

The vital role of home maker and carer has traditionally been undertaken by women throughout history and yet, often, the skills and knowledge accumulated during a lifetime's work goes unrecognised. Many older women who have worked at home throughout their lives wish to build a meaningful professional career after their children have grown up but often feel that they have nothing to offer due to their skills being largely and unjustly undervalued by society.

50+ Childcare is a project that aims to empower women to transfer the skills and knowledge they have learned through years of working in the home to a meaningful, new career in a familiar field.

To achieve this, the project has brought together a consortium of experts in a variety of areas from throughout Europe to exchange best practice and ideas in order to develop a vocational course that would serve as a universal model of a professional course for new age child carers for women aged 50 – 64 years.

The model will include:

- Guidance on the personality and skills required to perform the role of professional child carer in the partner countries
- Methods of verifying the relevant candidates for the child carer profession
- A review of suggested subjects for course modules.

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## Survey results of women aged 50+ :

A survey of women aged 50 was conducted in August - September 2017, in six EU countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland). A total of 205 women answered the questionnaire about their interest in taking up employment as a child carer and gaining new skills and qualifications.

Most of the surveyed women would like to work as a child carer part-time (37,6%) and have informal experience in childcare( 65,4%). 42% of them would be interested in attending a training course for the role of professional child carer. 39,5% of women would like to gain new information and knowledge in a course for professional child care. The most important topics for women that should be included in the training modules are:  
Health and safety of the child(79,5%),  
Physical cognitive and emotional development of the child at different ages and how they can be supported by the child carer (68,8%),  
Hygiene and day care rules (68,8%).

75 % of the respondents answered that there are no difficulties that would cause difficulties in the work of child carer for women 50 years of age and older. Problems that the women pointed out were:

- health problems,
- physical- related restrictions
- age-related fatigue

**For more information about the survey results, please visit our website:  
[50pluschildcarer.eu](http://50pluschildcarer.eu)**

## Survey results of parents:

161 parents from 6 EU countries answered the questionnaire about their opinions of the work in the profession of childcare for women over the age of 50

Most of the surveyed parents prefer institutional child care services as in a nursery or kindergarten (79%) compared to a private child care service (21%). Nevertheless 93% of them think that women aged 50+ could work as a professional child carer.

Over 74% parents answered that there are no difficulties that would hinder work as a child carer for women over the age of 50.

Problems that the other parents pointed out were:

- health problems,
- generation gap,
- “old school” approaches,
- outdated qualifications (including lack of digital skills),
- too little empathy and patience

For parents the most important quality of the child carer is the personality. The child carer should be calm, patient and should be able to manage critical situations.

The most important topics for parents that should be included in the training modules are:  
Health and safety of the child(62,9%),  
Physical cognitive and emotional development of the child at different ages and how they can be supported by the child carer (58,8%),  
Hygiene and day care rules (52,7%).

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