

**Affordability of care and quality of work.
Policies to reduce irregular employment in elderly care**

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Abstract

The paper aims at investigating the conditions regulating the long term care market for elderly people and its division into regular and irregular work. Irregular work does not necessarily coincide with immigrant work. While in some countries the two figures coincide, this is not the case in others. We start from the premise that the extent of the grey care market is related to the employment regime, so that policies aimed at regularising care workers reflect the more general frame of employment policies. The first two sections analyse the care regimes and the characteristics of the care labour markets in a group of selected countries. We shall then focus on the policies that have been implemented in order to encourage the development of a regular care market and/or reduce irregular work in home care. The empirical analysis is based on the results of comparative studies on home care which brought together a number of European countries spanning different care regimes.

Key words: Care regimes, Employment models, female migration.

JEL Classifications: F22, I3, J3, O15.