The situation of people with dementia in Germany in 2030 – a multidisciplinary scenario approach (Sce-Dem)

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Background

• The number of people with dementia is growing.
• Up to now dementia can’t be cured.
• There exists a huge body of knowledge about dementia care, but knowledge use is insufficient.

How can we create the future?

• To anticipate different alternative futures of health care of PwD in Germany, the German Centre of Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE) initiated in co-operation with Witten/Herdecke University (UWH), with the Chair of Innovation Economics, Institute of Technology (TU Berlin), Berlin and the Fraunhofer Institute of Systems- and Innovation Research (ISI) a multidisciplinary scenario process
Method
6 Step Scenario Approach

1. Identification of influencing areas
2. Formulation of most consistent and robust scenarios
3. Calculation with a scenario software
4. Combining descriptors into a consistence matrix
5. Workshops with 50 multidisciplinary experts
6. Systematic collection and draft descriptor building
7. Identification of influencing areas
Identification of influencing areas

Health Care

Research & Technology

Health Care of PwD in Germany in 2030

Society, Ethics & Values

Financial background

political & legal background
Research & Technology

- Specific interventions and therapies
- Specific prevention
- Technology for promoting autonome

Systematic collection and draft descriptor building
• Two multidisciplinary workshops over two days with 50 experts from all relevant disciplines
• Moderation by a pair of chairs with scenario methodology knowledge / health care for PwD knowledge
• Discussion in work groups
  • about the relevance of descriptors for the health service
  • about the possible future development of the descriptors (expression)
  • and about the projections and interdependencies of the relevant descriptors
Combining descriptors into a consistence matrix
Calculation with a scenario software
Results: two ‘dark’ scenarios

Collapse of supply structures
- Economic depression, no research funding
- Two class society
- Collapse of care structures, massively rising costs
- ‘nobody cares for people with dementia’

Safekeeping of People with Dementia
- Economic depression
- Massively rising costs for health care
- Unsuccessful knowledge transfer
- Decreasing informal care
- Inadequate social support for pwd and carers
Results: one *well meant but badly done*’ and one *avoiding dementia*’ scenario

- New research findings are inadequate and not sustainably implemented
- A legal binding causes the citizens to work voluntarily
- Services are available, but met only some needs of those concerned
- Stigmatisation and social exclusion of pwd are common in society

- Efficient research with government funding
- Consequent political implementation programmes
- Compulsory risk analysis for citizens
- Compulsory vaccination and other treatments
- Diverse care services are available
Results: one ‘mastering dementia’ scenario

- Dementia has become a ‘normal’ social accepted chronic disease
- Sustainable implementation of research findings
- Vaccination is available, but not obligatory
- Treatment for preventions are available
- AAL is widely used and promotes autonomy for pwd.
Conclusion

• There are consistent positive scenarios for persons with dementia in 2030 in Germany.
• A framework for determining actions in research as well as in society and policy is needed.
• The heart of creating a positive future is social inclusion for people with dementia
• Nevertheless, further action and research should not focus only on Germany but also on the European region to implement sufficient strategies to improve the situation of people with dementia and their caregivers.
Thank you for your attention