



National Institute
of **Public Health**

Overview of the Evolution of EU Public Policies and Insights into the Slovenia Case Report

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Transforming Care Delivery track

COMFORTage Community Forum webinar:
**Supporting dementia patients
and carers: Policy choices and
innovative public initiatives**

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 Online



#Imagining2029



UN Member States recognise dementia as a leading NCD

After two years of dedicated and persistent advocacy by ADI, dementia will, for the first time, be formally recognised within the new UN Political Declaration on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health, as a leading NCD.



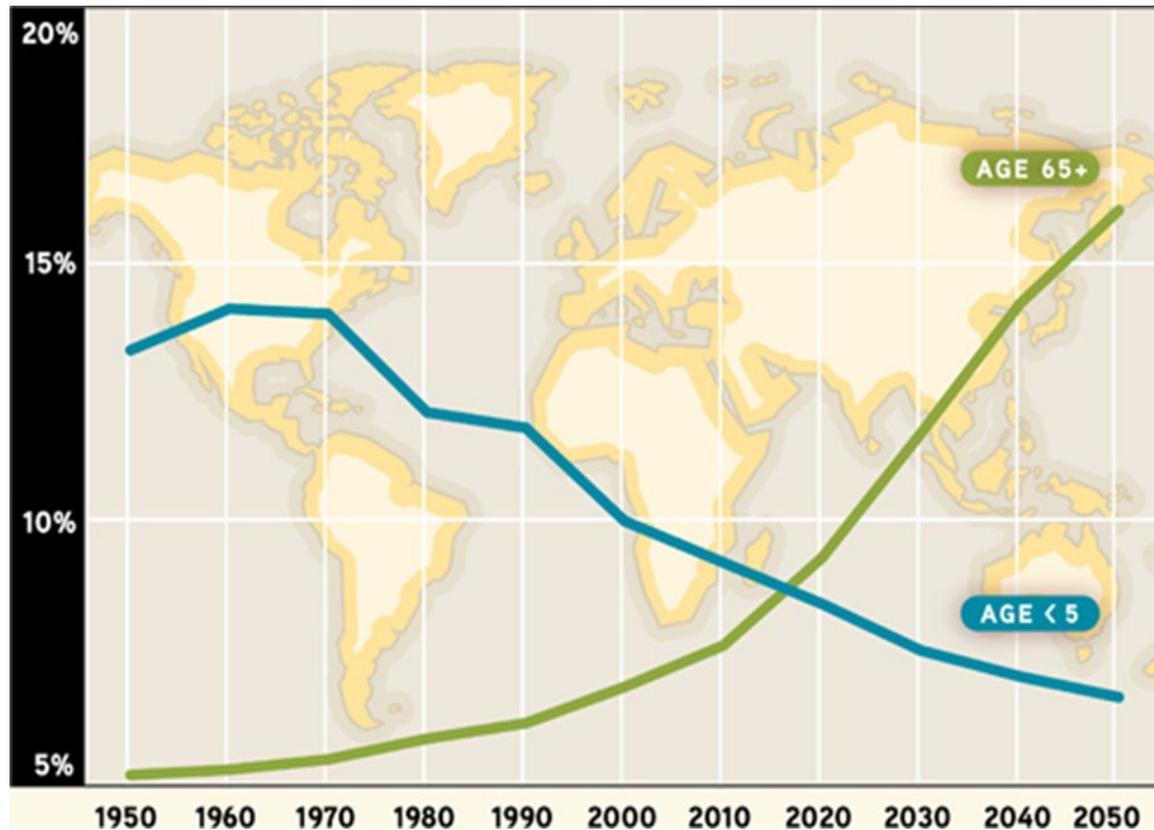
BREAKING

UN MEMBER STATES RECOGNISE DEMENTIA AS A LEADING NCD



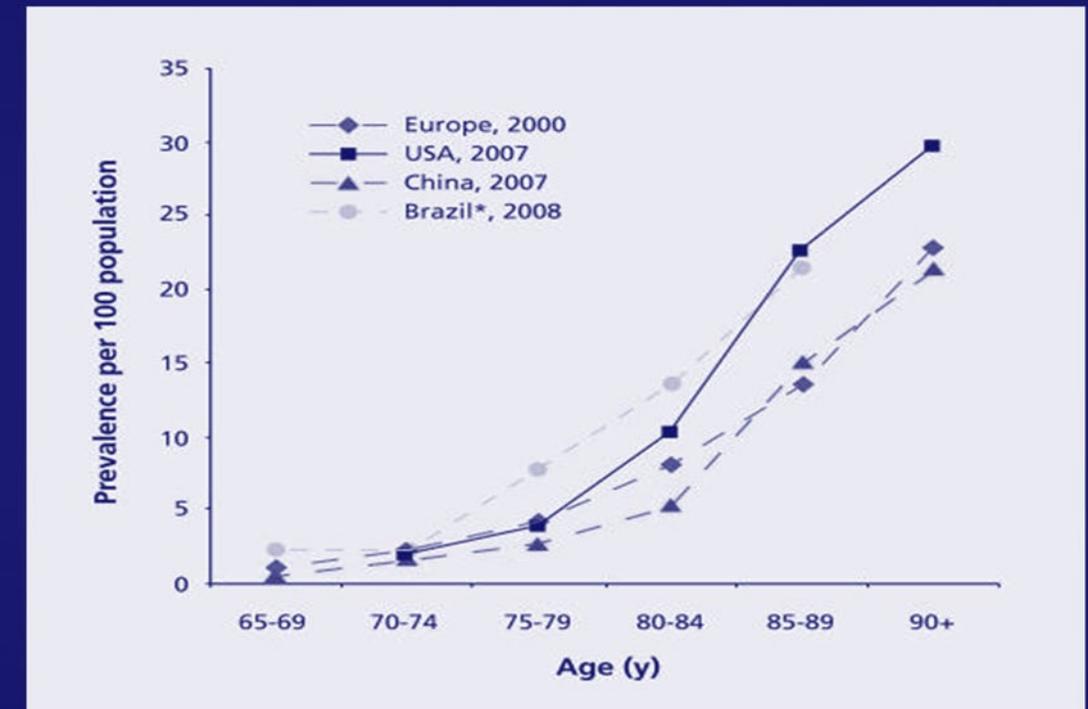
Longer life expectancy is leading to a growing number of older people, and the risk of dementia increases with age, similar with frailty

Perspectives of age distribution in population



Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. World Population Prospects. The 2004 Revision. New York: UN, 2005.

Worldwide Prevalence of dementia

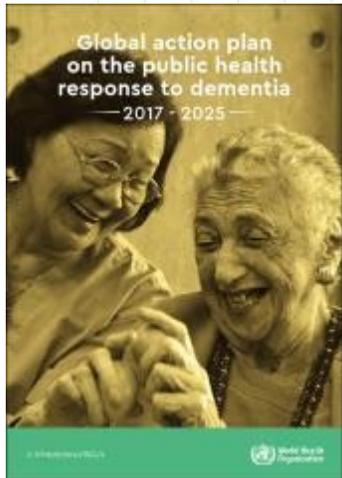


Qiu et al., 2009, Dialogues. Clin. Neurosci. 11:111-128

To help countries address the challenges of dementia

WHO GLOBAL ACTION PLAN ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO DEMENTIA 2017–2025): 78TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY HAS EXTEND TO 2031 → UNIVERSAL FRAME

ALZHEIMER EUROPE: ADVOCACY AND MAKING CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS TO EU MEMBER STATES



COMPASS



Countries & best practice

UNITED KINGDOM	NETHERLANDS	SAN MARINO
Dementia Friendly Communities	Home care and innovative solutions	A healthcare system that guarantees significantly faster diagnosis times than international standards
<p>“A city, town or village where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported, and confident they can contribute to community life. In a dementia friendly community people will be aware of and understand dementia, and people with dementia will feel included and involved, and have choice and control over their day-to-day lives”</p>	<p>The right care from the right people at the right time and at the right place (person-centred).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Integrated Care Care at Home Dementia Care Dementia Village 	<p>The San Marino healthcare system, thanks to its widespread coverage, small population, and easy access to care, allows for rapid patient assessment, starting from the onset of symptoms, ensuring, in most cases, an accurate differential diagnosis within a few months.</p>

SLOVENIA- some characteristics to know

Slovenia Population **2,118,697**

median age in Slovenia is **44.3 years** (2024)

84.5 years (life expectancy at birth, females)

79.1 years (life expectancy at birth, males)

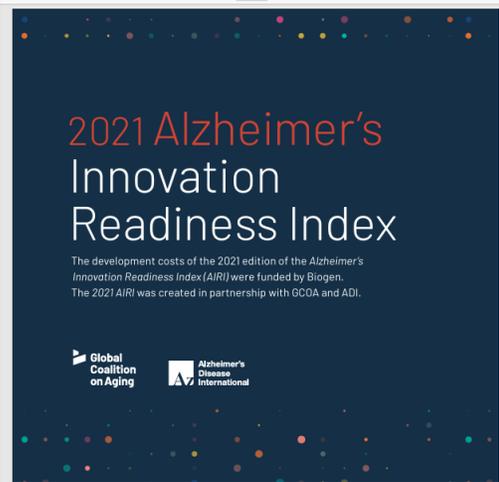
important demographic changes

But- according to OECD data:

- in 2011: 4th place (15 cases of dementia/1,000 inhabitants) after Japan, Italy and Germany;
- in 2040 (projections) could be in 2nd place (32 cases of dementia/1000 inhabitants) after Japan.
- ✓ July 2023: the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Strategy for the Management of Dementia in Slovenia until 2030 (Second strategy).
- ✓ January 2024: the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the 2 years Action plan (First Action Plan).

ADI: 2021 Alzheimer's Innovation Readiness Index

The best rating for UK due to strong political support



Overall Scores

Overall Scores with Category Contributions





Importance of strong collaboration of stakeholders: from people with dementia and informal caregivers, professionals working with dementia to parliamentarians and policy

<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/team-solidarity-team-work-together-7202833/>

WHAT WE HAVE, USEFUL RESULTS

- Relatively stable Working group at the Ministry of Health (despite the replacement of four ministers) and commitment (appointed by the minister)
- Strong collaboration between Ministry of Health and Ministry for a Solidarity Future and other stakeholders
- Specific Strategy for dementia and 2 years Action plans adopted by Government
- The former President of the Republic of Slovenia hosted a session of the Council for Dementia Management at the President of the Republic; The Presidential Palace is a dementia-friendly spot
- NIJZ+ ZRC SAZU + Spominčica: annual national meeting with round table with Members of the European Parliament who are signatories of the European Alzheimer's Alliance*
- Strong role of Spominčica Alzheimer Slovenia with 500 Dementia friendly spots all over the country

* The Dementia Pledge - a commitment to which candidates for elections to the European Parliament are invited, and by signing which they would commit to supporting the priority treatment of dementia in the areas of health, research, disability policy and informal carers, and to joining the European Alzheimer's Alliance after being elected.

CHALLENGES, WHAT WE NEED

- Strategic documents are only base
- Politically stable support and political will
- Bridging the gap between policy and practice
- Financial resources
- Bridging the gap between social and health sectors
- Training and long-term planning
- Infrastructure and logistics
- Health and social professionals and capacities
- Evaluation of implementation of strategy and action plans
- Solution lies in a holistic, personalized approach that goes beyond the division into health and social sectors
- ...

<https://jadementia.eu/>

JADE Health: A Collaborative EU initiative to reduce the burden and stigma of dementia and neurological disorders through prevention, early detection, and holistic care



Funded by the European Union. Grant Agreement n° 101183247. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or HaDEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Evolution of EU Policies: From a Medical Issue to a Societal Priority: Key EU Milestones

Dementia and frailty are not just health challenges, but also social and economic ones.

2000
"Fragmentation"
/"National Focus"

2009-2015: EU
Joint Action on
Dementia
First coordinated
EU approach to
dementia

2012-today
EIP on Active
and Healthy
Ageing
Expanding
focus to
frailty,
prevention,
and
technology

A significant breakthrough that put dementia on the EU's political agenda. The focus shifted from just treatment to comprehensive care.

European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA): this initiative included frailty and highlighted the importance of prevention and digital solutions.

A Comprehensive Approach: The 3P Prevention Model

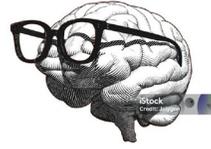


Primary Prevention,

Preventing the onset of disease.

- Fostering healthy lifestyles

How policies can promote a healthy lifestyle to prevent the onset of the disease. European campaigns to reduce risk factors (e.g., hypertension, diabetes).



Secondary Prevention

Early detection and diagnosis. Slowing progression

Encouraging national screening programs and early diagnosis initiatives.



Tertiary Prevention

Improving quality of life.

- Access to care and support.

Support when the disease is already present, with an emphasis on improving quality of life. Policies that support access to therapies, technologies, and informal caregivers.

Digital Technology: Challenges and Opportunities

The Digital Dilemma: An Uncomfortable Position for Public Authorities

- Unlike medicines, digital solutions move at a different pace. There is a need to bridge this gap.
- Medicine versus digital products → In case of medicines, where the process is long but stable. With digital products, the dynamics are different

RAPID OBSOLESCENCE

Digital products vs. slow policy cycles

Technology evolves faster than public processes (e.g. public procurement and policy adoption).

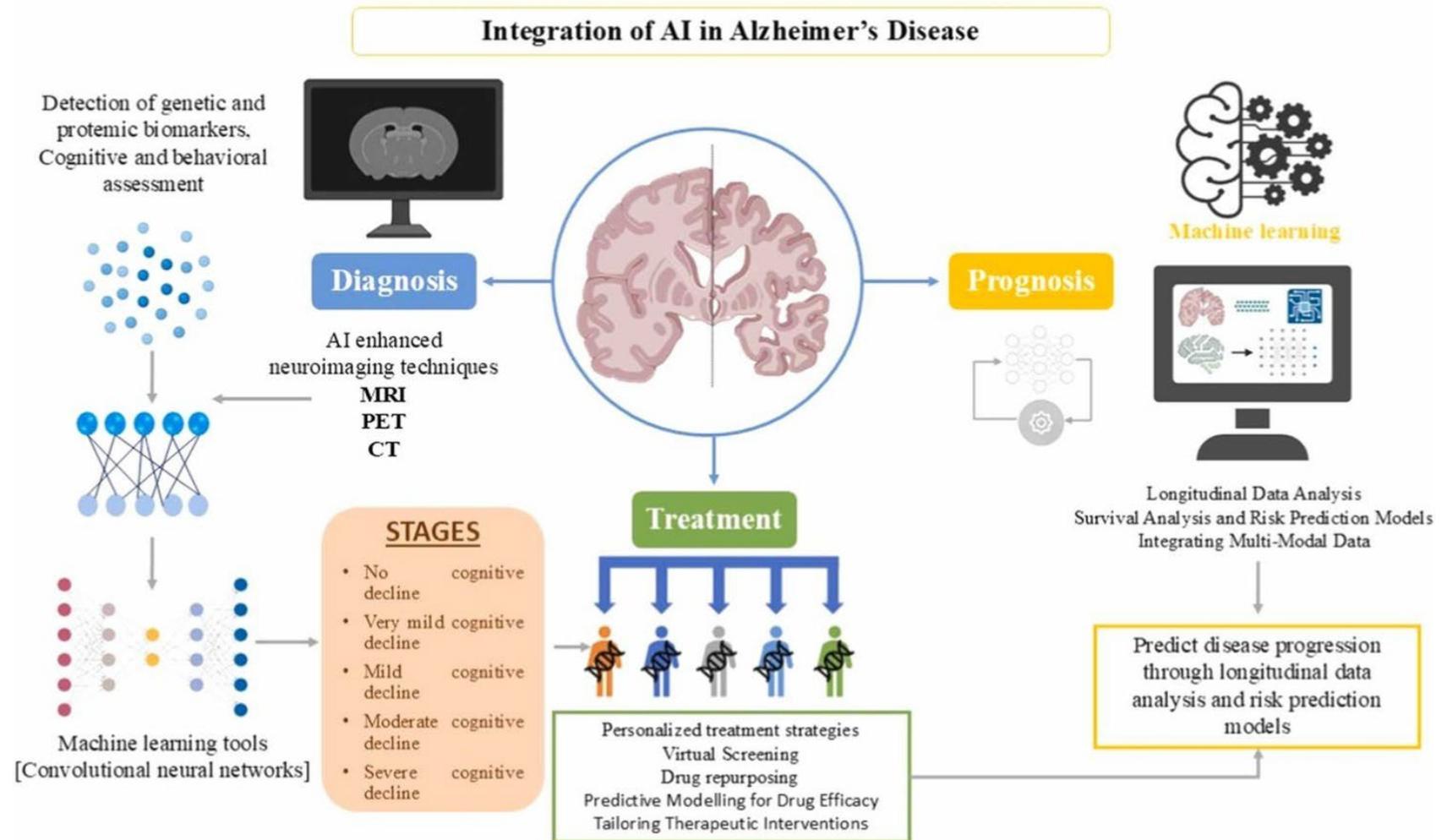
AD-HOC REIMBURSEMENT MECHANISMS

Lack of standardized mechanisms

There are no established and standardized mechanisms for cost reimbursement. This creates uncertainty for providers and users.

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into the diagnosis, treatment, and prognostic modelling of AD holds promising potential to transform the landscape of dementia care

Kale, Mayur et al. "AI-driven innovations in Alzheimer's disease: Integrating early diagnosis, personalized treatment, and prognostic modelling." *Ageing research reviews* vol. 101 (2024): 102497.
doi:10.1016/j.arr.2024.102497



Summary of Key Findings

- EU policies are moving from a narrow medical approach to a holistic understanding of dementia and frailty.
- Digital technology is a huge opportunity, but we must address challenges such as rapid obsolescence and unclear reimbursement mechanisms.
- Collaboration among all stakeholders is crucial for a personalized approach, which is essential for every individual with dementia.

Call to Action and a Question for Reflection:

The role of each of us is crucial. We must build on the achievements of EU policies, learn from best practices, and address the obstacles we face. We should not wait for public mechanisms to be solved, but rather co-create them.

Thank you

