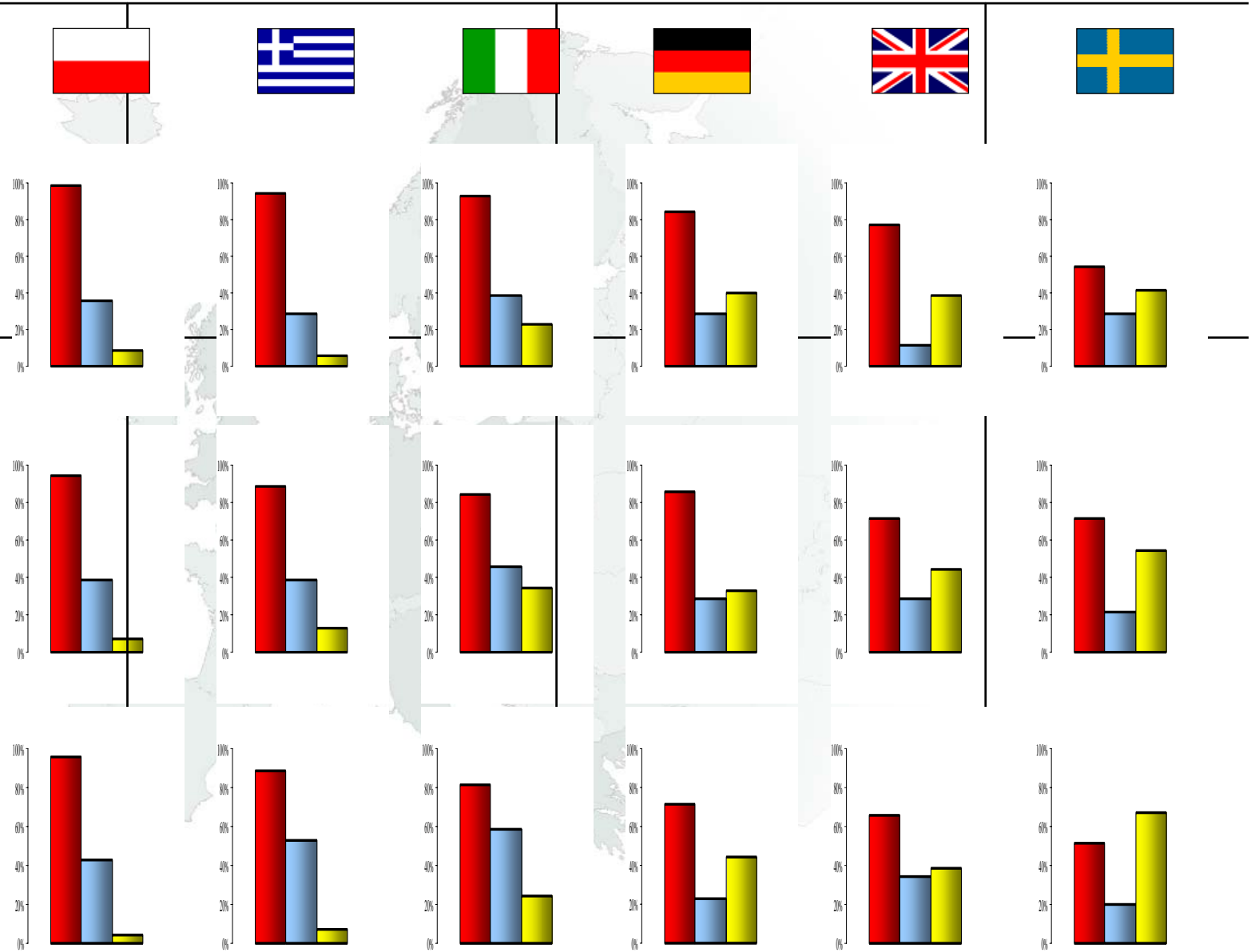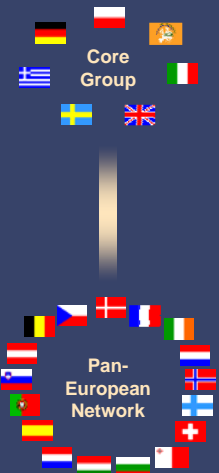
Summary (1/2)

- Most family carers manage their caring tasks without using *specific professional* support services for *themselves*.

- In DE, SE & UK support services specifically addressing carers' needs are more available, mainly providing psychological help, information or respite care.

- In IT, EL & PL carers rely mainly on "generic" services to find some support (GPs etc.). The availability of home health care services is inadequate.

Summary (2/2)

- We found two major impacts on the perception of burden, which can be described as two important dimensions of mixed care arrangements: informal network and professional help

- Neither the informal network nor the professional support can be seen isolated as the main factor for reducing carers' burden.

Thank you for your attention!

Further information, publications and downloads:

www.uke.uni-hamburg.de/eurofamcare

or

www.uke.uni-hamburg.de/eurofamcare-de

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