Classification of in-country Awareness and Policy Responses to Young Carers

Eurocarers Workshop
Supporting Young Carers in Europe

18-19 February 2016, Hamburg

Prof. FH Dr. iur. Agnes Leu
Classification of in-country Awareness and Policy Responses to YC Programme

1. Introduction

2. Classification

3. Key factors that influence a country’s awareness and response to YC

4. Young Carers Research in Switzerland

5. Discussion
Classification of in-country Awareness and Policy Responses to YC

Introduction

Why is it important to identify YC and to influence a country’s awareness and responses to YC?
Classification of in-country Awareness and Policy Responses to YC

Introduction

**Importance** of country’s awareness and responses:

YC constitute a distinct group of individuals with high vulnerability and complex family needs, because

- YC carry out a role that in the general workplace is performed by trained and skilled adults;
- YC role involves a high level of responsibility, specialist skills, knowledge and may involve risk;
- YC are not paid, and by not being paid they save a substantial amount of money for health and social care services;
- YC role does not end when they reach adulthood.
Classification of in-country Awareness and Policy Responses to YC

Introduction
## Classification of in-country Awareness and Policy Responses to YC

### Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1-7</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Country Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 Incorporate/Sustainable | • Extensive awareness at all levels of government and society of the experiences and needs of young carers  
• Sustained and sustainable policies and interventions aimed at meeting young carers' needs and promoting their health, well-being and development  
• Responses and law built on a foundation of reliable research evidence and clear legal rights | None |
| 2 Advanced | • Widespread awareness and recognition of young carers amongst public, policy makers and professionals  
• Extensive and reliable research base, and growing  
• Specific legal rights (national)  
• Extensive codes and guidance for welfare professionals and national and local strategies  
• Multiple dedicated services and interventions nationwide | United Kingdom |
## Classification of in-country Awareness and Policy Responses to YC

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<tr>
<th>Level 1-7</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Country Example</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Some awareness and recognition of young carers among public, policy makers and professionals</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Medium-sized research base, and growing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Partial rights in some regions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Small but developing body of professional guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Some dedicated services and interventions, mostly local but a few nationwide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Preliminary</td>
<td>Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, United-States</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Little public or specialist awareness and recognition of young carers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Limited research base, but growing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No specific legal rights but other laws may be applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Few, if any, dedicated services or interventions at national or local levels</td>
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</table>
## Classification of in-country Awareness and Policy Responses to YC

### Classification

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<tr>
<th>Level 1-7</th>
<th>Classification of country-level responses to YC</th>
<th>Country Example</th>
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</table>
| **5** Emerging | • Growing public or specialist awareness of young carers  
• Small but growing research base  
• No specific legal rights but other laws may be applicable  
• No dedicated services or interventions for young carers, but other services may be applicable | Belgium  
Italy  
New Zealand  
Sub-Saharan Africa  
Switzerland |
| **6** Awakening | • Embryonic awareness of young carers as a distinct social group within the «vulnerable children» population | Greece  
Finland  
France |
| **7** No-response | • No apparent awareness of policy response to young carers as a distinct social group | All other countries |
Classification of in-country Awareness and Policy Responses to YC

Key factors

Key factors that influence a country’s awareness and response to YC
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Key factors

Key factors that influence a country’s awareness & response to YC

✓ Role of individuals and young carers themselves
  [https://tube.switch.ch/videos/b5882df9](https://tube.switch.ch/videos/b5882df9)

✓ Learning from other countries

✓ Reliable research base - a «door opener» for policy transfer

✓ Legislation and initiatives - a commitment to children's rights

✓ Leading role of key NGOs and media
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Key factors

Learning from other countries

Prof. Dr. Saul Becker, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Social Sciences, University of Birmingham (UK)

Prof. FH Dr. iur. Agnes Leu, Program Director, Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences, Department Health Science (CH)
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Key factors

Learning from other countries

1997 Working with Adult Carers, President of Health Organization
   Development and implementation of innovative employment models for carers

2013 SNF-Short Visit, Nottingham University, Saul Becker
   Kick-off publications in specific national and international journals

2014 Highfield Fellowship, Nottingham University, Saul Becker
   Application to the SNF (Money Follows Cooperation Line CH-UK)
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Key factors

Learning from other countries

2014 Swiss Federal Council report on the situation of carers
   “Action plan for support and respite of relatives providing care”
   → Federal Council is aware of the situation of young carers
   → Federal Council does not propose measures because
     “this blows up the framework of its political orders”

2015 NZZ article in Switzerland: Tipping point for contacts with
   Swiss politicians leading to postulate in the Swiss National Council

2016 Meeting with Members of the National Council
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Key factors

Reliable research base – a «door opener» for policy transfer
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YC-Research in Switzerland

**Careum Research**, Research Institute of Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences, Department Health Science, Zürich

**Key strategies** of Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences are:
- flexibility
- individual study pathways
- collaborations with practice partners and our own high-qualified, responsible employees

2016: Innovation Award for Kalaidos Education Group

http://www.kalaidos-fh.ch/Departement-Gesundheit
Careum Research – Strategic Aims

Careum Research is oriented towards the competence and participation of patients, relatives and professionals in healthcare and social services.

Its main focus is on new forms of care provision and housing, particularly in relation to providing healthcare services in private households.

http://www.careum.ch/web/guest/forschung
Four main research areas – caring across the lifespan

1) **Patient education** – Dr. Jörg Haslbeck
   Self-management and patient empowerment
   http://www.careum.ch/patientenbildung

2) **Learn & Care** – Prof. Dr. iur. Agnes Leu
   Reconciling school, vocational training, studies and caring role
   http://www.careum.ch/youngcarers

3) **Work & Care** – Prof. Dr. Iren Bischofberger
   Reconciling employment and caring role
   http://www.careum.ch/workandcare

4) **Ageing & Care at Home** – Prof. Dr. Ulrich Otto
   Enabling people to live in private homes, involving all providers of support in a co-productive way
   http://www.careum.ch/ageing
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YC-Research in Switzerland

Ongoing Research Projects

Ebnet (sub-project 1, 2)
- 30 qualitative interviews with YC and YAC
- Development of practice tool for health professionals
  [http://www.careum.ch/youngcarers-ebnet](http://www.careum.ch/youngcarers-ebnet)

SNF Money Follows CH-UK (sub-projects 3, 4 and 5)
- Online survey to investigate the knowledge of professionals concerning YC and YAC (n=1’000)
- Online survey with 3,900 pupils
- 40 semi-structured qualitative interviews with young carers and their relatives
  [http://www.careum.ch/youngcarers-snf](http://www.careum.ch/youngcarers-snf)
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YC and YAC Research Programme (learn&care)

Submitted Research Projects

SBFI (SERI)
• Equal chances for YC and YAC regarding vocational training in Switzerland

SNF Money Follows CH-UK, Legal Part
• YC & YAC in Switzerland - A transnational comparison of legal and policy frameworks for providing services and protection

NFP 74 (National Research Programme "Smarter Health Care“)
• Health Care Professionals’ Awareness of Young Carers in Switzerland – Evaluation of Practice Tools

Work in progress:
Dreiländerantrag D-A-CH
• Lead Agency project in collaboration with Germany and Austria: Participation of YAC in Higher Education
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Discussion
Discussion

Key factors that influence a country’s awareness & response to YC

a) Check it out in your country 😊

b) Has Switzerland done their homework?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Factors</th>
<th>Action, Measures</th>
<th>Yes / No : In-country awareness &amp; policy responses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Role of individuals and young carers themselves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning from other countries</td>
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<td>Reliable research base</td>
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<td>Leading role of key NGOs and media</td>
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**Selected literature** *(find more http://www.careum.ch/yc/publikationen)*


Classification of in-country Awareness and Policy Responses to YC Questions
Thank you for listening!
Contact

Further information http://www.careum.ch/youngcarers.

Please comment on our BLOG: http://blog.careum.ch/blog/familycare-2/.

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