

# Supporting Family Carers

## Innovative examples from Austria

Workshop:  
Supporting family carers  
Rome, February 5, 2010

# Patterns of family care in Austria

- 50% of carers spend between 5 and 15 hours per week; 25% exceeds 15 hours a week
- 1/3 are employed full-time
- 1/4 have cut back gainful employment
- 47% either don't have any income or only below €700
- 1/5 don't have a own pension insurance
- 79% of elderly carers are female
- average age: 58 years

# Snapshot of the development of the LTC system in Austria

- In 1993, the universal system of LTC allowances has been implemented
- 82% of LTC allowance receivers report that the allowance covers a significant portion of costs
- At present, around 5% of the Austrian population receive long-term care benefits.
- Since 01/01/2009 raise of the long-term care allowance

## LTC allowance are granted in seven categories

Level	Monthly benefit	Monthly extent of need for car
1	148 euro	> 50 hours
2	273 euro	> 75 hours
3	421 euro	> 120 hours
4	632 euro	> 160 hours
5	859 euro	> 180 hours & qualified nurse is required
6	1171 euro	> 180 hours & care during day & night is required
7	1562 euro	> 180 hours & no movement of four extremities

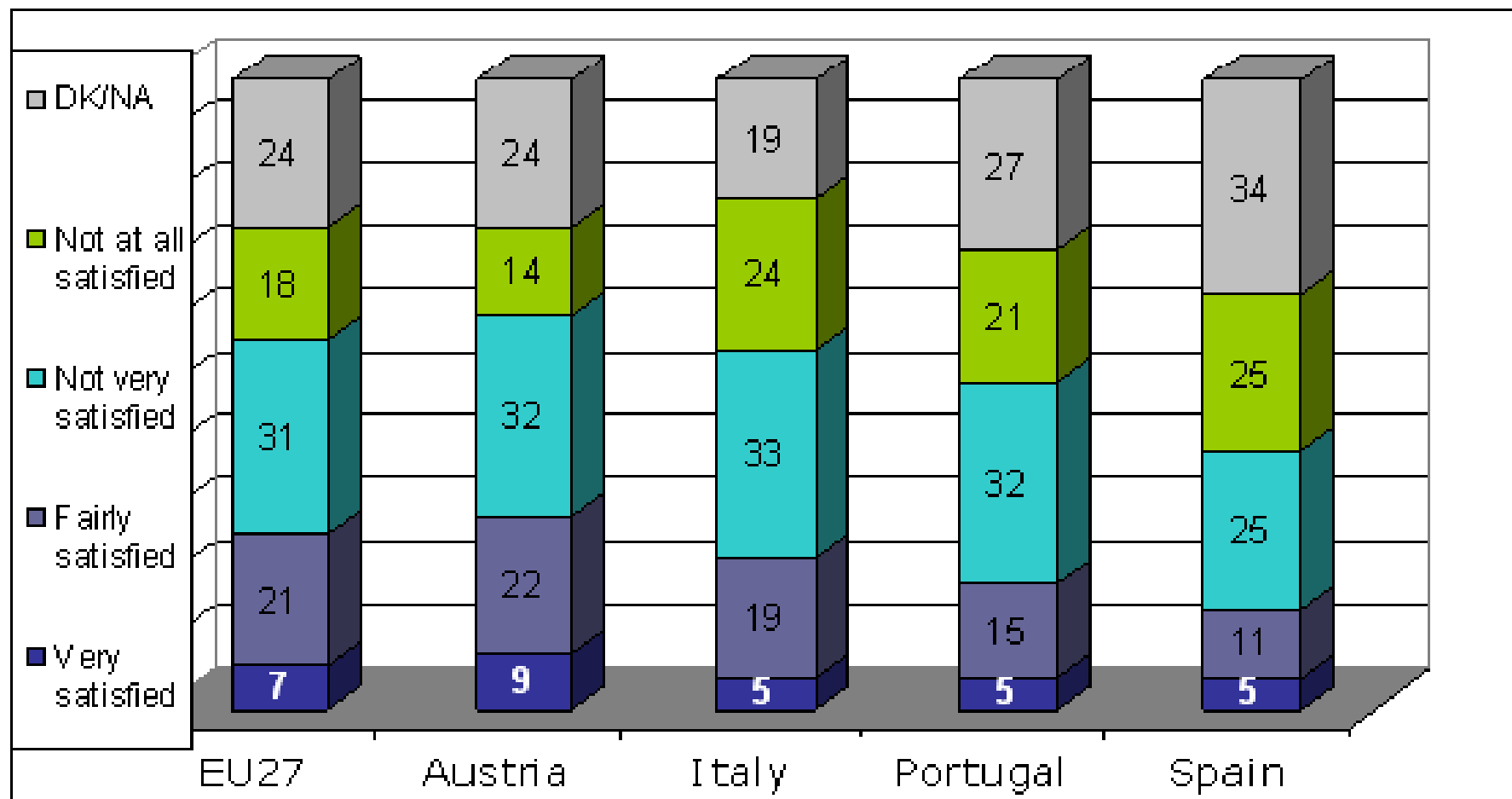
# Reliefs supporting employed family carers

- working carers may claim care **leave** for up to a maximum of **two working week** per year
- care leave can be availed of on a daily or also on an hourly basis
- If care not only of a temporary nature: can agree a **reduction of normal working hours** with their employers
- **No data** is available on how frequently care leave for eldercare is actually claimed
- Since 2002 persons caring for dying family members are legally entitled to compassionate leave / **family hospice leave** (Familienhospizkarenz). Employees enjoy protection against dismissal for up to six months.

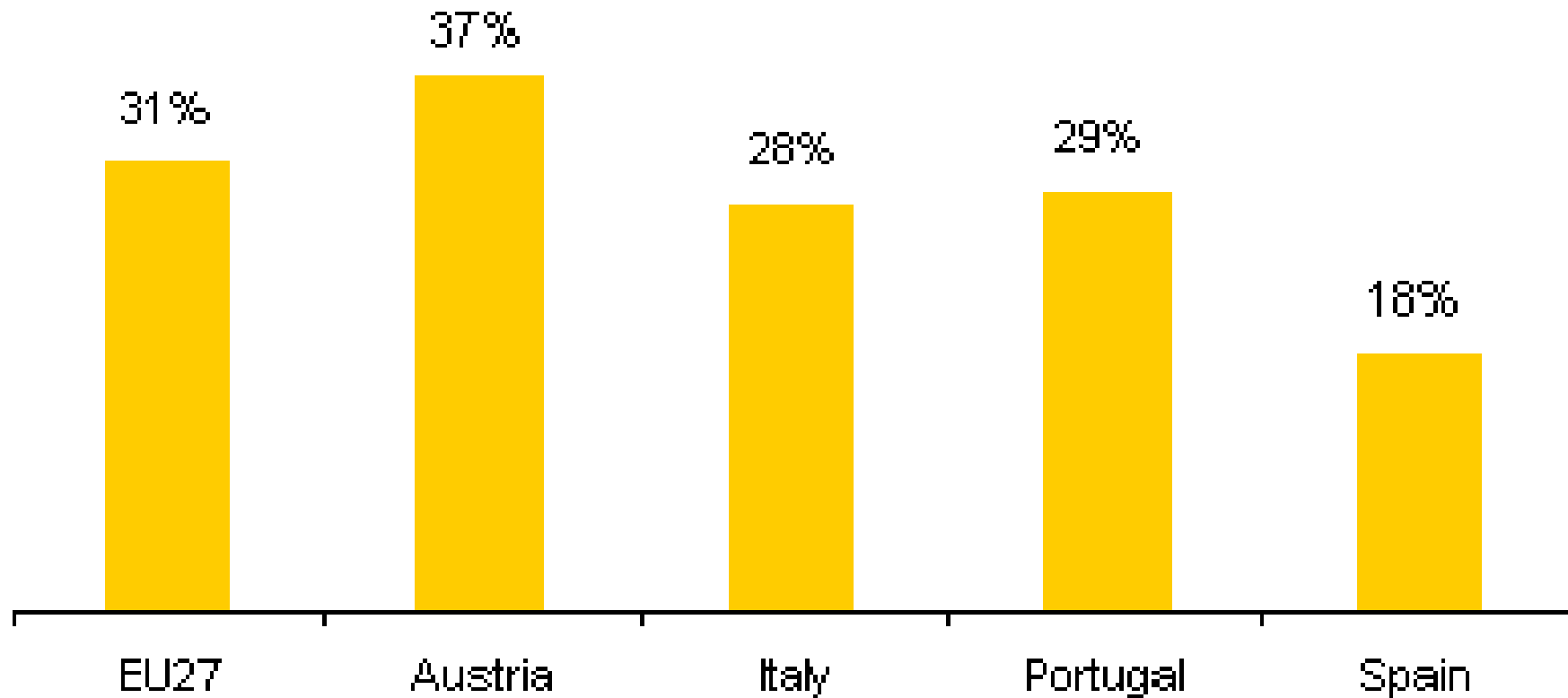
# Pilot Projects

- "Counselling Cheque" A funding model to recipients of the long-term care allowance of at least category 3 requiring 24/7 care was adopted.
- 14 days of holidays and recreation for care-giving family members
- preferential continued insurance or self-insurance in the pension insurance system for carers
- temporary accommodation in a nursing home if care-givers go on holiday or fall ill
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# Satisfaction with public support for people caring for dependent older relatives, %



# Professional care at home is available at an affordable cost, % of agreement



Source: Eurobarometer 2007:77



# Recommendations (I)

taken from Hörl 2005 (EU-Project: EUROFAMCARE)

- Combining work and eldercare should be easier to accomplish. Social policy should be more responsive to the needs of **caring employees**.
- Appreciation of care work by the general public and the authorities should be enhanced. In particular, unnecessary **bureaucratic** obstacles must be removed when asking for support from **community service agencies**.
- Family carers should be encouraged to **organize themselves** at the national level as an official lobby organization in order to be able to raise their voice in caring issues.

# Recommendations (II)

taken from Hörl 2005 (EU-Project: EUROFAMCARE)

- Support by installing permanent **supervision** programmes and effective telephone **counselling** is needed; family carers' complaints or proposals for improvements of their situation have to be investigated more actively and systematically.
- The development of **quality assurance methods** within the sphere of family care is necessary as well as the implementation of non-intrusive control mechanisms.
- More light is to be shed on the "dark figures" of elder **abuse** and neglect in family care situations.

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Thank you very much for your attention!