



Live-in migrant carers – Back to normal in the Austrian LTC system?

**ESN Roundtable
International workshop on COVID-19 and long-term care systems**

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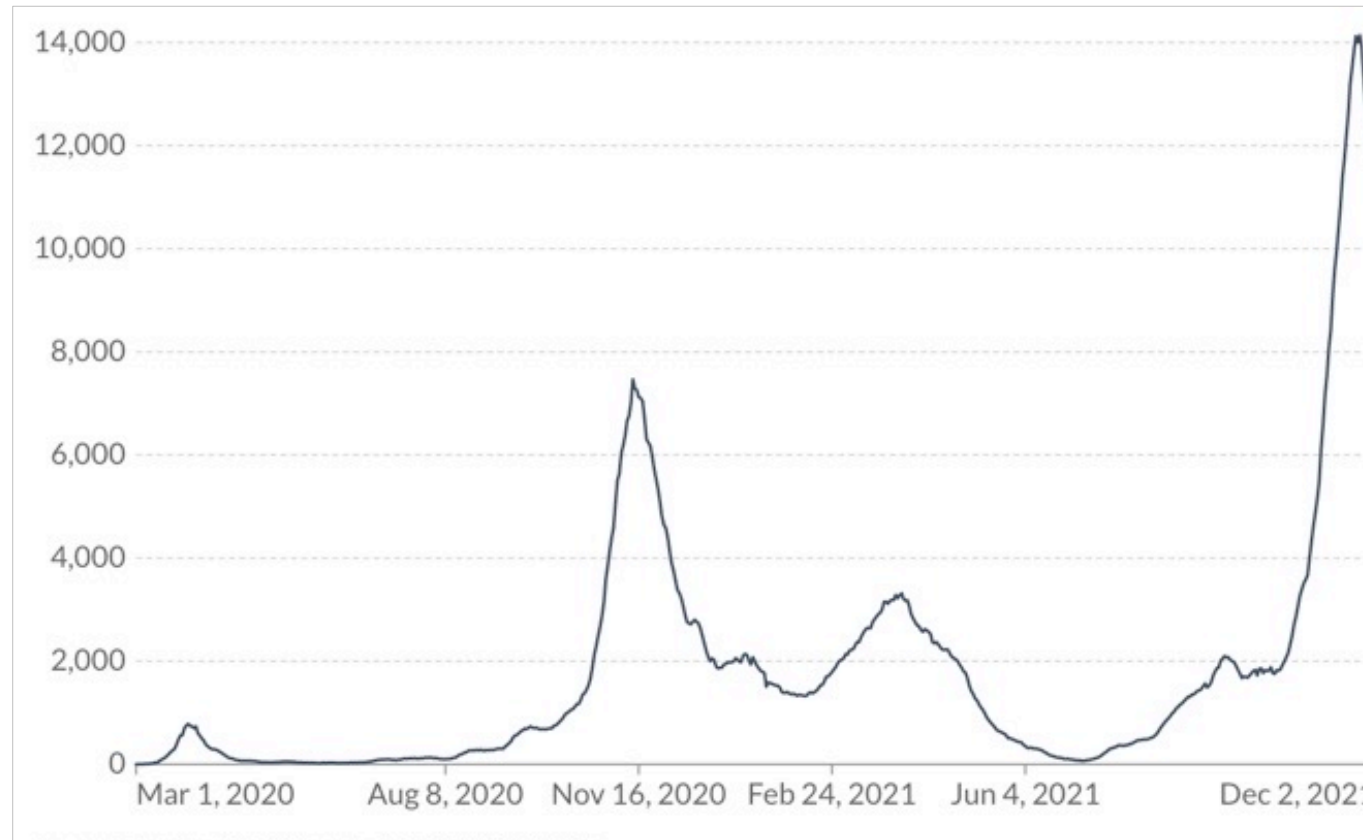


LTC RESPONSES
TO COVID-19

INTERNATIONAL LONG-TERM
CARE POLICY NETWORK

General introduction

Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Austria, March 2020 – December 2021



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

Total number of infections:

- By Jan 2021 (second wave): 43% of deaths in care homes (3,245 residents)
- Vaccination started in Jan 2021

Current situation of infections in care homes (fourth wave, Nov 2021):

- 835 staff (1-2%)
- 504 residents (<1%)
- BUT: Regionally concentrated clusters

Live-in migrant carers in Austria

How it started

- Exceptional growth of migrant live-in carers over the past two decades
 - Slovak Republic, Romania, Hungary ..., mainly women
 - More than 66,000, more than 30,000 clients (families)
- Public regulations have contributed to a ‘fragile balance’ of rights, precarious working conditions and quality of care
 - ‘White-washing’ (Personal Care Act, 2007): subsidies for clients, regulations regarding competencies, competences and working conditions (unique in Europe)
 - The status as self-employed personal carers
 - Bi-weekly or 3-monthly shifts – working time issues?
 - The role of brokering agencies

Live-in migrant carers in Austria

How it developed

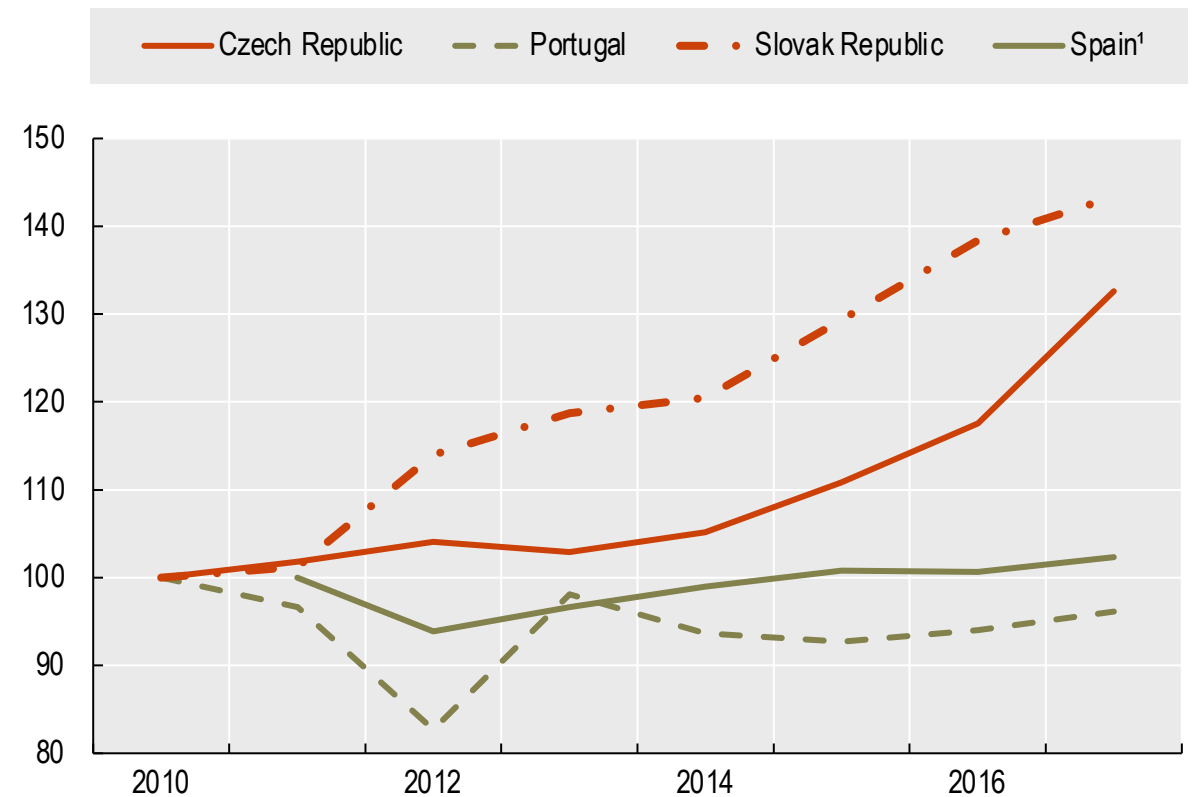
- COVID-19 revealed the fragility of the live-in carer model
 - Travel restrictions
 - Isolation in private homes
 - Activation of emergency transport during lockdown periods
 - Self-employed (registered with the Chamber of Commerce) but no or only restricted entitlements and access to support measures
- Some public attention, but no substantial debate or reform
 - Voluntary quality certificate for brokering agencies
 - Possibilities for political action restricted
 - Lack of data

How it is proceeding

- Back to normal?
 - Increase in subsidies claimed by Chamber of Commerce
- European context and future perspectives
 - German Federal Labour Court sentenced that 24-hour care means an entitlement for 24 hours of minimum wage ...
 - Exceptional pay rise in health care and nursing professions (e.g. CZ, SK)
 - Development of LTC systems also in Eastern European Member States

Live-in migrant carers in Austria

Trends in the remuneration of hospital nurses, nominal terms, 2010-17 (Index 2010 =100)



Source: OECD (2019). Remuneration of nurses, *Health at a Glance 2019: OECD Indicators*. Paris, OECD Publishing.

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