

**Project Title:**

Need-assessment and eligibility rules for Long-Term Care in Italy: the economic and policy implications of a fragmented framework

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## **Executive summary**

Due to an unprecedented process of ageing, proactive public programmes of domiciliary care (in-kind or in-cash) are being implemented throughout Europe to assist vulnerable adults and promote healthy-ageing, thus fostering the financial sustainability, effectiveness and adequacy of Long-Term Care (LTC) systems. With respect to other European countries, the Italian institutional framework for LTC is highly fragmented, with each region adopting one (or more) specific home-care programmes. Although economic literature has recently started to review the design of public LTC systems in the Italian regions, no analysis have, so far, provided detailed analysis and comparisons on their inclusiveness level. Nevertheless, this information could be highly useful for empirical research on care-utilization and programmes sustainability, and for the policy debate on the need-for-reforms in this field.

We aim to fill this gap by focusing on two uncovered fundamental aspects of regional LTC regulations: need-assessment and eligibility rules. These two features represent a compulsory gateway that establishes who can have access to public care-programmes, and are important determinants of potential demand. In a previous work, we showed that LTC systems in Europe are highly heterogeneous in how they define and assess individuals' need-of-LTC (Carrino & Orso, 2014): indeed, a given elderly individual may well result to be eligible for LTC under one legislation but not under others.

We will first provide a comprehensive review of assessment and eligibility rules for domiciliary LTC at regional level in Italy. We will then compare the regulations in terms of the "severity" of their minimum requirements for eligibility. Furthermore, we will implement such rules on the SHARE micro-data, thus being able to compare the potential coverage of each regulation on an observed population of elderly Europeans. This will also allow us to explore, by an econometric analysis, the determinants of situations of non take-up (i.e., eligible individuals who do not receive any domiciliary care) as well as of unexpected take-up (i.e., non-eligible individuals who receive formal home-care).