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The SPRINT consortium comprises partners from 12 different institutions, which are based in 11 EU countries



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Social Protection Innovative Investment in Long-Term Care

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The SPRINT project is a three-year research undertaking that intends to give meaning to the concept of social investment as applied to long-term care (LTC) provision. It provides a means of assessing the social costs and benefits of the various ways of providing long-term care for the frail individuals and presents examples of resourcing of LTC that facilitate provision in a way that social benefits are achieved.

The concept of social investment is used in the project as a basis to examine how long-term care might best be delivered in a fashion that meets goals of need, quality and affordability.

The research team does so by looking beyond mere fiscal outcomes to examine all the costs and all the benefits of different forms of provision. It takes into account not only the experiences of those who are in receipt of care, but also those who deliver care, especially informal carers, and it considers not only short-term but also longer-term perspectives.

In this respect, the SPRINT project builds upon the Investing in Social Europe programme of the EU, seeking to apply it to a new area and one that is of increasing concern to policy makers and to individuals and with a view to demonstrate that social investment can be beneficial in the long run.

The research conducted in the context of the SPRINT project defines the “social” character and impact of long-term care schemes, through comparison of the contribution of public welfare services, for-profit companies, social enterprises, families, communities and volunteers.

Furthermore, it uses the Social Return on Investment principles and social cost-utility analysis to assess all available resources for providing long-term care and finally proposes a set of guidelines and policy recommendations that aim to support, inter alia, public private partnerships in the long-term care field and innovative financing schemes such as social impact bonds.

THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Research in the SPRINT Project pursues the following work programme:

- **Study** the current landscape of organisation and resourcing of LTC in Europe in order to understand the place in the discussion that social investment currently has and how the principles of social investment can be used to improve provision in a fashion that is welfare enhancing;
- **Identify** the most appropriate frameworks for the definition and analysis of social impact of LTC programmes and evaluate the fiscal and social costs and benefits of various national approaches to LTC delivery;
- **Define** the principles for incorporating social considerations into decisions about how to resource LTC policies and analyse how these contribute to addressing the challenges of demographic ageing and inequities of access to care;
- **Develop** appropriate instruments, such as a Feasibility Framework Tool, assessment scales, thresholds and an Impact Map, that enable successful implementation of investment in LTC by public authorities, social insurance funds and private investors;
- **Create** a model of investment in the care sector, emphasising social innovations that will be correlated with the broad economic policies;
- **Formalize and propose** at policy level reforms that could help overcome fiscal and regulatory barriers for the development and scaling up of social innovation in, and for, the provision of long-term care services in Europe.
- **Investigate** how the different resourcing and delivery forms of LTC create social and economic returns, outcomes and social impact and determine factors that contribute to this;
- **Review** the regulatory and institutional incentives or gaps at national and EU level that promote or hinder the provision of an acceptable level of care provision for frail individuals;
- **Analyse** in depth the role of all actors in the field of LTC and assesses their contribution to the achievement of broader goals, such as active ageing, economic growth and improvement of the status of women both as participants in the labour force and as the principal providers of informal care;

