

The Austrian Dementia Strategy

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A cooperation between the Austrian Health- and Social Ministries




Demenzstrategie Gut leben mit Demenz

Abchlussbericht - Ergebnisse der Arbeitsgruppen

im Auftrag des Bundesministeriums für Arbeit, Soziales und Konsumentenschutz und
des Bundesministeriums für Gesundheit

Gesundheit Österreich
GmbH

 BUNDEMINISTERIUM
FÜR GESUNDHEIT

 sozial
MINISTERIUM

- Gleichweit, S., Rossa, M.(2009): **First Austrian Dementia Report**. First Edition. Vienna Health Insurance.
- Höfler, S., Bengough, T., Winkler, P., Griebler, R. (Hg.) (2015): **Austrian Dementia Report 2014**. Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. Vienna.
- Juraszovich, B., Sax, G., Rappold, E., Pfabigan, D., Stewig, F. (Hg.) (2015): **Demenzstrategie - Gut Leben mit Demenz**. Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. Vienna.

Statistics

Estimated numbers:

- 130.000 Persons with Dementia
- 104.000 (80%) live at home
- 20-35% have a medical diagnosis

First Austrian Dementia Report, 2009

Starting Point

In January 2015, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs launched an initiative for the preparation of a dementia strategy for Austria after dementia was mentioned in the current governmental working plan (2013-2018).

Goals of the Austrian Dementia Strategy

„Creating a common orientational framework for a goal-oriented co-operation between all stakeholders (state, county, community, and social insurance, care organizations)“

Juraszovitc et al. 2015, Dementia Strategy page 6

Organizational levels

- **steering committee** : decision makers
- **Plenary**: interest groups, care organizations
- **Working groups**: appointed by the Plenary:
task : formulate action goals and suggestions for action

General Principles

- The needs of Persons with dementia and their support providers are in the centre of attention,
- Persons with dementia as experts by experience should be involved in the developmental process of the strategy as much as possible,
- resources and strengths of persons with dementia should to be supported, “health in all policies” should become a basis for all decisions.

General Principles

- fair chances for persons living in all environments,
- the methods applied to support persons with dementia and their support providers should be evidence-based.
- Projects or services already successfully implemented into practice should be acknowledged and their efficacy tested.

6 fields of action

1. Fighting the stigma and empower participation,
 2. Access to the right services at the right time,
 3. Support care providers and family carers,
 4. Improve professional education,
 5. Interdisciplinary coordination and cooperation, and
 6. Research.
- 6 Working groups were formed (93 persons were invited)

Flow chart through the process

- February 11 th 2015 introduction/Plenary
- March-October :18 workshops developed objectives and recommendations for action
- Report was issued and underwent an online consultation process
- 14.12. 2015 presentation of a working paper

Results

The strategy aims at creating a system: in which

- Persons with Dementia live in the community participating autonomously to the greatest possible extent
- Get information at the right time
- Know where to go for help
- Get high quality care irrespective of place of residence
- Persons with Dementia should be actively involved in the decision process

Main results of the process - 7 Objectives

1. Promote Participation and self-determination
2. Ensure high quality knowledge in public
3. Improve Knowledge and skills in formal and informal caregivers
4. Create consistent frame-work conditions for coordinated care (establish cooperation between health and social sectors).

Main results of the process - 7 Objectives

5. Ensure and improve health care and social services (multiprofessional teams locally based)

6. Improve cooperation and coordination between different care services (all persons should have access to low threshold contact points, such as Dementia Service Centres)

7. Improve and ensure quality of care by research (Development of a research agenda).

Conclusions:

- A good start for a frame work
- In order to put the recommendations into practice, clear working plans and a financial plan needs to be developed
- A clear research agenda : fundamental research, applied research strategies,
- Public relations actions should be a continuous concerted effort to fight the stigma attached to Persons with Dementia