

THE PHS SECTOR, A KEY SOLUTION FOR FAMILIES' WORK-LIFE BALANCE IN EUROPE

For the International Family Day, EFSI gives a statistical overview on the importance of the PHS sector, especially for women.

BRUSSELS, 15 May 2018: On the occasion of the International Family Day, the European Federation for Services to Individuals (EFSI) highlights the contribution of the personal and household services (PHS)¹ sector towards families' well-being and women's social inclusion. *"By allowing EU citizens to outsource certain tasks and to save time to do others activities or to properly take care of their relatives, PHS enable people to benefit from a better work-life balance."* states Aurélie Decker, EFSI's Director. *"They no longer have to choose between their work or their family, nor to favour one sphere at the expense of the other one"* she added.

The recent PHS Industry Monitor² report gives a new statistical overview to this growing phenomenon. It highlights the weight of self-produced PHS activities within a household, especially amongst women. As a result, a woman spends on average 3.5 hours per day on PHS unpaid activities whereas a European adult spends on average 2.5 hours daily. Moreover, 60% of the Europeans aged between 18 and 64 were too tired from work to do household jobs in 2016 and 38% of them encountered difficulty in fulfilling family responsibilities because of time spent at work. Therefore, the PHS sector represents a great opportunity for enabling working people to better conciliate their private and professional lives.

In addition, the report reveals that the sector employs about 8 million workers in the EU 24, and 91% of them are female workers. Furthermore, female employment in the PHS sector accounts for nearly 7.5% of all female employment in the EU 24, so that almost one in thirteen woman works in the sector. These figures show the importance of the PHS sector in contributing to women's participation in the labour market either by providing them a job or by enabling them to better conciliate their private and working lives. *"Nine out of ten women work in another economic sector, meaning that the woman out of ten who provides PHS can be considered – in numerous situations – as essential for the work of other women"* stresses the report.

The PHS Industry Monitor aims at giving a better overview of the PHS sector within the European Union for a better account of its weight in our economies and societies. PHS encompass a wide range of activities that do not constitute a simple aggregate of traditional activities in statistical nomenclatures. As a consequence, previous estimates overshadowed a large share of the sector.

¹ **Personal and Household Services (PHS)**: activities carried out mainly in users' home 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".

² The new EFSI statistical review on the size and characteristics of employment in the personal and household services (PHS) sector published in 18 April 2018.

You can download the **PHS Industry Monitor** [here](#)

To learn more about the PHS sector's contribution to women's lives, please read our [infographic](#).

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As the European Federation for Services to Individuals, **EFSI** is the representative body of national federations and associations as well as companies involved in the development of personal and household services in Europe. Through its members, EFSI is present in 22 EU Members' States.