

## **MORE PUBLIC SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO ENHANCE DOMESTIC WORKERS' RIGHTS IN EUROPE**

**On the occasion of the International Domestic Workers Day, EFSI reminds that high quality working conditions must be ensured for PHS workers in order to adequately tackle the challenges face by our societies.**

BRUSSELS, 15 June 2018: On the occasion of the International Domestic Workers Day, the European Federation for Services to Individuals (EFSI) reminds the contribution of the personal and household services (PHS)<sup>1</sup> sector to the labour market while stressing the prevalence of undeclared work in this sector and outlining its potential growth throughout Europe. *“The PHS sector represents almost 8 million jobs in the EU24 which amounts to 4% of EU total employment, although much still remains to be done in order to secure adequate working conditions and access to social protection to all PHS workers.”* states Aurélie Decker, EFSI’s director.

The recent PHS Industry Monitor<sup>2</sup> report gives a statistical overview of this growing sector while highlighting the prevalence of undeclared work in the absence of an adequate public support. As a matter of fact, the PHS sector is the third most common identified sector for undeclared work, after the construction, hotels, restaurant and catering sectors. *“This situation is the result of a lack of appropriate legal framework ensuring affordable access to formal household-support and care services. Thus, about 12 million EU citizens buy PHS on the undeclared market, mainly because they don’t have any other alternative”* stresses Aurélie Decker. As such, the share of the undeclared provision reaches 70% of the PHS market in some Member States. Therefore, this trend can be reversed only if public authorities adequately support and invest in the sector.

In addition, such reforms are also necessary in order to ensure that the numerous jobs which are led to be created in the sector during the next years are quality jobs and that those workers provide quality services. Indeed, the report reveals that the sector is highly carrier of opportunities and the creation of at least 5 million jobs in PHS is expected. This growth potential is mainly driven by population ageing, women’s employment increase and EU workers’ willingness to better balance their professional and private lives. To meet those needs Member States can implement different PHS policies supporting

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<sup>1</sup> 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”.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

either employment related or social objectives. EFSI therefore calls upon all Member States and stakeholders to launch a reflection on the issue. Furthermore, EFSI and its members commits to provide them all the technical expertise they might need and – with this in mind - invite them to refer to the IMPact guide<sup>3</sup> published in 2016.

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

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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.

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<sup>3</sup> The “*PHS policies – implementation and monitoring guide*” (IMPact guide) seeks to help public authorities to design PHS measures and improve assessment and monitoring of the macro-economic effects. It comprises of four main types of information: theoretical background, tools, evidences and policy pointers ([www.impact-phs.eu](http://www.impact-phs.eu)).