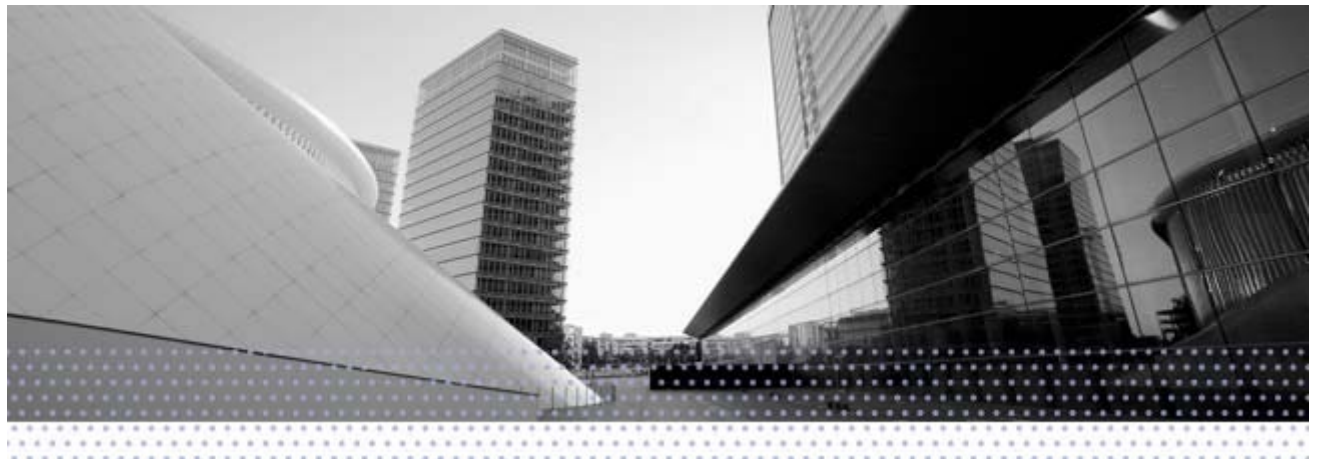


# Dementia as a national priority: An overview of dementia strategies

Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein

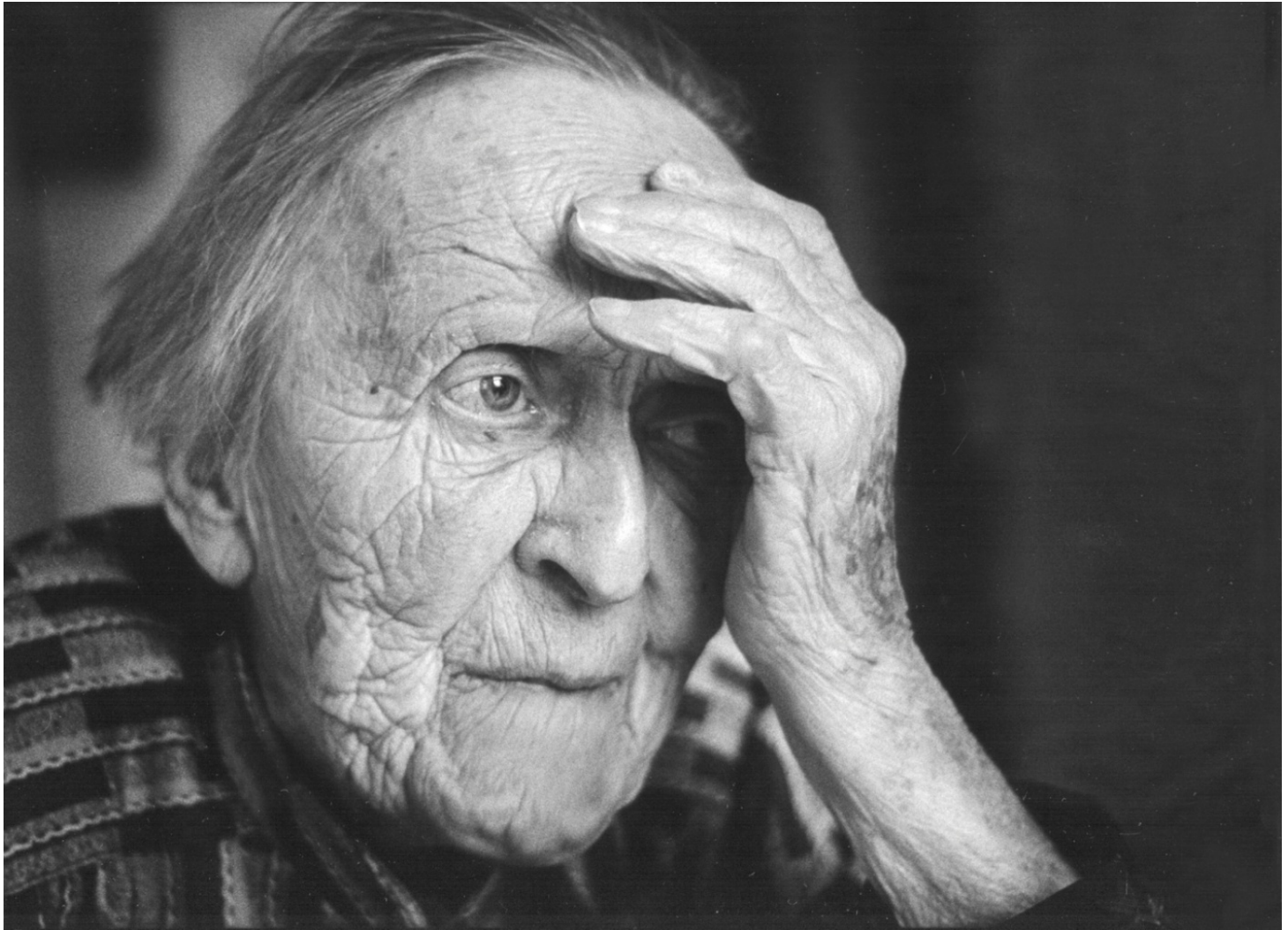
20 th Alzheimer Europe Conference  
Luxembourg, September 1 – October 2, 2010



# Changes in the last 20 years

- From taboo to recognition of the disease
- From symptoms of elderly to disease
- From symptoms of elderly to a major field of research
- From nothing to a topic in education for care and medical professionals





National Dementia Plan – What would that be?





What would have been different for them and us as family with a dementia plan in our country?



# Paris Declaration, 2006 (main priorities)

- Recognise Alzheimer's disease as a major public health challenge and to develop European, International and national action programmes,
- Support awareness campaigns targeted at the general public to improve the recognition of the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease,
- Foster pan-European research into the causes, prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias,
- Increase the funding for Alzheimer's research and support collaboration of national research
- Recognise the significant burden of carers of people with dementia and to support the development of adequate respite services,
- Develop and support a whole range of services for people with dementia





# Relevance of national dementia plan for

- people with dementia
- family carers
- professionals
- general public
- Alzheimer's organizations



# Effects of a national plan to a person with dementia and their carers

- Recognition of the disease
- Trained professionals
- Early diagnose and treatment
- Reimbursement of drugs
- Existence of services, like self help groups and support groups
- Easy and equal access to services
- Financial support for care
- Established guardianship



# Different levels of dementia recognition and support in EU countries

- Dementia as a disease
- Dementia as part of education for professional carers and GPs
- Funding of research
- Support of family carers
- Existence of services
- Long-term care
- Drug reimbursement by health system
- Support of awareness campaigns
- Public support of Alzheimer organizations





# EU countries with a national dementia strategy:

- France
- United Kingdom: England, Scotland, Wales
- Norway
- Netherlands

## And with a plan to do so / discussing / coordinating the tasks

- Belgium
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Germany
- Malta
- Portugal
- Sweden
- Switzerland

## Learned these days

- Luxembourg
- Czech Republic
- Greece
- Romania



# Main topics of the national dementia strategy (i.e. France):

- Increasing support for carers
- Strengthening coordination between all actors involved
- Enabling patients and their families to choose support at home
- Improving access to diagnosis and care pathways
- Improving residential care for better quality of life for Alzheimer's disease sufferers
- Recognising skills and developing training for health professionals
- Making unprecedented efforts in research
- Organising epidemiological surveillances and follow up
- Providing information for general public awareness
- Promoting ethical considerations and an ethical approach



# Different priorities in the countries:

- England:
  - Coordination of actors
  - Raising awareness and understanding
  - Local delivery, regional support, nationally co-ordinated
- Netherlands:
  - Creating a coordinated range of care options that meet the client's needs and wishes.
  - Delivering sufficient guidance and support for people with dementia and their carers.
  - Measuring the quality of dementia care annually.
- Norway:
  - Missing links/coordination of care
  - Research based on individual needs
  - ordinary municipal planning





What would have been different for them and us as family with a dementia-plan in our country?



# Benefits of a national dementia plan for people with dementia and their carers

- Awareness
- Support
- Medication
- Training
- Research
- Prevention
- Ethical

**Therefore:  
EU wide national  
dementia plans  
are urgently needed  
for a better life for  
people with dementia  
and their carers!**

