

## Number of Carers

Estimated number **4 Million<sup>i</sup>**  
 Percentage of population **7%**



Current Practices	Opportunities to Increase Support
Unpaid carers are formally recognized in Italy. In 2017, a fund was established for the financial coverage of legislative measures aimed at recognizing the social and economic value of the unpaid carer. <sup>ii</sup>	Expand the definition of unpaid carer, improve full policy implementation of the 2018 Budget Law and decrease regional fragmentation.
Unpaid carers may receive a Carers Allowance if the person for whom they care fits the definition of "invalid" (i.e. they are unable to accomplish activities of daily living). <sup>iii</sup>	Provide financial support to all unpaid carers, not just the unpaid carer of the disabled or ill person.
Nationally, unpaid carers are entitled up to 3 days' leave per month. This leave is fully paid by the INPS (the national social security agency) or another social security agency. Up to 2 years' unpaid leave can be taken in a staggered manner. <sup>iv</sup>	Provide a national employment policy which includes paid and flexible care leave, flexible working conditions, and the promotion of a work-life balance.
A form of early retirement is allowed for some categories of workers considered to be disadvantaged, including unpaid carers. <sup>v</sup>	Allow for early retirement pension credits for unpaid carers.
There is no national respite care available, but in some regions, measures have been introduced to give the unpaid carer rest periods or breaks (holidays or temporary detachment). <sup>vi</sup>	Nationally recognize respite care as a right and provide more funding to implement respite care in all regions.
A general information service provides information about support services, but it varies per region. <sup>vii</sup>	Provide support to regions to increase education and training to unpaid carers.

Legislation	Working arrangements	Respite care
Financial support	Pension credits	Information and training

## Government Recognition

Budget Law (2018)

Regional laws and policies

\*As an EU Member State, Italy is impacted by the proposal for a [Directive on the Work-Life Balance for Parents and Carers](#), which covers carers' leave and flexible working arrangements.

## References

- i ECPC and EUROCARERS. (2017). White Paper on Cancer Carers. Page 24. <http://www.ecpc.org/WhitePaperOnCancerCarers.pdf>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- ii EUROCARERS. (2017). A Fund to support the caring role of informal carers has been established by national law. Page 1. <http://eurocarers.org/News-from-Italy-A-Fund-to-support-informal-carers-has-been-established-by-national-law>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- iii Alzheimer Europe. (2009). Italy Social Support Systems. Page 1. <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/Policy-in-Practice2/Country-comparisons/2007-Social-support-systems/Italy>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- iv Ibid.
- v Library of Congress. (2017). Italy: Early Retirement Benefits. Page 1. <http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/italy-early-retirement-benefits/>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- vi Alzheimer Europe. (2009). Italy Social Support Systems. Page 1. <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/Policy-in-Practice2/Country-comparisons/2007-Social-support-systems/Italy>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- vii Ibid.