Czech Republic

Lessons learnt from the pandemic in the LTC sector

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Czechia - Impact of covid-19 on the LTC

• Population 10.70 mil. One of the highest cumulative death rate of covid in the world - 312,794 (total deaths per 100.000 population) (Dec 3 2021);

• Low share of deaths in care homes compared to other countries (11 % of total deaths)\(^{(1)}\) - lockdowns and strong support for measures during first wave, and high vaccination rate in care home during the current wave;

• One of the longest lockdown in care homes ("homes for seniors") - 136 days (4.5 month) between March - Dec 2020 = isolation from family and social contacts; staff stayed in care homes together with their residents;

• Low accessibility of LTC services, especially non-residential and home-based and low support of family / informal carers;

\(^{(1)}\) Lisa Pelling: On the Corona Frontline The Experiences of Care Workers in Nine European Countries – Summary Report, 2021
Horecký, J., Švehlová, A. PANDEMIE COVIDU-19 A SOCIÁLNÍ SLUŽBY 2020–2021 APSS ČR, 2021 (Association of social services providers)
Czechia - Lessons Learnt

• One of the **lowest vaccination rates** in the EU (generally CEE countries);

• **Failed vaccination strategy and leadership**, strong impact of **desinformation campaigns** (tens of desinformation webs supported from Russia, Facebook, etc.)

• Rising tensions, **polarisation, and aggression towards health workers** (in contrast to the first covid wave during March-May 2020); threats to politicians and medical representatives, role of media (unrepresentative “scientists”);

• Discussion about **obligatory vaccination** of people above 60 and health and social sector workers (police and army, medical students), following discussion in neighbouring Austria;

• More than 92 % care homes residents and 65 % employers vaccinated (08/2021)
Czechia - LTC Reforms

- Need for **communication strategy** and formal **mechanisms of timely reaction and management**, cooperation, and **training** for emergencies;

- **Compliance and trust** are key for coping with crisis, emergency situations;

- **Plans** for specific services (care homes, home care and support, carers);

- Key role of **community, neighbours**, organisations, volunteers, etc.

- Shortages of **LTC workers**, preparedness for emergencies;

- **Under-financing** of LTC, **lack of support at home**, **diversifying** LTC services (care homes more risky than home / informal care); lack of capacities;

- Stronger **linkages between care and health** care / public health.